A Look Back...

Thirty-four years ago this month, a public hearing was held to discuss the possible need for a four-year college in Rochester. The Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) presided over a hearing to examine the possibility of a University of Minnesota branch at Rochester or another state institution. The hearing was the result of a University of Minnesota Rochester Committee's request for funds from the State Legislature.

Official Student Communication

There is an expanding dependence on electronic communication among students, faculty, and staff at RCTC. This is motivated by the convenience, speed, cost-effectiveness, and environmental advantages of using email rather than printed communication. Because of this increasing dependence and acceptance of electronic communication, RCTC has an Official Student Communication Policy and Procedures. The intent of the policy is to utilize electronic mail as a means to communicate important information to our students in a timely manner. All students enrolled in credit bearing course work are assigned an official RCTC e-mail account, and official college communication shall be sent to these accounts.

The Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services is the keyholder of the official student e-mail addresses. All items for student wide distribution must be submitted to Roxy Roadway according to the guidelines listed below. The Office of the Vice President of Student Development and Services has the right to deny requests based on these guidelines.

Guidelines:
* Items must be submitted to Roxy Roadway in electronic format.
* The use of attachments is discouraged.
* The use of web links is strongly encouraged.
* Requests must be received at least ten working days prior to the intended e-mail distribution date.

Examples of Appropriate Student Wide Distribution:
* Communicating Student Life Activities and information
* Communicating important deadlines (drop/add, payments due date, last days to withdrawal, etc.)
* Surveys that are sanctioned for UCR/RCTC purposes.

Examples of Inappropriate Student Wide Distribution:
* Information unrelated to UCR/RCTC business
* Solicitation
* Promoting political viewpoints
* Messages containing confidential information such as grades, financial aid awards, etc.
* Emails that violate the Official Student Communication Policy.

The Official Student Communication Policy is attached to this week’s Crossings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Roxy Roadway at 285-7127.
Marketing Fact
According to 2004 Noel-Levitz Priorities Survey, (RCTC did not participate) faculty, administration, and students disagree on a few indicators. Here is a sample:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Administrators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus is safe and secure</td>
<td>Strength</td>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College shows concern for students as individuals</td>
<td>Challenge</td>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>Strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty are fair and unbiased in treatment of students</td>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>Strength</td>
<td>Challenge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dean’s List – Fall 2005
Excellence in scholastic achievement is recognized each semester by compiling a Dean’s List. Students successfully completing at least 12 college-level credits with grade points, with a minimum term grade point average of 3.0 or better qualify for the Dean’s List. Credits for P and grades of I, AU, CR and W are excluded from the count. Letters of congratulations are sent to students receiving a GPA of 3.5 and above. The Dean's List is posted in the Admissions and Records area and at the Heintz Center, as well as distributed to local media. The listing can also be downloaded by going to: http://www.rctc.edu/about/html/Deans-list.html.

Congratulations to all who made the list!
There are 1,310 students who made the Dean’s List for Fall, 2005.
- 4.0: 260 students
- 3.5 - 4.99: 439 students
- 3.0-3.49: 611 students

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Bonnie Hanson whose mother, Lois C. Peterson, passed away on Sunday, January 8, at Grand Meadow Healthcare Center.

Condolences to Darin Hoffman whose father-in-law, William 'Bill' H. Monsen, passed away on Thursday, December 29, 2005.

Condolences are also extended to Max Gernand whose mother, Thelma, passed away on December 25, 2005.

Our thoughts are with Bonnie, Darin, Max and their families.

Parking Permits
A reminder that "Spring Parking Permits" are available in the cashier's office. If you purchased an annual permit last August you do not need to purchase a Spring permit.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Although the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee has scheduled some tentative meetings in February, what could be the last meeting prior to the committee’s finalizing the legislative recommendation draft report is scheduled from 7-10 a.m., Friday, January 20 at Edina Realty. After several iterations of the recommendation report, the committee is zeroing in on language that impacts programming, facilities, governance and financing. The most recent version of the report would provide continued opportunities for all public and private higher education providers, transfer the University of Minnesota Rochester operation to a downtown location, maintain MnSCU governance for RCTC, and require significant future state investment. If you can’t attend the committee meeting in person but are interested in staying abreast of developments, information is available at http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/rochester.

In November, Bob Wise graced the RCTC Foundation with a bequest from his will. The former long-time Rochester Community College Dean of Student Life left the Foundation $200,000 — by far the largest bequest received since consolidation. Students, Student Senate and a comprehensive student life program were Bob’s passion. Many of the programs he initiated and organized continue today. Students loved Bob…one student organization even commissioned a SOB (Sweet Old Bob) bust in his likeness. Each of us has a chance to leave an educational legacy. Regardless of the size of our estate, we have a chance to act on behalf of our students and programs. If you’re moved by Bob’s example, please contact Judy Bird for advice and assistance.

