



# College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

October 22, 2007  
Volume 13, Issue 9

FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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Event Schedule – click below  
[R25](#)

## Attachments

(CLICK on links below to read)

- ❖ [RCTC Family Fund Talent Show](#)

## Blood Drives

October 24  
December 5

## Meeting Minutes

Click below:

[http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting\\_minutes.html](http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html)

## Winter Weather Emergency Policy/Procedures

**Snow in October?** If you remember the Halloween Blizzard of 1991, you'll know it's possible. That weather event resulted in three foot drifts across I-94 from the Twin Cities to St. Cloud and classes being canceled across the state. And with the return of cold weather, we need to remember to be safe and informed; hence the need to refresh our memories on the Weather Emergency Policy/Procedures and Definitions.

Notifications to employees not on duty and students not at the College will be made through the media. At a minimum, the following radio and television media will be notified: KROC AM/FM/ Y105, KWWK, KLCX, KWEB, KRCH, KMFK-FM, KNFX-AM, KAAL-TV, KTTC-TV, and Fox 47. For those employees and students who live outside the area, you may access the KTTC and KROC website for closing notifications by going to the RCTC website:

[http://www.rctc.edu/policies/hr/Weather\\_Emergency.html](http://www.rctc.edu/policies/hr/Weather_Emergency.html)

### DEFINITIONS:

**a. CLOSING THE UNIVERSITY CENTER:** Closing the University Center means to cease all operations for both institutions (RCTC and WSU-R, other than those operations deemed essential to the protection of life and property. Closing the University Center results in the cancellation of classes, student and staff activities and meetings. All general offices are closed. Only weather essential employees (as defined in the policy – see link below)) must report to work during their regularly scheduled shifts.

**b. DELAYED OPENING:** Delayed opening refers to opening of all operations for both institutions at a later time, other than those operations essential to the protection of life and property. Only weather essential employees (as defined in the policy – see link below) must report to work during their regularly scheduled shifts.

**c. CANCELLATION OF CLASSES:** Cancellation of classes (off-campus or on-campus) means to cancel one, several, or all classes, of either a single institution or both institutions, in the absence of officially closing the entire University Center.

**d. CANCELLATION OF NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES:** Cancellation of non-academic activities refers to the cancellation of an event such as athletic events, theatrical productions, concerts, or workshops.

To review the entire policy/procedures, please visit:

[http://www.rctc.edu/policies/hr/Weather\\_Emergency.html](http://www.rctc.edu/policies/hr/Weather_Emergency.html)

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Pam Whitfield, who was featured in the Commentary Section of the Rochester Post-Bulletin on Wednesday, October 10. The article highlights Pam's experiences while living in China and how it has changed today. Pam will be giving a lecture entitled "The Changing Face of China" at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30 in the Hill Theatre. This event is part of the UCR Faculty Lecture Series and is open to the public at no charge.

Weekly Funny

Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"A second opinion? All right, but I charge double for that."

**Crossings Classifieds**

**FOR SALE:** Twin size mattress, box spring and frame for sale, \$75.00. Used 6 months, like new. 69 lineal feet of oak 1 x 6 ledge, stained in honey oak and sealed, ready to install in your familyroom, etc., \$200; Call Deb Schloegel at x7230 or 280-0932.

**RMDS Video News**

RCTC Retail Merchandising/Salvation Army Thrift Store video will be playing on Channel 20 at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. It will be playing until January 1, three times a day, Monday through Sunday.

**Information Presentations**

*What's new in birth control? Should you be concerned about sexually transmitted infections? Think you know all there is to know? You might be surprised....*

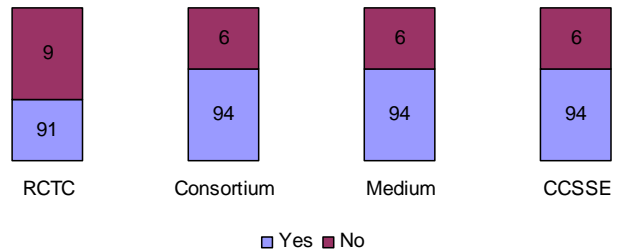
**Birth Control and Sexually Transmitted Infection Information Presentations**  
**Tuesdays, October 23rd and 30th**

(The same information will be presented at both sessions.)  
**2:00 - 3:30 ~ MH 223**

All students are welcome! Please encourage students to attend. Certificates of attendance will be available.  
 ~ *Katie Swegarden*

**Marketing Corner**

Would you recommend this college to a friend or family member?



