The “BUBBLE” is UP!
The bubble over the artificial turf at the Rochester Regional Stadium was inflated on Thursday, December 2nd. You’re invited to the grand opening celebration on Friday, December 11th to see the inside!

Rochester Community and Technical College and the City of Rochester invites you to attend the

“BUBBLE UP”
Grand Opening at the Rochester Regional Stadium

Friday, December 11, 2009
3:00pm ~ 5:00pm

Meet USA Olympian, Jennie Finch. Brief ceremony starts at 3:45 pm.

Light hors d’oeuvres will be served.

ATTACHMENTS

CLICK BELOW TO BRING UP ATTACHMENT ON SCREEN

Strategic Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

Spring Calendar

Spring Calendar (2)
CHINA TOWN HALL
Local Connections, National Reflections

RCTC is proud to host the above on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. CLICK HERE for more info.

Chorale Arts Ensemble Celebrates 25th Season
RCTC is the educational sponsor for the Rochester Chorale Arts Ensemble for 2009/2010 Silver Anniversary concert season. We will be hosting a brown bag luncheon with Artistic Director Michael Culloton on Thursday, December 10 at 11:00 in College Center/Room CC113. Michael Culloton will share information about the upcoming program to increase your enjoyment and understanding. CLICK HERE for the schedule for the Silver Anniversary Concert Season.

Teddy Bear Drive
A special thanks to all that donated teddy bears in our 12th Annual Teddy Bear Drive. As you know, a huggable bear can be just the comfort needed for a young child in a scary circumstance. Remember, these bears are not just used during the holidays, but will bring comfort to those in need of a “friend” throughout the entire year. As of the morning of December 3, 51 bears are nicely snuggled under the Yellowjacket Tree in the Office of the President in SS202. The bears will continue to be collected through Friday, December 18, 2009.

Vote for Outstanding Educator Award
I am inviting you to nominate one or more of our full-time faculty for the 2009-2010 RCTC Outstanding Educator (formerly Faculty-of-the-Year) Award. Please complete a nomination (CLICK HERE…form is attached) and return it electronically or in paper form to Deb Ellsworth in SS 212, email deb.ellsworth@roch.edu. Nominations can come from staff, full- and part-time faculty, administration, and students. A separate email is being sent to students. The deadline for nominations is Monday, December 14, 2009. Contact one of the Outstanding Educator committee members (Jean Marconett, Don Baldus, Robin Fruth-Dugstad, Lynn Guenette, Mike Bequette) if you have any questions.

~Mike Bequette, Chief Academic Officer

Early Registration
RCTC - last week, we asked you to talk with returning students about taking advantage of their early registration opportunities and your action paid dividends! We saw over 800 returning students registered in those three days and our credits sold is back on track! Special kudos to faculty, especially Liz Vikse, who took proactive approaches to encouraging registration including what Liz posted on her D2L as follows: As we approach the end of fall term, I hope all of your courses are going well? I’d like to encourage returning students to register NOW for spring term. Earlier registration benefits you because you will have your schedule and plan in place before the end of this term. And you can plan your work & personal schedules earlier than most other students wait to other students. Students in technical programs or liberal arts students in more advanced coursework register because they believe the seats in their courses are likely going to remain available. But... RCTC is starting to bring new students in to register and those seats may be quickly taken. So, make a Pro-Active step in your Goals...Register as soon as possible! Liz V. & the entire Admissions, Records & Registration staff at RCTC.

~Holly Bigelow

EQUINE HORSE SHOW
The RCTC Equine Science “End of Semester Horse Show” will be next week, December 11th from 1pm-4pm. Everyone is welcome to come watch (no dogs, please)!

UCR will be going TOBACCO FREE January 1, 2010!

Happy Holidays!

CHORALE ARTS ENSEMBLE CELEBRATES 25TH SEASON
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~Holly Bigelow
Minnesota Management and Budget Commissioner Tom Hanson announced on December 2 that a $1.203 billion deficit is being projected for the FY10-11 biennium due to an extended weakness in the economy. He said that the story of the forecast is unemployment is up and wages are dramatically down. Hanson said 70 percent of the $1.203 billion deficit is a result of a decline in income tax. For the next biennium, 2012-13, a $5.426 billion deficit is being projected. This reflects many one-time solutions, including the federal stimulus funds that do not continue beyond fiscal year 2011. You may review the complete forecast, along with the press conference handouts at http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/forecast. Not only is the news for the short-term gloomy, the projection for the next biennium is very troubling. These projections will have to be considered during our next mid-year IPP budget review in January and again as we develop the FY11 budget.

