Dean’s List ~ Fall 2006

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 1,287 students who made the Dean's List for Fall, 2006: * 4.0: 270 students; * 3.5 - 4.99: 434 students; * 3.0-3.49: 583 students

Become a FAN of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Would you like to be more pro-active in supporting our colleges and universities? Help us share the good news about the system with state leaders and build public support for one of Minnesota's greatest assets. Become a FAN of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities!

The Government Relations division invites you to sign a petition through the Friends Action Network and help support Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. FAN is a non-partisan grassroots network of faculty, students, staff, alumni and community members committed to building public support for the system's annual legislative requests. FAN is not affiliated with any party but is designed to educate state leaders and those supporting our system on issues affecting the system. Strong state support for the system translates into a strong workforce and improved quality of life for all Minnesotans, now and for future generations. From the thousands of students we prepare each year to the programs and services that are integral to our state and regional economy, the impact of the state colleges and universities can be felt in every corner of the state.

The Friends Action Network will encourage supporters to talk to their friends, family, neighbors and their elected officials about the value that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system offers to the state. FAN will provide a common voice and message to build public support for one of the state's greatest assets - Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. For more information, or to become a FAN, visit the Web site at http://www.fan.mnscu.edu. We hope that you take time to educate yourself about the system's issues. Participation in the Friends Action Network is strictly voluntary and not related to work duties associated with employment at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. If you choose to communicate with legislators, we encourage you to use your personal email address.
January 22, 2007

Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

“No need to wear your seatbelt, son. If you crash my car, you won’t want to live.”

Crossings Classifieds


Thank You

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all who have remembered my family during this difficult time in the loss of my Mom. Thank you for the plant, cards, and caring words. Your kindness is appreciated.

~Tara Hammill and the family of Joleen Voelz

Raffle Tickets for Sale!

The Building Utilities Mechanics (BUM) Club is again having their annual raffle. This year there is over $1000 in prizes including drills, gift cards, coolers, welding helmet, grinder, Rochester Athletic Club trial membership, Harley-Davidson apparel, golf course passes, savings bond, plus others. If you would like to support our student club and buy a ticket, please e-mail tom.soltau@roch.edu and he will try to get you a ticket for only $5.00. (Only 600 tickets were made and most of them have been sold.) The drawing will be held on January 31 at noon in the Heintz Center - Tom will contact all the winners.

Thank you for your support!

~Tom Soltau

Marketing Fact

First time visitors to the RCTC website have increased from 159,344 in 2002 to 299,922 in 2005. This represents an 88.2% increase in three years. New visitors for 2006 as of December 8, 2006 is 271,211.

RCTC Family Upcoming Benefits

Two RCTC Family members are going through difficult times, and your participation in, or donation to, these two events would be greatly appreciated.

Heather Hoffman (daughter of Rose Conway, Counseling Receptionist/Secretary) has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Friends and family members have organized a benefit to raise money to help the family. The event is scheduled for Sunday, February 11, 2007 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Eyota American Legion. The event includes Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup, silent auction, bake sale, and a live auction beginning at 2:00 p.m. An account has been established at Eastwood Bank in Eyota to accept monetary donations. Please support our RCTC Family Member and consider participating in this event, or making a donation to the Helping Hearts and hands for Heather account at Eastwood Bank in Eyota.

Danielle Hucke, daughter of Steve (Physical Education Instructor and Coach) and Dawn Hucke, was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma back in May. She is currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments. A benefit is being organized by friends and the community for Saturday, February 17, 2007 from noon - 5:00 pm at Byron Middle School. The event includes meal, carnival/entertainment, and a silent auction. In addition, monetary donations will be accepted. Anyone wishing to make a donation should forward their check, payable to "Christ Lutheran Church % Danielle Hucke Benefit" to the Office of the President (SS202) or via intercampus mail at Box 1.

