News from Student Support Services

Staff changes
Janell Holter applied for and received the position of Director of SSSP. She had previously served as the SSSP Transfer Advisor. We also have a new Math Specialist, Sharon Bishop, who previously taught at Riverland.

We are hoping to fill the Transfer Advisor position soon and look forward to having a full staff once again.

As follows is a reminder of the services we can provide for students.

**Student Support Services Program (SSSP):** Academic assistance, advising, transfer planning, test accommodations, and one-on-one peer tutoring are provided to eligible students and are funded through a federal grant. To be eligible for services, students must meet one of the following criteria: first-generation college student, low-income status or documented disability. SSSP is located in SS150 at UCR. Students must fill out a short application and meet with one of the SSSP staff before services are provided. 285-7230

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Sufficient Grounds Coffeehouse Concert featuring Paul Dandy

**Wednesday, January 17**
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FREE Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Cookies
*Supported by CAB*

*Take some time out of your busy schedule to relax and enjoy!
What’s new in the library?
Welcome back everyone! We have some new resources and services might be of interest to you this semester.

New Databases Now Available  (On-Campus Access Only)

- **ERIC E-Subscribe** – Produced by the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), this database contains citations and abstracts to education-related articles and documents. Full-text access to over 80% of the documents (not journal articles) published from January 1996 (ED385672) through today is available to you at no cost. These documents have a “pdf” icon next to their citations. Citations to documents with a “shopping cart” icon or a “page with text” icon indicate that these documents are available at a cost to you.

- **CINAHL Collection** – The CINAHL database covers literature published in the fields of nursing and allied health and providing coverage from 1982 to present. Although not a “new” database, we have added another full-text file to this collection—the Nursing Collection II: Lippincott Premier Nursing Journals. The CINAHL collection also includes a selection of Full-Text Journals from Ovid and four electronic nursing book titles.

If you would like to know more about either of these databases, please feel free to contact either Jen Boone or Mary Dennison.

*** Course repeat process reminder ***
A student who completes a course more than once must submit "Class Repeat" form to the Admissions and Records Office in order to have only the higher grade counted in the cumulative GPA. Credits can be counted only once. Information about repeating courses may be found on page 7 of the 99-2000 catalog or page 16 of the 2000-01 Student Handbook.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Thanks for helping RCTC get off to a great spring semester start. As with the start of any semester, there were a limited number of minor glitches, but no major catastrophes that I’m aware of. More evidence that our continuous improvement are making a positive impact on processes and procedures. Troy Tynsky has been pulling enrollment numbers on a daily basis and right now, our recent trend of increasing enrollments continue. Based on the latest projections, RCTC will end the academic year having served more than 3,450 full-year equivalent students (that’s more than 100,000 credits)…exceeding our projections by more than 50 FYEs. With recruitment and registration for spring semester behind us, our attention must now focus on retention. Please make it your professional responsibility to help students in need connect with the right resources…tutoring, disability services, counseling, academic advising, financial aid, etc.

MnSCU has a new chancellor…Dr. James McCormick has signed a three-year contract with the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Dr. McCormick brings a wealth of system leadership to Minnesota having served as the Chancellor (chief executive officer) of the State System of Higher Education, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, since it was legislated into existence on July 1, 1983. The Pennsylvania system has 14 universities with four branch campuses and 95,000 students. It has more than 11,500 professional and support staff and, like MnSCU, is one of the state’s largest employers. Michael Vekich, chair of the MnSCU Board, praised McCormick for his creativity and energy, noting that McCormick took a two-day driving tour of the system’s campuses to get a “feel” for MnSCU. “That tells me that’s somebody that’s very interested and engaged in what we’re doing,” Vekich said. Chancellor McCormick has promised to visit every campus shortly after he takes over the MnSCU helm on July 1. I welcome Jim to Minnesota and look forward to introducing him to RCTC’s excellent students, quality staff and unique campus.

