A Look Back...

Eighty-three years ago this month the RJC Orchestra made their first performance. The Orchestra had been formed in December 1921.

February Best Bee

Congratulations to Rachelle Splittstoesser for being named RCTC's Best Bee of the month for February 2006!!! Here is what the nominators had to say about Rachelle:

Rachelle get surprised, blind-sided, and interrupted by many (if not most) of the personal visits to the Office of the Vice President for Teaching and Learning. In these instances she is always courteous and never unaccommodating; more often than not, she can assist visitors such that they do not even need to see Mike Bequette. She has worked odd hours, at the direction of the VP's office, and commits much of her time to really "nasty" projects like schedule development and proofing, AASC minutes, articulation agreements, communications between RCTC and MnSCU in the academic program area, and other rather unpleasant tasks which consume her time, energy, creativity. She is extremely knowledgeable about RCTC, but is always open to new ideas and is not protective of old ways of doing business just because they were old ways. Teaching and Learning could not be as efficient and as positive as it is, were it not for Rachelle. She is the quintessential Best Bee.

Rachelle's work with the college curriculum is outstanding. I can't and don't want to imagine what the college curriculum would look like if Rachelle left the college. Rachelle is always pleasant, even when it is obvious that her workload is immense. Rachelle is currently spear-heading the secretarial staff reconfiguration. Recently, Rachelle conducted a series of T/L secretarial meetings to discuss issues associated with equity of load and needs for appropriate assistance. She is also serving on the Search Committee for the new Dean of Teaching and Learning. AASC, RCTC Support Staff - Rachelle organizes the meetings.

Thank you Rachelle and congratulations on being named the “Best Bee of the Month”! Rachelle will receive the “up front” parking space for the month of February at the UCR campus.

ATTENTION:
Coming this spring to a computer near you! Web-based work order system. Watch for more details!
Marketing Fact
In its 5-year study of national satisfaction trends, Noel-Levitz identified seven areas that were most important to students in its annual Student Satisfaction Inventory. Of those: Quality of Instruction, Academic Advising, and Safety all experienced increases in satisfaction; Course Registration, Libraries/Computer Labs, and Financial Aid Delivery experienced neither growth nor decline; and Tuition experienced a decline in satisfaction.

How does RCTC measure up? We’re collecting data right now - if you are/were asked to participate, please do so!

Faculty Lecture Series
The first lecture of the spring, 2006 UCR Faculty Lecture Series is coming up! The lecturer is Dr. Steve Bein, philosophy faculty member at RCTC, lecturing on an aspect of his dissertation (completed last year at the U of Hawaii). His topic is “Compassion, Self and Morality,” encompassing issues of selfhood, compassion, and how compassion functions in moral decision-making.

The lecture will be held the fourth Thursday of this month -- Feb. 23, 1:00, Hill Theater, with an informal reception (complete with coffee, cookies, and lemonade) in the Quiet Lounge following the lecture. See the attached flier for more information.

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: 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.

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!
Supalla’s Scribblings

The Rochester Higher Education Development Committee met February 3 from 7-10:30 a.m. at Edina Realty to strategize on how to best present the report’s recommendations. The committee also heard from Simon Tripp, nationally recognized consultant who has conducted economic impact studies, including a recent study for Mayo. One of the committee’s remaining goals is to contract with a consultant to produce an economic impact study based on the RHEDC’s recommendations. It is hoped the results of that study might be available in mid-April. If you want to learn more about the committee’s report, enjoy a cup of coffee and talk to your neighbors, you’ll want to be at Saturday morning’s Coffee & Conversation. The February 4 session will be held at Willow Creek Middle School Cafeteria, 8-10 a.m., when RHEDC chair Marilyn Stewart and committee member Wendy Shannon will review the committee’s proposal. Round table discussions with local legislators will follow. Copies of the committee’s Executive Summary will be available. Coffee & Conversation community forums are offered throughout the year, focus on topics of local interest, are free to participants, and sponsored by a partnership of seven community organizations, including RCTC. Thanks to Atef Dimian, Political Science instructor, who has volunteered as RCTC’s liaison to the Coffee & Conversation Planning Committee.

