Congratulations!
Bzzzz . . . Congratulations to Bonnie Flaig, English instructor, who has received the honor of the Yellow jacket Compliment Award. A student stated that she learned a lot in Ms Flaig’s class and that she is a GREAT teacher. The student said, “Any student would be happy to take your classes.” Thank you, Bonnie, for the terrific work. Students really appreciate you!

And the winner is…
Recently a community-wide contest was conducted in search of a new design for RCTC’s Yellowjacket. Six finalists were selected from the entries and then voted on by RCTC students, faculty and staff. The winning entry will be announced on Wednesday, January 26 at 10:45 a.m. in the atrium of the University Center Rochester. In addition to unveiling the new design, you will have an opportunity to name the new mascot. Your ideas and suggestions for just the right name will be collected at the time of the announcement. Take a moment to take off your stocking cap and put on your “thinking cap.” See you there!

RCTC students travel to New Orleans
Six Horticulture Technology students accompanied by Vern Bushlack, RCTC Horticulture Instructor and Program Leader, and his wife Marmie, will travel to New Orleans to attend and participate in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) 71st Annual Conference and Show. Perry Bauer, Tom Edstrom, Jim King, Brian Lewis, Matt Mears, and Jeremiah Simmons will leave on Feb.16 and return on Feb.20. At the conference, the students will compete in the 6th Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition. The students will participate as a team to identify specimens and answer questions about: turfgrass identification, weed identification, types of turfgrass insects, soils, mathematics, and growth and development of turfgrasses.

Also at the conference the students will have an opportunity to take part in resume writing workshops geared specifically to students, and interviewing tips workshops. Additionally the students will participate in a student forum on “Building Your Student Chapter” and a student seminar “From Student to Superintendent” They will also take in one of the largest trade shows in the country representing the turfgrass and golf course industry.

There are 48 GCSAA Student Chapters with approximately 2,000 student members. It is estimated there will be more than 20,000 total GCSAA members and affiliates at this conference. GOOD LUCK WHILE IN NEW ORLEANS and GOOD LUCK in the “TURF BOWL.”
COME AND GET IT!
Taher, Inc.

REGULAR HOURS
DINING ROOM - UCR Commons
HEINTZ CENTER SNACK BAR - Heintz Ctr.
Mondays - Fridays: 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

UCR Dining Room
Monday
Chicken Kiev/rice, veggie, roll
Bow tie noodles, grilled turkey breast
Beef noodle soup

Tuesday
BBQ pork riblets, fries, coleslaw, beans, roll
Batter fried fish, potato, veggie salad, roll
Cream of celery soup

Wednesday
Fried chicken, potato salad, fresh fruit, roll
Beef macaroni and tomato casserole, roll
Chicken noodle soup

Thursday
Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, veggie, roll
Chicken Caesar salad, garlic bread
Potato corn chowder

Friday
Baked potato bar
Vegetable soup

Heintz Center Snack Bar
Monday
Sloppy joe, fries, 20-oz. drink
Chicken and wild rice soup

Tuesday
Lasagna, mixed salad, garlic bread
Vegetable beef soup

Wednesday
Chicken strips, fries, 20-oz drink
Chicken dumpling soup

Thursday
Pasta bar
Cheesy sausage and potato soup

Friday
Chicken fried steak, potatoes, veggie, roll
Clam chowder

Weekly funny...

"To make sure you'll keep up a good pace, I'm going to release Spike here 1 minute after you start."

RCTC Chiropractic Clinic
Are you experiencing low back pain due to shoveling snow? Stop in at RCTC Chiropractic Clinic to help ease your discomfort. To make an appointment you can call 529-2736. We are located in the Heintz Center Suite C-211.

Vacation donation
Recipients for vacation donation program
Listed below are the new individuals who have been approved as recipients for the vacation donation to the sick leave account program. These individuals may have already or will be exhausting all paid leave time and will be losing health insurance coverage. State employees may donate up to 12 hours (per recipient) per fiscal year to these individuals or any other recipients on the sick leave account. More details regarding these individuals and forms to donate leave are available from the human resources office.

Deborah O’Hearn - Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Catherine Welsh - Office of the Attorney General

Bookstore hours
The Heintz Center Book-Automotive stores hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the spring semester.

