

Weekly funny!

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



Acknowledgement of Significant Events

RCTC is a family, and throughout the year significant events occur in the lives of our family members. This may include the birth or adoption of a child, hospitalization of an employee, or the passing away of a loved one. The Office of the President, in accordance with MnSCU Expense Allowance Policies, wants to acknowledge these events and respectfully requests your assistance. Understanding the receiving of news or acknowledgments of significant events is a college-wide process, the Office of the President requests employee's receiving information of such events notify Judy Kingsbury either via telephone (x7216) or e-mail (judy.kingsbury@roch.edu), with logistical details (i.e. occasion, hospital, funeral home, etc.). Upon confirmation of the information, appropriate arrangements will be made to acknowledge the event. Thank you for your cooperation.

Club Meeting
 Martial Arts Club meets 6-8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in SC103.

Flood Relief

Meetings for flood relief will be held next week:
 Tuesday, Sept. 4th - 2:30 - information, organization, brain storming for flood relief - EA 124

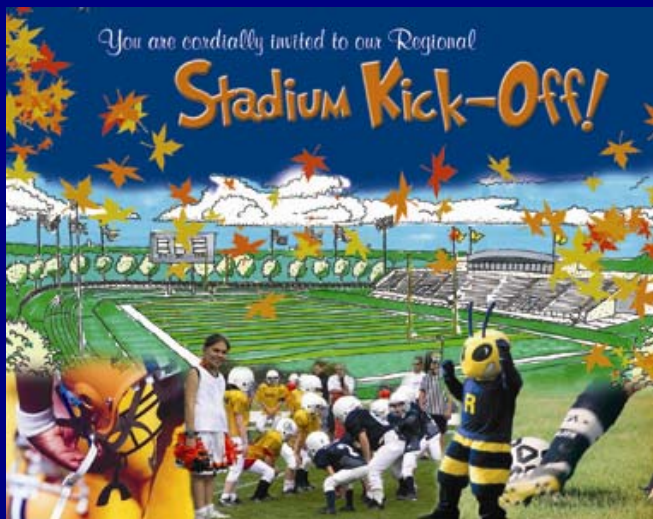
Wednesday, Sept. 5th, 12:30 - information, organization, brain storming for fund raising for flood relief - EA 124

~ Lynn Guenette

Marketing Corner

Regional Stadium Kick-Off

The Regional Stadium Kick-Off will be held at 11:30 am on Saturday, September 8th outside of the Sports Center near the practice fields. The first phase of the stadium includes the synthetic turf surface and is scheduled to be completed by December of 2007. RCTC faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the Kick-off festivities!



Family Fund Show Talent Sought

We have been given the go ahead to have the faculty/staff Family Fund Show over the lunch break of the October 2nd Staff Development Day. So we are looking at a 45 to 50 minute show. We are open to any kind of talent. Acting, singing, dancing or surprise me. In the past we have had 12 to 18 performers. I am always willing to work with people who want another eye or ear. Contact Jerry Casper for more information.

Notice – Heintz Center Parking

Tuesday evening September 4, youth football and high school soccer will be using the fields adjacent to the Heintz Center. Access to the Heintz Center for all of our faculty, staff and students will be through the WEST side (C doors) of the building. The A and B wing doors will not be open. The west parking lot will be reserved for faculty, staff and student use only. Security will be directing youth sports to other lots. Thank you for your cooperation.

~ Marilyn Hansmann

Supalla Scribblings



What a terrific week it's been! I love the excitement that students and staff exhibit during the first week of a new school year. If you spent any time in the Atrium or hallways this week, you could see, hear and feel the "electricity" in the air. Reflecting back, it was a great week. Enrollments look to be near or slightly greater than last year's fall semester, students appreciate the new facilities, parking lots have accommodated (just barely) our drivers and there were very few scheduling conflicts. Based on my wanderings through all three buildings, I'm sensing most on campus believe we're off to one of the best starts ever. I love to hear your take on things so stop me in the hall, pop into the office or send me an e-mail. The Office of the President will be initiating something new this year by inviting you to drop in periodically for treats and casual conversation. Watch for the first "Popping with the President" invitation.

