



# College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

February 20, 2006  
Volume 11, Issue 24  
SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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R25

## Attachments

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- ❖ Faculty Lecture Series  
Dr. Steve Bein

UCR Mayo Blood Drive  
Dates for Spring '06

Tuesday, February 28  
Monday, March 27  
Tuesday, April 25

Meeting Minutes  
Click below:

[http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/  
meeting\\_minutes.html](http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html)

## A Look Back...

Fifty-five years ago this month state representative John Livermore of Fairmont introduced legislation to create a state system of community colleges. This would be an alternative system to the University of Minnesota and would be less costly. Studies at the time showed that twice as many high school students would attend college if they lived within 30 miles of a campus. It would be another decade before the vision of a community college system was realized.



## Video Production of Graduating Students...We Need Your HELP!

**Attention Faculty/Staff/Club Advisors/Coaches/Mentors/Counselors/Advisors:**

The Commencement Planning Committee has launched a new initiative. We will be producing a short video to play during this year's Commencement Ceremony as an alternative to a keynote speaker. This innovative approach has some really positive benefits for the ceremony. We see the value of fun and entertaining content, that carries a valuable message for our graduates. All of this, delivered in a timely fashion. Why are we telling you this? **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you know a student who will be graduating after Spring/Summer Semester 2006 or who has already graduated from Fall 2005 - you can help. We are looking for graduation candidates who may fall into one or more of the following categories.

- student who has overcome challenges and is now successful at RCTC
- involved in RCTC Student Life activity(ies)
- outstanding athlete
- class comedian who has kept your class(es) from being boring
- involved in external community service or a service learning project
- mentor to peers/classmates
- just plain outgoing and enthusiastic

If you know a graduation candidate who meets at least one of the above categories, we are hopeful that you could persuade the student to be a part of this production. Not only would it become a part of RCTC's historical archives, but it gives the student an opportunity to show off for family and friends at Commencement.

The production would consist of a five minute interview which will be tentatively scheduled during the week of March 20-24. All students will need to sign a release and each student will be asked the following questions during the interview.

- 1) Think back to your first day of classes at RCTC. How have you changed since that day?
- 2) What are some of your favorite memories or experiences at RCTC?
- 3) What has been your greatest accomplishment while attending RCTC?
- 4) Who are some of your favorite people at RCTC and why?
- 5) What will you remember most about RCTC?
- 6) RCTC's motto is "get there". How did RCTC help you "get there"?
- 7) What's next for you?

If selected, one or more of the student's comments will be highlighted in the video at Commencement. All other outtakes will be part of a montage to be played at the reception following the ceremony. Please help make this project a success by recommending a student and contact information to any member of the production: Roxy Roadway; Jenee McGurren; Rose Conway; Janell Holter; Jonathan Wetenkamp; Jay Lee; Michelle Willinghaz or Guy Hamernik. In order to meet production scheduling, the **deadline for submitting names is March 1, 2006**. If you have any questions, please contact Roxy Roadway at 285-7127 or [roxy.roadway@roch.edu](mailto:roxy.roadway@roch.edu).

Weekly funny...

Snapshots at [jasonlove.com](http://jasonlove.com)



**Crossings Classifieds**

**Wanted:** Rental of unit for two adults during spring break. Texas, Arizona, or other warm climate. Audrey Lidke x7469.

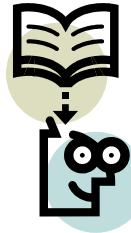
**For Sale:** Men's Red Wing work boot. Worn only a few times, purchased a short time ago. Size 11 1/2 E. Above ankle length. Brick red color. Excellent condition. Paid \$165. Will consider selling for \$100 obo. Call 292-8937.

**MNONLINE Accreditation Update**

RCTC's Online Accreditation Team has been meeting weekly and is preparing for the May 2nd and 3rd Peer Review Team Visit. The college has applied for the authority to offer degree programs at a distance. The designation from the Higher Learning Commission, through MNONLINE, will allow RCTC to allow select programs and courses to be delivered in the online environment without having to seek individual authorization each time. The team has completed a self-study table with evidence supporting this request, and will have a draft of the complete report within the next few weeks. The goal is to have the report available to interested parties for review by early March, so it can be submitted to the Peer Review Team by April. The team will also be conducting informational/practice sessions to better understand the process of interviews and information gathering prior to the actual visit. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Scott Sahs at 529-2785 or [scott.sahs@roch.edu](mailto:scott.sahs@roch.edu).

**Marketing Fact**

According to the RCTC Survey of Stakeholders (November, 2005), "Minimize large tuition and fee increases" was named the top priority for key stakeholder, both internal and external to RCTC. When asked if they felt RCTC provides a quality education for the cost, 98% of respondents said quality was appropriate for cost or above expected quality for the cost (47% "appropriate", 39% "above" and 12% "exceptional quality for the cost").



*Academic Accolades*

Congratulations to Dr. Pam Whitfield for publication of both an essay and an article in *Practical Horseman*, the Taj Mahal of horse magazines in the United States. The article is about **college riding programs** and appeared in the Dec 2005 college issue. The essay (Jan 06) is about moving to MN and starting all over in the horse business, and in life.

