January 2005 – Best Bee!

Congratulations to Roxy Roadway for being selected as the Best Bee of the Month for January.

Here is some of what Roxy’s nominator had to say: Roxy has taken on new and challenging responsibilities in the past twelve months. She has responded to the challenges in a positive and professional manner, providing numerous suggestions and implementing numerous processes to ensure both faculty and students are served in the most efficient and effective manner. Roxy goes above and beyond her job responsibilities to serve our students. Roxy is one of the most dedicated and exceptional assistants on the campus and the College is very fortunate to have her on our team.

Roxy will receive an “up front” parking spot at UCR for the month of January. Thanks, Roxy, for helping make RCTC great!

2005 UCR Blood Drives

Monday, January 24
Monday, February 21
Tuesday, March 29
Wednesday, April 27
Tuesday, September 27
Wednesday, October 26
Tuesday, November 29

AT 301

Open to students, staff, faculty, and the public. Walk-ins available.

For appointments call the Mayo Clinic Blood Bank at 284-4475
**Weekly Funny**

"I'm sorry, Kitty. You've become entirely too thin. We're going to have to cut you off!"

**Crossings Classifieds**

**For Sale:** Stainless steel double bowl kitchen sink with 1/3 hp garbage disposal $50. 25 inch TV 6 years old works great $40. Contact Heather Sklenicka home: 288-2772.

**For Sale:** Baby swing. Newer, portable carry along type. Eight speeds, music, lights. Purchased summer of 2004. Excellent condition. $35. Contact Michelle at 280-3178.

**Spring Semester Tutoring**

Tutoring for spring semester will begin on January 17. Students may access the drop-in tutoring schedule using the RCTC website for enrolled student and the quick link to the Student Support Center/tutoring/tutoring schedule online.

**Marketing Fact**

52% of community college students are in the first generation of their families to attend college. (AACC, National Profile of Community Colleges: Trends & Statistics, 3rd Edition.)

**Condolences**

Condolences are extended to Pat Williamson whose mother, Barbara Williamson, passed away on January 4. Our thoughts are with Pat and his family.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Carol Ann Harwick, Human Services Program, on Friday, December 24, at Seasons Hospice in Rochester. Carol was 57 years old. Our thoughts are with Harry and her family.

**Thank You**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you at the college who sent cards and notes of sympathy on the death of my father. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

*Marilyn Hansmann*

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant that you sent to the funeral of Jodi Munn, John's sister. We appreciated your thoughtfulness.

*Joyce and John Putnam*

**Intramural Sports**

**Meetings**

VB team captains only.....January 13th at 5pm in Rockenbach
BB team captains only........January 13th at 5:30 in Rochenbach

Intramurals will start on January 17th in Rockenbach-check with your team captain when your first match or game is!!

*Brad LaPlante*
I hope you enjoyed the holiday break and time away from campus. In just a few short days, we’ll find ourselves back in the whirlwind that accompanies every spring semester. The next few months will be especially busy as we work to secure legislation that restores higher education funding and bonding money for the UCR Health Sciences project. The Governor’s bonding recommendation includes only $100 million for MnSCU and an equal amount for the University of Minnesota. His recommendation does not include funding for the Health Sciences project that is now costed at $12.7 million ($1 million increase) due to the failure to pass a bonding bill in 2004. With the state facing a projected $1 billion deficit, it’s almost a certainty that the MnSCU biennial budget request for $66.5 million in new money will be a difficult sell. Both MnSCU state student associations have indicated that they will be lobbying for a tuition freeze. I encourage you to stay informed about legislation impacting higher education by checking out the weekly Friday afternoon updates on the MnSCU Web site.

Over the past two years, 30 percent more MnSCU students have taken out loans to help pay for college, and their total borrowing rose by 60 percent, a new study by MnSCU has found. “We are terribly concerned with the rapid escalation of student debt and what it means for the ability of these students to get a good start on their careers and family lives,” said Chancellor Jim McCormick. “Double-digit tuition increases in the past several years clearly are driving more students into debt at a greater level,” McCormick said. Among all students enrolled in credit courses in the 2003-04 academic year, 32 percent borrowed money to pay for college. The research showed that during the recent two-year period, the number of students enrolled in MnSCU institutions who borrowed rose from 58,819 to 76,549, an increase of 30 percent, and the total borrowed rose from $250.1 million to $401.7 million. The average amount that students borrowed increased by 23 percent, from $4,267 to $5,247.

Lieutenant Governor Carol Molnau, Honorary Chair of the 2004 Minnesota State Employee Combined Charities Campaign, recently announced that state employees raised $862,922 during this year’s efforts. Special thanks to Rose Conway who coordinated the RCTC campaign and to each of you who contributed to this important cause.

The UCR Sports Center was a beehive of activity the last several weeks. M. J. Wagenson and her colleagues, who put on a tremendous NJCAA National Women’s Volleyball Tourney, continue to receive rave reviews. Both the President and Associate Executive Director of the National Junior College Athletic Association have sent letters thanking and congratulating M. J. and other volunteers for putting on “one of the best” national volleyball tournaments. The Rotary First Bank Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament, utilizing both the UCR performance court and field house, was a resounding success. When the proceeds are tallied, the three local Rotary clubs will share tens of thousands of grant dollars to support local youth initiatives. For the last three days of the year, the Sports Center was jam packed with wrestlers and fans from 32 communities from around the country. Many thanks to Chuck Siefert, the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission, and volunteers who made this nationally respected tournament a great success.

“A Demographic Comparison of Students in Two- and Four-Year Institutions”

- The average community college student is 29 years old, attends college part time, and holds down a full-time job. The average public four-year student begins post-secondary studies at age 21.

- Sixty-three percent of the 11.3 million students who attend community colleges annually are enrolled part time, whereas only 37 percent attend full time. Full-time students represent 79 percent of undergraduate enrollment at public four-year institutions.

- Fifty-eight percent of community college students are women; many have significant family responsibilities that are exacerbated by the difficulties of finding childcare. Women account for 55 percent of public four-year undergraduate enrollments; many have significant family responsibilities that are exacerbated by the difficulties in finding childcare.
Fifty-five percent of Latino and Native American undergraduates and 46 percent of all Black undergraduates attend a community college. Public four-year institutions enroll 31.4 percent of all Black undergraduates; 35.1 percent of Latino undergraduates; 34.3 percent of Native American undergraduates; and 36.9 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander undergraduates.

**Thought for the Week…**

"It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see."

-- Henry David Thoreau

Best wishes for a satisfying semester and wonderful New Year!  

*Don*