RCTC, one of 18 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions, will join a national effort to help high school seniors apply for financial aid. “College Goal Sunday” offers free assistance and a chance to win a $500 scholarship. High school students and their parents can get help applying for financial aid on Sunday, February 12, 2-4 p.m. at the Rochester Off-Campus Charter School. Volunteers and educational professionals will provide free step-by-step assistance in filling out federal financial aid forms. Financial Aid Director Rosemary Hicks is coordinating the Rochester event, with help from a number of her associates.

Dental Assistant Instructor Bonnie Crawford was notified that the “Computerized Dental Technology in the Educational Setting”grant proposal is being supported by the Center for Integrated Health Science Education and Practice (Health Science Center of Excellence). The Center has earmarked $54,575 for the dental project. Congratulations, Bonnie!

It was pleasure to join coaches Jean Musgjerd and Steve Hucke, and Vice President Stan Cram, at the first-ever Rochester Area Sports Banquet on Monday evening. Honorees included many of our partners and friends...Rochester Youth Baseball Association (Amateur Youth Sports Association of the Year), Lourdes Girls Tennis (Amateur Team of the Year), Myron Glass (Coach of the Year), Katie Ohm (Female Athlete of the Year), Mike Torchia (Male Athlete of the Year), and Kak and Dewey Johnson (Amateur Sports Lifetime Achievement Award). Congratulations to the six winners and 20 other nominees.

Wednesday, on a close vote of 216-214, the House passed the Budget Reconciliation bill and sent it to President Bush for his signature. This bill contains $40 billion worth of spending cuts to many programs such as Medicaid and Medicare, and makes significant cuts to student financial aid programs. The student loan program will be cut $12.7 billion over five years. We are still waiting to receive detailed information on how these cuts will impact two-year college students and programs.

In light of the current and future challenges facing the nation’s youth, high school redesign and reform has become a rising issue of importance. Recently, the Association of Career and Technical Educator’s released its position statement on high school reform, “Reinventing the American High School for the 21st Century.” The Association suggests a three-fold purpose of career and technical education at the secondary level. ACTE believes career and technical education should support students in the acquisition of rigorous core knowledge, skills, habits and attitudes needed for success in post-secondary education and the high-skilled workplace; engage students in specific career-related learning experiences that equip them to make well-informed education, training and employment decisions; and prepare students who may choose to enter the workforce directly after high school. The paper outlines nine recommendations for reinventing the nation’s high schools: establish a clear system goal of career and college readiness, create a positive school culture that stresses personalization in planning and decision making, create a positive culture that stresses personalization in relationships, dramatically improve how and where academic content is taught, create incentives for students to pursue the core curriculum in an interest-based context, support high quality teaching in all content areas, offer flexible learning opportunities to encourage re-entry and completion, create system incentives and supports for connection of career education and high school redesign efforts and move beyond “seat-time” and narrowly designed knowledge and skills. For more information about ACTE’s position statement or to download the paper or an executive summary, visit http://www.acteonline.org.
Sunday afternoon I’ll be headed north to participate in a week of Central Lakes College presidential finalist campus visits. Five finalists will each spend a full day presenting themselves to the Brainerd and Staples communities. As the Chancellor’s appointee, it’s been a pleasure serving as chair of a hard-working dedicated 12-member Search Committee. During my week-long assignment, please contact Vice Presidents Bequette, Cram or Hansmann if you need assistance. If you’re not certain who to contact, Judy Kingsbury can point you in the right direction. I’ll be back on campus the week of February 13.

**Quote of the Week…**

*Oh, this won’t take a minute. I must have some information. Now if you will just tell me when you were born, where you were born, why you were born, how old you are now, how old you were then, how old you’ll be in a little while, the schools you haven’t attended, and the names and addresses of six people that can verify all this information, we’ll get started.*

From Chapter 18 of “The Phantom Tollbooth” by Norton Juster

Until next week…take care, be safe, ask fewer questions (see quote above) and keep doing great work!  

*Don*

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**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 and 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 include 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.