**Come Celebrate!**

Come celebrate the Cafe Express Grand Opening from October 22nd through October 25th. Prizes will be given away each day! More information will be posted around the cafe this week so stop by and check it out.

**The Who's "Tommy" - Tickets NOW ON SALE!**

Tickets are now on sale for the RCTC Fall Musical Production of "Tommy". This is the first musical production since 1981! The show will be on Thursday, Friday and Saturday October 25, 26, 27 and November 1, 2 3. Adult tickets - \$12.00; Senior Citizens (65 and older)/non-RCTC/WSU Students - \$10; RCTC/WSU students receive ONE free ticket with valid student ID. Staff discount: UCR staff receive two tickets at \$6.00 each with additional tickets at above prices. All seats reserved seating. For tickets or more information, contact Rhonda Jensson at 285-7200, stop by the Theatre Box Office or e-mail Rhonda at [rhonda.jensson@roch.edu](mailto:rhonda.jensson@roch.edu). Cash or check with checks made payable to RCTC Theatre.

**Plot Synopsis for "Tommy":**

The trauma of witnessing a murder has sent young Tommy deep into himself to the point that he can't see, hear or talk. He seems non-functioning to all those around him despite his parents' passionate yet futile efforts to seek out help for him. Tommy encounters sexual abuse and cruelty in his catatonic state. But... somewhere deep inside, Tommy has his own safe haven. He hears his own music and feeds off of rhythms and when, as a tease, he is put in front of a pinball machine, he comes alive and amazes the masses with his incredible skill. "That deaf, dumb and blind kid - sure plays mean pinball" becomes the anthem as Tommy becomes a national icon. As with most pop culture icons, the magic is an illusion, the expectations are unreachable, and people don't like the truth. The Who's Tommy was nominated for 11 Tony awards and won 5 including one for best original score. It is also a Grammy award winner and considered one of the most groundbreaking rock albums ever. The songs "Pinball Wizard", "See Me Feel Me" and "I'm Free" were all Billboard top 40 hits. **COME AND ROCK WITH US! Note: This play contains adult situations, violence, some strong language and is not recommended for children.**

# Supalla Scribblings



On October 17, MnSCU announced that greater-than-expected enrollment increases boosted enrollment at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities 4.5%. RCTC headcount (5901) and full-year equivalent (4273) enrollments didn't measure up to the system averages for two-year or four-year colleges. The College's 1.2% headcount increase is significantly less than the two-year college headcount average of 4.8%; and our zero percent FYE rate compares with MnSCU's 2.9%. Our enrollment is especially concerning since Rochester is now Minnesota's third largest city, our population is growing at a rate significantly faster than most other Minnesota cities, and area high school graduation numbers are declining less severely than many other areas of the state. These lower than the system averages clearly support the need for formation of the recently created Enrollment Task Force and underscore the importance for the task force to bring forward process recommendations to improve our inquiry,

application, registration and retention numbers. For MnSCU, the growing numbers of online students and high school students taking college courses helped boost system enrollment. This fall, the state college and university system has 180,848 students, an increase of 7,832 students from last fall's enrollment of 173,016. Last year, enrollment increased by 1.3 percent.

"We are gratified that we have a larger-than-expected enrollment increase," said Chancellor James H. McCormick. "This growth provides some evidence that we are fulfilling one our missions - to increase access to higher education. Clearly, more Minnesotans recognize that a college education, whether it's a one-year degree from a technical college or one of our new doctoral degrees from a state university, is increasingly necessary for securing a promising future."

The number of students taking online courses grew by 29 percent to 33,082. The system offers 200 complete online programs and thousands of courses through Minnesota Online (<http://www.minnesotaonline.org>), which is the largest provider of online education in the state. Enrollment of high school students in college courses, through the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program, jumped by 15 percent to 13,731. Enrollment increased by 12 percent among undergraduate transfer students and by 7 percent among males. Enrollment of females went up 4 percent. Students of color now make up 15 percent of the system's students, up from 14 percent in fall 2006, reflecting the increasing diversity of Minnesota's population. Enrollment among first-time undergraduates decreased by 1 percent. The enrollment numbers released are considered the official enrollment count on the 30th day of the fall semester.

