Congratulations February Best Bee!

Congratulations to Suzanne Dinusson for being selected as Best Bee for February!

Here is some of what the nominator had to say:
Suzanne has led 25 Study Tour groups from RCTC to Paris, London, Hong Kong, and New York. Her groups include both RCTC students and members of the community; feedback from participants promote Suzanne as an exemplary ambassador of RCTC.

Suzanne and her Retail Merchandising students have spent hundreds of hours this past fall helping the Salvation Army design the layout and arrange merchandise during its relocation to a new location in SE Rochester. This was all volunteer work, Suzanne and her students were recognized with a front page article in the Post Bulletin, thus giving recognition to one of the successful career programs at RCTC.

Suzanne works in the community with various groups, including the Rochester Chorale Arts, and the Rochester Rotary Club, where she promotes their missions, while at the same time giving recognition to RCTC and its mission in the community.

Suzanne will receive an "up front" parking spot at UCR for the month of February. Thanks Suzanne for making RCTC GREAT!!

Black History Month

February is African American or Black History Month. It’s a time to commemorate the many significant contributions of African Americans to our society and country. We can all think of a number of people who have made important contributions, but how much do we actually know about black history? Do you know the answers to these questions?

- When did foreign slave trade end in the U.S.?
- What did the Dred Scott case decide?
- What was the significance of June 19, 1865, and why is it known as Juneteenth?
- What were the circumstances surrounding Rosa Parks’ heroic refusal to give up her seat on a Birmingham bus?
- Which four civil rights court cases have recently been reopened, and why?

Find the answers, and more about Black History Month, at:

Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator
**Marketing Fact**

More than half (56%) of persons age 18-54 living within a 30-mile radius of campus have been on the UCR campus at least once in the past 12-months. [2006 Knowledge and Awareness Study]

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**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](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

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**College For Kids**

Want to do something exciting and rewarding this summer? Please consider teaching College For Kids 2007. Request for class proposals are being taken now. Applications are attached to this issue of Crossings. Half-day classes will be offered the week of August 6-10, 2007, middle school and elementary in the morning and elementary only in the afternoon. If you have questions, please contact Colleen Landherr Maddox, Community & Youth Program Director at 280-3113 or colleen.landherr@roch.edu Deadline for submission is Feb 23, 2007.
Supalla Scribblings

Gov. Tim Pawlenty released his biennial budget recommendation this week, which consists of a $2.9 billion increase in state spending with the majority of the new money going toward education and tax relief. For Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the recommended budget increase is $123 million over the biennium. This amounts to approximately 70% of the $177 million system request. Included in the budget is $60 million for technology, $12 million for recruitment/retention of groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education, $10 million to expand STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, $3 million to expand health care education, $3 million for a biosciences center of excellence, and $10 million for management innovation. In addition, the governor recommended $25 million for the system for a "performance bonus" based on meeting goals related to the system's strategic plan. The governor also recommended $92 million for his ACHIEVE II program that awards students with post-secondary scholarships for taking challenging classes in high schools. Pawlenty is also recommending a $75 million veterans' package that would eliminate state income taxes on military pay and military pensions. This package also includes $30 million for a Minnesota GI Bill that will provide higher education benefits to veterans and their dependents. You can find a summary of the governor's complete budget at http://www.finance.state.mn.us/budget/operating/200809/070122_summary.pdf.

Should the requested biennial budget increase be funded, RCTC would:

- Be able to hold down tuition increases and avoid decreases in programs and essential services
- Update information technology network infrastructure to enhance security and protect sensitive data
- Implement an infrastructure supporting instructional audio and video capture and streaming
- Expand the summer “Bridge” program to other partnered school districts
- Develop a “Get Into College” initiative that would include developing a Transition Camp for ninth and tenth graders

Should some of the new money be distributed through competitive grants, RCTC could seek grant money to:

- Establish a scholarship program offering free tuition to targeted underrepresented populations in southeast Minnesota
- Increase the number of secondary career and technical program offerings on the UCR campus

The Senate Capital Investment committee met this week to hear the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system's capital budget requests. Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities, Al Johnson presented the $33.8 million system capital budget request, including $30 million for HEAPR (including $4.5 million for RCTC) and $3.8 for land acquisition at Bemidji State University and Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. Justin McMartin testified for the Minnesota State University Student Association and reported that students support a $73.8 million request, the $40 million increase would bond all HEAPR projects unfunded last year. Scott Formo, Minnesota State College Student Association President added that delayed bonding projects affect the students in two ways. First, if the work is incomplete, students suffer as classrooms are not ideal learning environments; and secondly, unfunded projects can affect tuition and fees.

Tenth day enrollment figures are in... RCTC’s FTEs are down 2.83 percent; headcount down 3.16 percent.

High Five...The top five strategic objectives of presidents, academic officers, CFOs and CIOs:

1. Improving retention rates. 2. Improving student learning outcomes.
3. Attracting and retaining faculty. 4. Improving use of data for strategic decision support.
5. Improving fundraising.