Did you know…

- Fan Shen and Darlene Voeltz, RCTC’s first two National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) award winners for educational excellence are invited to accept the award in person at the NISOD annual conference at the University of Texas in May. Congratulations, Fan and Darlene!
- Preliminary spring semester enrollment numbers indicate that headcount has increased by approximately 90 students over last year…while fulltime equivalent enrollments are up just slightly. More definitive numbers will be available after the drop-add period. Thanks to all who worked hard to meet the needs of new and returning students.
- The Rochester Amateur Sports Commission will be submitting a bid to the National Junior College Athletic Association to host multiple-year Division III baseball championships. Changes for a Rochester bid approval have been enhanced by the very successful recent NJCAA volleyball and wrestling tournaments held at the UCR Sports Center. Mary Ellen Leicht, NJCAA Associate Executive Director, wrote in a recent letter to M. J. Wagenson, Volleyball Tournament Director…As usual, the group of volunteers you assembled did a fabulous job with this year’s championship. There are times when Division III programs feel they are overshadowed by Division I and II championships, but that has never been the case with the championship hosted by RCTC. It is a pleasure to attend such a well run event.
- Lori Stoltz, English faculty member, wrote a long article highlighting an interview she had with Maxine Hong Kingston, 2001 Visiting Scholar. The article was published in “Water-Stone Review,” a literary annual. I’m certain Lori would be delighted to provide you with a copy of the article. Yet another example of the great work done by our quality faculty.
- RCTC was one of twelve MnSCU institutions to receive a grant in the latest round of Minnesota Job Skills Partnership grants. Michelle Pyfferoen and her team put together the grant that helped garner $2,445,250 for MnSCU, 77.5 percent of the grants awarded.
- At the close of its 2005 session, Congress passed major higher education legislation as part of sweeping budget cutting legislation. The legislation creates two new grant programs, repeals the “50 percent rule” on distance education and makes a number of changes to federal loan programs.
- U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has created a new Commission on the Future of Higher Education, and the commission wants to hear from educators. The goal of the commission is to complete a comprehensive review and assessment of American higher education. Primary areas of focus are affordability, accessibility, quality and accountability. Submit your views at HigherEdCommission@ed.gov and see more about the commission at http://www.aacc.nche.edu.
- State spending for higher education grew at the fastest rate in five years during the current fiscal year, allowing colleges throughout much of the nation to regain their financial balance after a series of tight budgets. Minnesota’s 6.1 percent increase from FY04 to FY06 ranked 35 of the 50 states. Hawaii’s 23.4 percent was the nation’s best.

Thought for the Week…

Community colleges are the great leveler, the gateway to opportunity.
The work you do to open the doors of opportunity is absolutely critical.

-- Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle

Keep opening doors!
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.

James & Priscilla Russell Nursing Scholarship - $1,000: Awarded to a non-traditional second year student pursuing a degree as a registered nurse with good academic standing and financial need.

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

CHOICES  Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program--a Great Success!
A special thank you to all the individuals and groups who contributed to the Displaced Homemaker Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program. With your generous donations of money and time spent shopping for specific gifts for low income families from their wish lists, the program was able to serve 18 families with children. As one parent wrote, “I really want to thank you very much for the Christmas presents. My children love every single present. My school-age daughter was very surprised and thankful of getting a present and I'm very thankful that my kids got to have some thing to open for Christmas.”

Special acknowledgement to: Don Supalla and the Leadership Team; Kathy Olson and the BTEC Team; Annie Clement & the Speech Department Team, & Wylene Heidorn; Kathy Jacobson & the Surgical Tech Team; Judy Kingsbury, Jenee McGurren, Roxy Roadway, & Jenny White; Sara Heineke & the U of M Extension Team; Lisa Van Getson, Ethics Instructor; Warren Kemplin, Cont. Ed/Workforce Development; Mount Olive Church; Rae Gravenish, Reading Instructor; Becky Ross & Charter Communication Team; Carrie Schlep & Tutors Team; Greg Dahlstrom, English Instructor; Roxy Bains, Adjunct Instructor; Kendra Weber, U of M; JoAnn White, Winona State

You’re Invited to the Grand Opening of the UCR Writing Center
The Grand Opening for the Writing Center (located in AT209) will take place on Tuesday, January 17th through Thursday, January 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Writing Center tutors are now accepting walk-ins and scheduled appointments for tutoring sessions. Students can use the sign-in sheet posted on the Writing Center door to schedule an appointment, or students can request an appointment via email at writingcenter.rctc.roch.edu. Students may also call the Writing Center at 285-7182. The Writing Center helps writers in all stages of the writing process. Tutors help students improve as writers, not just improve the writing itself. A typical tutoring session lasts approximately 45 minutes, and sessions usually involve a discussion of paper development and organization before grammar or punctuation problems are addressed. Although writing centers are sometimes misidentified as proofreading services, tutors will not be spending time editing or “fixing” papers. The goal is to work one-on-one with an experienced writer to become a better writer overall. Instructors: Writing Center tutors are also available to visit your classes! If you would like one of the Writing Center staff members to give a quick, ten minute overview of the benefits of the Writing Center to your students, please contact the Writing Center at writingcenter.rctc.roch.edu.

Please join us at the Grand Opening for cookies, hot chocolate, coffee and tea!