Thought for the week...
A diet is when you watch what you eat and wish you could eat what you watch.
Another wicked weather Wednesday and, for the first time in my career, weather has stranded me in St. Paul. I’m keying this while holed up in the last available room at St. Paul’s Embassy Suites where, following the MnSCU Board of Trustees meeting, I found shelter from the snow-covered roads and poor visibility. Due back at the System Office for a 9 a.m. Thursday meeting with facility staff and an afternoon workshop I surrendered to Old Man Winter.

Conversations between Board committee meetings and during breaks seemed to constantly gravitate to the Governor’s bonding proposal. His $400 million proposal is less than half of what was appropriated during the 1998 legislative session. MnSCU’s $230 million request was reduced to a $64.261 million Governor’s recommendation…and Jesse recommended just $49 million for the University of Minnesota! The $64 million MnSCU proposal includes $30 million for HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Restoration) projects and major construction projects at Normandale CC ($11.4 million - Science Building), North Hennepin CC ($11.16 million - Remodeling), and Minneapolis CTC (Library - $11.7). When the Legislature convenes on February 1, Representatives and Senators will introduce their own bonding projects and the three-month deliberation will commence. Keep your fingers crossed that three Rochester projects…the $2 million infrastructure project ranked #19 (of 24) on MnSCU’s list, a Horticulture Lab/Greenhouse, and a Regional Public Safety Training Center find their way into the debate. Also, expect MnSCU to disregard the Governor’s request that no budget bills be introduced and submit a supplemental proposal in hopes of helping ease budget shortfalls brought on by increasing enrollments.

Did you know that two-of-21 persons selected as MnSCU Kellogg Fellows are RCTC faculty members? Congratulations to Tammy Lee and Karin Wilking who were selected from a pool of more than 100 applicants. The Kellogg Leadership Institute began on January 20 and continues through June, 2001. Fellows were selected based on the following criteria: relevance of proposed activity to system transformation and change, applicability of the research project, leadership potential, overall clarity of the proposal, and diversity of the participants and institutions. Way to go Tammy and Karin!

Last week I received a three-page letter from student Jenny Janvrin, heaping praise on many faculty and staff members who have made her RCTC education so satisfying. Just a bit of what Jenny wrote...

I am an 18-year old senior who has taken advantage of the post-secondary enrollment option program. I am writing this letter to let you know what a wonderful staff you have…All I really wanted to tell you is that you have a wonderful staff, and that you are one lucky man to be able to be in charge of these people. They not only do their jobs but they also make RCTC’s commercials true. At RCTC, you really are not just a number, you are a person. I am going to hopefully attend Bemidji State University next year. I am going to really miss RCTC and all the wonderful people here. Although I question Jenny’s “in charge of these people” claim, she’s absolutely right on when she says I’m one lucky man. Thanks to all of you who have accommodated the many “Jennies” who feel good about their RCTC experience.

Nearly half of all U.S. Colleges and universities now offer classes taught outside a traditional classroom, by audio, video or over the Internet, according to a new Department of Education study. Between 1995 and 1998, the number of colleges offering distance education increased by one-third. The percentage of colleges offering Internet classes increased dramatically, from 22% in 1994-95 to 60% in 1997-98. In 1997-98 colleges offered more than 54,000 distance education courses, more than 1230 distance education degree programs and 340 certificate programs with total enrollments of about 1.6 million students.
RCTC staffing update

**Administrative**
- **Dean of Health Sciences (MnSCU Administrator).** Position posted/nationally advertised (1/21/00 *Chronicle of Higher Education*).
- **Director of Nursing (MnSCU Administrator).** Position posted/nationally advertised (1/21/00 *Chronicle of Higher Education*).

**Unclassified Professional/Supervisory**
- **MnSCU Program Director 1 – Cont Educ. Option (Community Outreach Coordinator).** (Unclassified MAPE). Mary Jane Wagenson has been appointed.
- **MnSCU Program Director 1 – Student Services Option (YFU Coordinator) (Unclassified MAPE).** Position being posted internally.
- **MnSCU Program Director 2 – Cont. Educ. Option (Project Coordinator/Health Consortium).** Position has been posted/advertised.

**Faculty**
- **Network Specialist Instructor** (UTCE – full-time for Spring Semester).
- **AS/400 Mid-Range Computing Instructor** (UTCE – full-time for Spring Semester). Jason Dahl has been appointed.