Many of you have responded to the request to more generously support the "Fund for the Family." The fund has been taxed in recent months with a number of requests for help, and most recently with the potential to provide some much needed relief for employees who suffered loss due to water/flood damage. In addition to financial support, many individuals and programs have stepped up to help those in need. I hope you caught the wonderful KAAL coverage on Tom Soltau and the great service his Building Utility Mechanics students are providing flood victims. If you haven't made a contribution to the "Fund" yet, please consider forwarding a check to the Human Resources office today. Thanks!

It's beginning to look like the Legislature and Governor might reach agreement what should be considered if Pawlenty were to call the legislature back into session. Certainly, the I35W bridge project and flood relief would be on the agenda. There's some speculation that a very limited bonding bill, one vetoed earlier by the Governor, might be reconsidered. University Center could benefit greatly from a HEAPR repair and replacement appropriation since the Heintz Center roof project was in the original vetoed bill. Stay tuned.

On and Around Campus...

- Mike Bequette and I worked the MnSCU booth at the State Fair on Sunday. I understand that other RCTC staff members have already worked, or are scheduled to work, the Fair. It's a great opportunity to connect with future students, hear stakeholder concerns, disseminate program information and learn about what's happening at other MnSCU institutions. This year's visitors to the booth seemed much more interested in what MnSCU has to offer, came with some serious questions and shared some very positive testimonials regarding their MnSCU education.
- Last week, Trustee Emeritus Bob Erickson kicked off his sixth annual bike tour that will eventually have him stopping at each of the System's 53 campuses. Bob is scheduled to stop at University Center, as another leg of his 2300 mile trek, at 11 a.m., Tuesday, September 18. Please respond generously when the Foundation collects pledges for his trip. Then, stop down to the Atrium when Bob's on campus and thank him for raising thousands of dollars for non-traditional students. All monies raised in Rochester are returned in scholarships to RCTC students.
- Congratulations to Beth Diekmann who recently completed the Minnesota State College and Universities Luoma Leadership Academy. The Academy accepts at least one employee from each of MnSCU's 32 colleges and universities and the Office of the Chancellor. Trustee Emeritus Luoma proposed the idea for an academy to help prepare leaders and future leaders for the unique challenges facing our system. The experience Beth gained through participation in the Academy will make a positive difference for herself, RCTC and MnSCU!
- RCTC faculty members Pam Whitfield (English), Rana Mikati (Arabic), Robin Fruth-Dugstad (Horticulture), Atef Dimian (Political Science) and John Tacinelli (Geology) will be delivering presentations as part of this year's UCR Faculty Lecture Series. These RCTC instructors join WSU faculty member Nick Ruiz in delivering these interesting and informative lectures. Please encourage your students and the community to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity. Watch for details before each of the presentations.
- This year, Camp Invention enrolled 111 children in the summer program which received rave reviews from the students, parents and teachers. Eighty-six percent of the families who returned their evaluations indicated they planned to send their children to Camp Invention again next year. Many thanks to Colleen Landherr for coordinating this increasingly popular summer educational opportunity for future RCTC students.



Thought for the week...

*People will forget what you said. People will even forget what you did.
But people will never forget how you made them feel."*

-- Anonymous

Make people feel good! **Don**

All-College Committees:

The RCTC All-College Committees are recruiting memberships for the 2007-08 academic year. Memberships are determined annually and include faculty, staff, and student representatives.

PARTICIPATION IN ALL-COLLEGE COMMITTEES: Non-faculty members interested in serving on one or more of these committees should contact Judy Kingsbury. Faculty members interested in serving on one or more of these committees should submit their names through Gregg Wright.