Politicians continue to make frequent stops at RCTC. Late last week, the House Capital Investment Committee visited to learn more about our 2008 capital bonding proposal. On Tuesday, Committee Chair Tom Rukavina and staff from the House Higher Education Committee toured the Health Science Center and heard about the collocation project. Early Wednesday morning Commissioner of Labor Swiggum learned about the project and Steve's visit was followed by Commission of DEED and MnSCU Trustee Dan McElroy who was briefed on the request. Thursday morning, Chair of the Board David Olson and Trustee Scott Thiss visited RCTC to share their thoughts on our community involvement and tour facilities. The last of the scheduled visits, the Senate Capital Investment Committee, will be on campus October 24 for a tour, briefing, and lunch. Initial reaction to the capital bonding proposal has been very positive.

Did you know that RCTC received \$16,254,446 in the past five years from Pell Grants! In 2006-07, more than sixteen hundred RCTC students were granted an average Pell Grant of \$2,104. Over the last five years, Pell dollars awarded to community college students have grown from \$4.17 to \$4.6 billion. Recently passed federal legislation assures that the Pell Grant maximum will rise steadily over the next five years.



The average debt in the class of 2006 is roughly \$21,100. In 2006, average student loan debt for graduating seniors was eight percent higher than in 2005, starting salaries only increased by four percent in the same period. The five jurisdictions with the highest average debt levels, class of 2006 are: District of Columbia (\$27,757), New Hampshire (\$24,800), Vermont (\$23,839), Connecticut (\$23,469), and **Minnesota (\$23,375)**. The five states with the lowest average debt levels are: Hawaii (\$11,758), Utah (\$12,807), Kentucky (\$15,406), Wyoming (\$16,855), and Maryland (\$16,872). Students enrolled in two-year colleges are also experiencing similar heavy debt loads.

### Thought for the Week...

*The person who complains about the way the ball bounces is probably the one who dropped it.*

*~ Coach Lou Holtz*

Try to find some time this MEA weekend to bounce a ball, read a book, or take a nap!

**Don**

# 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SSSP BASKET CHALLENGE SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds benefit the SSSP Iris Fried Scholarship

December 5, 2007

CF206/208

## A few facts about last year's basket challenge:

- \$1,593 was raised from 41 baskets donated by
  - 11 departments
  - 9 individuals
  - 2 clubs

•  
 Winning basket:  
 \$80 for "Night Out"  
 donated by the  
 Counseling/Advising  
 Center staff



Breakfast in Bed, donated by the RCTC Business Office, 2006

*A variety of baskets in all price/size ranges is needed for this event.*

*Let's see if we can top last year!*

Donate early if you can. Retail Merchandising students will create a window display using some of the basket donations; bring your basket by November 12<sup>th</sup> to be considered for the display.

R.S.V.P. to Deb at 285-7230 with your intent to participate in this fundraiser.

(Last day to submit baskets is Monday, December 3, 4 p.m., SS159)

*We look forward to your creations!*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Rochester's Committee on Urban Design & Environment**

has selected

**The RCTC/UCR Amphitheatre**

As the recipient of CUDE's annual award for  
**Institutional Development**

An awards ceremony with key UCR players in attendance will be held in the Grand Lobby of the Rochester Art Center on Tuesday, November 6 from 7:30am until 9:00am. The Mayor, City Council Members and local media will be among those in attendance.

**Veterans to Speak on Campus**

I would like to announce that I will have two WW II veterans speaking on campus in recognition of Veterans Day. They will speak on Friday 11/9 in SH 110. The campus is welcome. Earl Jorgensen will speak at 8 AM and Russ Gunvalson will speak at 9 A M - both are ex prisoners of war.

*~Tom Hosier*

**WSU/RCTC Collaboration**

WSU and RCTC are working on a collaboration to update the phone service for both institutions here in Rochester. The programming for the switch to the new system will take place in November and December and the actual switch to the new system in January 2008.

