A Look Back...

Seventy-nine years ago this month, Rochester Junior College (RJC) was a founding member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) with the formation of the Omicron Chapter in 1927. The chapter is among the oldest in the nation.

RCTC Fitness Center

The RCTC Fitness Center Video is now available to be viewed on-line as opposed to having to come over to the sports center to watch it. All you need is your current UCR ID card and a computer with speakers. Go to the RCTC website and click on "athletics" on the right side, then click on "fieldhouse" on the left side to bring up the link to the video. Click on that link and follow the directions. There will be a 10 question true or false quiz following the video and you will need a 7/10 to pass. After passing the quiz, you will read the Fitness Center rules and click on "I Agree". That's all there is to it and you're ready to go workout!

Art Work on Display

RCTC Adjunct Art Instructor, Ed Charbonneau's work "I know, I know, I know" will be part of the FOURINONE gallery celebration at the Rochester Art Center from January 28-April 2, 2006. The FOURINONE Opening Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, January 28 from 8:00-11:00pm at the Rochester Art Center. Galleries open at 8:00 p.m. and Artist Talk will follow.

Rochester Reads

Please mark February 3, 4, and 5 on your calendars for "No Horizon is So Far," a play written by our very own Jerry Casper! The book from which the play arises, "No Horizon is So Far: Two Women and Their Extraordinary Journey Across Antarctica" chronicles the adventures of two extraordinary women, Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen, on their trek across Antarctica! Performances are free with a donation requested, and scheduled in the Hill Theatre: February 3 - 7:00pm; February 4 - 7:00pm; February 5 - 2:00pm. The play is being held in conjunction with Rochester Reads.

Academic Accolades

Congratulations to Carol Bailey who has written a segment entitled "Writing Assignment: Interaction and Assessment Logs" for the recently published Teaching Tips text meant to accompany Janet Belsky's Experiencing the Lifespan textbook (Worth Publishers). Carol's assessment log assignment is based on the premise that the best way to apply knowledge of developmental concepts is by observing children, and her teaching tip involves a classroom observation of the children of her students. Nice work, Carol! Ask her to see the text.
**Weekly funny…**

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

Later the stilts would go to Bobo's head, and he would begin demanding obedience from the "little people."

**Crossings Classifieds**

**For Sale:** 2003 GMC Envoy SLE with enhanced package, 4WD, 16,850 miles, Silver-Green Metallic color, Automatic 4.2L V6, Excellent condition, $19,000, Call Darin Hoffman at 507-281-0956.

**College For Kids**

Please consider teaching gifted and talented youth this coming summer in the RCTC acclaimed College For Kids. Attached is information and a course proposal. If you have questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

*Colleen Landherr Maddox*

Community & Youth Program Director

**Marketing Fact**

RCTC's tuition and fee increase (5.4%) for FY2007 was in the lowest third for MnSCU two-year institutions. (tied for 9th out of 30).

**Employee News - It's a Girl!**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Eleanor Kay Bruce to the RCTC Family. Eleanor, daughter to Jen (Librarian) and John, was born Sunday, January 22, and weighed in at 7 lbs, 10 oz. Mother and baby are doing fine! Congratulations, Jen and John! We look forward to Eleanor being part of our Fall 2024 enrollment numbers!

**Bringing The World to UCR**

The Asian Student Organization presents a 2006 special event here at UCR. On Saturday the 18th of February, from 2-4 PM we will have workshops on martial arts, cultural diversity, Asian cooking, Asian travel. Then in the evening from 6PM to 9PM ASO will be hosting a number of events in the Hill Theater that will expose the beauty of culture and diversity. Events presenting a fashion show, martial arts demonstration, cultural dances, a fear factor eating competition, and other spectacular performances. There will be food served at the end of the event in the cafeteria: Egg rolls, fried rice, hot and sour soup, egg drop soup and other exotic dishes. General admission fee $10.00 - UCR Student with I.D. $5.00.

