Visiting Scholar Series

Paul Loeb, author of "The Impossible Will Take a Little While" will be speaking at UCR Hill Theater, 10 a.m. on Thursday October 26th as part of the Visiting Scholar Series. For more information, see the flier attached to this week's Crossings.

Historical Society Calendars

Rochester Community and Technical College received 100 Olmsted County Historical Society Calendars for 2007. If you are interested in a calendar, they are available to be picked up at the RCTC Foundation Office (Heintz Center) and mailroom (UCR Main).

New and Updated RCTC Policies

RCTC recently implemented and modified a three policies. They are:

- Advanced Placement (3.15)
- Faculty Emeritus (4.8.1)
- College Faculty Credentialing (including procedures) (3.32.1/3.32)

Copies of the full policies are attached to this week's Crossings. Remember: 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. [http://www.rctc.edu/policies/](http://www.rctc.edu/policies/)

Faculty Lecture Series

The next lecture is this week on Wednesday, October 25 at 10:00, Hill Theater. This lecture is being presented by Dr. Rod Milbrandt of the RCTC physics department.


Plan to bring your classes! A flier with more information is attached to this week’s Crossings.
Marketing Fact

The shrinking gender gap: According to the 2004 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, National Center for Education Statistics, 51% of Community College professors are male. However, according to the NCES 2004 Digest of Education Statistics (Table 236), Male faculty at 2-year, degree granting, public institutions on 9-month contracts in the 03-04 academic year earned an average base salary of $54,630, whereas their female counterparts earned $51,592. [To see the full range of salaries by gender, institution type, and year, go to http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d04/lt3.asp#c3 ]

Crossings Classifieds

Host Families Needed: Youth For Understanding is one of the oldest and largest high school exchange programs in the world. We are looking for a permanent host family for a student who is in Rochester. More information is available by calling YFU (ask for Mary Wennerstrum) at 1-866-493-8872 or visiting our website at http://www.yfu-usa.org.

For Sale: 1991 Volvo 940 Turbo, auto, leather, full pwr, sunroof, extra set of winter tires w/rims, no rust, 103K mi, $3850. Must see! Call Bonnie Mercer at 280-0524.

Academic Accolades

Carla Hanson, Voice Instructor in RCTC's Music Department, will be singing with the Rochester Chamber Music Society in a concert on October 28th. The concert will be held at Christ United Methodist Church - 400 5th Avenue SW at 7:30pm. For more information and to obtain tickets go to:

We are excited about this concert and would like everyone to feel welcome. Please pass this along to students since it may be a good thing for them to hear and see a professor of theirs perform.

Thank You

We have lost someone very special . . . thank you for sharing our grief. Thank you for the beautiful bouquet that was sent from "RCTC Family." Your kindness is remembered and appreciated. Laura so loved her job and was so happy. Remember her smile!

~ The family of Laura Sinning
Michala and Harold (parents)

Supalla Scribblings

Scribblings will resume in the October 30th issue.
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!

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
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF) Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, September 26, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109

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

ITEM 1 (A) Faculty Participation on Name Change Task Force – Supalla announced a task force would begin the process to consider a recommendation for a name change, and requested one or two faculty representatives to serve on the task force. Wright stated he believed the potential new name was already apparent by the current use of a smaller font on the “Community and Technical” in the current name. Supalla responded there is nothing in policy that states the name must be associated with the city/community so a new name is still open for discussion. Supalla added it is the responsibility of the College to consider both internal and external input. Wright questioned what additional role the faculty could play in the process. Supalla stated if a name change is forwarded to the MnSCU Board of Trustees, faculty present during the discussion would be powerful. ACTION: Wright will forward one or two recommended names to Weber/Supalla for the task force.

ITEM 2 (A) Telecommuting Policy – Wright reported the Distance Education Subcommittee will be reviewing the draft Telecommuting Policy at their next meeting, and requested the item be deferred until the next meeting. ACTION: The Telecommuting Policy will be brought back to the next meeting.

ITEM 3 (A) Faculty Emeritus Policy – Bequette announced the Faculty Emeritus Policy has been reviewed by the Faculty Shared Governance Committee and the suggested revisions have been reflected in the latest draft. Wright responded the faculty support the current draft. ACTION: Faculty support the Faculty Emeritus Policy with an implementation of May, 2007.

ITEM 4 (A) Faculty Credentialing – Bequette announced the Faculty Credentialing Policy has been passed by AASC and is based on MnSCU’s policy. Wright reiterated that this is an FYI item as AASC has already passed the policy and added the faculty supports it. ACTION: Faculty support the Faculty Credentialing Policy.

ITEM 5 (A) Staff Development Day Feedback – Arntson announced the final survey summary has not been compiled, but preliminary comments reflect an overwhelming positive feedback on the shortened kick-off day before classes begin. ACTION: Arntson will forward the final survey results to Wright.

ITEM 6 (A) Layoff(s) – Supalla announced Administration is aware of the November 1st layoff deadline; however Bequette and the academic deans are still reviewing information and are not yet prepared to announce if there will be any layoffs. Supalla questioned if there would be ample time to meet the deadline if the item isn’t discussed until the October 24th meeting. Wright suggested if layoff(s) are being considered, that Bequette, Supalla and himself meet mid-October to discuss and officially bring forward at the October 24th meeting. Bequette suggested new hires also be discussed at the same time and both issues be brought to the October meeting. ACTION: If necessary, Bequette, Supalla and Wright will meet prior to the next meeting to discuss potential layoff(s). New hires will be on the October agenda.

Adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 24, 2006 – 2:00pm – AT109
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF)
Faculty Shared Governance Council
Special Meeting

Minutes for Friday, October 6, 2006 – 3:00 p.m. –SS209

Present: Administration Bequette, Supalla
        Faculty Martinez, Wright
        Guests: Beth Arntson, Jay Lee

ITEM 1 (A) Layoff – A discussion was held to clarify/outline the difference between suspending and closing programs. Bequette announced the following programs are currently under consideration for suspension that would result in layoffs: Electronics; IT Security; Networking Specialist; Helpdesk; Mid Range Computer Specialist; and Intensive Care Paramedic (ICP).

It was noted EMC and EMT are 18 credits per semester. The Electronics program averages 6.2 students (26 tally max); ITS averages 5.3 students (25 tally max); and ICP averages 8.1 students. ICP classes are also offered in Plainview and that program will end when all students are done (Spring Semester, 2007). Wright pointed out that RCTC is trying to cooperate with local high schools; it would be helpful if we could continue this program to encourage that cooperation.

Bequette responded the long term trend is more troublesome. Wright asked Bequette to declare the number of students needed in order to make Electronics viable. Discussion followed on the belief that ICP should be a premier program in a place like Rochester, but, according to Bequette, when the program started it was anticipated that enrollments may decrease substantially after three to four years.

All agreed today’s meeting would be considered a Special Faculty Shared Governance Council meeting with a corollary to the minutes.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – AT109