



College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

November 5, 2007
Volume 13, Issue 11

FALL SEMESTER EDITION

Inside this Issue

- Floral Class – Pg 2
- GRAUC News – Pg 3
- Basket Challenge – Pg 4
- Native American History Month – Pg 5

Event Schedule – click below
[R25](#)

Attachments

(CLICK on links below to read)

- ❖ CTL Happenings
- ❖ Coffee and Conversation

Blood Drive

December 5

Meeting Minutes

Click below:

http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html



RCTC Donates Van to Flood Victims

The RCTC Auto Mechanic students and instructors presented the keys and title of a Plymouth Voyager van to a Rushford family last Friday, November 2. The family of nine had lost their home and three vehicles in the August floods.

The van had been donated to the College by an RCTC graduate and was utilized as a teaching tool in RCTC's Automobile Mechanic program. The van was then refurbished by students in the Automobile Mechanic program and Auto Club. Way to go!

Clothing Sale

RCTC Football will have clothing items for sale in the atrium the week of November 5th. Hours will be: Monday from 12-4pm; Tuesday from 10am-4pm; Wednesday from 9am-4pm and Thursday from 9am-12pm.

Rochester Equine Extravaganza

On Saturday, November 10th from 10am to 3pm, the RCTC Equestrian Club is hosting the "Rochester Equine Extravaganza," which includes a tack swap, guest speakers to talk about horse-related issues, and a silent auction. We are inviting outside vendors to come and sell merchandise or advertise services. The event will be in the University Center Rochester Sports Center Performance Court. If you are interested in donating items and/or being a vendor at RCTC's "Rochester Equine Extravaganza" please contact Julie Christie at julie.christie@roch.edu or 507-398-2326.

Weekly Funny

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

Crossings Classifieds

COMMUNITY EVENT: Interested in International Adoption? Terry Krieger (Math) and his wife, together with another Rochester family, will share stories of adoption from Colombia and Russia. Friday, November 9, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 2830 18th Avenue NW, Rochester.

COMMUNITY EVENT: RREC (Rochester Regional Equestrian Center) invites you to their annual meeting at the Heintz Center (HB117) on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00. In addition to an update, speaker Mary Jones will talk on "Rescue: The Other Side of the Horse World". Treats and beverages will be served. A full meeting notice can be found at <http://www.rrec.info>
Contact: Audrey Lidke - 288-8726.

WANTED: Free leather recliner in good shape for biofeedback tent. Call Audrey Lidke at x7469.

FOR SALE: Chicago Bears vs. MN Vikings Tickets; 12/17/07; 7:30PM (Monday night); Section 212 row 7, seats 9 & 10; (40 yard line, Vikings side line); \$142 for the pair (face value). Contact: guy.hamernik@roch.edu

Flu Shots on Campus

Flu Shots will be available to students (or employees not covered by a Health Plan) on November 11 from 12:00-1:00pm in the Student Health Services Office (HS140). The cost is \$23, cash or check only.

Marketing Corner

Anna Hanson will be visiting 17 high schools the week of November 5th, including (Winona HS, St. Charles, Dover-Eyota, Century, Mayo, Lourdes, John Marshall, Cannon Falls, Goodhue, Zumbrota-Mazeppa, Pine Island, Southland, Grand Meadow, Le Roy-Ostrander, Kingsland, Rushford and Lanesboro.) In addition, she will be presenting to the Night School Class at Century on Tuesday, November 6th.

"Flowers - the Missing Ingredient"

Spice up the turkey with a bountiful Thanksgiving Centerpiece! On Wednesday, November 14 starting at 5:30pm the Horticulture club will be teaching a floral design workshop in HH113 at the Heintz Center. Attendees will go home with a beautiful Thanksgiving centerpiece (retail value \$35 - \$40). This class will be taught by Janette Dragvold and Luke Dieser. I highly recommend NOT missing this class! Space is limited so register early by e-mail to Robin.Fruth-Dugstad@roch.edu or by calling 529-6112. \$40 fee.

GRAUC News

(Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities and Colleges)

As a new face at the UCR campus, I would like to thank the UCR staff for extending such a warm welcome to me. My name is Kari Takahashi, and I have recently been hired as the Executive Director for the GRAUC Board. I look forward to meeting and working with the UCR staff in continuing to advance the growth and excellence of public higher education in the Rochester region. Since its inception in 1987, GRAUC has worked diligently to advocate for higher public education and serving the needs of students and employers in our region. The GRAUC office is located in Endicott Hall, Room #212. I invite you to feel free to stop by and share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions, or simply to visit! My position is part-time, so if I am not physically in the GRAUC office, please feel free to leave a message by calling 281-7786, or you may also reach me via email at Ktakah@roch.edu. I would also like to recognize GRAUC's Administrative Assistant Extraordinaire, Mona Permann, who is a wonderful asset to our organization. Thank you again for the warm and generous welcome to the University Center Rochester!

