A Look Back...

Twenty years ago this month plans for a new two-plus-two building were being finalized. The $2.85 million proposal included a new computer lab, 13 classrooms and office space for WSU faculty. The facility would house 8 two-plus-two programs between WSU and RCC and would be located on the northeast corner of the theatre.

Best Bee Award

Congratulations to Larry Tucker for being named RCTC's Best Bee of the month for January 2006!!

Here is what Larry’s nominators had to say: For 20+ years Larry has always been willing to help me/us with any task we might have in the Scene Shop, on stage or in the theatre in general. He has always been willing to raise units of scenery when I needed it, or gather a group of his co-workers to help from removing theatre seats so the stage could be extended to offering me personal advice on a carpentry project I might be having problems with.

He always has an encouraging comment if and when he stops by the theatre and shows an interest in what we are doing. He always comments after he has helped us with a "job" “don't hesitate to call if you need some more help”. His wit and down to earth comments always keep me grounded and sort of snaps me back to reality when I become too stressed! He is always ready to lend tools and/or materials if they are available; and the I would turn over the scene shop to him in a moment if he asked. He is truly a unique, one of a kind, genuine individual always willing to lend a hand.

Thank you Larry and congratulations on being named the “Best Bee of the Month”!

Commencement Planning

It may be hard to tell by the snow and ice on the ground, but spring is just around the corner and that means it will soon be time for commencement. We are looking for individuals to help with the planning of the May 10th graduation ceremony. If you'd like to be a part of planning the best commencement ever, let me know. The committee will be meeting in January. Non-faculty members interested in serving should contact Roxy Roadway in the Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services at roxy.roadway@roch.edu or 285-7127. Faculty members interested in serving should submit their names through Gregg Wright.

If you have ideas for improving the ceremony but don't have time for another committee, please send your suggestions to Roxy. Your thoughts and comments are always welcome!
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

“*You can hold your breath all you want, Carl, but we are not going to use your budgeting plan.*”

Marketing Fact
Nationally, full-time instructional faculty and staff, overall, reported working an average of 53 hours each week at all jobs both within and outside the institution, and part-time faculty averaged 40 hours per week at all jobs. (National Center for Education Statistics - “Background Characteristics, Work Activities, and Compensation of Instructional Faculty and Staff: Fall 2003”)

New Faces on Campus!
Student Development and Services is delighted to welcome two new faces to RCTC.

COUNSELOR
I am happy to report that Student Development and Services has just concluded the search for a counseling position which will be filled by Ms. Janet Finlayson. Janet is currently employed as a counselor at Inver Hills Community College and is scheduled to join the counseling staff at RCTC on February 6th. She will be working an alternative calendar which will allow RCTC to have a counselor available to students over the summer. Ms. Finlayson has served as an English faculty member, Director of Student Life, Residence Hall Director, Personnel Specialist in addition to her capacity as a counselor. Please join me in welcoming Janet when she comes on board officially in February.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER
Our second new hire is Jacob Jackson who will be working as a part-time, seasonal equipment manager for RCTC’s athletic programs. Jacob has been the interim hire since August 2005 and has provided excellent service to our athletic teams over the past few months. Mr. Jackson is a RCTC alumni, as well as, a graduate of Winona State University. Welcome Jacob!

YOU Could be the Missing Piece!
Approximately 30,000 patients each year are diagnosed with leukemia or other blood diseases that are potentially treatable with marrow or blood stem cell transplants - but only 30 percent will find a donor match within their family. You could be the missing piece. Become a potential marrow or blood stem cell donor by joining the National Marrow Donor Program Registry of volunteers. Saturn of Rochester and the Southeast Minnesota Chapter of the American Red Cross will host National Donor Day on Saturday, February 11, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Saturn, 2955 48 St. NW. Please call the Red Cross at (507) 287-2200 to schedule your 15 minute appointment. Potential donors must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good general health. Joining the Registry is easy; all it takes is a commitment to save someone's life and a simple blood test. While the NMDP welcomes everyone who is medically eligible and willing to volunteer, there is a critical need for more donors from the Black, African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native communities. For more information about the NMDP, call 1-800-MARROW-2 or visit online at http://www.marrow.org.

Intramural Basketball Starts January 25th!
Intramural Basketball will start January 25th. It will be on Wednesdays in the afternoon/evening. Sign up will be from Jan 9-20th…we didn't have a faculty team last year. Contact Brad LaPlante at x2855 for further details.

