Thought for the week…
Be kind to your shadow.
~Rebecca Lawless

**AQIP Quality Check-Up Visit**

RCTC will host an Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Quality Check-Up October 29-31 for the purposes of ensuring continuing accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) is an alternative approach by the Higher Learning Commission blending continuous quality improvement with College and University accreditation.

**The goals of the Quality Check-Up are to:**
- affirm the accuracy of RCTC’s online *Systems Portfolio* and verify information included in the portfolio;
- review with organizational leaders action projects and strategies identified to capitalize on the strengths and opportunities for improvement;
- assure continuing organizational quality improvement commitment;
- confirm the RCTC’s compliance with accreditation expectations and counsel the institution concerning any issues that require immediate attention; and
- review and update the relationship between the college and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

**The two-person Review Team includes:**
Larry Sanderson is currently the Director of Institutional Effectiveness (responsible for institutional research, assessment and strategic planning) at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Shanda Traiser an Associate Professor in the Business, Accounting, and Economics department at Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND for the past seven years. She is also the Director of Assessment for Jamestown College and has been an AQIP Peer Review for three years.

A special publication will be published and distributed to the college community in the coming weeks. The agenda for the AQIP Quality Check-Up is also attached to this week’s *College Crossings*. 
HR Department Announcements

RCTC T-shirts were given away at the August 22, 2008 Staff Development Day. If you haven’t received a T-shirt, please stop by Human Resources to pick one up.

Reminder – November 4, 2008 – Staff Development Day: Please mark your calendars for the fall Staff Development Day. An agenda will be distributed soon.

Horticulture Workshops

The Horticulture club is offering two floral workshops this fall. Please contact Robin Fruth-Dugstad if you are interested to have your name to the list. Payment can be sent via intercampus mail or pay the evening of the workshop. We do need everyone to sign-up in advance to plan for supplies needed. The first workshop will feature a fall/Halloween arrangement on Thursday, October 23 and the second will be on Thursday, November 20 and feature a winter/holiday wreath. See attachment to this week’s Crossings for more info.

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

Upcoming Concerts

The RCTC Music Department is presenting a new concert series entitled: (H)Our Music Concert Series. The concerts will be one hour in length and are intended to be both arts and education presentations. The concerts are FREE and open to the public. The first concert in the series will be: The JEDI Jazz Septet (Jazz EDucation and Improvisation) on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Hill Theatre. It will feature: Dr. John Paulson, Saxophones; Rand Skelton, Trumpet and Flugelhorn; John Sievers, Trombone; Chris Frye, Piano; Don Van Schaick, Guitar and Vocals; Denny McGuire, Bass; and Kevin Dobbe, Drums

The next concert in the series will be: Carla Hanson and Ainhoa Urkiolo: Voice and Piano Recital on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Hill Theatre. Hope to see you there! A advertising flier is attached to this week’s Crossings.

~The RCTC Music Department

THANK YOU

Thank You for your kind words, cards, flowers, and memorials in honor of my Mom. I certainly do appreciate your support at this time of loss.

~ Shelli Arneson
Many thanks to all who worked over the weekend to make Sunday night’s US Senate Debate on campus a huge success. More than 1,000 people took part in the live debate and thousands more listened on the radio or viewed the delayed television broadcast. Although the event was coordinated by Debate Minnesota, much of the work was done by colleagues and friends. Everyone from outside the College raved about RCTC’s talented staff, the cooperation they received, the condition of the facility, the “can do” attitudes they experienced, and the “Rochester nice” they were greeted with. RCTC was recognized as the host site in media venues across the state and on CSPAN. Since the debate, we have been contacted by other debate organizers for advice because they’ve been told that Rochester knows how to put on a class act. Look for other possible events on campus now that the word is out that UCR/RCTC really is the education, recreation, social, and cultural hub of Southeast Minnesota.