As many of you know, we often make reference to the RCTC Family! Please consider attending the benefits and/or making a monetary donation to truly reflect that we are a Family that cares about each other!

Fliers with more details on each of the events is attached to this week’s Crossings.

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Supalla Scribblings

The Governor delivered his fifth State of the State message this week. He spoke of the need to support veterans and active military men and women and emphasized the Minnesota GI bill he plans to propose. He also spoke of progress and prosperity. He talked about whether taxpayers are receiving value for the taxes they pay. One of the main themes emerging from Pawlenty’s speech is the need to make schools better. At the K-12 level, he spoke of a 4% funding increase per year, of which 2% is based on pay-for-performance. Specifically, he mentioned that schools receiving incentive pay will be required to implement rigorous and relevant courses for all students, including career and technical courses in high-demand fields; provide access for all students to programs that provide college credit opportunities; all students must complete a full year of college while in high school; and schools must provide opportunities for students to pursue work-based learning and internships. Pawlenty also mentioned that his budget will provide funding for schools to provide Advanced Placement funding for all students at all grade levels. He would like to see more schools focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) areas, adopt more rigorous math standards for all students, require a graduation plan for eighth graders and above that parents will need to sign off on the plan each year, and require that all students complete four years of a second language in order to graduate. The Governor also spoke about the need for better government, better energy and better health care. The complete text and downloadable audio of the Governor’s State of the State Address are available at.

On Tuesday, Chancellor McCormick and several vice chancellors presented MnSCU’s biennial budget and emergency capital bonding requests to the Senate Higher Education Committee. The committee traveled to Metropolitan State for a tour and the hearing. RCTC was one of five featured “poster institutions” with displays that represented each of MnSCU’s major academic funding requests. Judy Gust, Merry Beth Gay, Michelle Pyfferoen and I had an opportunity to dialogue with legislators and committee staff about our nursing program, Health Center of Excellence involvement, Health Information Technology Program and Business and Workforce basic healthcare learning modules. We were honored to be selected, along with Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Century College, Normandale Community College and Metro State, to present the “institutional face” of MnSCU at the hearing. We had many positive compliments about the beautiful healthcare posters created by Jenee McGurren.

Many Minnesotans’ are waiting for the February state budget forecast. The projected surplus (currently estimated at $2 billion dollars) will have a major impact on what the legislature ultimately does with state agency requests. If you want to know more about the state surplus, I urge you to attend the Saturday, January 27 session of Coffee & Conversations. The session, “The State Surplus…Spent it? Save it? Send it back?” will be held in Room HB117 at UCR’s Heintz Center. Jay Kiedrowski and John Gunyou, former state finance commissioners, will be the presenters. RCTC is one of the event co-sponsors. Thanks to Atef Dimian who serves as the college rep on the planning committee.

Fall enrollment at Minnesota’s colleges, universities and career schools increased 1.8 percent over 2005, according to preliminary fall headcount figures released this week by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office. Preliminary numbers indicate that enrollments at the University of Minnesota grew by .4%, MnSCU enrollments at universities declined by .6% and increased by 2.4% at two-year colleges, grew by 2.3% at private colleges and universities, and increased 9% at private career schools. RCTC’s enrollment decreased 3-4% fall semester.

If you’re interested in learning more about RCTC, ways you can get more actively involved and meet new colleagues...why not complete an application to the Spring 2007 RCTC Leadership Cohort. Applications are due January 24. Contact Beth Arntson, Colleen Landherr or your supervisor for more information.

The Apollo Group, which owns the University of Phoenix, announced this week that it had bought a company that provides online high-school education. The acquisition of Insight Schools marks Apollo’s first foray into the secondary education market. “Online learning in the K-12 arena is gaining momentum across the country,” Brian Mueller, president of Apollo, said in a written statement. Insight Schools, based in Portland, Oregon, runs one public, online high school, in Washington State. That school, which started offering classes in September, has 600 students.

Thought for the Week…

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Don