

Summer COLLEGE Crossings

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

Thought for the month...

If you're yearning for the good old days, just turn off the air conditioning. ~Griff Niblack

The Goose is Loose in the Sports Center!

RCTC's 5-foot-high, 525-pound goose statue has arrived and is on the loose in the entry area of the Regional Sports Center thanks to the design work and talents of the College's Art Department. The Rochester Arts Council spearheaded the "Goose is Loose" art celebration that is a months-long celebration that hopes to replicate what Snoopys did for St. Paul, cows did for Chicago and blue herons did for Winona, and build community awareness and raise monies in the process. The College's branded goose is located in the entryway of the UCR Regional Sports Center. Thanks to all those faculty, staff and students that were involved in the project. For more information on the promotion or to see the other decorated geese around Rochester, click on the link below, then on geese location map and then on the dot on the map to pull up a picture of the goose.

http://www.rochesterarts.com/events/goose_is_loose_project.html



RCTC Family Grows by One

We are delighted to announce the newest member of the RCTC Family, Braylen Joseph Hanson, born to Anna (Special Needs Advisor) and Chris Hanson on Tuesday, June 23, weighing in at 9 lbs 10 oz; and 22 inches long. Congratulations, Anna and Chris, and welcome, Braylen!

Summer Crossings Dates

The last issue of Summer Crossings will be published on Monday, August 17th. Deadline for inclusion in this issue is Thursday, August 13th by 3:00pm. Regular Crossings will resume for the school with the August 24th issue.

~ Jenee McGurren/College Relations Office

ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

None



Sports Complex Events

Upcoming Event in the Regional Sport Center

July 26 - "The Cruise" Ride For a Cure

Events in Rochester Regional Stadium

July 18 - Giants Football Game 7pm

July 25 - Giants Football Game 7pm

July 30 - Lourdes Football Camp

Pre-Planning for Retirement

(LIFE PLANNING FOR YOUNGER STATE EMPLOYEES)

It may be difficult to think about retirement when you are young and early on in your work life, but in reality there is no better time! Follow these three easy steps, to help you protect your income and save big money over your entire career.

1. Protect your income with very inexpensive group insurance
2. Know about and plan ahead for huge expenses you could not otherwise afford
3. Make the most of tax deferral and employer matching dollars, "in effect an instant 50% or 100% return on your savings" (NY Times article, A Primer for Young People Starting Their First Job, June 14, 2008)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/14/business/yourmoney/14money.html>

It may seem difficult to think about now, but if you attend the Pre-Planning for Retirement seminar, designed specifically for young people employed with the State of Minnesota, you will learn about state benefits that are inexpensive, easy to access, and that allow you to do all of this and more. Create a solid future and join us for one of our upcoming seminars! They are highly recommended by previous attendees.

Pre-Planning for Retirement

(one and a half days, spouses/partners may attend with you free)

<http://www.admin.state.mn.us/mad/jdPrePlanningRetirement.htm>

Tue/Wed, September 22 & 23, 2009

8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. day one, and 8:30 a.m.-noon day two

Cost: \$100 for one and a half days

Retirement Systems Building of Minnesota 60 Empire Drive, St. Paul 55103

Register here: <http://www.training.admin.state.mn.us/mad/>. If you are a new user to the site, after clicking on the Register tab, click on the "Create New Account" link. If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Jill Deering Dentz, Employee Development Specialist Mgt Analysis & Development Minnesota Management & Budget at 651-201-2269, jill.d.dentz@state.mn.us

Condolences

Condolences to Kathy Richie (Allied Health Continuing Education Program Director) on the loss of her mother-in-law, Susanna Richie who passed away on July 5th.

Condolences are also extended to Sandra Aaby, Library Technician whose father-in-law, Clifford Aaby, passed away on July 8th.

Our thoughts are with Kathy, Sandra and their families



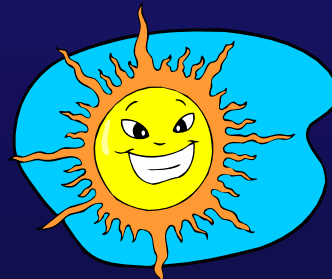
Duplicating SUMMER Hours

5/16/09 – 8/24/09

Monday – Friday
8:00am – 4:30pm

Saturday
Closed

ENJOY SOME
SUMMER
FUN!