The 2008 Combined Charities Campaign is underway! This campaign is the once-a-year opportunity for you to donate, via payroll deduction or a one-time gift, to a charity or charities of your choice. There are dozens of approved charitable federations that represent hundreds of Minnesota charities working in cities all across the state. To make a payroll deduction, simply enter the State Employee Self Service website, click on “Other Payroll,” and then click on “Charitable Deductions.” From there, you’ll be able to view deductions made in the past and enter new deductions by clicking on “Add Deduction.” Remember that new deductions won’t begin until the first paycheck in January. For more information about the Combined Charities Campaign, contact Rose Conway in the Counseling/Advising Office. Rose has once again agreed to coordinate the RCTC campaign. Thank her for taking on this important task. Please be generous.

I had the pleasure of attending The Hormel Institute’s grand opening celebration last week. The gala event featured more than a dozen dignitary speakers, testimonials from cancer survivors and their families, and a behind the scenes look at the new facility. The Hormel Institute, in partnership with the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic, is a premier cancer research institution. At the grand opening, Jay Hormel, son of the founder of the Hormel Corporation, charged the Institute with finding a cure for cancer by 2015. If you’d like to see the fabulous facility, public open house reception and tours are still available between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on October 11, 17 and 18. The Institute is located at 801 16th Avenue NE in Austin and more information is available at 507-437-9604 or http://www.hi.umn.edu.

Minnesota high school and middle school counselors will have new electronic tools, information and training to help them identify, counsel and communicate with students who need assistance to stay on track for college success, thanks to a $735,000 federal grant awarded to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. The grant will be targeted specifically to schools serving large numbers of low-income students and students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. In an era when a college education is increasingly considered essential for career opportunities beyond minimum wage, Minnesota will use the funds to encourage high school students to be ready academically, socially and financially for college. To learn more about the grant visit http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/college-ready.

“Colleges spend billions to prep freshmen” – AP – September 15, 2008
It’s a tough lesson for millions of students just now arriving on campus: even if you have a high school diploma, you may not be ready for college. In fact, a new study calculates, one-third of American college students have to enroll in remedial classes [the number is much higher at open-entry two-year colleges]. The bill to colleges and taxpayers for trying to bring them up to speed on material they were supposed to learn in high school comes to between $2.3 billion and $2.9 billion annually. Analyzing federal data, the report estimates 43 percent of community college students require remediation, as do 29 percent of students at public four-year universities, with higher numbers in some places. For instance, four in five Oklahoma community college students need remedial coursework, and three in five in the giant California State University system need help in English, math or both. The cost per student runs to as much as $2,000 per student in community colleges and $2,500 in four-year universities. Educators are working to improve remedial courses. Long Beach City College is developing “success areas” that give extra time and attention to students. Community colleges in Tennessee have completely redesigned giant introductory and remedial courses where students were struggling. And colleges are learning such courses must also teach student skills to be effective.

Thought for the week…
Everything you want is just outside your comfort zone.
-- Robert Allen, Co-Author, The One Minute Millionaire

~ Don
Martial Arts Club

RCTC Martial Arts Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in SC108 (the Wrestling Room). Learn kickboxing, jiujitsu, and more. No experience needed. Come train with us for a month and get a FREE t-shirt!

Crossings Classifieds

COMMUNITY DRIVE: The ABWA Community Involvement Outerwear Drive is in progress. If you have items you want to donate for the drive you can bring them to me (put in my car in college parking lot at noon or 4:30 until the 17th) or go to: RE/MAX of Rochester at 4600-18th Ave NW is a drop off site until Oct. 17 and any coats that need cleaning can be taken directly to any Dison’s. Just let Dison’s know that the coats being cleaned are for the Winter Outerwear Drive and they’ll get them to United Way. For more info: Rose Conway 285-7260.

FOR SALE: Fruit Cake from Calvary Episcopal Church. We are baking in October. Prices Are: 1/2 lb - $4.25; 1 lb - $7.00; 1-1/2 lb - $10.50; 2 lb - $14.00; 2 lb Round - $15.00; 3 lb - $21.00; 3 lb Round - $22.00. Special orders for the following: Need to be ordered by October 11: 5 lb - $35.00; 5 lb Round - $36.00; 1 lb Gluten Free - $7.00. You can call the church 282-9429 or e-mail Suzanne.edwardy@roch.edu if you would like to order.

