Student Success Day!

Are your students lost in the pitfalls of the jungle? Would you like to help them escape? If so, we have an opportunity for you to help.

Promote Student Success Day which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2005 from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. This day will be designed to provide students the tools they need to become successful in and outside of the classroom.

The RCTC Student Success Day in February will afford them the opportunity to go to short, general sessions on college survival; attend a presentation by a motivational speaker; and visit with faculty and/or attend program-specific sessions.

The Student Success Day Planning Committee and Teaching and Learning ask that you do the following:

- If you are faculty: in your syllabus for spring semester, instead of saying there are no classes on February 15th, state that it is Student success Day and attendance is strongly encouraged.
- Introduce the topics and promote the concept of Student Success Day, February 15, 2005 during January - early February of next semester.
- If you are faculty: consider building attendance into your syllabus.
- Consider volunteering to present or otherwise assist in making this Student Success Day the best RCTC has ever had!
- Interested? Contact someone on the Planning Committee listed below. Student success is everyone's business.

Teresa Brown ● Heather Sklenicka ● Jim Stegge ● Taresa Tweeten
Elizabeth Vikse ● Don Baldus ● Mike Bequette
Marketing Fact
The average annual cost of tuition and fees at public community colleges in 2002-03 was $1,735. In the same year, the average annual cost of tuition and fees at public four-year colleges was $4,081, while the cost at private four-year colleges was $18,273. (Source: The College Board, 2002)

Holiday Reception
Mark your calendars for the annual UCR Holiday Reception!

Wednesday
December 15, 2004
2:00 to 4:00 pm
Heintz Center Commons Area
— Sponsored by the Administration —

The Teddy Bear Tree will be available during the reception for anyone wishing to donate a new teddy bear to local law enforcement agencies for children in need of a “friend”.

Thank You!
Thank you to all who made the Rochester Yellowjackets Football Season a huge success:

Coach Chuck Siefert and Coach Dale Amy
Jim Williams, Chris and Aaron
The Players
Athletic Directors Jean Musgjerd and Brian LaPlante
Administration for supporting us: Don Supalla, Stan Cram, Marilyn Hansmann to name a few.
Ellen Browning and the Cheerleaders and all their efforts
Press box staff: Jay Lee, Mark Schnaedter, Don Baldus, Ted Gunnarson, Judy and Gary Kingsbury, Jenee McGurren (also media guide), Jon Krusmark, Jenny White
Fans on campus
Maintenance for their tireless efforts!
Faculty/Staff who have helped with classes, mentoring and study tables (Don Baldus)
Carol Nurmi
Student Ambassadors
And all others I forgot to mention!!

Without these people, their hard work and efforts...a 9-3 season, MCCC State Championship and a bowl invitation to Salt Lake City, Utah wouldn't have happened.

Coach LaPlante

Thank You
Thank you to everyone for all your cards, words and expressions of sympathy in connection with my father's death. My family and I appreciated your support.

Barb Ewen
Supalla’s Scribblings

It now appears almost certain that there will not be a special session in 2004 to address capital bonding. That makes the news out of St. Paul that Senator Kiscaden has been appointed Chairwoman and Vice Chairwoman to two key Senate committees extremely important. It will be most helpful to have Sheila serving as Vice Chair of the Capital Investment Committee as the UCR Health Sciences project is reintroduced in January as part of the MnSCU bonding request.

Deb Rogne recently shared with me a set of most interesting predictions. Each year the World Future Society prepares a summary of the year’s most thought-provoking forecasts concerning the future. The following trends were included in the article, “Outlook 2005 and Beyond,” The Futurist, October 2004.

- Fully one-third of the world’s population will be online within a decade. Universal connectivity will lead to the “death of distance” so we will be living in a “global village” by 2010.
- Telecommuting is predicted to expand rapidly. The number of US teleworkers will grow from 15 million today to more than 50 million by 2010.
- More students and trainees will attend class virtually. By 2008, distance learning via the Internet, e-mail, or other technologies will become the main method used in 30 percent of training programs. By 2014, it will be the main method used in 30 percent of university courses.
- Robotic caregivers will assist older persons. Assistive technologies such as robots and smart environments could give older persons more independence and reduce the burden on caregivers.
- Among the skills that will keep most workers marketable in the near term are self-motivation, time management, strong oral and written communication, relationship building, salesmanship, problem solving, information evaluation, and leadership. In the future, even more emphasis will be placed on skills that cannot be automated. These “hyper-human” skills include caring, judgment, intuition, ethics, inspiration, friendliness, and imagination.
- Older workers could help expand the business day. A steadily growing cadre of older workers could expand the productive working days of businesses. Older people tend to be early risers and at their sharpest in the mornings. An early-riser work shift of 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. could expand commerce in cities as more businesses offer services to the early birds. [How many 6:30 or 7 a.m. meetings have you attended lately? Too many?]
- Law enforcement could become automated. Automatic law enforcement may emerge as authorities download laws into computer-enhanced objects. For instance, permits and licenses may be embedded in smart cars, trains, buildings, doors and other devices. If your driver’s license hasn’t been renewed, your car won’t budge.

Of special note…

- Suzanne Dinusson’s Fashion Merchandising students put together two additional fashion shows after the Career Day shows. The shows, “Professional Dress for Banking,” were developed for Eastwood Bank. Shelly Gronseth, Eastwood Training Coordinator, sent a wonderful thank you note praising the work of the students. In lieu of pay, the students determined that the Bank’s $500 contribution should be donated to the Women’s Shelter. What a talented and generous group of students!
- Although the February 15 spring semester Student Success Day seems like a long time from now, it’ll sneak up on us sooner than expected. I encourage you to remind students to get this important day on their calendars. Your help in promoting the day now, and again after the start of the semester, is much appreciated.
- The Olmsted County Sheriff and Rochester Chief of Police are always most impressed and very thankful for the annual donation of teddy bears from UCR employees. These bears are carried in squad cars and given to children in need of a “friend” during times of stress and crisis. Why not pick up a bear or two for the Teddy Tree during your upcoming holiday shopping sprees. Thanks for your generous contributions to this important community service.

