



College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

May 5, 2008
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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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Attachments

(CLICK on links below to read)

- ❖ Football Golf Tournament
- ❖ Guatemala Trip Poster
- ❖ Guatemala Trip Calendar

Meeting Minutes

Click below:

http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html

Commencement is Next Week! We Hope You will be able to Attend ~ Thursday, May 15!

The RCTC Commencement Ceremony will be held at 7:00pm on Thursday, May 15 in the Field House at the UCR Regional Sports Center. 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 if you would like to borrow one “gowns-to-loan” are available in the Office of the Vice President.

In appreciation of your dedication and commitment during the past year, you are invited to attend a President’s Reception from 4:30-7:30pm in the All American Room on the 2nd floor of the UCR Regional Sports Center.

2008-09 Faculty Lecture Series

The Lecture Series Committee has chosen the speakers for the 2008-09 season. *My Other Home is a Kingdom: Stories from Swaziland, Africa* by **Terry Krieger** (RCTC, Math)

Beyond Thoreau: American and International Responses to Nature by **Katherine Hanson, Ph.D.** (RCTC, English)

Economic Changes in Venezuela by **Dennis Lawler** (RCTC, Economics)

How Do Children React to a Sexual Abuse Prevention Program? by **Ruth Casper, Ph.D.** (RCTC, Psychology)

Does a Bone Density Intervention Improve the Intent to Engage in Healthy Bone Health Behaviors? by **Ann Olson** (WSU, Nursing)

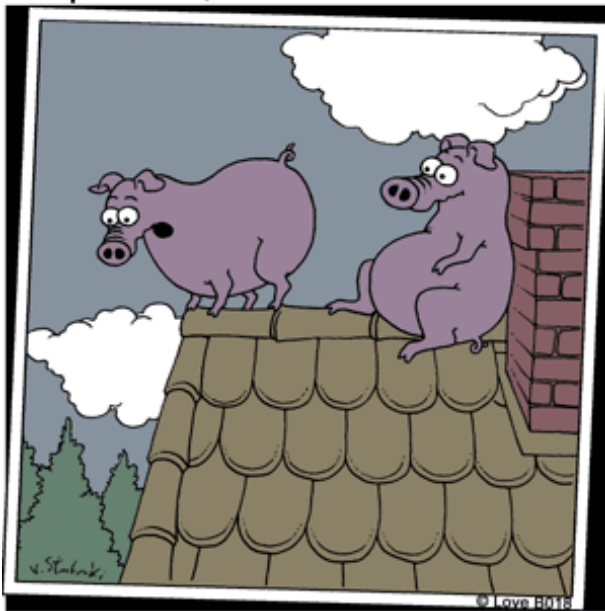
Economic and Geographic Morocco by **Laurel Panser** (RCTC, Humanities, Geography) and **Darlene Voeltz** (RCTC, Business, Economics)

Congratulations to our upcoming speakers! We look forward to seeing you at the 2008-09 Faculty Lecture Series.

“Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.”

~Ralph Marston

Weekly Funny
 Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"I'm not sure how we'll get down.
 I guess when pigs fly again."

Mark Your Calendars!

Horticulture Greenhouse at Heintz Center

May 5: 4 - 6pm; May 6: 11 - 2pm; May 7: 4 - 6pm;
 May 8: 11 - 2pm; May 9: 10 - noon; May 12: 2 - 4pm;
 May 13: 11 - 2pm and May 15: 11 - 1pm

~ Growing for you, Robin, Doug, & Hort Students



Circuits and Skins Concert

Monday, May 5th, Hill Theatre, 7PM
 Free and open to the public!

You are cordially invited to attend the Digital Arts and Music department's "Circuits and Skins" Concert. This concert features the RCTC World Drum Ensemble under the direction of Denny McGuire and RCTC student original music compositions. The concert will also present a new composition by Kevin Dobbe. The ensemble of the work will feature: Carla Hanson, soprano; Teresa Tolmie, piano; Matt Hafar, Trombone; and John Paulson, Soprano Saxophone.



Academic Accolades



Physics students Josh Kranz and Ben VanHavermaet presented a talk on their research project, "Properties of Solid Nitrogen", at the Minnesota meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers on April 26. There were many undergraduates from Minnesota colleges presenting their research, and Josh and Ben were the only community college students represented. Hats off to both of them.

Equine Science instructors Julie Christie and Pam Whitfield were speakers at the 26th Annual Minnesota Horse Expo last weekend. The expo is a huge event held at the St. Paul fairgrounds and has an audience from throughout the midwest. Julie spoke about horse welfare and behavior and Pam's talk was called Savvy horse selection.