**Dates to Note:** November 10, 2007 - no new phone numbers or phone moves after this date. January 3-5, 2008 - new system goes live. More information on new services to follow at a later date.

*~ Marilyn Hansmann*

**Informational Session**

Circle of Friends, RCTC's GLBT student organization, will have an informational session on Thursday, 10/25, at 2:30 in CC412.

**Self-Defense Class for Women**

Please remind your students of the following opportunity -- and those of you who are female, please consider attending yourselves. A survey of over 6,000 students on 32 college and university campuses found that one in four women had been victims of rape or attempted rape. Don't be a statistic! Come participate in a women's self defense course at UCR! We will meet from 3:00 - 5:00 PM in SC 202 (the dance studio on the second floor of the Sports Center) on the following Wednesdays: 10/24; 10/31; 11/7; 11/14; 11/28; 12/5. The first hour will be techniques, the second hour will be practice; therefore, if two hours is too long of a time commitment, just come for one hour and you'll still get a lot from the class. The presenter is a 3rd degree black belt with 15 years of street-effective self defense training. We also have scheduled a guest presenter with 12 years of experience in women's centers and rape crisis centers. No male students will be allowed; this will be a safe setting in which to practice. The price of the class is a \$15 recommended donation, 100% of which will be given to a local women's shelter. If you can give more, please do; if you can't afford \$15, please come anyway. Your safety comes first! Questions? Dr. Steve Bein at [steve.bein@roch.edu](mailto:steve.bein@roch.edu).

Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, September 25, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

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

ITEM 1 (A) Mentoring Program – Arntson shared a draft Mentoring Program proposal, which originated from the Human Resources Committee, noting the program would be voluntary. The program is being proposed as a pilot with a spring implementation. Martinez questioned if the Human Resources Office would be the clearing house for assignments. Arntson responded she believed it was not appropriate for the Human Resources Staff to make the determination of appointments; hence more consideration would be made to that aspect of the proposal. ACTION: Faculty support piloting the Mentoring Program. Arntson will continue to refine the document/forms and implement during spring semester.

ITEM 2 (A) Cell Phone Repeaters/Voice Over IP Update – Leible announced Information Technology will take over investigating how best to improve cell phone reception in classrooms. In addition, communication devices in every classroom are also being investigated to ensure appropriate incoming and outgoing communication tools are available for safety/security reasons, adding his desire for a multi-level program for safeguards. Cram suggested Hansmann/Leible look into TracFones for employee use. Hansmann also announced colored strobe lights were also being considered for those with a hearing impairment. Wright noted the increasing frequency of false fire alarms have resulted in a disbelief of an accrual emergency occurring. Hansmann clarified the recent false alarms were a result of steam being released from a dishwasher in the Health Science Center, and safeguards are being installed to correct the problem. Wright stated Leible’s plan to investigate options, cost out expenses, and implement a reasonable plan was supported by the faculty. In addition, Hansmann announced a new phone system will be installed at the UCR campus during the next few months, which will significantly reduce the telephone expenses and provide more options for individuals. However, the system may require departments to purchase digital phones if they desire to use the available new services. ACTION: Leible will continue to investigate options and report back at a future meeting.

ITEM 1 (F) Timely Searches – Wright announced his appreciation of moving up the timelines for searches, but noted the recent situation in the Retail Merchandising Department illustrates why searches need to be conducted as soon as a retirement is announced. Supalla clarified the Retail Merchandising search was conducted as soon as possible, and the offer to the number one candidate was made very early, but extenuating circumstances resulted in the acceptance of the offer late in the summer. Supalla agreed search processes can always be improved upon, but the Retail Merchandising situation is not related to the timelines of the search. Bequette added search processes can begin early in the spring for anticipated retirements, but can not be fully executed until an official retirement notice is received. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (A) Class Cancellation Process Update – Bequette reported the Academic Deans met with Wright and several faculty to discuss the circumstances surrounding the class cancellation for Fall Semester, and general agreement was reached that improvements can be made, especially in the communication process. Wright added agreement was also reached that several classes are unique (i.e. music theory, advanced classes such as Calculus II, and second year/second semester Spanish), and can not be held to the same number requirements as others. In addition, Wright stated other factors were discussed (i.e. drop for non-payment deadlines and STAR session), but reiterated his desire to have the rules/guidelines for cancelling classes outlined clearly so faculty know how the decisions are being made. ACTION: Bequette and Wright will continue to visit to make improvements in the process.