SUPALLA'S SCRIBBLINGS

Governor Pawlenty has unallotted \$50 million each from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Since RCTC's budget is approximately 2.8% of the System operation, we anticipate our fair share of the biennial budget reduction to be approximately \$1.4 million. Federal stimulus money will help soften the financial crisis during the upcoming year, but expect FY11 to be much more fiscally difficult. The MnSCU Board has determined that a good portion of the System's stimulus money will be used to buy down a five percent annual tuition increase so that out of pocket tuition increases for students will be capped at three percent per year. Preliminary indications are that Minnesota's economy is not recovering as quickly as anticipated and that when the November budget forecast is released, the Governor might be faced with yet another unallotment. Stay tuned for future updates.

On a brighter note, RCTC's capital bonding and R&R projects are progressing nicely. The west parking lot expansion, thanks to favorable weather, is currently on schedule. Tuck pointing and concrete renovation on the Memorial Building is improving both safety and appearance. The roof replacement project at Heintz Center is beginning to stink up the area as new tar is being applied. Although officially an Olmsted County project, ground is being broken this summer for the "Green Pipes" project that will construct a utility steam line from the Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy Project to UCR. The MnSCU Board of Trustees is requesting a \$403.6 million capital bonding appropriation from the 2010 Legislature. The #1 priority on the list is a request for \$110 million for repair and replacement projects on every college and university campus. Other RCTC projects on the prioritized list are #3 – Plaza classroom renovation (vetoed twice by the Governor), #23 – Workforce Center Co-location and #29 – Planning money for the next major UCR classroom renovation project.

Campus Kudos

- Robin Fruth-Dugstad was featured in a "The Woman in the Garden" article in the May/June issue of *Rochester Women* magazine. The article includes wonderful narrative and photos of Robin's award-winning work caring for both students and soils. Congratulations, Robin.
- Warren Beighley reported that 17 Building Utility Mechanic students took the Minnesota Second Class Boiler License exam and 17 of 17 passed the "A" portion of the test and 16 of 17 passed the "B" portion. Way to go students and faculty!
- If you haven't read the Spring 2009 edition of *The Yellowjacket Review*, the College's literary magazine, why not make it part of your summer reading program. Pam Whitfield served as faculty advisor for the publication which includes some wonderful writings and excellent photographs. Thanks to all who shared their talents.
- Do you know that RCTC has an English and Western intercollegiate riding team? This involves traveling to other colleges in the Midwest and competing in horse shows with a team of riders. When students get to a competition site, they draw the name of a horse out of a hat and are required to ride an unfamiliar horse in competition. This year was the first year that RCTC competed at all of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association events and RCTC students placed in every show and four qualified for regionals. If you've never taken in one of the Equine Science Program's end-of-the-semester final exam shows, I encourage you to add it to your list of things to do. Good work students and staff!
- Congratulations to Terry and Donna LaBare who were crowned Gopher Count Royalty at the 135th annual Viola community celebration!
- When IBM Rochester identified a need to improve how global colleagues communicated and worked together, they turned to RCTC for help. Staff from the two organizations collaborated to develop specialized training programs to heighten global cultural awareness and strengthen financial knowledge. The collaborative effort served more than 500 employees and was highlighted in a recent publication and in the Post-Bulletin.

Did You Know

- On August 1 the "Post-9/11 GI Bill, the newest Veteran's education benefit program, becomes effective. The program significantly improves benefits to servicepersons and eligible family members. RCTC anticipates an increase in Veteran enrollments. Please don't hesitate to contact Othelmo daSilva or Joshua Howe if you'd like more information about the program or assistance in better serving your Veteran students. On a related note, a May 29 news release reported that student veteran health examined in a first-of-its-kind study by the University of Minnesota and MnSCU found that student military veterans face some unique health issues. The report found that while student veterans experienced higher rates of some mental health issues and sexual assault (most notably among females), they did not differ substantially from the general student population in most measures. To view the full report visit <http://www.bhs.umn.edu/healthdata/results>.
- The Minnesota Office of Higher Education released its 2009 Report on Higher Education Accountability. RCTC's 3-year graduation rate was 23% (compared to the MnSCU two-year rate of 30.3%), 3-year transfer rate was 25.6% (compared to 24.1% for the system) and RCTC's combined graduation and transfer rate was 48.6% (less than the combined system rate of 54.5%).

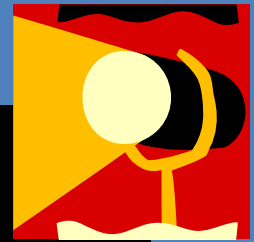
Thought for the Summer

Summer is a promissory note signed in June, its long days spent and gone before you know it, and due to be repaid next January.