Mary Godi, a RCTC Upward Bound student and a senior at Century High School, was one of the recipients of the 2008 Olmsted County Outstanding Youth Awards. In addition, the Post Bulletin did an article (Tuesday, April 22) on Mary's challenges and accomplishments. Her adoptive parents, Scopas Godi Soloman and Proscovia Poni Godi were also featured and honored with a 2008 Olmsted County Outstanding Youth Award as special youth advocates. Poni Godi is a student at RCTC pursuing her nursing degree.

Dear Instructors,

I would like to ask for your help and support in motivating RCTC students to get involved and volunteer. Many of them are too busy working part-time jobs and juggling family responsibilities and unfortunately do not have a lot of free time. Please consider an option of giving your students some bonus points for volunteering at the Ability Building Center next Friday (May 9th) from 1PM until 3PM. Moreover, most of the students will be happy to have an opportunity to earn some bonus points. **PLEASE share the following message with your students as well as my contact information if they have any questions.**

Hello RCTC students: If you are moved by those who are less fortunate and like sharing with those in need, I would like to welcome you on board. You are the future leaders of this country. I immigrated to this great country 3 ½ years ago. Even though I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it I have already had a number of volunteering experiences. Today's individualism and selfishness are not going to stop students like me and you from expanding our horizons and helping others. Please join your fellow students in serving our community through volunteering at the Ability Building Center. The mission of Ability Building Center is to improve the quality of life in Southern Minnesota by providing rehabilitation and employment services for persons with disabilities and other special needs. Let's prove once again that ordinary college students like you and me can make a difference in someone's life. I will see you on Friday (May 9, 2008) at ABC located on 1911 14th St NW, Box 6938 Rochester, MN 55903.

Sincerely, Shamil Mirzoev, PTK International Vice President
 shamil_mirzoev@yahoo.com

Supalla Scribblings



Do you feel some heightened level of excitement in the air on campus? The “buzz” picked up on second floor of the Student Services area a week or so ago. It seems like every year, about two weeks before the end of spring semester, the nervous excitement rises. This year, I swear I heard a hum in the air. The peace and calm that comes immediately following Commencement will be almost spooky. Speaking of Commencement, I hope that all of you will consider joining the graduates for the May 15 ceremony in the UCR Field House. Walk the halls of the Capitol right now, and you’ll feel the same level of anxiety many on campus are experiencing. Much work needs to be done between now and the mandatory May 19th adjournment. Most importantly for higher education is the passage of a biennial budget reduction bill that erases the almost billion dollar deficit without significantly impacting MnSCU or the University of Minnesota.

Thanks to the efforts of Beth Arntson, RCTC has been selected as a finalist for the 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility. To reach this stage in the competition, original applications were measured against nationally representative data and had to score in the eightieth-plus percentile. The next and final step in the application process is an employee survey, a brief questionnaire that asks employees about their access to flexibility programs, and overall workplace culture. To be considered, one-half of our employees (approximately 250) will have to complete the online survey instrument. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Thanks!

The University of Texas has released the first-ever report on the experiences of entering students in American community colleges. “Starting Right: A First Look at Engaging Entering Students” is the report of preliminary findings from the fall 2007 pilot of the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE). Community colleges are well known for their “open door” to college opportunity for all Americans. Too many students, though, experience a “revolving door,” as data shows significant numbers dropping out before completing college credits and about half not returning for a second year of college. In response to the challenge presented by those data, many colleges are taking steps to examine the experience of entering students, improve understanding of why some succeed and others do not, and especially, target improvement strategies in ways that will boost successful outcomes for students. A growing body of evidence demonstrates the importance of early engagement for community college students. Following are five key challenges and issues colleges might address in their efforts to engage entering students.

- 1. Understand the power of campus culture and language.** Even a casual visitor can walk onto a college campus and know, almost instantly, whether the college is a welcoming place – and whether the college community believes that all students can learn.
- 2. Know what matters and do it for all students.** High expectations should go hand-in-hand with high levels of support. Yet, many colleges make advising, orientation, and other critical experiences optional even when there is evidence that students who participate likely will be more successful than those who do not.
- 3. Address students’ need for developmental education.** Collectively, community colleges cannot avoid the plain fact that the majority of entering students are academically underprepared.
- 4. Do a better job of sharing information and integrating services.** Many colleges provide an array of disconnected services, offered by committed employees who too often do not talk to one another. Moreover, too often, even college staff and faculty do not fully understand the college’s resources, but novice students are expected to navigate the maze and figure it all out. Better communication is one step toward improvement. A second step would be developing strategies to integrate a variety of academic and support services. A third step would be designing educational experiences so that new students cannot escape involvement in academic and support services that are critical to their success.
- 5. Addressing data deficits.** Too many colleges do not know who leaves, when they leave, and why they leave. An important step is commitment to longitudinal student cohort tracking – following every full- and part-time credit student who enters the college. The next critical step is engaging faculty and staff in discussion of those data and then engaging the college community in designing fact-based strategies for improvement. More information, details of the study, and a copy of the full report are available at <http://www.enteringstudent.org>.