**MAPE**

** Classified AFSCME**
- **General Maintenance Workers** (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
- **Student Services Assistant Senior** (UFT). Tutor and Testing Services Coordinator. Leslie Haack has been appointed.
- **Customer Service Specialist – Academic Affairs (Dental Clinic) Work Area** (unlimited part-time). Position has been posted.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x3131.

**Teacher Education Sequence (TES) spring 2000 semester class schedule**
Copies of the spring schedule of TES classes required for obtaining a full-time license have been posted on faculty bulletin boards. To obtain a copy of the schedule with the registration form attached, contact the human resources office (x7125).

**Reps on campus**
Representatives from Southwest State University will be on campus on Monday, January 31 from 10:00-1:00 to visit with transfer students. This will be in front of the RCTC Counseling Center.

Representatives from Luther College will be on the RCTC campus in front of the RCTC Counseling Center on Wednesday, February 2, time to be announced, but most likely 10:00-1:00 also.

Bill Bieber, Minnesota State University-Mankato will be on campus on Thursday, February 10 from 9:45-1:00 to visit with transfer students. He will be at a table in front of the RCTC Counseling Center.

**Staff development opportunities**

**“Gifts of Presence”** is the title of the conference sponsored by Minnesota Women in Community and Technical College on February 17 & 18, 2000. The conference will have sessions focusing on Creativity, Leadership, Diversity and Rejuvenation. Flyers were put in campus mailboxes; however, if you did not receive one and are interested in more information about the conference, contact the human resources office (x7125). Conference fee is $105.

**“Assertive Communication Skills for Women”** is a seminar being presented by SkillPath Seminars. Participants will gain empowering new skills that will increase their effectiveness, impact and achievement. The seminar will be held in Minneapolis on March 22 and in Bloomington on April 19. Contact the human resources office (x7125) for more information. Seminar fee is $59.

**Student Support Center staff changes**

**Janell Holter** is the Transfer Advisor for Student Support Services Program. Her office is SS160, phone 280-3543.

**Alex Kromminga** is the Special Needs Coordinator for Perkins. His office is B114, phone 285-7119.

**Leslie Haack** is the Tutor/Testing Coordinator for SSPP and college drop-in tutoring. His office is SS166, phone 280-5534.
Congratulations!

Three Upward Bound participants were among the ten students selected as Outstanding Youth of Olmsted County for 2000. They are Nguyen-Ngoc Pham, Mayo High School, Thea Thim, John Marshall High School, and Darin Yous, Century High School & RCTC PSEOP.

MnSCU Retirement plan newsletter

In December, copies of MnSCU’s Retirement Plan News was distributed in employee mailboxes. The attached “When you retire, you still need a plan” flyer has been furnished by Norwest Employee Benefit Services to correlate with the series of articles in the Plan News.

Baldrige Banterings

Winter has finally arrived and we are ready to plunge into Quality Improvement.

1. Friday, January 21st, the Minnesota Quality Council presented feedback regarding their site visit last November. Many of you had the opportunity to visit with one or more of the five evaluators making up the team. We will get back to you regarding Friday’s feedback meeting. This feedback will help us in the next step of our quality journey which is to identify and to document our processes.

2. We are in the process of forming a Future’s Task Force consisting of RCTC faculty, staff, students and administration as well as community stakeholders including representatives from business and industry, K-12, government, our UCR partners, RCTC retirees and GRAUC. Contact your union representatives if you are interested in serving in this committee.

The Future’s Task Force first goal is to design a “report car” that identifies RCTC processes that need to be tracked. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for March 1st, March 23rd, April 12th and May 4th.

MN deferred comp plan

Dave Ochs from NBI/Ochs Services will be on campus Monday, January 31 and Tuesday, February 1, 2000. He will be available to meet with employees to discuss with them Pre-Tax/Tax Deferred Retirement Savings, to review investment choices & performance, and to update employees about the new July 1999 enhancements.

Dave will be available the following times/locations:

**Monday, January 31, 2000**
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
UCR Building – CF103

**Tuesday, February 1, 2000**
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon)
Heintz Center – C124

Employees may “drop in” to talk with Dave or call Jennifer in the HR office (285-7125) to schedule an appointment.