Crossings Classifieds
For Sale: Twin mattress and box spring with bookcase headboard; hardly used - $120. Adjustable seamstress mannequin; never used - $40. Four white bookcases (24” wide X 31” tall – all for $20. Four white bookcase shelves and wall brackets; 6’ long – all for $10. All prices are negotiable. Call Ann Whelan at home and leave a message if no one answers: 288-3869.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Best wishes for the happiest of new years! While many of us enjoyed some extended time off during semester break, there was plenty of activity at UCR. The local paper, radio stations and television outlets provided extensive coverage of the Rotary basketball tournament and the national Clash wrestling tournament. Put your shades on as you enter the Memorial building. The chocolate brown hallways were repainted white and new hallway carpet was installed. New stairway treads were installed and work continues on the large presentation room at Heintz Center. Other less noticeable improvement projects were also completed during the break.

On the local scene, the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee continues to meet as it works towards development of a legislative recommendation that they hope to complete later in this month. The committee’s report will include recommendations on programming, facilities, governance and other operational aspects that impact the future of higher education in Rochester. I encourage you to stay abreast of the committee’s actions at a comprehensive web site that provides an excellent source of committee action information…http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/rochester/. Check it out.

On the regional scene, the latest edition of the Department of Employment and Economic Development newsletter, Minnesota Employment Review, focused on “The 21st Century Widget: Knowledge…How Southeast Minnesota stacks up in a knowledge-based economy.” In a nutshell…The Southeast Minnesota region – with Rochester’s famed Mayo Clinic as its economic hub – has a reputation as a leader in technology and research. Southeast Minnesota is home to no fewer than 10 higher education campuses. The presence of those institutions, as well as large health care employers, leads to concentrations of people with advanced degrees in Rice, Winona and Olmsted counties. The influence of health care is especially apparent in Olmsted County, where two-thirds of the resident adult population has at least some post-secondary education, and one-third has earned a bachelor’s degree or higher. While about 80 percent of patents granted in Minnesota are to inventors in the seven-county metro area, about half of the remaining Greater Minnesota activity happens in the Southeast region. On a per capita basis, Olmsted County outpaced the metro area in utility patents granted in 1999. The issue also included an eye-opening article…”Amazing Things Discovered in the Latest Minnesota Salary Survey.” Did you know that pay rates make Minnesota a good place to work. Our median hourly pay, $15.87, is the 10th-highest in the nation and a full $1.61 per hour higher than the nation’s overall median rate. Across six regions within Minnesota, the overall median wage ranged from $17.49 in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area to $12.66 in the Northwest region. The highest median outside the metro area was in the Southeast region at $14.24 per hour. By Metropolitan Statistical Area the 13-county Twin Cities MSA had the highest median wage at $17.23, followed by the single-county (Olmsted) Rochester MSA at $16.75. Even within fields, Minnesota’s median wages exceed the national wage rate in 19 of 22 major occupational groups. The three groups were the state falls below the nation are in engineering, business and financial operations, and protective services. The largest occupational group remains the office and administrative support group with nearly 433,000 workers, followed by the sales-related group, production jobs, and then food processing and serving. Of the eight fastest-growing occupations that pay above the median, six are in the computer fields. Information technology took a big hit during the recession, but job opportunities are coming back in these areas. Of the 37,000 jobs gained in the past year, nearly 14,000 (over one in three) were in the health care and social assistance sector. While another 7,000 were in leisure and hospitality. Of the 750 occupations in the survey, about 100 are projected to lose jobs in the coming year. Many of these are jobs in textile manufacturing. Low pay relative to other states is another measure to identify an occupation with poor opportunities. One-fourth of all occupations pay no better or less than the national average. This list includes fire fighters, entertainers and performers, boat captains, and economists. By detailed occupation, the top-employing jobs are, in order: retail sales, general office clerks, cashiers, food preparation and serving, and registered nurses. Another area of opportunities is in the health professions. Among the fastest growing occupations that pay well are dental hygienists and dental assistants. Registered nurses remain in high demand, and there is a growing demand for pharmacists and physical therapists. Growing opportunities exist in the financial arena. One of the fastest-growing occupations over the next year will be loan officers, a field in which Minnesota’s jobs per capita ratio is second highest in the nation. In the building trades several occupations will be in demand – cement masons, welders, carpenters, electricians, machinists, and plumbers – all fast growing and well-paying occupations. For complete information on the Minnesota Salary Survey, go to http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/oes.htm, for Minnesota Employment Projections through 2012 go to http://www.deed.state.mn.us/lmi/tools/projections.htm.

I suspect that at least some of us made what already appear to be some pretty bad 2006 predictions. Take heart…back in 1946 Darryl Zanuck, head of 20th Century Fox said…Television won’t be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night. And, in 1922 Thomas Edison noted, “The radio craze will die out in time.”

The construction of the Health Science Center, Rochester Higher Education Development Committee initiatives, legislative bonding session, state elections, and much more will make for an exciting 2006. All the best in the coming year!