Thought for the week...

Many people go by the philosophy that students have a right to fail. We don’t abide by that philosophy. We think they have a right to learn to succeed.
~ Edith Alderson & Kathleen Perryman, Joliet Junior College Professors

Don

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the U.S. This commemoration began in 1978 when the first ten days of May were designated as Asian Pacific Heritage week. In May of 1990, it was extended to a month. Asian Pacific American Heritage month was established in May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the US on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869 for which the majority of workers were Chinese Americans. Each year, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is commemorated with festivals and activities across the country.

It is estimated that as of July 1, 2001, there were 12.5 million Asian Americans (4.4% of the total population) and 935,600 Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders living in the U.S. 87% of Asian Pacific Americans over 25 are high school graduates, 47% of Asian Pacific Americans over 25 have a bachelor degree or higher, and 16% have advanced degrees.

Asian Pacific Americans have contributed to our history and to our culture in a number of ways, from music to politics to science and industry. It's interesting to note some famous firsts for Asian Pacific Americans:

- Wing. F. Ong was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives in 1946.
- George Aryoski became the governor of Hawaii in 1974.
- Gary Locke became the governor of Washington in 1996.
- Katherine Sui Fuin Chung, a female aviator, became licensed in 1932.
- Ellison Onizuka was the first Asian American astronaut who went into space. He died in the 1986 shuttle explosion.
- Margaret Cho was the first star of her own network show in 1994, *All American Girl*.
- Anna May Vong, an actress, starred in a 1921 movie, *Bits of Life*, and many more.

~ Ricki Walters, Regional Diversity Trainer

RCTC CAD Hosts Southern Minnesota SolidWorks User Group

Our next SolidWorks user group meeting will be May 8th at Rochester Community College, Heintz Center room HB-106 from 3-5pm. This quarter Pam Benson and her students will be demonstrating how they use their Dimension printer and Universal laser. Her students will also be on hand to show their pneumatic car projects. Gary Westland from Lou-Rich will show us how he uses SolidWorks 3D meetings. If you are interested in attending please contact Rob.Jensen@servicesolutions.spx.com to reserve your spot.



Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: For Sale: Penco 5 string banjo \$50. See-Thru HP Digital Flatbed Scanner 4670 with adapter for scanning 35mm slides and negatives \$30. Anne Benson anne.benson@roch.edu 282-3669

FOR SALE: 4 Bdrm 2 bath home on 1/2 acre; 5 minutes to the college; 4 car garage parking; fenced back yard; \$231,000 - Call Joe at 507-272-8864 or Rose Conway x7260.

FOR SALE: One cherry and one oak Amish cabinet advanced ceramic room heater with original packing carton, new in February; \$250.00/each OBO. Wood office desk, 2 pedestal with center drawer, wood swivel chair, and plastic floor mat; \$200.00 OBO. Sofa, light color print, standard 3 cushion clean and in good shape; \$100.00 OBO. Wood 5 drawer dresser, 1940's; \$50.00 OBO. Art Leible Call 1-575-317-6457 8AM to 8 PM.

Condolences

Condolences are extended to Terry Knight whose mother, Constance "Connie" Knight, passed away on Wednesday, April 23. Our thoughts are with Terry and his family at this time.

Upcoming Events at the Regional Sport Center

- May 8, Habitat for Humanity-Digi Arts Club Concert
- May 10, 11 Rochester Cup Volleyball Tournament
- May 15, RCTC Graduation
- May 17 NAMI, Walk for Research and Education
- May 18, Rochester Youth Volleyball and Southern MN Volleyball Tournament

You're Invited – Mark Your Calendar!



Please join us for our annual retirement reception in honor of this year's retirees many years of dedication to RCTC and our students. Retirees to be honored are: *Eugene Allen; William Bakken; Claryce Bany; Jack Denny; Earlene Hackenmiller; Katherine Jacobson; Warren Kemplin; William Knutson; Patricia Kraemer; Nancy Midler; Richard Miller; Sue Solberg; Marilyn Treder; Delores Wright.*

Thursday, May 8, 2008 from 2-4pm in CF206/208
Brief program at 2:30pm.

Facts from Finance (Aka: Business Office)

A check off list for Supervisors to use during orientation of new employees.

Facility Keys: Contact: Wanda Mettes, Box 9 - 280-2969 A Key Request Form with designated signature approval is submitted to Wanda. This form can be found on the J drive, Forms, Business Office, Key Request Authorization. Building exterior key cards, for after hours use, can be requested through the maintenance Work Order system.