Students entering their first year of college consider career preparation the most crucial factor in determining the value of their postsecondary education, according to a new report from Eduventures, an education consulting firm. Seventy-two percent said "professional preparation" was very important to them, while 62 percent ranked the "strength of the academic program" in the same category. Almost half, or 47 percent, said affordability was very important.

Thought for the Week...

Extraordinary colleges leverage data to state their successes. Common colleges use anecdotes.
Still others bombard people with opinion
– Ray Taylor, Consultant & President Emeritus AACC

I'll be joining RCTC Business and Workforce Development staff at the Futures Assembly and Bellwether Awards competition in Florida from Saturday through Tuesday; and then Rochester Day at the Capitol Wednesday. Lucky you...no Scribblings next week!

Don
Check Out “The Tent”
If you’ve been wondering what that colorful thing in the Counseling Center is….wonder no more. It’s The Tent. It’s free. And it’s now open to all students and employees. The Tent is a place to learn to relax and reduce the effects of stress. Once inside The Tent, you will find a comfortable place to try audio resources for guided visualization and meditation exercises and computer programs to practice biofeedback. These programs show you techniques for relaxation while finger sensors detect changes in skin temperature, heart rate, and blood flow. With biofeedback you can actually see yourself relax! Space is limited, so appointments are required. To schedule, stop by the Counseling Center (SS133) or call 285-7260.

Technology and Teaching Individual Sessions
Are you thinking about incorporating the use of technology as a tool in one of your courses? Are you wondering what possible learning/technology pedagogies and tools might be helpful to students in your course? Are you looking to “go to the next level” of technology enhanced learning?

You are invited to contact Kevin Dobbe, new Faculty Learning and Technology Liaison for an individual session conversation. Let’s meet over coffee and chat about your teaching with technology questions. Contact Kevin at 280-2965 or by email: Kevin.Dobbe@roch.edu

Fun Quote about integration of new technology and learning…

“Technology is being used by music educators for entertainment rather than as a means for presenting organized music lesson”…

1903 response to the “Victrolas in the Schools Program” implemented by Frances Clark).

Maybe there’s a “Victrola” in your area of teaching that just might end up being helpful to your teaching and your students learning!

I look forward to meeting with you!

Kevin Dobbe
Faculty Learning Technology Liaison

Mark Your Calendar
Retirement Party!!!
32 years of Service

For: Maureen Welder
When: Tuesday, February 27, 2007
Time: 11:30am - 2:00pm
Place: Staff Lounge: Atrium 3rd Floor

Thank You
Thank you to the RCTC Family for the emails, calls, cards and gifts for our family with the arrival of Cashton David LaPlante. Mom and baby are doing great!

- Brad LaPlante

Weight Watchers at Work
Hi to the RCTC community: My name is Julie Hemmer and I am the on site Weight Watchers leader conducting meetings at RCTC on Wednesdays at 11:45 in room CC 412. I would like to personally invite you to join us on January 31 to see what we do at our meetings, meet some of our successful members, and make a decision if you want to join our group for another 17 week session or 12 week session depending on the number of members that join that day. Our last session resulted in almost 250 pounds of weight loss for our members. WOW! If you are tired of being controlled by eating, tired of feeling sluggish and depressed, it is time to do something about it. Let us help you change your life and start you on the path to weight loss success. I am looking forward to seeing many of you on January 31 at 11:45, come a little earlier to ask questions. Cash, credit cards and checks accepted. Total cost of series will depend on the number that enroll in the next session. Come and check us out, I don't think you will be disappointed. Please contact me if you have any questions prior to the meeting.

bjhemmer@charter.net

I'm LIVIN' life 50 pounds lighter and LOVIN' it,

- Julie
**Academic Accolades**

Julie Rodakowski (English) has learned that *North Dakota Quarterly* will be publishing her review written about *A Reader's Guide to the Novels of Louise Erdrich*, authored by Peter Beidler and Gay Barton. To write this review, Julie not only read the guide itself but also all ten of the Erdrich novels that are represented in the guide. This review represents Julie's scholarly return to the writings of Louise Erdrich. It will be published in the April edition of the *NDQ*.

The staff of the Academic Support Center at RCTC are happy to announce that Alex Kromminga recently completed an Executive Juris Doctorate degree from Concord University - School of Law. We're proud of this accomplishment and feel that Alex's background and training provides valuable guidance for our department. Please join us in congratulating Alex Kromminga, EJD.

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**Condolences**

Condolences to Mary Dennison (Librarian) whose mother, Grace Sasaki, passed away on Monday, January 15th. Our thoughts are with Mary and her family.

**Thank You**

I would like to thank all of you who sent e-mails, cards, or personally gave condolences for the death of my father-in-law. It's been difficult, and I so appreciate your thoughtfulness at this time.

- Carol Naatz

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**It’s a Girl!**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Addison Mae Williams, born to Jim (Athletic Trainer) and Lynn Williams on Friday, January 19, 2007. Addison weighed in at 7 lbs 11 oz, and was 19 inches long!

Congratulations, Jim and Lynn, and welcome to the RCTC Family, Addison!