- Hal Borland

Enjoy a safe and relaxing summer.

Don



Upward Bound Project Showcase

Thursday, July 16th from 2 – 6 pm
UCR Atrium

Click [HERE](#) for more information!

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"My wife's on a diet. So far she's lost her personality."

Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: Twin Bed (mattress and box spring in excellent condition) complete with three sets of bedding, head board and frame. Contact Dera Hanson in Admissions, 507-272-6055 or derahanson@msn.com for more information.

KITTENS TO A GOOD HOME: 3 orange tiger males, 1 light tan male, 1 orange female with white tipped ears. Litter box trained. Kid and dog friendly. \$5.00 each. Contact LeaAnn Stucky at 356-4250 or x7245.

FOR SALE: Black lab puppies born on June 8th. Asking \$150. No papers. 4 males and 3 females left. Should be ready to go week of July 27th. Call Rose Conway at x7260 or 536-9443.

FOR RENT: NW Rochester 3 Bdrm home with two baths, large family room, large backyard-one car garage-available Aug. or Sept. \$975.00 per month/NP/NS. Call Rose Conway at x7260 or Joe at 272-8864.

New Retirement Seminar for those Nearing Retirement

Are you getting close to retirement age and want to learn more about how to retire from state service. This seminar includes information about your retirement benefits (State Pension, Deferred Compensation, Social Security) highlighting the specific choices you will need to make before retiring and how to determine what your benefits will be. In addition, you will receive information about continuing your health insurance, changes in your tax handling as a retiree, how best to take retirement distributions when you need them and important estate planning tools. This class is not only enjoyable, but contains comprehensive information to help you make the transition from work to retirement with ease. Sign up for the retirement seminar today!

State Retirement Seminar (for employees close to retirement)
Wed/Thu October 21 & 22, 2009, St Paul College Auditorium
235 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul
8:30 am-4:00 pm day one and 8:30 am-3:15 pm day two
Cost \$115 spouse/partner may attend for free

See full description, details, and parking information on our web page: <http://www.admin.state.mn.us/mad/jdStateRetireSeminar.htm>
<<http://www.admin.state.mn.us/mad/jdStateRetireSeminar.htm>>
Note link to registration at the bottom of the web page that contains the course description.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Jill Deering Dentz, Retirement Training Coordinator at jill.d.dentz@state.mn.us or Phone: 651-201-2269

Employee News

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Tiffany Anderson (Enrollment Services) on her marriage to Anthony Betcher on Saturday, June 13, 2009. Tiffany and Anthony exchanged their vows at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Belvidere (near Goodhue) and a reception followed at the Mount Frontenac Golf Course in Frontenac, MN.





Perseids peak before dawn on 8/12/09!

Rochester Community and Technical College
AFSCME Labor/Management
Minutes for Friday, May 8, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – AT109

Present: Administration: Cram, Engelmeyer, Sahs, Supalla
AFSCME: Conway, Drenckhahn, Edwardy, Lunning, Martin (Business Agent),
O’Dea, Tucker
Guests: Cris Kellas, Marty Leonard, Roman Staloch, Adam Worth
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 4 (Admin) Red Flag Regulations (RCTC Procedures) – Cram reported the College is responsible to ensure student information is secure; hence a local task force is working on developing materials to be shared campus-wide to all employees to ensure our students are protected from identity theft. Martin questioned which AFSCME employees would need training and Cram responded training would be part of an upcoming All-Staff Development activity. In addition, Cram stated more formal guidelines would be available at the next meeting. Action: Cram will bring draft Red Flag Regulation materials to the next meeting.

ITEM 1 (AFSCME) Restroom Upgrade (Near Counseling Center) – Conway shared her concerns with the restroom near the Counseling Center being consistently out-of-order because of drainage issues. Staloch responded a commercial grade toilet is being installed for the restroom to alleviate the problems. In addition, Staloch stated concerns were previously shared regarding the noise level in adjacent offices and consideration is being made to provide more soundproofing of the restroom. Action: Staloch will continue to work on both the noise and drainage problems associated with the restroom.

