October 30, 2006
Volume 12, Issue 11
FALL SEMESTER EDITION

Inside this Issue

- International Food Tasting Event – Pg 2
- Academic Accolades – Pg 2
- Polling Site Info – Pg 4

Event Schedule – see web R25

Attachments

- Healthy Holiday Eating Seminar
- Combined Charity Campaign – Final Challenge

Happy Halloween!

Last Campaign Event

Tuesday, October 31st: - HALLOWEEN FINALE for the Minnesota Combined Charities Campaign at 3pm in the Atrium! Let’s have a lot of fun today! Go all out and dress up for: Best Costume Contest: E-mail Rose at rose.conway@roch.edu with your vote for best costume by 2:30 pm and pledge of $1.00 or more toward Charities. Winner will be announced at 3:00 pm in Atrium and a prize given to the winner, treats for all attending in costume!

We saw some fun -"Ugly Ties" on campus Monday October 16th as part of the Combined Charities Campaign Challenge #3! As you can see from the picture, Glen Saponari- (International Student Advisor/RCTC Advisor), Stan Cram-(Vice President of Student Affairs), Admissions gals: Dera Hanson, Shelley Hove, Claryce Bany, Amanda Stevens, Kathy Richardson (Upward Bound Advisor), Patti Stevens-Admissions, Rose Conway- (Counseling/Advisor Center/Campaign Coordinator) - missing from the picture is Carol Naatz. Kathy Richardson styled a tie from 32 years ago when she became Mrs. Richardson. Winners were: Kathy Richardson and Shelly Hove! We raised $40.00 for United Way of Olmsted County.

Flu Shots on Campus

We have two dates for Flu Shot clinics this year. Each date if for a different group! Please plan to attend on the appropriate date. Thursday, December 7, 11:00 - 4:00 UCR Cafeteria. Flu shots with no out-of-pocket costs for all state employees covered by a State of Minnesota Advantage Health Plan. You must present your card! If you are a covered employee and cannot attend this date, you can get a flu shot with no out of pocket costs through your primary healthcare provider. Monday, December 11, 11:30 - 1:00 UCR Cafeteria. Flu shots for students and state employees not covered by a State of Minnesota Advantage Health Plan. The cost is $20.00 (cash only).
Marketing Fact
65% of new healthcare workers get their training at community colleges. [Source: American Association of Community Colleges, Fact Sheet, 2004]

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.

International Food Tasting Event
The International Students will be offering an International Food tasting event in the Atrium on Nov. 14th from 11:00 -12:30. We hope to have over 15 different countries represented. We are using this as a fund raising event for the UNICEF program of the UN. We chose UNICEF because we actually have a student who did volunteer work in his country for UNICEF. Our goal is to raise $200. We thank you for your support over the past years and hope you enjoy an international treat.
Supalla Scribblings

Each day closer to the November 7 election seems to bring increasing escalation in the nastiness of the campaign commercials and candidate rhetoric. Higher education in Minnesota has much as stake when the new legislature is seated in January. Certainly, the biennial budget request will be the focus of MnSCU’s advancement campaign. But other issues will be important as well. Hopefully, the legislature will appropriate money for an emergency HEAPR bonding bill so that we can complete the Heintz Center roof project in a timely manner. The students will continue to press for tuition relief, maybe even a tuition freeze, and there’s always some legislative “surprises” in store for public higher education. Please take time to research the issues, learn where the candidates stand and cast a ballot. With this first major election being held in the UCR Sports Center, do anticipate some potential lost voters and parking problems.

Speaking of MnSCU’s biennial budget request, Chancellor McCormick has shared his thoughts with the Board of Trustees as they ponder approval of the request at the November Board meeting. Philosophically, the Chancellor believes strongly that:

- The budget recommendation must seek a balance between advancing the work we do for students and the cost of that work to the students.
- The request gives life to the MnSCU strategic plan.
- The budget request represents an investment in the state’s role in funding the system and, if fully funded, would move the state’s share from 50 to 53 percent by 2009.
- MnSCU’s recommendation will have two themes: strategic advancement and IT infrastructure improvement.
- The recommendation will include the smallest proposed tuition increase since FY99/00 – four percent.