Please visit the RCTC Intranet Website at: http://www.rctc.edu/intra/all-college_committees.html for more information on each of these committees:

Teaching and Learning Committee

Academic Standards Sub-Committee
Assessment of Student Learning Sub-Committee
Distance Education and Academic Computing Sub-Committee
Multicultural Sub-Committee

Student Development and Services Committee

Commencement Planning Sub-Committee
Homecoming Planning Sub-Committee

Finance and Facilities Committee

Finance Sub-Committee
Facilities, Grounds, Safety and Security

Human Resources Committee

Staff Development Sub-Committee
Recognition Sub-Committee
Affirmative Action/Diversity Sub-Committee

Information Technology Committee

Web Task Force

Strategic Operations Committee

Institutional Effectiveness Sub-Committee
Enrollment Management Sub-Committee

Academic Calendar

Attached to this week's Crossings is a complete 2007-08 academic calendar. The calendar may also be accessed via the intranet site at:

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

It's a BOY!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Grayson Bequette (grandson to Mike and Mary Jo Bequette, and son to Justin and Tabi Bequette). Grayson arrived on Wednesday, August 29, weighing in at 8 lbs 6 oz, and 21 inches long!

Congratulations, Mike and Mary Jo! And have a wonderful time next month when you travel to Texas to officially meet and greet your first grandchild to the world!!!!!!

CTL Welcomes You Back to School!

CTL has some great events coming up this September to get your semester off to a bright start! Hope to see you soon!

Online – Please join your colleagues in a D2L discussion regarding successful online teaching strategies. The central topic revolves around the challenge of providing timely feedback about students' progress. Please share what has worked and what has not. **How to Get There** -- You'll find the discussion on your D2L homepage under Education Technology. Look for the LTL section, and near the bottom you will find **Faculty 2 Faculty**.

Stone Soup/Faculty to Faculty – FREE PIZZA!!!! Monday, Sept. 10th at noon in CF 202

Stone Soup/Faculty to Faculty is an informal monthly conversation time for faculty to discuss teaching and learning issues pertaining to the inclusion of technology in the curriculum. This week's conversation will begin with a focus on providing online student feedback and syllabus design. Bring examples to share! Please join us weekly for Stone Soup to discuss other topics!!!

CTL/LTL KICK-OFF!!!

Get a chance to meet the CTL committee, learn a bit more about CTL and attend our first CTL/LTL workshop! Two Opportunities: 1st - Monday, Sept. 17th at 2:00 in CF 202 - 2nd – Thursday, Sept. 20th at 2:00 in CF 202

Workshop Topic: Improving the Quality of Online Course Discussions with Rubrics

Are the online discussions in your courses stuck in quicksand? In this workshop, Mike will show you eight rubrics you can use in order to improve the discussions in your online courses. There will be ample opportunity for discussion, as well as several print and online resources. Pop and snacks will be provided!

Maintenance Work Orders

A reminder on Facilities Work Orders: Plan ahead and submit early! Please submit work orders to the RCTC Web site: <http://rctc.myworksite.com/> or click on the link at the UCR web site <http://www.roch.edu/>

We also have a phone number for "Emergencies Only" such as fire, water or other situations: 285-7266

Condolences

Condolences to Gay Peterson (Taher Food Service Director) whose brother, David, passed away on Thursday, August 23rd. Our thoughts are with Gary and his family.

Teaching Tip from the FAE Faculty Learning Circle: Student Engagement

During the first week of classes . . . After teaching how to use D2L, give an assignment on the News page (don't announce it in class!) to learn who is checking the website. Consider giving a few points to students who email you using their RCTC email account. And, send students on a scavenger hunt around campus to learn about new areas/offices and report back to the full class.

For more information contact: Ruth Casper, Rae Gravenish, Bonnie Mercer, Abby Pinsky, Liz Vikse, Darlene Voeltz

Egypt Information Session

An Egypt information session will be held on Saturday, September 29th from 11:00am – 1:00pm in CF 202. This is the trip you have (always) dreamed about! Come join us on a 10-day trip to the Egyptian Kingdom during Spring Break 2008. Visits to Cairo, Memphis, Giza, Luxor, the 3,800 meter long Aswan High Dam, 4 days on a Nile Cruise and much more.
~ ViAnn Olson & Ivonne TjoeFat (group leaders)



Crossings Classifieds

Volunteers Needed: 1,300 volunteers being sought for flood recovery in Fillmore County over the next several weeks. To register as a volunteer, go to the United Way of Mower or Olmsted County's Web site at either:
<http://www.uwmower.org>
<http://www.uwolmsted.org>.