ITEM 1 (Admin) Search Update – Engelmeyer distributed the latest search update report for open positions. Supalla confirmed several General Maintenance Worker positions will remain vacant until the work area study is complete. In addition, Supalla announced the College does not plan on reducing any existing staff, but final decisions will not be made until the biennial budget is finalized. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (AFSCME) GMW Work Area Study – Staloch reported data is currently being compiled and entered into a software program. Martin questioned the cost of the software program and why the College didn’t use the software available through MnSCU. Kellas responded the software cost about \$4,000 and can be customized to meet the College’s individual needs. Staloch added Becker has taken the lead in the project to complete the work needed for entry in the software program. Martin stated he would like to know if employees appointed to the committee are not doing what they were assigned to do. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (AFSCME) Alternate Summer Work Schedule – O’Dea reported several General Maintenance Workers submitted individual requests for an alternate summer work schedule and responses have been received from their supervisors. Supalla confirmed it was his understanding that the individual requests were responded to in writing and it was also his assumption that the employees were accepting of the rationales. O’Dea confirmed it was also his understanding that, although some responses were not what the employee wanted to hear, the employees understood the rationales. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (Admin) FY10 Budget/IPP Update – Supalla reported several Integrated Planning Process review sessions were held by Administration and the budget is being developed based on a worst case scenario of a 10% budget reduction and a 5% tuition increase with a buy-down. Supalla added the scenario is being developed with federal stimulus funds and an anticipated 3% enrollment growth. Supalla concluded by stating the College would have been in a worse financial situation without the faculty/staff assistance and tentative contract settlements. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (AFSCME) Motorcycle Parking in Staff Parking Lots – Drenckhahn reported there are at least nine employees in the Maintenance Department that drive motorcycles to work periodically, and questioned if designated motorcycle parking stalls could be marked in the West Parking Lot, noting it was a safety and vandalism issue. Supalla questioned if the employees submitted a request and were denied; hence the need to bring to Labor/Management. Drenckhahn confirmed it was discussed at a

departmental meeting, but as far as he knew, there had been no response to the inquiry. Staloch responded there are motorcycle stalls in the North Parking Lot and the number of stalls at the Heintz Center will double during the summer. In addition, plans are underway to add motorcycle parking in the northeast corner of the West Student Parking Lot. Martin questioned if stalls would be added to the Employee Parking Lots, and Staloch responded it is advantageous to have the employee and student motorcycle parking together in one area. Supalla questioned if the motorcycle parking in the West Parking Lot could be designated closer to the buildings. Action: Staloch will identify temporary motorcycle parking stalls in the West Employee Parking Lot before finalizing where the permanent motorcycle stalls will be located.

ITEM 3 (Admin) Capital Bonding Update – Supalla reported the current legislative bill includes \$40 million for MnSCU HEAPR Projects, including projects for RCTC. In addition, Supalla announced the West Parking Lot expansion is scheduled to begin mid-May and is anticipated to be completed by the start of Fall Semester. Action: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (Admin) Tobacco Free Campus Policy 5.18.2 (Rescinding Smoking Policy) – Supalla reported the open forums to discuss the draft Tobacco Free Campus Policy were not well attended, however the policy review will continue to move forward with an anticipated implementation date of January 1, 2010. Martin questioned where the definitions came from, noting the language appears to be more appropriate for a correctional facility and not a college (i.e. the implication that “lit or unlit” and “smoking equipment” means a person can’t even have a pack of cigarettes or lighter in their possession). In addition, Martin questioned whether there would be a designated area on campus for those individuals that choose to continue to smoke. Supalla responded the intent is to allow individuals to smoke in their own personal vehicles, similar to the exception at Winona State University. Martin clarified that most city ordinances require three to five feet of a street to be owned by the city; hence Winona State University has boundaries by the city streets that allow individuals to smoke. Supalla confirmed that the road between UCR Main and the Heintz Center (UCR Drive) and the roundabouts belong to the city. Finally, Martin stated that the concern about second hand smoke does not align with the reason of not allowing the use of smokeless tobacco products; however, AFSCME will not file a grievance unless one is requested by an AFSCME employee. Action: Supalla will request Hansmann continue to clarify the language in the draft Tobacco Free Campus policy.

ITEM 5 (AFSCME) Early Retirement Incentive – Tucker questioned the status of an early retirement incentive in legislation from the current session. Supalla confirmed that there is currently draft language for an early separation package, but details have not yet been finalized. Martin added usually such early separation language is placed in MnSCU Policy and then local appointing authorities adopt individual versions following the MnSCU guidelines. Action: Information Only.

Adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

<u>NEXT MEETING:</u> Monday, July 20, 2009 – 10:00 a.m. – AT109
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