Laura King, MnSCU Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer, sent a memo to college and university Chief Financial Officers informing them of the cash assistance that the system is providing the state. The system, along with other participants in the state’s general treasury, is providing cash flow assistance to the state’s general fund. MnSCU has been assured in writing by Minnesota Management and Budget that any funds lent will be repaid with interest in full before the end of the fiscal year or earlier if necessary to meet the cash needs of the system. These funds must be returned to MnSCU or the law must be changed to take them. The state’s temporary use of system cash has no impact on day-to-day operation. Our system collectively maintains reserves and collects tuition and other revenues at the beginning of each term. Consequently, we do have excess cash available over daily expenses during certain portions of the year. System cash balances during the last few years have intermittently been used to meet the general cash needs of the state and avoid the need for the state to borrow money externally. Stay tuned for periodic updates.

This week the Minnesota Office of Higher Education announced that fall 2009 enrollment at Minnesota colleges, universities and career schools increased 5.3 percent over 2008. Enrollment at public and private institutions statewide increased by 18,748 students, from 353,359 in fall 2008 to 372,108 in 2009, with growth concentrated in the state’s public community and technical colleges across the state. Enrollments at public two-year colleges increased by more than 10,000 students. The enrollment figures provide a tenth day of the semester snapshot and do not differentiate full-and part-time students. The greatest percentage increase (17.2%) occurred at private career schools, the state’s public two-year colleges most direct competitor.

Campus Kudos…

- Dr. ViAnn Olson will be recognized next week during a dinner at the Mayo Foundation House as a recipient of the Rochester Area Math and Science Partnership 2009 Outstanding Educator Award. Congratulations, ViAnn!
- The RCTC Ecology Club organized and carried out a tree planting in the two round-abouts on campus. Thanks to Jennifer Rubin, club members and volunteers who participated in this community service beautification project.
- Congratulations to Julie Rodakowski and all who make the UCR Learning Center such a valuable campus asset. This week Julie learned that the Center has achieved CRLA Level I certification! Thanks for your persistence and good work. Center staff will likely set their sights on Level II and maybe even Level III certification.
- On Monday the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting conducted a national re-accreditation visit on campus. After careful review of curriculum, faculty qualifications, facilities, documentation and visits with students, staff and health care professionals, the program got a great preliminary report. Although the final step in the process won’t occur until November 2010, the program is well on its way to re-accreditation. Congratulations to Jane, Karen and others associated with the program on this achievement!
- Dave MacLeod and the RCTC Auto Mechanics Program were recognized with text and photos at http://www.scienceguy.org. Even RCTC’s decaled pick-up truck made the “Modern Auto Mechanics” story. Nice to see Dave, Max and the program getting some much deserved recognition.
- Thanks to Katie Swegarden for organizing several great World AIDS Day events at UCR. Katie indicated that the free HIV testing “sold out” and a wealth of information was distributed. “Breaking Ice,” a very well-performed theatrical production and forthright discussion of the reality of HIV and AIDS in today’s world drew rave reviews from attendees. Thanks to Katie and others who organized this extraordinary learning experience.
- Installation of the fabric bubble at the UCR Stadium is drew a large audience both in person and on the Knutson Construction Webcam. Click on the “See the Stadium Bubble Up” link on the RCTC Web site to view the Webcam time lapse progress.

Thought for the Week…The only thing that stands between a person and what s/he wants from life is often merely the will to try it and the faith to believe it possible. -- Richard M. Devos, Amway Executive

~ Keep the faith!  Don
Martial Arts Club
RCTC Martial Arts Club meets on Mondays from 7:00-9:00 PM in SC 108, and Thursdays from 8:00-10:00 PM in SC108. Learn kickboxing, jujitsu, and more. No experience needed. Come train with us for a month and get a FREE club T-shirt! (While supplies last.) Questions? E-mail Dr. Steve Bein at steve.bein@roch.edu

Open Mic (Teaching and Learning Style)
Everybody loves an OPEN MIC event, right?
Where: Lounge area outside of HB117
When: Tuesday, December 8 from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Well, here is a Teaching and Learning variation: an OPEN opportunity to talk with MIKE Bequette. Faculty and staff are all invited. The idea (a novel one!) is for Mike to listen rather than talk a lot. He is interested in hearing about what is happening, what the issues are, what cool things you are doing, and the like. Come and talk for a few minutes; bring your lunch.

