Parent/Teen Evening Scheduled

RCTC in collaboration with Children First Olmsted County, Rochester Community Education and members of YSAT will be hosting a parent and teen evening on November 9, 2006 at the Heintz Center Commons, 6:30-8:30 PM, featuring internationally acclaimed youth advocate, Derek Peterson, entitled: "What Kids REALLY Need to Succeed: Creating a Safety Net and Launching Pad for Your Teen." This will be an interactive presentation with the opportunity to view materials from area youth programs. Parents and Teens will be guided through discussion sessions, activities and humor while addressing critical developmental issues. For more information, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings or http://www.icar-us.com (Mr. Peterson’s website) or contact Colleen Landherr Maddox, RCTC Community and Youth Program Director, 280-3113 or colleen.landherr@roch.edu

UCR Polling Site for General Election

With the upcoming fall election season, UCR is again experiencing an increase in politically-related activities on campus. Please remember:

1) College websites may not include links to a weblog or website maintained by a political candidate, party, or committee.
2) Employees are prohibited from soliciting or receiving funds for political purposes, directly or indirectly, during hours of employment.
3) Employees may not use their official authority or influence to compel another person to apply for membership in or become a member of a political organization.
4) Employees may arrange for absence from work for certain political or election activities, including time off to vote during the morning of the day of a scheduled general election. Consult the language of the pertinent statute for information about each activity, (Minnesota Statutes section 202A.135; 202A.19; 204C.04; and 211B.10, Subd. 2)

Furthermore, it is the civic responsibility of UCR, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2005, 204B.16, Subd. 6, to make available our facilities, including parking, for the holding of city, county, school district, state, and federal elections. As a polling place, political badges, political buttons or other political insignia may not be distributed or worn within 100 feet of the polling place (UCR Regional Sports Center) on the day of the election (November 7, 2006).

GET OUT AND VOTE!
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

So what kind of impact do you think TV has had on society?

Marketing Fact
As of December 31, 2004, 19.3% of community college faculty were between 50 and 54 years old, 19.9% were between 55 and 59 years old, and 15.2% were 60 years old or older. [Source: (October 28, 2005). Views and characteristics of community-college professors. The Chronicle of Higher Education, 52(10), B10.]

Kids Voting – Rochester
KIDS VOTING ROCHESTER volunteer training sessions are scheduled for October 23 and 26 at Kellogg Middle School Cafeteria. This is your chance to encourage young people to get involved and excited about the right to vote. You MUST attend training in order to participate as a poll worker. Deadline is October 18th to sign up for training. Volunteers are needed as Poll Workers on election day, Nov 7 from 7-9am, 3-5:30pm or 5:30-8pm. There will be two voting precincts at the UCR Regional Sports Center. For more information check out the Olmsted County web site, http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us. Go down the side under Elections and Voting to find the Kids Voting Link, or contact Colleen Landherr Maddox, RCTC Community & Youth Program Director at colleen.landherr@roch.edu.

Additional information on Kids Voting – Rochester is available at http://www.mnpower.com/kidsvoting/

Academic Accolades
Congratulations to Suzanne Dinusson, RMDS Coordinator, and her students for their coverage in the Rochester Post-Bulletin and KTTC news in regards to their community service work with the new Salvation Army store.

Crossings Classifieds
Volunteers Sought: Mayo Clinic is seeking volunteers with occasional symptoms of abdominal pain, cramping in a study evaluating an investigational medicine. Contact Deb Geno at (507) 538-6626.

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Paul Kinion whose father, Wayne, passed away on Sunday, October 8, 2006.

Condolences also to Chuck Lu whose sister passed away on Sunday, October 8th.

Our thoughts are with these employees and their families.

Faculty Lecture Series
The next lecture is coming up on Wednesday, October 25 at 10:00, Hill Theater. This lecture is being presented by Dr. Rod Milbrandt of the RCTC physics department. His topic? "Physics and Medicine: Radiology and the Mixing of Scientific Disciplines." Mark your calendar now. Plan to bring your classes! A flier is attached.

Theatre Tickets on Sale Now!
Tickets are now on sale for the RCTC Fall Theatre Production of "Reckless" by Craig Lucas. You may purchase tickets by either stopping by the RCTC Box Office or by calling 507-285-7200 (box office hours are M-F from 8:00am to 3:00pm). All seats are reserved. Prices: $8.00 for adults; $7.00 for senior citizens (65 and over), high school or college students. This play is not recommended for children under 15. RCTC/WSU students receive one free ticket with a valid student ID. UCR staff get two tickets at $4.00 each with additional tickets at above prices. Performances are scheduled for October 26, 27, 28, and November 2, 3, 4, 2006 in Hill Theatre. All shows begin at 8:00pm and run approximately 2 hours with one 15 minute intermission.
With less than a month before elections, it’s impossible to avoid the bombardment of political ads. Those elected in November will help shape policy for higher education and other important social issues for decades. Please educate yourself to the positions of the candidates and then be sure to vote on November 7. The League of Women Voters is coordinating a series of evening candidate forums scheduled for Heintz Center the last week of October. Don’t miss the opportunity to get to know the candidates, hear where they stand on higher education policy and ask questions.