Volunteers Needed: Olmsted County Victims Services is looking for volunteers for their sexual assault crisis line. Volunteers are asked for a year commitment and must complete 40 hours of training. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Annie Clement (annie.clement@roch.edu) or Alison Otte (otte.alison@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US).

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and kind words for the loss of my brother. The notes were comforting to read and hear.

~ Gary Peterson

RCTC Policies

It is every RCTC employee's responsibility to familiarize themselves with, and adhere to, state, system, and college policies. All MnSCU and RCTC policies are available through the RCTC website.

Policies include information on, but not limited to:

- Acceptable Use of Computers and Information Technology Resources
- Fraudulent or Other Dishonest Acts
- Fundraising and Resource Development
- Gifts and Grants Acceptance
- Possession or Carry of Firearms
- Reports/Complaint of Discrimination/Harassment Investigation and Resolution
- Sexual Violence
- Smoking
- State Employee Ethical Obligations
- Student Data Practices
- Student Excused Absences
- Weather/Emergency Closings
- Zero Tolerance of Workplace Violence

To find a policy, go to <http://www.rctc.edu/policies/>, type a keyword to search or choose from the list of categories provides. The website is intended to function as a convenient reference. Although the site is updated regularly, it is impossible to guarantee complete accuracy at all times. In the event of any discrepancy between the policy documents formally approved and the policies listed on the website, the former shall be the governing version.

Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, June 26, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

Present: Administration Bequette, Cram, Hansmann, Supalla
Faculty Gust, Israelson, Wright (Chair)
Recorder: Kingsbury
Guest: Arntson

ITEM 1 (A) Solve and Dissolve Inventory – Supalla reported he is unaware of any solve and dissolve task forces currently operating, however, if faculty are aware of any, they are requested to notify administration so a discussion can be held with the appropriate leadership member. Wright responded the difficulty in the past was he wasn't aware of the task force until after the fact, adding the procedure should be that MSCF and Administration jointly determine whether a solve and dissolve is necessary in the future. Bequette stated some groups may gather to discuss a topic, but are not actual committees, subcommittees, or solve and dissolve task forces. An example is a group of individuals pulled together to discuss the future of online learning. The group gathered to share opinions and information and brought their recommendations to an appropriate committee for consideration. Supalla stated a group gathering information and holding a couple of meetings to bring forward a recommendation is by definition a solve and dissolve. Wright concurred, adding those discussions should have been held by the distance education subcommittee. Bequette responded it was an effort to obtain a different constituency groups opinions on an idea. Wright disagreed, stating many of the individuals in the "gathering" already served on the distance education committee. Wright requested, in the future, if issues need to be discussed, they should first be brought to FSGC or to an appropriate committee, and if management believes others need to be heard on the issue after it has been discussed by FSGC or a committee, then management has that right to move forward if needed. ACTION: Solve and Dissolve Task Forces will be organized through the formal committee structure.

ITEM 2 (A) Cell Phone Repeaters – Hansmann reported several attempts have been made to have Sprint review the signals on campus, but they have not yet responded. In the meantime, other options are being investigated (i.e. a device that is installed on the computers that acts as an emergency phone. ACTION: Hansmann will continue to investigate the options to ensure safety in the classroom and access to phones during STAR sessions.

ITEM 3 (A) Admissions Policy (1st Reading) – Bequette announced the additional sentence added to the current policy is required by the Office of Civil Rights. Wright stated the faculty support the policy revisions, under the condition a procedure is developed to outline the process. ACTION: Faculty support the recommended changes and waive a second reading of the policy. Cram and Wright will develop procedures for the policy.