~ Kari Takahashi
GRAUC Executive Director

Condolences

Condolences to Jamie Prasser (Media Services) whose father, Carl, passed away on Tuesday, October 30th. Our thoughts are with Jamie and his family.

Club Meeting

The RCTC Martial Arts Club trains from 6-8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in SC108.

Supalla Scribblings



The CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION has published a number of articles recently related to increasing enrollments of special populations. Chancellor McCormick and Trustee Chair Olson have urged colleges and universities to step up efforts to assure that all students in Minnesota get some post-secondary education. James A. Anderson, in a recent CHRONICLE article shared what he believes are the eight crucial steps to increase diversity. Leadership, both administrative and academic, is indispensable to any serious attempt to integrate diversity throughout the institution. Although RCTC has done a better job in recent years of recruiting and retaining persons of color, we can do better. Increasing diversity in our student population and staff is everyone’s business. Anderson urges campus leaders to consider these eight points if they intend to stay true to their commitment to diversity. They should:

- 1) Be prepared to respond to external pressures when making decisions about diversity. People who exert such external pressure often expect one of two extremes: major institutional reform, or complete adherence to status quo.
- 2) Avoid abstract language or ambiguous meaning about institutional change and diversity. The ultimate responsibility for clarity and consistency of the message rests solely with leadership.
- 3) Cultivate a leadership style that alternates between seeing the big picture and recognizing the importance of incremental improvement.
- 4) Let the wisdom and expertise of a wide range of experts on the campus guide decisions about diversity. The best team of advisers about diversity is probably not listed on the formal organizational charts. Faculty members who direct centers of teaching excellence have emerged as influential contributors to academic departments that wish to diversify the curriculum or improve the quality of teaching for diverse student populations.
- 5) Reach a broad consensus about diversity programs before trying to carry them out. Agreement about new diversity programs should be worked out in advance so as to benefit everyone involved and preclude any potential objections.
- 6) Base principles and programs about diversity on historical patterns of institutional change. Identify existing structures and values and explain the role that diversity can and should play in them.
- 7) Analyze and learn from institutions where at least moderate progress has occurred.
- 8) Pay special attention to the roles and responsibilities of academic leadership. The most significant and lasting gains will occur when diversity is linked in concrete ways to the institution’s teaching and learning. The chief academic officer, deans, division coordinators and program leaders must operate together as one of the major leadership groups that campus stakeholders associate with diversity.

Officials at Rutgers University in New Jersey hope that a new pilot program will help lure more minority and low-income students to the state institution. School districts in four New Jersey communities where Rutgers’ campuses are located will select a group of eighth graders each year who will receive invitations to campus events, as well as college-planning advice and test preparation. The students will also receive a guarantee of free tuition if they are admitted to Rutgers. The university has committed to work jointly with school district officials to identify 160 – 200 “at risk” students each year. Each school year, selected students will be invited to participate in a variety of academic workshops involving environmental sciences, biology and medicine. Rutgers faculty will help design hands-on activities and experiments. Officials hope that the program’s various initiatives will encourage these students to perform well in high school and pursue a higher education. What are we doing to engage eighth graders?

Students who take college courses while in high school are more likely than their peers to graduate, to go on to college, and to do well in college, a new study suggests. College courses appear to be especially beneficial for male students, students from low-income families, and those who struggled academically in high school, according to the report, “The Postsecondary Achievement of Participants in Dual Enrollment. The study is one of the most comprehensive analyses to date of dual enrollment programs, which allow students to take college classes for both high school and college credit. Dual enrollment programs have increased in popularity in recent years as policy makers strive to increase the rigor of secondary education. The report argues that states should continue to loosen eligibility requirements for dual enrollment, expand outreach, and provide college courses tuition-free for low-income high school students, if not for all high school students. What should RCTC be doing to increase dual enrollments?