ITEM 4 (A) RCTC/WSU Academic Collaboration Update – Wright announced the faculty’s desire to have documented processes established to assist faculty in knowing the steps needed to expand 2+2 and articulated programs. ACTION: Wright and Bequette will meet and discuss specifics and issues.

ITEM 5 (A) Strategic Planning – Supalla announced three RFPs were received for consideration of a consultant/facilitator for the College’s Strategic Plan sessions, adding his desire to have a small membership, but broad base constituency group. The focus will not be on redefining mission/vision, but focusing on the future (two-three years.) Supalla requested the

faculty submit two-three names for consideration on the membership. Wright requested more information on the RFP.

ACTION: Supalla will share a copy of the RFP with Wright. Wright will forward faculty membership recommendations.

**ITEM 6 (A) FY09 Budget** – Hansmann announced budget proposals need to be submitted in November for Board of Trustee review; anticipating a 2% tuition increase for FY09. ACTION: Information Only.

**ITEM 7 (A) Grievance (R08-01)** – Supalla announced administration met with Israelson regarding the grievance charging a Dean pressured a faculty to add students to their classes. Supalla noted that everyone at RCTC should be here to assist students, which includes connecting students with the appropriate faculty member. Supalla added he did not interpret the e-mail sent from Fuller to the faculty member to put pressure on the faculty member, and questioned what process/statements could be used so as not to be interpreted as intimidating. Wright responded the faculty would like to have time to consider the issue. Supalla responded the grievance requires an administrative response. Marconett questioned if the issue was tally max. Supalla responded the issue was an administrator contacted a faculty member to request consideration of adding an additional student, which would not go over the maximum allowed in the course. Wright responded the faculty believe the student should be contacting the faculty member and not an administrator. Supalla responded that would be desired, but if voicemails are full and e-mails aren't being responded to, then the student often has no recourse but to go to administration for assistance. Wright responded he believed the situation was an unusual circumstance, in that the administration cancelled classes and then approached a faculty member to add more in another section, when, in fact, maybe the original classes shouldn't have been cancelled if you need to add more in another section. Supalla stated the practice of a Dean or Vice President contacting a faculty member to help a student get into a class is not unique. Supalla concluded by stating it would be his desire to work something out locally for the benefit of the students. Wright stated the faculty will not be able to respond at this time. ACTION: Supalla will officially respond to the grievance.

**ITEM 2 (F) Block Scheduling** – Wright stated Bequette's letter to faculty regarding block scheduling appeared to some faculty as a mandate, which was received with great resistance and concern; especially after the recent problems with cancellation of classes. In addition, the faculty have concerns entering into something without knowing how it will turn out. Bequette confirmed the Math department shared concerns, and agreed his original communication in February was not detailed enough, suggesting to some that it would be restricted times. Bequette assured Wright that wasn't the case, but rather re-affirms what was already in place prior to his arrival at RCTC. Wright stated his belief that the number of classes that would have to be added to the block would create major conflicts. Bequette responded that would not be the case, but rather provide many more opportunities if the block is followed. ACTION: Bequette agreed this was not a mandate at this time, and will share the details of the block scheduling with faculty to clarify misconceptions and answer questions.

**ITEM 3 (F) Annual Program Reviews** – Wright questioned the proposed process of yearly reviews, as opposed to three year cycles. Bequette clarified the yearly reviews (required by MnSCU) would only be a quarter of the size of the reviews currently being done every three years, and provide an opportunity for programs to align their plans with the yearly IPP processes. Bequette added additional information will be shared with the program leaders and include where information may be obtained (i.e. institutional research). Hansmann added yearly program reviews would align with the annual self assessments non-faculty departments complete for their IPP submissions. Wright requested more discussion on the issue/plan. Gust questioned whether programs that require yearly reports for accreditation could just submit those reports. Bequette responded it would be acceptable if the information can be converted to comparable data points. ACTION: Bequette will continue to share the yearly annual program review process details with program leaders.

Adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** October 23, 2007 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109