Are you following the happenings at the Capitol in St. Paul? I urge you to pay close attention to this year’s legislative dialogue. MnSCU is requesting a $255.6 million biennial budget increase. Yes, this is an extraordinary increase…but it’s critically needed for building future quality, competitiveness and access to education for all Minnesotans. Almost $100 million of the request will be necessary just to cover inflation and the balance will enable RCTC and other MnSCU institutions to adopt new technology and deliver a 21st Century curriculum. Check out weekly legislative updates on the MnSCU web site (www.mnscu.edu) under “News Room”…just click on Legislative Updates.

On Tuesday, January 23, the campus will be buzzing with hundreds of students who will be participating in the Middle School Career Fair. Area educational leaders and business representatives will provide hands on learning opportunities in a lab or office setting. Students will be learning about future jobs and the preparation needed to reach their educational or career goals. Research has shown that many students begin to make educational and occupational plans by the time they’re in eighth grade. What a great opportunity for participants to explore careers, think about their future and dream of possibilities.

David Zach is one of the few professionally trained futurists in the country. Over the next several weeks, I’ll share some of David’s thoughts on the future of education that appeared in the most recent edition of the MSBA (Minnesota School Boards Association) JOURNAL.

Keep it Simple, Smarty

Recently I was the moderator for a career day panel at a local high school. Five people represented five different industries, and they all had similar views. One of the most important views was that grades weren’t that important. Or, perhaps better stated, there was a strong understanding that much of what they as employers seek is not measured in grades. Somebody ought to tell the parents. What were they looking for? Simple things: character, self-motivated, attentive, showing up on time, commitment, quick learner, honesty, teamwork, willingness to work, ability to follow instructions and the list goes on. Then I asked the audience of teachers how many of them taught these “characteristics?” A surprising number of hands didn’t go up. I suspect most of them in fact do teach such things, but perhaps we’ve gotten so focused on “subjects” that we forget that each of those individual subjects are part of a bigger picture. That bigger picture is that we need to be smart. That’s not just book smart or test smart, it’s the ability to successfully navigate in a world we do not yet understand. It’s one thing to be successful in a world that is familiar, it is quite another to succeed in a world of constant change and uncertainty.

Next week…David’s thoughts on “The Right to Learn.”

I hope to see many of you at Monday’s Martin Luther King celebration activities

Don
Enter a NEW REALM with CHRISTOPHER CARTER…

MINDREADING? ESP? BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION!

Christopher Carter – Theater of Thoughts
In his show, Theater of Thoughts, Christopher Carter shows audiences why he is recognized as one of the world’s most skilled, creative and original thought readers. Amazing? Yes.

Believing that the mind is the last great unexplored frontier, Christopher will:
- Have coins placed upon his eyes, which are then taped shut, and go on to describe objects that are held up by audience members, even duplicating on currency that is safely hidden by an audience member
- Cause a light bulb to explode purely through his powers of concentration
- Astound audience members with personal facts that they have never before revealed – to anyone
- Make audience members believe that they are experiencing touches and taps from invisible hands

South Room, 4th Floor College Center
Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2001 from 11:00am to 12:00 pm
Sponsored by CAB

RCTC staffing update

Administrative
- Dean of Health Sciences (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally.
- Director of Nursing (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally.
- Vice President for Academic Affairs (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally.
- Vice President for Student Affairs/Institutional Advancement (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally.

Faculty
- Instructor of Health and/or Physical Education and Head Football Coach (UFT MCCFA). Position posted/advertised nationally. Search team appointed. Review of applications has begun.

Unclassified Professional (MAPE)
- Multicultural Healthcare Grant Coordinator (FT grant-funded MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Position posted.
- Project Team Leader (FT grant-funded unclassified MAPE position). Position being posted/advertised.
- Community Outreach Coordinator (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Position posted/advertised.
- SSSP Academic/Transfer Advisor (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Position posted/advertised.

Unclassified Supervisory (MMA)
- Director of Continuing Education and Grant Development (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Supv. 1). Position posted/advertised.