Condolences
Condolences to the family of Bertha Marie Cole. Mrs. Cole passed away on November 17th. She worked in the bookstore of the former Rochester Area Vocational Technical Institute until her retirement in 1992.

Condolences also to the Philo Family. John Philo (former Junior/Community College Physical Education/Health Instructor and Coach from 1962 to 1982) passed away on Monday, November 30, 2009 at his home in Wabasha. A celebration of John’s life will be held in the Rockenbach Performance Court (UCR Sports Center) at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Toys for Tots Collection
RCTC Music has partnered with Toys for Tots in an effort to collect toys for needy children in our area. There will be a drop box outside of the Hill Theatre lobby now until December 14. If you are interested in helping out, please bring in a new, unwrapped toy between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. For your convenience, there is also a drop box on the Heintz Center Campus. Room HB110, M-F, 8:00-2:00. If you prefer to donate money instead, you can do so online at http://www.toysfortots.org.
Money is tight but one need not spend a fortune to make a less fortunate child’s Christmas a little brighter. Toys for children aged infant to teen are needed.

Best Bee of the Month
Congratulations to Ciara Carter for being selected Best Bee for the Month of December. Ciara is a Customer Service Specialist in Admissions and Records. She has worked at RCTC for almost two years. Ciara’s nominator shared the following about her: Ciara provides RCTC students with exceptional customer service! She is not only excellent in her job but also very respectful, friendly, and fun! Ciara is always engaged with her clients and in her job she always give more than 100% in order to help everybody get what they need. Ciara’s nominator said she demonstrates RCTC values in the following ways: Innovation: Provides innovation through great customer service. Excellence: She is exceptional at her job. Fun: Ciara makes the Admissions and Records Department fun through her humor and passion for dogs. Learner-Centered: As I mentioned above, Ciara gives so much to her job in order to satisfy the customers. Respect: She is one of the most respectful people I know at RCTC! She expands her respect not only to those who she knows and is comfortable with but also trans culturally and across the whole span of diversity. Teamwork: Ciara is not only a great coworker in her department but she is friends with people from other departments also. As Best Bee, Ciara will receive the employee of the month parking space for the month December. Congratulations Ciara!
Retail Merchandising Program Closure

Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) is committed to providing students with the information they need to be successful in their educational pursuits. In order for students to continue planning their educational careers, we need to announce that the college will not be accepting new applications for the following programs effective Spring Semester 2010:

- Retail Merchandising Associate in Science Degree (AS)
- Retail Merchandising Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS)
- Retail Merchandising Diploma Program
- Retail Merchandising Certificate Program
- Retail Merchandising/Interior Decorating Option Associate in Science Degree (AS)
- Retail Merchandising/Interior Decorating Option Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS)
- Retail Merchandising/Interior Decorating Option Diploma
- Retail Merchandising/Interior Decorating Option Certificate

Faculty and staff have worked extremely hard to promote these programs during a time of severe economic downturn. Faculty and students have developed Fashion Shows for the Women’s Fall Expo and assisted with the Art Bash Benefit. The Retail Merchandising faculty have also created an outstanding service learning partnership with the Rochester Salvation Army. Students have been able to participate in international study tours to China, Paris, and New York. Shannon Corcoran will be hosting a final study tour to New York City during the spring semester. The accomplishments have been great and span a long history. The economy has had a challenging impact on the program. Businesses are now hiring students and training them onsite. Students are able to find employment in the field without completing the various degree options. These are the reasons the Retail Merchandising Programs will be discontinued. We have developed a plan to assist students with program completion. Retail Merchandising courses and independent study will be options available to students during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. We will do our very best to assist students with program completion within these timelines. We will be hosting information/advising sessions on the following dates: Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 5:00 pm in Endicott Hall 206 and Friday, December 4, 2009 at 8:00 am in Coffman 206. Students will have the opportunity to talk with faculty, program advisors, counselors, and financial aid representatives. These information sessions will be designed to answer questions and assist students in planning to meet their educational goals. Students are also welcome to schedule individual advising sessions with Anna.Hanson@roch.edu.