FREE WORKSHOP: Just Because It’s Not Wrong Doesn’t Make It Right. A free workshop packed with solid practical advice on how to use the stuff of everyday life to teach children to act with integrity, civility, and compassion. A free presentation for parents on Tuesday, October 28th from 7:00-8:30pm at John Marshall High School. Click HERE for more information or contact Colleen Landherr Maddox at 280-3113 or colleen.landherr@roch.edu.

FREE – Women’s Self-Defense Class

Sponsored by RCTC’s Martial Arts Club, this four-week class will make you feel safe, confident, and in control. We meet Sunday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 in SC 202 starting on October 12. Sorry guys, this is for women only. We ask a $5 donation, 100% of which will go to a local women’s shelter. The dates are 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, and 11/2. Questions? E-mail Dr. Steve Bein at steve.bein@roch.edu.

Learning Center Hours Over MEA

The UCR Learning Center will be open for limited hours over MEA/Education MN break on October 16 and 17. The Science area will be open from 10-6 on 10/16 and 10-5 on 10/17. The Math area will be open 10-4 on both 10/16 and 10/17. Please note English/Writing, ESL/EAP, and Speech are NOT open.

~ Annie M. Clement

FLU SHOTS

Mark your calendar! Flu vaccinations will be available at UCR Cafeteria on Wednesday November 5, 11:00 – 3:00. The Flu vaccine will be available on a “walk-in” basis. No appointments are necessary. Please bring your Minnesota Advantage Health Plan member ID card with you to the clinic. If you do not bring a valid card, the cost is $23.00 for the flu shot and $32.00 for the nasal spray flu vaccine*.

Condolences

Condolences are extended to Mary Baker (Instructor in the Nursing Assistant Program) whose husband, Donald (Duffy) Baker, passed away on Saturday, October 4, 2008. Mr. Baker was 54 years old, and had been diagnosed with cancer. Our thoughts are with Mary during this difficult time.
Voter Registration

Our greatest duty as citizens in a democracy is exercising our right to vote. Likewise, in carrying a large portion of our citizens into adulthood, colleges and universities have a basic responsibility to encourage participation in the electoral process. The impact of elections can have long-term effects on the direction of our country especially in this pivotal presidential and congressional election year.

With the awareness and excitement a presidential election brings, your efforts to encourage students to register and vote are even more important since historically, about one in four college students show up at the polls.

Voter Registration Cards will be available in the following areas on campus:
- Information Desk
- Admission/Records
- Cashier’s Office
- Counseling
- Library
- Financial Aid
- Heintz Center – Dean’s Office
- President’s Office
- Vice President’s Office

A PDF of the voter registration form can be found at the Minnesota Secretary of State webpage at:
www.sos.state.mn.us/home/index.asp?page=138

To Save Students’ Time and Postage,

RCTC will deliver their COMPLETED card directly to the County Auditor’s Office if submitted to the Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services located in SS220.

VOTER REGISTRATION MAIL-IN DEADLINE:
Students must register to vote by October 14, 2008
OR
on Election Day at the polls on November 4, 2008

THE TINY FROG STORY

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began! Honestly, no one in crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as:

“Oh, WAY too difficult!!"
“They will NEVER make it to the top.”
Or
“Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!”

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one, except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher....

The crowd continued to yell, “It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!” More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But ONE continued higher and higher and higher…this one just wouldn’t give up!

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower. Except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top! THEN all of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it?

A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal? Well, it turned out that the winner was wearing headphones and had been listening to music and hadn’t heard anything the crowd had said!

The wisdom of this story is:
Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic...because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you -- the ones you have in your heart! Always think of the power words have because everything you hear and read will affect your actions! Therefore: ALWAYS be POSITIVE! And above all, don’t listen when people tell YOU that you cannot fulfill your dreams!

Always think: I can do this!