Don
Scholarship Opportunities
Please inform students in your classes that RCTC Foundation Scholarship applications for 2006-07 are available at the UCR counseling center or the RCTC Foundation Office (HC109) - also on the RCTC website. Please encourage them to take time to apply for a scholarship. There are a variety of awards available based on various criteria for incoming and returning students; also scholarships are available for students graduating from RCTC and continuing their education at a four year college or university. The DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 7, 2006

Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of MN (RAAFUM) SCHOLARSHIP: Criteria - Awarded to a student who is graduating from RCTC and transferring to one of the Twin Cities campuses of the University of MN. Student must have a 3.0 g.p.a. or above. Award based on financial need, school activities, and community involvement or work.

Spring Semester Scholarships Available - Let Your Students Know
St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship - $500: Awarded to students enrolled in an Associate degree Nursing program who have completed Nursing 1117. Recipients must agree to work one year at St. Marys Hospital.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING & AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS - $500: Awarded to an incoming or returning student in the CAD, BUM, or Mechanical Engineering (NOT maintenance engineering) with a 3.0 g.p.a. Recipient will be encouraged to attend monthly ASHRAE meetings at no expense to the student.

Applications for all the listed scholarships are available in the RCTC Foundation Office HC 109.

GODDARD LIBRARY, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, 
AND DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER HOURS
Spring Semester
January 9-May 13, 2006

Monday-Thursday  7:30 AM-10:00 PM
Friday          7:30 AM-4:30 PM
Saturday       9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Sunday         1:00 PM-5:00 PM*

*Digital Media Center closed Sundays

CLOSED: January 16, March 12, 18, & 19
(Hours are subject to change)
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF)
Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, November 22, 2005 – 2:00 p.m. –AT109

Present: Administration  Bequette, Cram, Supalla
Faculty  Gust, Israelson, Marconett, Wright (Chair)
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (F) Placement on Payroll – Wright requested reconsideration on the apparent new process that requires program
leaders/division coordinators complete placement on payroll (POP) forms for submission to the Human Resources Office for a couple of
reasons. 1) the leaders/coordinators are already struggling with the amount of work required in their roles; 2) the leaders/coordinators
only complete the forms once or twice a year, hence not familiar enough with the process to ensure consistency and accuracy. Israelson
reiterated the concerns, adding his discomfort with having that level of responsibility over a colleague’s pay, and the inconsistence in
submitting forms when coordinators often change from year to year, hence the need to constantly relearn the process. Israelson suggested
the Deans continue to complete the POPs and share the information with the program leaders/division coordinators to review for
accuracy. Bequette responded it was the intent to have the person working closest with the assignments (knowing variations or
arrangements on loads between semesters) to complete the POPs to ensure accuracy, hence the decision to have leaders/coordinators
complete paperwork was made with implementation beginning Fall of 2006; moreover, he was fairly sure that the program
leaders/division coordinators are involved in different ways in the POP process, and that the recent meeting was to improve general
understanding of the process rather than change the process. ACTION: Bequette will share the concerns expressed by the faculty with
the Deans and respond at the next meeting.

ITEM 1 (A) FY07 Tuition/Fee Proposal – Supalla announced RCTC plans to submit a proposal for a 5% tuition increase, a 25¢ per
credit parking increase, and a $1.15 per credit student life fee increase, of which 25¢ would be dedicated to the book rental program to
buy initial books for the program. A brief discussion occurred on the process for approving local and state-wide student life/association
fees. Supalla also announced consultation has occurred with the Student Senate over the last several months and a positive letter from the
Student Senate will be forwarded to the Office of the Chancellor. Wright commended the student senate for being so active, and the
excellent work they have been doing in several issues/projects the past two years. ACTION: Supalla will forward a complete list of fee
increases to Marconett.

ITEM 2 (F) Career Day – Cram announced final participation numbers have not yet been determined on the November 7th Career Day,
however preliminary reports reflect a successful event. Wright shared concerns of faculty of taking away a curriculum day for
recruitment and questioned how much recruiting was actually occurring. Cram agreed the day does provide an opportunity to recruit,
adding, however, that some of the good will from the event can’t be measured. Cram agreed to generate a report that reflects those
students attending Career Day and eventually enrolling in the College. Wright stated he’d heard Rochester schools were looking for
major changes in the program or they would discontinue their participation. Cram responded significant improvements have occurred this
year, and several issues were addressed at a recent CARE meeting. Wright requested the planning committee not commit faculty without
faculty consultation, adding it appears students aren’t always focused and some districts may be sending students only to fulfill a state
requirement. Supalla replied his conversations with school representatives have reflected the numbers attending are significantly down
because of a decision at the district level to limit the number of students to only those there that were really interested. In addition,
Supalla noted comments received from schools have reflected it was the “best yet – less trouble.” Marconett noted the sports
management program had several students enrolled, but it was obvious the majority of the students didn’t really have an interest in the
career. Cram responded the day should also be an opportunity for students to explore careers and to learn more about the field in order to
understand if they really want to pursue the program. Supalla suggested a Zoomerang Survey be conducted for the staff/faculty to obtain
valuable feedback for improvement. ACTION: Cram will conduct an online survey of employees to use in the planning for the 2006-07
Career Day.