Phones and voice mail: Contact Shelly Peterson 285 7474. Supervisors should place a workorder 1 - 2 weeks prior to new employee start date. Any employees that will be making long distance calls are required to use a long distance id code. Requests can be made using the Maintenance Workorder form on your desk top.

Payroll: All pay stub information is viewed accessing the web. Your pay stub information will be available to view Tuesday before payday, however, your net pay will not be deposited into your account until payday on Friday. The pay stub web address is: <http://www.state.mn.us/employee>.

All employees who are not faculty or an administrator are required to fill out a time sheet every two weeks. A reminder is sent out the week the time sheet is due. Your time sheet template will be sent to you via email. Contact Mary Long at 280-3132.

Parking Permits: All employees are required to purchase a parking permit. Funds are used for the update/up keep of our parking lots, sideways, and roadways within the UCR campus. Charges are based on the number of credits paid for each semester (faculty) or hours worked weekly for staff. Stop at the Cashier's Office to purchase your permit.

Using State Vehicles: Contact: Wanda Mettes, Business Office (SS150-158) – 280-2969 In order to drive a Travel Management or RCTC owned vehicle, drivers are ask to annually complete a *Vehicle Use Agreement*, which authorizes MnSCU to check driving records through the State Motor Vehicle Record Department. Vehicles may not be driven until approval notification is received. Reservations need to be made in advance of use and are on a first come first serve basis.

**The Vehicle Use Agreement, MnSCU Fleet Safety Policy and Guidelines can be found on the J drive, Forms, Business Office)*
All out of state driving arrangements are made by leasing Enterprise vehicles. Contact: June Meitzner – 285-7213.

Travel Requests and Expense Reports: When traveling on official State business a “request for Travel/Professional” funds is required to be completed, requesting permission to be gone from campus, and cost center in which travel is to be charged to if there are expenses. RCTC can prepay some expenses, check the information on the form which is located on the J: drive under forms, under Business Office. Upon your return a SEMA employee expense report is to be completed to receive any out of pocket expenses. Contact Mike O’Dea 285-7212

Purchasing: Funds must be encumbered prior to making an obligation through an authorized employee certifying that the accounting system shows sufficient allotment or encumbrance balance in the fund, allotment, or appropriation to meet it. An expenditure or obligation authorized or incurred prior to encumbering funds is illegal and ineligible for payment until made valid and is in violation of M.S. 16A.15, Subd. 3. An employee authorizing or making the payment, or taking part in it, is liable to the state for the amount paid. A knowing violation of MS 16A.15, Subd. 3 is just cause for the employee's removal. The state cannot agree to indemnify third parties or hold them harmless (MS 10.17; Minn. Const. Art. XI, Sec. 1). An approved encumbrance is a purchase order that has been entered into a 450 status in PCS. Contact June Meitzner 285-7213

Accounts Payable: Please return requests for approval for payment as soon as possible so that vendors\individuals are paid in a timely manner. When signing off on an approval for payment, you are approving the prices\shipping charges that are listed on the invoice as received in good order or services have been rendered. Please contact Debbie Knaup 281-7773, if there is any discrepancy or reason for withholding payment.

Alternative Energy Home Presentation

On Tuesday May 6th at 1:00pm Christian Milaster (an engineer at Mayo) will be coming to present about an alternative energy home he built in Lanesboro that is entirely off the power grid. (Room SH110). He will present from 1:00-1:45pm and then stick around to answer questions. If you are interested in alternative energy please feel free to come.

Here is some of the information Christian shared about his home: *My goal in designing the house was to have a modern house with 21st-century comfort with a very small environmental footprint and that would allow (energy-)sustainable living. So while I do have a dishwasher, a washing machine, garage door openers, a whole-house audio system, and wireless internet, etc., I am "off-the-grid, off-the-well, and off-the-furnace", which means that I produce my own electricity (currently from the wind, but I'm planning on adding photovoltaic soon), I collect my own domestic water from the rain, and I don't have a fossil-fuel fired furnace to heat the house (rather, I combined a passive solar design, a masonry stove, and a radiant in-floor heating fueled by solar hot water and the masonry stove). Additionally most building materials are environmentally-friendly or sustainable in some shape or form - I used ICF (insulated concrete forms) for the walls, cellulose (recycled newspaper from Mason City, Iowa) and Icynene (a water-based open-cell foam) for insulation, 100% recycled plastic for decking, fiber-cement boards for siding, milk and clay paints, regional granite (from Cold Springs Minnesota), Winona Limestone retaining wall, cork and bamboo flooring, etc.*