What's NEW at Goddard Library?

CLICK HERE for article databases that are available to UCR students, faculty, and staff this month. From the library’s website, scroll to Article Databases, then Trials. Click the database that you’d like to try. Please send us any feedback on these trials.

Poinsettia Sale Update

The only color of poinsettia left is white. All others are SOLD OUT. We will still follow the sale dates below. Thank you to everyone who purchased from us. Hopefully your plant will give you enjoyment throughout the Christmas season. Remaining sale dates (as supply lasts): Monday, Dec. 7 – 11-am-4pm; Wednesday, Dec.9 - 11am-4pm; Monday, Dec.14 – 11am-4pm; and Wednesday, Dec.16 – 11am-4pm. Prices vary with pot and plant size: 4” pot / single plant -$3.00; 7” pot – 3 plants per pot - $8.00; 10” pot – 4 plants per pot - $10.00 (very few); 12” pot – 5 plants per pot -$12.00 (very few).

~ Growing for you! Vern, Robin, Doug, Janette and the Hort students.

Congratulations

Former RCC faculty member, Marlise Riffel has been named 2009 Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). See article at: http://blog.lsc.edu/wave/2009/11/20/marlise-riffel-named-2009-minnesota-professor-of-the-year/ Marlise taught Sociology at RCC from 1983 to 1991, but is currently at Lake Superior College in Duluth.

Duplicating Winter Break Hours

Dec 21st thru Dec 25th
(Monday only-closing at 11:30) thru Thursday, - 8:00a – 4:30p
Friday, December 25th - CLOSED

Dec 28th thru Jan 1st
Monday thru Friday — CLOSED

Jan 4th thru Jan 8th
Monday thru Thursday - 8:00a – 4:30p

Resume Regular hours
Monday Jan 11th
December Holidays
Christmas is celebrated annually on December 25, and commemorates the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although Christmas is a Christian holiday, it is widely celebrated by many non-Christians. Popular Christmas traditions include attending church services, family gatherings, caroling or attending other musical events, gift-giving, sending greeting cards, and decorating one’s home and community with Christmas trees, brightly colored lights, nativity scenes and mistletoe. Santa Claus, a popular mythological figure who is also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, or Kris Kringle, is often incorporated into Christmas celebrations. Children in many western cultures wait anxiously on Christmas Eve for Santa to bring them gifts during the night. The legend of Santa Claus may have its origin in tales of an historic gift giver named Saint Nicholas.

Chanukah, also spelled Hanukkah, is the Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt. It is also known as the festival of lights. Chanukah is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, according to the Jewish calendar. This year, Chanukkah will be celebrated from December 11 through nightfall on December 19. The only religious observance related to the holiday is the lighting of candles. The candles are arranged in a menorah that holds nine candles: one for each night of the celebration, plus a shamus candle at a different height from the rest. Each night a candle is added to the menorah from the right to left. On the eighth night, all nine candles are lit. Gift-giving is not a traditional part of Chanukah, but has been added in places where Jews have a lot of contact with Christians, and then, they usually only give gifts to very young children.

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration observed primarily in the United States to honor African heritage and culture. It is observed from December 26 to January 1 each year, and it was first celebrated from December 26, 1966, to January 1, 1967. Kwanzaa celebrations emphasize the seven basic values of African culture that contribute to building and reinforcing family, community, and culture among African Americans. These values are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Kwanzaa gifts are generally given to young children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is meant to emphasize learning, which has been an important African value since the times of ancient Egypt. People often decorate for Kwanzaa using the colors black, red, and green and traditional African items such as African baskets, cloth patterns, and art objects.

~ Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator

Academic Accolades
Dr. ViAnn Olson will be recognized as a recipient of the Rochester Area Math and Science Partnership (RAMSP) 2009 Outstanding Educator Award.