Come and share and experience what ASO has to offer for our community and let us "Bring the World to our Community". All proceed will go toward the RCTC Asian Student Organization Scholarship.

**Scholarship Opportunities**

Please inform and encourage students to apply for Rochester Community & Technical College Foundation scholarships for academic year 2006-07. Application forms are available in the UCR Counseling Center, the RCTC Foundation Office at the Heintz Center in HC 109 or on the web at:

[www.rctc.edu/foundation](http://www.rctc.edu/foundation). There are a variety of scholarship awards available based on various criteria for new incoming students, returning students to RCTC, and students graduating from RCTC and continuing their education at a four year college or university. Something for everyone. **DEADLINE TO APPLY:** MARCH 7, 2006.

**Department Hours for President’s Day**

**Monday, FEBRUARY 20th, 2006**

**Duplicating Operating hours**

10:00am - 6:00pm

**Bookstore Hours for Monday**

3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Last Saturday evening I attended the Region VI Apprenticeship Contest Banquet sponsored by the Southern Minnesota Sheet Metal Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. The region is comprised of apprentices working in Minnesota and both South and North Dakota. From Thursday until Saturday of last week, 33 apprentices competed in skill testing at Heintz Center. The sheet metal work of these young folks is truly amazing. Regional winners will travel to Las Vegas later this spring to compete in the national contest. Local, regional, and national representatives of the apprenticeship training program praised the contest support of Jay Lee and the Heintz Center facilities. Did you know that the Heintz Center serves as the weekly training site for four local apprenticeship programs?

By now, most of you realize that the long-awaited “Advancing Minnesota,” the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee Report to Governor Tim Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature was released. The Governor was in Rochester to personally accept the report. A copy of the Executive Summary is attached to this edition of Crossings. The entire report can be viewed at http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/rochester/ or http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/pdf/RHEDCreportFinal.pdf. Even though viewed by the committee as a sometimes irritating and annoying questioner of their work, I congratulated the committee and consultant on the final report, thanked them for listening and incorporating many of our suggested revisions, and pledged that RCTC will work with them to move their recommendations forward. Personally, I believe the final version of the report holds RCTC harmless and, in fact, instead of redistributing the higher education pie in Rochester, provides opportunities to grow enrollments at all three current UCR providers. Although this was a major announcement, it is the first phase of a much longer journey. Now, the hard work of selling the benefits of this investment in Rochester moves to the 2006 Legislature.

Faculty, staff and student kudos…

- Mary Olson, Program Leader for Medical Careers, will be recognized as an Exemplary Leader during the 15th Annual Chair Academy International Conference from April 19-22 in Tucson, Arizona. The conference is designed to recognize exemplary faculty leaders who encourage, inspire, mentor and coach others. Mary models excellence every day as she works with students, faculty colleagues, advisory committee members and area business and industry representatives. Congratulations on this important recognition, Mary!
- I received a wonderful letter from the Rochester Elder Network…It is with great thanks that our Faith in Action program from Elder Network writes to you. Recently the RCTC Carpentry Program collaborated with us to provide a wheelchair accessible ramp for a couple in Southeastern Rochester. The couple were desperate to have the ramp before the holidays, so the husband could come home from the nursing home rehabilitation center. Vern Bell co-facilitated the group along with Bob Patnaude and Steve Carlson. There were eight students involved in the ramp assembly, transporting it to the location, and then installing it at the home. Mr. Supalla, we were extremely impressed with the craftsmanship of the ramp, plus the fact that these students took time off of school to come and install the ramp. We want to personally tell you how grateful we are as members of Faith in Action Board of Directors to have such dedicated and hardworking individuals in our community. Thank you for continuing our mission of “being a physical, emotional, and spiritual support to older adults that will enable them to continue living independently in their own homes.” Many thanks to faculty and students for brightening the holiday season for this Rochester couple.
- Thursday evening, four students were awarded $2,500 scholarships at the RCTC Beat the Odds Banquet…Joe Chanhthee, Donna Munguia, Samantha Demydowich, and Paul “Andy” Duvall. Congratulations, winners!
The spring semester add-drop period is over and enrollment numbers should hold pretty steady. Once again, enrollment is up, this semester just slightly over last year. This spring, 5,613 RCTC students enrolled in 59,037 credits (3936 full-time equivalent). This compares with 5,564 students purchasing 58,981 credits (3932 FTE) spring term, 2005. Thanks to all who worked hard to accommodate student inquiries and registration concerns.