More adults age 55 to 79 are bypassing retirement and leisure nowadays to change careers, pursue advanced degrees, or start new businesses. But, according to a report by the American Council on Education, many barriers stand in the way of older adults with a strong interest in college-level learning. The report, “Framing New Terrain: Older Adults and Higher Education,” finds that older adults are “beginning to articulate new postsecondary-education goals,” including training for new careers and fulfilling unrealized dreams. But, the report says that many older adults do not pursue higher education because of demographic barriers, such as the complicated responsibilities people face in the 50s and 60s. Other roadblocks can be attitudinal, such as some instructors’ and older people’s negative perception on aging, or structural, such as lack of money or transportation. Colleges and universities “have yet to catch up with the burgeoning demand for new learning options, especially programs for career transitions,” the report says. RCTC has a great Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) program, but should we be doing more to encourage seniors to enroll in credit-based coursework?

I bring these four ideas to you as RCTC embarks on our next strategic planning process. These under-served populations provide us with a chance to explore whether or not we’re missing an opportunity to serve those in need and benefit society. Stay tuned!

Thought for the week...

Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top, then you will see how low it was.
~ Dag Hammarskjöld

Don

3rd 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

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 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 12th 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!

Upward Bound Fundraiser

RCTC Upward Bound is now selling tickets to *domino Celebrates Festival of Giving*, a private evening of holiday shopping at Apache Mall, which will take place on Sunday, November 18, 2007 from 7:30 - 10:00 pm. This special event for ticket-holders only will feature special offers and discounts from Apache Mall merchants as well as beverages and hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, and live holiday entertainment! Tickets for domino Celebrates Festival of Giving are \$5 in the form of a donation to the RCTC Upward Bound Program. In the last seven years of this charity event at Apache Mall, non-profit organizations successfully raised over \$100,000 though ticket sales, 100% of which went directly to the groups who sold the tickets. This will be the last year that Apache Mall will be holding this event! So purchase a ticket today, help RCTC Upward Bound raise money for scholarships, TI-83 graphing calculators, and our summer program, as well as getting a jump-start on your holiday shopping!

Tickets locations: Upward Bound office - Heintz Ctr - Rm HA116 - 280.5002
Student Support Services office - UCR - Rm SS159 - 285-7230

~ Suzanne Nordsving, Upward Bound Director

“Ask Sting”

RCTC is in the process of implementing an exciting new customer relationship management (CRM) system based on RightNow Technologies. This is the same system used by many MNSCU institutions, the Office of the Chancellor, the statewide D2L Helpdesk and numerous other educational institutions and businesses worldwide. Our implementation, known as "Ask Sting," will allow prospective and enrolled students or other interested individuals to interactively search for answers to common questions, or if needed, be connected to someone within RCTC who can assist them in their needs. There will be a live chat tool to allow for virtual librarians, online advisors and instant technical support. Users will be directed to a set of ranked answers based on their input, and this dynamic system will continually grow and be current through the efforts of our own subject matter experts and agents within all areas of the college. It is an important and valuable tool to address the customer service needs of our students and community, and has the potential to serve as a knowledge management system for faculty and staff in the future. More importantly, it will relieve the demands of repetitive email, telephone and personal requests for information that will instead be accessible 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Ask Sting system is seen as a strategic solution for many of the initiatives and projects at RCTC, and a valuable addition to the resources of the college. In order to better understand how the project will be implemented on our campus, we would like to invite you to visit the following sites and investigate the powerful options:

http://century.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/century.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php (Century)
http://mnscluservices.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/mnscluservices.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php (Minnesota Online)
http://onestop.mnsu.edu/cgi-bin/onestop.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php (Mankato)
http://umich.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/umich.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php (University of Michigan)
http://uhhelpdesk.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/uhhelpdesk.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php (University of Houston)

Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or comments, or if you are interested in supporting the project within your area of expertise.

~ Scott Sahs - Holly Bigelow - Darin Hoffman

Native American History Month

November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month; a time to honor the first Americans, a time to celebrate the many significant contributions that the First Americans have made to the U.S. It is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaskan Native Americans. To learn more, you can read:

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian or *Flight* by Sherman Alexie

Love Medicine or *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich

Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections of Contemporary Indigenous Women by [Wilma Pearl Mankiller](#), [Vine Deloria](#)

Wisdom of the Native Americans: Including the Soul of an Indian and Other Writings from Ohiyesa and the Great Speeches of Chief Red Jacket, Chief Joseph, and Chief Seattle by [Kent Nerburn](#)

Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide by [Andrea Smith](#)

Boarding School Seasons: American Indian Families, 1900-1940 by [Brenda J. Child](#)

Kill the Indian, Save the Man: The Genocidal Impact of American Indian Residential Schools by [Ward Churchill](#)

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West by [Dee Alexander Brown](#)

Black Elk Speaks by [John G. Neihardt](#) (As Told to)

Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto by [Vine Deloria](#)