Based on official 30th day numbers, enrollment at the 32 MnSCU institutions rose slightly over the last year. This fall, the system has 173,016 students, an increase of 2,262 students from last fall, a 1.3 percent increase. Overall, enrollment was up by 2.4 percent at the community and technical colleges and down about .6 percent at the seven state universities. Some factors that impacted this year’s enrollment numbers include more students taking online courses, a coordinated effort by system institutions to make it easier for students to take courses and transfer among the 32 colleges and universities, a declining pool of high school graduates, and an improved state economy. The largest percentage enrollment changes occurred at Northwest Technical College – Bemidji (23.7%), Northland Community and Technical College (17%), Riverland Community College (-12.2%) and Anoka Technical College (-7.1%). RCTC’s official headcount is 5830, down from 5961 (-2.2%). Your assistance in helping more students be academically successful fall semester and encouraging them to return spring semester will be much appreciated.

Marilyn Hansmann, Ruth Siefert and I traveled to the Office of the Chancellor on Wednesday afternoon to participate in our FY06 financial audit exit conference. Once again this year, thanks to the excellent work of staff, we will be receiving an unqualified clean audit. Only one negative finding was verbally cited…the auditor wasn’t able to find the State of Minnesota inventory tag on a piece of technology equipment. Because the tag was found and affixed immediately, the finding will not make its way into the written audit report. Once the audit report is finalized and made public, in about a month, Marilyn will share with you the highlights and a link to the report. Congratulations to all who worked very hard both throughout the year to garner another clean audit.

The Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for the EMS Professions Board met on September 8-9 and reviewed the initial accreditation status for RCTC’s Paramedic Program. After careful consideration, the Committee has forwarded its recommendation of “Continuing Accreditation” to the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs for accreditation action at its next meeting. The next reaffirmation of the program’s Continuing Accreditation is scheduled to occur no later than 2009.

Thought for the Week…

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

Keep pioneering, innovating, and creating. I look forward to learning about your next invention.

Stephanie and I survived the move. Moving, on the Stress-O-Meter, must rank right up there with death, divorce and weddings. We have a bed to sleep in, food in the fridge, utilities…Life is Good! Thanks for your support.

Don
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!

Changes in Maintenance and Security phone numbers

-Security will remain 285-7262
-Maintenance for the entire campus will now be 285-7266

Be aware that maintenance and security are no longer sharing the same phone number and will also be on different radio frequencies. If you wish to contact security, then simply continue to dial x7262. If you wish to contact maintenance, then you will have to dial x7266. Please use the web site http://rctc.myworksite.com to place work orders. If you need to contact Maintenance for immediate service or emergency repairs call x7266 and maintenance staff will be contacted by radio. All non-emergency calls to x7266 requesting work will be directed to use the web site.

Condolences

Condolences to Beth Arntson (Chief Human Resources Officer) whose brother-in-law, Larry Ziemann, passed away on October 24th. Condolences are also extended to Nancy Hust (Practical Nursing Instructor) whose father, Eugene "Gene" Peter Twite, passed away on October 24th. Our thoughts are with these employees and their families at this time.

Employee News

Update on Pat Kraemer: Pat is still at St. Mary's (Mary Brigh - 3rd floor). She's doing well, and is able to move her right foot and her left foot a little bit. She's eating better, and is in pretty good spirits. She's been spending what free time she has (between therapy and resting) doing Sudoku Puzzles and watching games on Sundays. Her anticipated release is November 8th, at which time she'll be home with a back brace and special arm brace until just before the holidays. She is then scheduled to return to the hospital to have her braces removed, and hopefully it will be her last stay at the hospital.