Award recipients demonstrate support of the following aims of RAMSP in their work:
· Promote and advance high student achievement
· Exhibit leadership and support for continuous improvement
· Promote math, science and technology careers
· Demonstrate collaboration and leadership among RAMSP districts, business and higher education partners

Award recipients will be recognized during a special dinner celebration at the Mayo Foundation House. Congratulations, ViAnn!
ITEM 1 (A) Layoffs – Supalla announced the Retail Merchandising Program will be closing, but since the faculty member in the program is in a probationary status, there will be no official November 1st faculty layoff notification.  ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 2 (A) BESI – Supalla reported, after reviewing the enrollment growth and financial status of the College, RCTC will not utilize the BESI program in FY10.  This decision does not preclude RCTC from reconsidering in the future.  ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 3 (A) Flu Center – Supalla announced planning meetings continue to be held with representatives from various organizations, including Olmsted County, City of Rochester, Mayo and Olmsted Medical Center, and the next step is a table top exercise tentatively scheduled for November 5.  In addition, Olmsted County has received approximately 1,000 H1N1 vaccinations and will be using a facility on campus on October 31, 2009.  Hansmann added the County will provide their own staff/law enforcement personnel to handle any situations that might arise.  ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 4 (A) Audit – Hansmann announced this year’s audit was conducted by a different firm than in the past, and the auditors appear to have a different opinion than previous auditors; hence the College will be cited for items that have been practiced for years.  In addition, the College will be cited for a material weakness of not appropriately reporting accounts payable, which resulted in a $724,000 adjusting entry.  Although there are areas that need to be corrected, the College will receive an unqualified clean opinion, and has already moved to address those areas cited.  Supalla added the system did not have a material weakness last year, and RCTC’s is the only material weakness in the current audit.  Hansmann requested the assistance of all employees as it relates to the accounts payable issue, noting it is critical for everyone to understand the importance of completing the portion of an invoice stamp that requests when a product or service was received.  Supalla concluded by stating it is an educational experience for everyone.  ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Board Procedure 1A.10.1 (Long Term Emergency) – Hansmann announced the MnSCU Board of Trustees is reviewing the Long Term Emergency Management Policy and the Office of the Chancellor Staff is requesting feedback from the institutions on the current language, adding it is especially important for faculty to understand the procedures as it relates to grading.  ACTION: Kingsbury will forward electronically the procedures to Wright for review by the faculty.

ITEM 1 (F) Online Accelerated Option Program – Guenette reported the cost of the OAO program was calculated (advertising, faculty salaries, other instructional costs, etc.) and it was determined to be a very expensive program.  Guenette questioned if the College can continue to justify its continuation.  Wright added the targeted market (Mayo Employees) doesn’t appear to be filling the program and the College has already made adjustments to the criteria (allowing others into the program) without success.  In addition, faculty are concerned about increasing class sizes; the low enrollment in OAO courses must be balanced with increased sizes in other online or face to face courses which is not a good option.  Wright also suggested that OAO is not a “program” because the courses are already offered.  If the College was flush with money, this would not be a problem; however, because we are facing a possible reduction of funds, Wright added we cannot afford to continue to support OAO.  Supalla clarified OAO isn’t really a program as much as it is a delivery mode.  Supalla added that OAO would be given three years (similar to previous new programs) to grow enrollment.  In addition, Supalla stated the fill rates may not be at the numbers hoped for, but OAO is definitely filling a void for students as an alternative means of education, and the concept continues to be unique with the stop in and stop out option.  Supalla added recently during a business panel presentation at the MnSCU Board of Trustees’ Retreat, representatives from Mayo Clinic reported the Clinic spends over $16 million on higher education reimbursements annually with money spent for online instruction from institutions such as Capella and the University of Phoenix.  The panel added the reason MnSCU doesn’t garner more online enrollment is that the online delivery mindset is too traditional and when students decide they want to go back to college, they want to start now and not wait until the next semester begins.  Supalla stated OAO can fill those needs, but the College just hasn’t reached the right individuals.  ACTION: Guenette will forward OAO cost data to Supalla.

ITEM 6 (A) Excused Absences – Supalla announced the Academic Deans have encouraged faculty to provide accommodations for students absent because of illness, but concerns continue to be brought to administration’s attention.  Supalla requested the assistance of Faculty Leadership to encourage flexibility and accommodation during these difficult times.  ACTION: Bequette will forward a copy of his previous communication to Wright.  Wright will send out an e-mail to faculty encouraging flexibility and accommodations when appropriate.

ITEM 2 (F) Video Surveillance Policy Draft – Wright questioned if there was an update on the current draft Video Surveillance Policy.  Supalla responded feedback was received from the General Counsel and will be reviewed by administration in the next couple of days.  ACTION: An update on the Video Surveillance policy will be shared at the November meeting.

Adjourned at 2:43 p.m.