On the average, students will pay $288 more a year in tuition and fees to attend Minnesota State Colleges and Universities next fall under a budget approved last week by the Board of Trustees. The increases bring the average tuition and fees to $4,282 for a full-time two-year college student. Overall, tuition and fees for the system’s 32 colleges and universities will rise an average of 6.8 percent. For the first time in several years, RCTC tuition increases will be at the lower-end of the tuition increases, rather than at the top. Next fall, RCTC students will see tuition increase 5 percent (two-year college average is +6.9%). Combined tuition and fees next year at RCTC will rise 5.4 percent, due largely to the students’ decision to significantly increase their student life fee (two-year college average tuition and fee increase for 2006-07 is 6.5 percent).

As disappointing as the capital bonding budget bill proposed by Governor Pawlenty was for MnSCU, it was equally discouraging for Rochester. The only Rochester capital project he has proposed in his comprehensive capital bonding package unveiled on January 17 was $8 million in funding for the Rochester Bioscience Development Center. The project will connect a bioscience development center with the Mayo Clinic-University of Minnesota Genomics Research Center to create exciting new opportunities to attract and expand bioscience companies to Minnesota. Once the session convenes on March 1, I’ll keep you posted on legislative developments.

At least every five years, the MnSCU Board of Trustees reviews the system mission and vision. In January, the Board adopted the Strategic Plan 2006-2010. Soon, you’ll be invited to participate in RCTC’s Integrated Planning Process (IPP). As you complete the process, please make sure that your work plan aligns with the MnSCU Strategic Plan.

- **Strategic Direction #1 – Increase access and opportunity**
  - Goal #1 – Raise Minnesota’s participation and achievement in post-secondary education by meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds and educational goals
  - Goal #2 – Maintain an affordable cost of attendance for Minnesota residents
  - Goal #3 – Work with other organizations to prepare all young people to graduate from high school and enroll in college ready for success

- **Strategic Direction #2 – Promote and measure high-quality learning programs and services**
  - Goal #4 – Demonstrate high quality in all educational programs
  - Goal #5 – Produce graduates who have strong, adaptable and flexible skills
  - Goal #6 – Provide multiple delivery options for learning programs and student services

- **Strategic Direction #3 – Provide programs and services integral to state and regional economic needs**
  - Goal #7 – As a major partner in educating Minnesota’s workforce, participate in identifying and meeting regional and statewide economic development priorities
  - Goal #8 – Support regional vitality by contributing artistic, cultural, and civic assets that attract employees and other residents seeking a high quality of life
  - Goal #9 – Develop each institution’s capacity to be engaged in and add value to its region

- **Strategic Direction #4 – Support a culture of innovation and responsiveness**
  - Goal #10 – Build organizational capacity for change to meet future challenges
  - Goal #11 – Reward and support institutions, administrators, faculty and staff for innovations that advance excellence and efficiency
  - Goal #12 – Identify and remove barriers to innovation and responsiveness
  - Goal #13 – Hire and develop leaders who will initiate and support innovation throughout the system
  - Goal #14 – Promote accountability for results through a system of accessible reports to the public and other stakeholders

**Thought for the Week…**

"Character isn’t inherited. One builds it daily by the way one thinks and acts."

-- Helen Gahagan Douglas

What might our students and visitors say about the “character” of RCTC staff?

Don