ITEM 4 (A) Tuition and Fees for 2008 and 2009 – Hansmann announced the College proposes a 3.5% tuition increase for FY08, and reciprocity agreements will override any instate tuition arrangements. Supalla added it is the position of the Chancellor to hold down tuition increases in FY09. The rates for FY08 start fall semester. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Construction Update – Hansmann shared an update on the Health Science Center, with an anticipated completion by the end of July. Israelson questioned if the completion of the Health Science Center will commence a motion for other faculty office moves. Hansmann responded several things need to be taken care of before faculty will be able to occupy empty offices (painting, carpeting, minor repairs), so those moves may not take place before classes start in August. Supalla added the grand opening of the Health Science Center is scheduled for the afternoon of August 24 (to follow Staff Development Day activities). Supalla also announced the City is developing fast pitch softball fields, with parking lots, on the land east of County Road 22. Hansmann also shared design plans for the West Parking Lot, which includes making it more eco-friendly. Supalla stated the UMR relocation to downtown is tentatively scheduled for August 15, 2007. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 6 (A) President's Campus Climate Commitment – Supalla announced the College has signed on to a national effort to make higher educational institutions more environmentally friendly, which will begin with the West Parking Lot, but hopes to expand into future building designs. It is also suggested that the educational institutions be the leaders in educating individuals on how to protect our environment by developing new courses in that area. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 7 (A) Connect ED – Cram announced a test was done on the emergency contact program/system, and a couple problems with accurate names and contacts numbers have caused a delay in full implementation. In addition, the College is looking at expanding the system to include instant messaging of specific groups for notification purposes, with the understanding the notifications not be abused so as to detour individuals from thinking communication isn't an emergency. A campus-wide test run is tentatively scheduled for August 24, 2007. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 8 (A) Mass Flu Vaccination Simulation – Hansmann announced the Olmsted County Public Health Department has entered into an informal agreement with RCTC to use the Sports Center on November 8, 2007 for a mass flu vaccination simulation. The use of the facilities will displace classes for the day. Supalla concurred that the College's participation is essential in preparing for a real emergency. Gust responded the HIT Club would like to be involved in the simulation in order to fulfill their accreditation community services needs. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 9 (A) Phone System – Hansmann reported RCTC is collaborating with WSU in providing a phone carrier system for both institutions. The new system will not change any existing processes, but will provide RCTC with additional phone features not currently available (caller ID, etc.) at no cost. Cram questioned how departments would purchase new phones to utilize the features. Hansmann responded expenses would need to come from non-personnel departmental budgets. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 10 (A) Class Cancellation Process – Bequette announced the Academic Leadership Team is committed to a single cancellation date, which includes reviewing enrollment at a 50% minimum requirement. Bequette agreed enrollment is down, but added courses are not being scheduled efficiently. Bequette stated the process includes notifying the faculty member of the cancellation, and notifying the students through several means of communication, and offering the students alternative options for re-enrollment in other sections or courses. Bequette also announced the Accuplacer cut scores are placing 15% more students in developmental English courses, resulting in the need to cancel the undersubscribed English 1117 courses and adding more developmental offerings. A discussion followed on the cut scores and those students with results in a "gray area." Wright responded that students are retesting and taking the "Writeplacer;" however, if the scores are reflecting a 15% change in placement, then maybe the cut scores should be re-visited, adding math is experiencing a similar situation. In addition, the College still has the ability to determine the placement scores, if it is determined that scores are not correct, students in the "gray area" could be moved into 1117. ACTION: Faculty and Administration will review the cut scores prior to Spring Semester registration.

ITEM 11 (A) Associate Degree Credit Requirements – Bequette and Supalla announced concerns have been expressed at the state and MnSCU level with the number of associate degree programs requiring more than 60 credits for graduation. It has been stated that some programs with accreditation issues will have waivers, but major work will be needed to re-evaluate the program requirements to meet the 60 credit requirement. Supalla added a lot of the issues may surround the physical education requirements, and that area may be affected by the upcoming changes. Supalla stated the Minnesota Legislature has mandated the MnSCU Board of Trustees address the policy issue, which will require the campus address also address the issue. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: August 28, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