ITEM 2 (A) Search Update – Supalla announced the search process is moving forward and expects another round of searches for
sabbatical replacements. Bequette added only one applicant showed interest in the Dean sabbatical replacement. ACTION: Supalla will
request Arntson distribute a search update report to Wright.

ITEM 3 (A) Distance Education Pilot Project – Bequette shared findings recently conducted by the Distance Education Pilot Project
Task Force. Bequette stated he endorses the design of the pilot with few reservations. On a side note, Bequette commended the work of
the task force, suggesting the process be used at as a model for other issues that arise. ACTION: Information Only.
ITEM 3 (F) Committees – Wright announced a discussion was held with Supalla prior to today’s meeting so the item didn’t need further discussion at this meeting. ACTION: Supalla will share Wright’s comments with the Leadership Team.

ITEM 4 (A) Counselor New Hire – Cram announced there was some confusion with regard to the counselor extra days, but confirmed the counselors will be given 10 extra days beginning with the new contract. Wright questioned if Administration was firm on the 10 extra days. Cram responded yes, and Supalla added it was driven by the contract language that requires a minimum of 10 extra days for an alternate calendar. ACTION: Information Only.

ITEM 5 (A) Online Differential Tuition – Bequette announced the current arrangement of charging the mandatory $5.00 for MNOonline and $20 for courses using Desire 2 Learn (D2L) has caused some concerns. Bequette noted the College’s charge of $25 is similar to other campuses, but it appears more and more faculty want to teach (at least partially) on-line, some not using D2L at all, and those students are not being assessed any cost. Bequette also questioned whether the $20 differential tuition was the right amount, recognizing that it is a market-driven/convenience cost to students. Cram responded it was her belief that the $20 charge was originally assessed to offset expenses for support of the technology, adding, however, that she recently learned the funds are not set aside for technology, but rather placed in the general operating budget. Supalla responded the fee is not fenced, but several of the technology positions wouldn’t be needed on campus if RCTC wasn’t the third largest provider of online education within MnSCU. Bequette added if a true calculation were done for the added position in technology because of online education, the results would more likely result in a $40-$50/credit fee, which is unrealistic for students. Wright questioned if differential tuition should be measured with an actual expense, and whether the courses should be assessed at the actual cost. Supalla responded not every course pays its own way on campus, and the reality is many departments/programs pay the higher expense rates for other departments/programs. Supalla also shared again her concern of online class sizes being significantly lower than traditional instructional class sizes, hence more expensive to run the classes. Wright added the coding of sections (traditional instruction, totally online, and hybrid) also needs to be addressed so students know exactly what is expected of them before they register for a class. Bequette and Supalla agreed that the discussion should be held at the Distance Education Subcommittee. Bequette announced that the position of the Teaching and Learning to charge all courses that utilize online instruction (whether it is D2L or another software program) a differential fee, proposing effective Fall Semester 2006, any distance learning course (100% online) would continue to be charged the $20/credit, plus $5/credit MNOOnline fee, and any course that replaces at least one of their normal weekly meeting times for an online experience would be charged $5/credit, plus the $5/credit MNOOnline fee. Wright questioned whether the Distance Education Committee has been consulted. Bequette and Supalla agreed that the discussion should be held at the Distance Education Subcommittee. Bequette also shared again his concern of online class sizes being significantly lower than traditional instructional class sizes, hence more expensive to run the classes. Bequette indicated his desire to revisit the tally max for online instruction. Wright added the coding of sections (traditional instruction, totally online, and hybrid) also needs to be addressed so students know exactly what is expected of them before they register for a class. Bequette responded it is currently impossible to code the sections. Supalla suggested notations be made in the comment sections to inform the students before they register. ACTION: Bequette will request the Distance Education Subcommittee review the online differential fee. Bequette will also investigate the possibility of adding notations to the schedules to indicate whether any online experience will be part of a course. ACTION: Bequette will request the Distance Education Subcommittee review the online differential fee. Bequette will also investigate the possibility of adding notations to the schedules to indicate whether any online experience will be part of a course.

ITEM 6 (A) Awards for Excellence – Supalla announced the recently ratified MSCF Contract addresses a new “Awards for Excellence” program, and the necessity for colleges to establish a committee (composed of an equal number of administrators and faculty) to set guidelines, review proposals and forward recommendations to the President or suggestions for improvement back to the author. Cram suggested the committee take into consideration whether the proposals align with the college/department strategic goals when forwarding recommendations. ACTION: Wright will forward the names of recommended faculty members to Supalla to serve on the Awards for Excellence Committee.

Adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 24, 2006 – 2:00pm – AT109