Classified AFSCME
- General Maint. Worker (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
- Office and Administrative Specialist Intermediate – Academic Affairs Work Area (UFT - UCR Scheduler). Interviews being scheduled.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125.
Information from CHOICES of SE Minnesota

If you saw the KSTP News focus feature on Wednesday evening, January 10, you might have some questions about what is happening with the MN Displaced Homemaker Programs.

There has been a substantial initiative from the Governors' Office via the Workforce Council mini-cabinet to eliminate eight employment and training programs. The Displaced Homemaker Program is one of the eight.

During the last legislative session, due to a great deal of hard work, the Displaced Homemaker Programs Network, with tremendous support from many legislatures, was able to keep the programs funded. This session we are again fighting the battle for survival.

There is a huge grassroots effort underway to educate the public and the policymakers about the need for and the value of the displaced homemaker programs. The petitions that many of you signed in November are part of the effort to keep these programs funded.

Just like the people we serve, the displaced homemaker programs do not fit neatly into a pre-ordained mold. We are a pre-employment/pre-education program providing a network of services to individuals who are widowed, divorced, separated or has a disabled partner, have been full-time homemakers for at least two years and meet income eligibility guidelines. Services may include assessment, consultation, workshops and support groups and planning, all of which help individuals to identify and fulfill their personal and employment needs for advocacy, education, referrals, child care, housing, transportation and more. CHOICES and the other 11 displaced homemaker programs are not one-size-fits-all programs serving a "universal client".

Rochester Community and Technical College has delivered this program to the 11 counties of southeast Minnesota since January 1990. Many of our CHOICES clients become students at UCR or other regional education institutions in order to develop the skills leading to employment at a wage that will allow them to provide adequately for themselves and their children.

We are grateful to all the RCTC folks who have so strongly supported us over the years. We are optimistic about being re-funded again this session. If you have any questions about the program or its future, please feel free to call me at x5510.

Maureen Hart

Faith Healer

"Faith Healer", a one-man, one-woman show that confronts issues of disability, faith, hope and despair, and does it with humor and heartbreak takes the stage at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Hill Theatre. A dessert buffet will be served. To purchase tickets, call the NAMI Olmsted County Office at 287-1692. Tickets will also be sold on campus on Wednesday, January 17, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Atrium and 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm in the College Center Commons. Tickets are $10.00 or $7.00 for students.

Continuing education opportunity

“I Cried Too: Experience Grief with a Positive Attitude”: Pat Jump, RN, PHN, MA, professional trainer and nurse consultant presents on Monday, January 29 from 1:00-4:15pm in CF 206/208. She will show you how to experience personal empowerment over grief by recognizing attitudinal barriers and stepping out of your comfort zone and into a positive adventure by changing your attitude. This class is open to the community. For more information or to register, contact Kathy Richie or Heather Lawrence at x7218.
Up to Speed

1) CLEP testing
2) Advanced Placement
   a) AP high school classes
   b) Intensive Care Paramedic
3) Credit by Exam
4) Tech Prep
5) Credit for Learning from a Non-Work Experience
6) Credit for Learning through a Work experience

Numbers 1-4 above are not new. Curriculum Council expanded the subject areas for CLEP testing last year. Tech Prep has been reaffirming articulations. But 1-4 have been in place at RCTC. Numbers 5 and 6 are new, and I want to take some time to explain them.

First, Judy Lindman, Karen Machlica, Jean Marconett, Barb Mollberg, and Doreen Ness worked on the policy proposal and have presented the policy to Program Leaders and Division Coordinators. Thanks to them for their hours of work to make this opportunity available to RCTC students. Key components of the policy are:

1. In order to receive college credit, prior learning must be college level learning.
2. Credit will be awarded only for learning and not for experience.
3. Students are responsible for providing evidence of completion in whatever format the student and faculty member agree to.
4. To receive credit, a student must complete competencies identified in the common course outline for the equivalent course.
5. The Prior Learning must be applicable to a program, degree, or curriculum at RCTC.
6. Credits for Prior Learning (CFPL) are not eligible for financial aid or veterans education assistance.
7. CFPL will not count toward a student’s part-time or full-time status.
8. CFPL will not be used in calculating a student’s GPA.
9. A maximum of 12 credits total of CFPL credits may be awarded; a total of 12 from options 1-6.
10. RCTC cannot guarantee the transferability of CFPL.