The following “Invest in the Future” piece appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune on August 15…

Minnesota’s economic growth and high quality of life have been a result of our consistent investment in important public services. In recent years, however, our state’s commitment to public education has been reduced and we are currently spending a smaller share of our income on public services than we were in 1992. Minnesota has led the nation in economic growth – until now. For the first time in years, our growth is lagging behind other states. According to two former Minnesota commissions of finance, Jay Kiedrowski and John Gunyou, who served two different political administrations, “The disturbing reality is, we’re slipping behind other states, and that does not bode well for the future…If our tax dollars are invested in the right public services, our competitive position is strengthened.”

Minnesota’s gross state product per capita only increased 0.6 percent in 2005, compared with 2.5 percent nationally. Minnesota has fallen from 15th to 36th among the states in total education spending as a share of personal income since 1992. To reverse our competitive slide, public officials must be committed to laying the groundwork for adequate support for high quality public education. (See Thought for the Week)

On October 6, Dr. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud delivered one of the most powerful Visiting Lectures I have ever heard right here at Hill Theatre. Nancy’s presentation, including two top-notch video clips and a wonderful United Nations booklet for every attendee, addressed the “most pervasive, most severe, and most invisible dimension of the ecological devastation of the earth”…the destruction of our water supply. Sadly, less than 50 persons, mostly community members, took advantage of this convenient opportunity to hear this internationally acclaimed presenter. If you’d like to show the video tape of Nancy’s one-hour presentation, or just the UN video “Water for Life,” contact staff in the Digital Media Center.

This summer, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities contracted with Wilder Research to assess the economic impact of the system. Wilder’s findings concluded about the statewide impact of system operations…

- The total statewide economic impact of MnSCU in 2005 is estimated at $3.5 billion. This figure includes both the economic activity generated by the operations of the schools themselves and enhanced productivity of the state’s workforce due to training at system colleges.
- The enhanced productivity of Minnesota workers who received degrees or training at MnSCU institutions contributes an estimated $2.4 billion to the state’s economy each year.
- When compared to the net state spending on the system, the annual economic benefits returned to the state amount to an estimated $10.87 for every dollar spent.

The research also revealed this about the impact of capital expenditures…

- During the last four years, construction spending on system campuses has generated an average of $243 million of economic activity and the equivalent of over 2,500 full-time jobs per year in Minnesota.
- The system capital budget of $191.4 million (approved during the 2006 legislative session) will generate an estimated $430 million in statewide economic activity over the next two years.
- The full capital budget will generate approximately 4,300 person-years of employment, the equivalent of 2,150 full-time jobs over that period.

Thought for the Week…

We must reverse the slide in our support of education. Minnesota has never been below average, and certainly not lower than Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana or Texas – states we used to make fun of.

Jay Kiedrowski and John Gunyou

You’ll enjoy a reprieve from Scribblings next week as I’m taking the week off to move. After 31-years in the same house, the only one we’ve ever owned, Stephanie and I are transitioning to a condo. We’re “rightsizing” living space and household/yard work to spend more time at the cabin. Wish us luck as we decide what to hang on to, what to give away, and what hits the dumpster. Enjoy the MEA respite from students while we move from NE to NW Rochester.

Don
Goddard Library News

Demo Some Trial Databases – We have some databases on trial that we encourage you to try and let us know what you think about them. The databases are:

Proquest Databases:
- **Literature Online** – An online resource for English and American literature that provides texts and criticism to over 350,000 works of literature.
- **Literature Online Reference Edition** – This is a collection of literature resources that allows users access to a wealth of current scholarship, authoritative reference material, and bibliographic information.
- **Agriculture Journals** – Contains the full-text to 215 leading agricultural journals published in North America. It is the full-text competitor to our Agricola (Ebsco) database.

Ebsco Databases:
- **Humanities International Complete** – This resource contains the full-text to over 770 journals from around the world in the humanities.

Facts on File: 12 full-text databases containing information from their print texts.

To access these databases, from the Library’s Homepage (http://www.roch.edu/library), scroll to Article Databases. In the middle column that appears, scroll and click on “Trials.” Select the collection that you wish to search by clicking on the name of the collection. On the next screen, click on the link to enter the trial site.