An article, “Students Study Less Than Expected, Survey Finds,” appeared in the November 26 edition of THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Most undergraduates are not hitting the books as hard as their professors recommend, according to a new national study. Nonetheless, a majority of students say they are earning above-average grades in their courses. Only 11 percent of full-time students say they spend more than 25 hours per week preparing for
their classes—the amount of time that faculty members say is necessary to succeed in college. Forty-four percent of students spend 10 hours or less studying, according to the latest findings of the National Survey of Student Engagement. Yet about 40 percent of students say they earn mostly A’s, with 41 percent reporting that they earn mostly B’s. The survey also found that about 90 percent of students rated their college experience as “good” or “excellent.” Approximately 60 percent of seniors and 37 percent of freshmen did volunteer work. Only 10 percent of students said that newspapers or magazines were their primary source for local and national news, while more than half said they relied on television for such information. One-third of all students said they frequently participated in religious events or services. Ninety-one percent of instructors said they “very often” or “often” gave students prompt feedback on their performance, yet only 58 percent of students said they frequently received prompt feedback.

Thought for the week…

The only big ideas I’ve ever had came from daydreaming, but modern life keeps people from daydreaming. Every moment of the day your mind is being occupied, controlled by someone else… at school, at work, watching television. Getting away from all that is really important. You need to just kick back in a chair and let your mind daydream.”

-- Pat MacCready

I hope that all of you will find some time for daydreaming during the upcoming semester break. Happy holidays! Don

Scholarship Opportunities

Please inform and encourage students to apply for RCTC Foundation scholarships:

RCTC Foundation Scholarship Application forms for Academic Year 2005-06 are available in the UCR Counseling Center, the RCTC Foundation Office at the Heintz Center in HC 109, or on the web at www.rctc.edu/foundation. The RCTC Foundation has a variety of awards available based on various criteria- something for everyone! Applications are for new students, returning students, or graduating students continuing their education at a four year college or university. Deadline to apply is March 10, 2005.

Marilyn Etbauer

Condolences

Condolences are extended to John Putnam whose sister, Jodi Munn passed away on December 4th. Condolences are also extended to Kimberly Peters whose Grandfather, Donald Ferbuyt, passed away on Wednesday, December 8th. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

Pottery Sale

Looking for ideas for Christmas gifts? The Student Art Club is having a pottery sale next Tuesday, December 14 in the Ceramics Studio (Art Hall 200) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by and find some unique, hand-made gift ideas. Proceeds go to Student Art Club.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found boxes are overflowing. Lots of items have been collected since the beginning of fall semester and are unclaimed. If you’ve checked at the Atrium Information Desk before, stop again, it may be here now. Anything unclaimed after December 17 will be donated to non-profit organizations.
Classes of Interest
Learning Is ForEver, (L.I.F.E.) is an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for learning in retirement in Rochester. You can think of L.I.F.E. as a local version of Elderhostel, which we are, because we are affiliated with Learning In Retirement through Elder Institute/Elderhostel. The board decided that two winter 2005 classes might be of interest to the general public, so L.I.F.E. is offering the following classes to anyone interested. Please call 280-3157 to register. You do not need to be 55 or older to attend these two classes - you will need to pay the Non-Member Fee.

Today’s News Media—Whom Can You Believe?
The information explosion is upon us. Cable TV, the Internet, specialty publications, talk radio, “news you can use” inundate us, along with those old standbys, the daily newspaper, mainstream weekly and monthly magazines, and commercial TV and radio. It all can leave us confused and frustrated. How do we sort it out so we can get at the truth of what is going on around us? What is news and who decides? What can the consumer do about it? Frank G. Wright served as Associate Editor, Washington Bureau Chief, Managing Editor and Foreign Correspondent (reporting for more than 60 countries). He is now retired from the Star Tribune, Minneapolis. B.A. Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill.

Instructor: Frank G. Wright
Location: RCTC - Heintz Center Room C114
Sessions: 1
Dates: Tuesday, February 1
Time: 10-Noon
Fee: $8
Non-Member Fee: $13

Can There Be Peace with Justice in the Middle East?
The Palestinians and Israelis are into their second peace process, the so-called road map. The going is hard, and violence is a constant threat. The Bush administration, overcoming its initial reluctance to intervene, is pushing the road map as a basis for agreement by 2005. We’ll discuss the leadership on both sides, the issues that divide them and the prospects for peaceably ending the 36-year occupation.

Instructor: Frank G. Wright
Location: RCTC- Heintz Center Room C114
Sessions: 1
Dates: Tuesday, February 1
Time: 1:30-3:30 pm
Fee: $8
Non-Member Fee: $13

Duplicating Holiday Hours - 2004

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Library/ Library Technology Center/ Digital Media Center Hours for Dec 18 - Jan 9

Through December 17 - Regular Hours
December 18 - Open 10:00am - 2:00pm
December 19 - CLOSED
December 20 & 21 - Open 8:00am - 7:00pm *
December 22 & 23 - Open 8:00am - 4:30pm
December 24 - Jan 2, 2005 - CLOSED
January 3 -7 - Open 8:00am - 4:30pm
January 8 & 9 - CLOSED
January 10 - Regular Hours Resume

* DMC Open until 8:30pm if UMR ITV classes are using "Pods"