Thanks to the staff listed above and Glen Saponari, Troy Tynksy, Beth Diekmann, and Nancy Shumaker, we’ve tried to work out procedures that will work.

Procedures:

1. Students inquire of any staff about Credit for Prior Learning.
2. Two policy sheets with attached forms to fill out will be available in Admissions and Records, the Counseling, SSSP, and Heintz Center Tutoring, from the Deans, from Division Coordinators, and from Instructional and Administrative Support Staff. One refers to Credit for Learning Through Work Experience, the other Credit for Learning From Non-Work Experience. Depending on who receives the inquiry, it may be appropriate to give the student the form at that time.
3. Depending on what course the student is inquiring about, it will be necessary to refer the student to a Dean, Division Coordinator, Program Leader, or directly to a faculty member who might work with the student. The Dean or Faculty Leader would refer the student to a faculty member who teaches the course.
4. At this point, the student may also be encouraged to pick up a common course outline for the course or courses they wish to attempt to receive credit for.
5. Students approach the faculty member who might work with them.
6. If willing, the faculty member listens to the student’s request, and if it seems as though the student may have prior learning that may be verifiable, and if the faculty member is willing, the faculty member agrees to work with the student.
7. The student then completes the forms and pays a $50 per credit non-refundable fee—whether the student receives credit or not, the fee is paid; students need to be clear about that.
8. Only after the fee is paid do the student and faculty member begin to identify and gather proof of the student’s prior learning.
9. The faculty member evaluates the student’s documentation and determines whether it meets college level learning as indicated by outcomes in the common course outline and decides to award or not to award the student credit. The faculty member sends copies of the completed forms to the appropriate Dean who signs it and forwards copies to HR (for faculty payment), to Admissions and Records for awarding of the student credits, to the student, and to the instructor.
10. The faculty member keeps a copy of the form awarding or denying credit and documentation for that credit on file.

Much of the process is similar to Independent Study. In fact, as a faculty member working with a student, you may agree that Independent Study is a better choice. One difference is that the student does not register for a course as they do with Independent Study.

That’s it at this point. If you see potential problems or have comments, please feel free to contact any of the Ad Hoc Committee Members or me. Meanwhile, copies of the form are available—students do not need to register for CFPL. Let’s see how this works for all of us. RCTC—continually trying to improve opportunities for students.

Judy Harris

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**Menu of the Week**

**Taher, Inc.**

This week’s panini – Vegetable vegetarian ........................................$3.50

**MONDAY** – CLOSED – MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

**TUESDAY** – Chicken and wild rice or cream of broccoli soup
Chicken kiev with garlic roasted potatoes, vegetables, and a roll ................................................................. $4.25

**WEDNESDAY** – Chicken dumpling or seven bean soup
Roast turkey with mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, and a roll ................................................................. $4.25

**THURSDAY** – Chicken noodle or potato cheese soup
Beef stew, fresh carrots, potatoes and sweet peas. Served in a bread bowl .................................................. $4.25

**FRIDAY** – Chef’s choice of soup
Fried shrimp with potato wedges, a roll and a 20 oz. fountain drink ................................................................. $4.25

*** NEW FEATURED ITEMS ***

**RICE AND PASTA BOWLS:**
This week’s feature is chicken teriyaki rice bowl. Two sizes to choose from: $3.25 or $4.25

**SPECIALITY SANDWICHES FROM THE GRILL:**
This week’s specialty is a Monterey chicken ranch for: $2.95