Information Session Scheduled

In an ongoing effort to communicate information about things new and things changed within RCTC Teaching and Learning, T/L leadership invites you to our fourth comprehensive Information Session, scheduled for

**Monday, October 23, 2006**

1:00 - 2:00 pm in room ST110

Tentative presentations:

- Mike Bequette: Overview
- Nirmala Kotagal: Changes/Additions in academic programs
- Jay Lee: Changes/Additions in academic programs
- Bret Fuller: Changes/Additions in academic programs
- Paula Theisen: Changes/Additions in academic programs
- Scott Sahs: Changes/Activities in distance learning/educational technology
- Dale Pedersen: Changes/Activities in the library
- Michelle Pyfferoen: Directions/Activities in Business and Workforce Education

These presentations will be about 5 minutes each. There will be time for Questions and Answers.

Our Information Session is scheduled at about the time of the issuance of the new College Catalog, and prior to the beginning of our next registration period. I strongly encourage Financial Aid, Admissions and Records, Counselors, Marketing, and others to attend.
Rochester Community and Technical College
AFSCME Labor/Management
Minutes for Thursday, September 14, 2006 - 10:00 a.m. – Presidents’ Room

Present: Administration: Arntson, Bequette, Cram, Hansmann, Supalla, Weber
AFSCME: Clark, Conway, Edwardy, Lunning, Martin (Business Agent), O’Dea, Tucker
Guest: Monson
Recorder: Judy Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (AFSCME) Winter Break Closing Timelines – Hansmann distributed a draft memorandum to be shared with RCTC faculty and staff regarding the winter break closing in December. A discussion was held with regard to how the closing dates would affect those individuals that work Saturdays and Sundays. Hansmann confirmed the actual closing is December 26 through January 1, however agreed to allow staff to work with their supervisors if an employee would also like to take off December 23rd and 24th. Action: Employees who do not submit a leave slip to their supervisor by November 1st will be assigned work in the Sports Center during the winter break. If the scheduled work exceeds available employees, Hansmann will notify AFSCME to provide an opportunity for employees to reconsider their leave requests. Hansmann also agreed seasonal employees will be considered before contracting out services. Every attempt will be made to schedule GMWs during their normal days/shifts.

ITEM 1 (Admin) Search Process – Arntson announced there is a pre-employment screening procedure that summarizes the actions for the search process, but the new document merges the process for faculty and non-faculty into one search process. Once completed, the process would be submitted as the pre-employment screening procedure in the Affirmative Action Plan. Martin questioned if the bidding step is missing in the process. Arntson confirmed bidding is the first step in posting any position. A discussion was held on whether a search team should be created when the position may be filled through a bid. Arntson responded the search team would still be needed to review minimum qualifications. Martin agreed the process of determining minimum qualifications is necessary for Unit 6 employees, but shared concerns of pulling together a search team in other units when bidding is the factor. Arntson responded the process would be abbreviated in those situations. Supalla suggested that an exception language be added to the process to address those issues (i.e. if position is not filled through posting and bidding.) Action: Arntson will redraft the Search Process document and send out electronically to AFSCME for review.

ITEM 2 (Admin) Contracting of Services Update – Hansmann reported the instructional secretaries are developing a route and expectations for the courier service. Tucker questioned if the Foundation Secretary would have been interested in performing this duty. Arntson responded the Foundation Secretary was not a layoff, but rather a retirement. Action: Item will be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion.

ITEM 3 (Admin) Telecommuting Policy – Arntson announced AFSCME’s comments were considered by Administration and edits were done to the latest draft Telecommuting Policy. Martin questioned if seniority would be a factor in requests by identical classifications in the same work area. Arntson responded seniority was discussed, but Administration didn’t believe seniority should be a factor, but rather the criteria outlined in the policy would be used. Arntson added there are very few areas that have identical classifications and responsibilities, but if the issue did come up, then seniority could be applied. Martin requested clarification on long-term and short-term accommodations. Arntson responded an employee who works from home for a day or two to complete a project doesn’t have to be electronic, i.e. Tucker may need to work at home building shelves. A discussion was also held on the process and timeframe necessary for an employee to return to their normal schedule and work environment on campus. Supalla suggested a statement be added that states “relocation will occur when appropriate space and equipment are available.” Lunning questioned the language in Part 2 (bullet #7), not result in excessive additional work for staff at the official work location, noting it is imminent because an employee not at the College will result in others in the office doing more work covering the office and phones in the employees’ absence. Action: AFSCME will review the draft Telecommuting Policy and forward suggestions to Arntson for consideration.

ITEM 4 (Admin) Other – Hansmann thanked the two AFSCME representatives that met with the Physical Plant Director and Hansmann regarding an employee issue, noting the issue was resolved without disciplinary action.

Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.