**RCTC's Horticulture Club brings you a lecture on:**

*Perennial and Annual Bulb Plants*



Come to Heinz Center (HH 114)  
Tuesday, February 21, 2006  
5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

*There is a \$5 suggested donation.  
Refreshments will be provided.  
Fundraiser for trip to Bucharth Garden*

Please let the club know if you have an interest in a specific topic and/or specific time. They are willing to present on any Horticulture related topic. All suggestions will be considered.

**Thank You**

RCTC Friends and Family: Thank you for the adorable pink puppy and balloon! We just came home from the hospital. Our daughter Eleanor is a welcome addition and is SO beautiful! Thanks for your support.

*- Jen and John Bruce*

## Supalla's Scribblings



I was pleased to learn that **Mary Olson**, BTEC faculty member, has been nominated to receive The Chair Academy's 2006 International Exemplary Leader Award. The award recognizes Mary's ability to advance academic and administrative leadership. Mary will be honored at the Chair Academy's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference, "Celebrating the Diversity of Leadership," to be held in Tucson, Arizona April 20-22. As an honoree, Mary will receive an International Exemplary Leader award presented during an annual conference general session and a display of the honoree's photo and nomination description will appear in the "2006 International Exemplary Leader Awards Booklet," on the Chair Academy's web page during the next year, and in the Academy's spring juried journal, "Leadership." Congratulations, Mary!

Faculty and staff continue to push the technology envelope! Last Sunday evening, the very first RCTC Virtual HIT (Health Information Technology) Club meeting was conducted and the technology worked perfectly. Rumor has it that the student from Alaska sounded like she was in the next room. Students from North Carolina to Alaska and everywhere in between participated. The virtual meeting included video clips, live audio and PowerPoint presentations. Thanks to our top-notch Digital Media Center staff...**Missy, Scott and Steve**...and to **Judy Gust**, who proved once again that RCTC pioneers continue to provide incredible world-class student experiences.

Have you ever supported our athletic teams by participating in the "Rent-An-Athlete" program? I had an e-mail from one of this year's participants who wrote...*I wanted to tell you that the program you have to Rent-An-Athlete is such a wonderful thing. It's a win-win situation! I've had two spinal fusions and I'm so limited in being able to do certain physical activities. It meant so much to have a couple of kids who could do the things needed in my yard/house to get ready for winter. And that brings me to the students. The two guys I had helping me were just exceptional. They were so nice and worked very hard – I was really impressed. And I got lunch for them and invited them to join me and I really enjoyed talking to them and finding out about what they were studying and what their plans were. They represented your department and the college extremely well!* So, if you haven't rented one of these exceptional RCTC athletes, look for the next opportunity, and go for it!

From the February 15 edition of THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION...

*Back in 1992, Jack and John graduated from high school. Each went on to attend college. By their mid-20s, Jack had received a bachelor's degree, but John had not. Why did one succeed, but not the other? An expansive set of potential answers appears in a new national report that examines the factors that helped Jack and thousands of his peers earn a postsecondary diploma. The report, released on Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Education, found that the rigor of a student's high school curriculum is the strongest indicator of whether he or she will earn a college degree, regardless of major. The growing mobility of students was not, in itself, a negative development. The report said, "Formally transferring from a community college to a four-year college and transferring from one four-year college to another were both positively associated with degree completion." The report includes findings and recommendations in a number of areas, including the following:*



- **Timing:** When students enrolled was more important than where they were enrolled. Students who had not matriculated by the January after their high school graduation saw their chances of earning a degree plummet.
- **Academic progress:** Earning at least 20 credits by the end of the first year of college is a crucial benchmark.
- **Summer study:** The report recommends that colleges expand the use of summer terms. Students who completed more than four credits during summer terms correlated positively to degree completion.
- **Dual enrollment:** Earning some college credits while still in high school positively associated with degree completion.
- **Sophomore year:** The second academic-calendar year offers students the opportunity to recapture any lack of momentum of the first. The second year may be even more important than the first.
- **Mathematics:** The world demands advanced quantitative literacy, no matter what a student's postsecondary field of study, college-level mathematics is called for.
- **Demographic background:** Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds were less likely to attend high schools that offered high-level courses.
- **Geographic mobility:** Of the 58 percent of students who attended more than one college, 37 percent crossed state lines in the process.

### Thought for the Week

*Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first time or the last time.  
Then your time on earth will be filled with glory.*

Enjoy a glorious 20-20 week!

**Don**

**Scholarship Opportunities**

Please inform and encourage students to apply for **Rochester Community and 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. The criteria is very broad and you need not qualify for financial aid to apply. There is something for everyone. **DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 7, 2006.**

**Additional Scholarships Available:**

**Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of Minnesota (RAAFUM) Scholarship-\$2000**

Awarded to a student who is graduating from RCTC and transferring to one of the Twin Cities campuses of the University of Minnesota. Student must have a 3.0 g.p.a. or above. Award based on financial need, school activities, and community involvement or work.

**Chi Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa - \$500**

Awarded to an undergraduate from Olmsted County with a 3.0 or better GPA majoring in education who will be **student teaching** in the coming year. Deadline is April 15, 2006. Forms available in the UCR Counseling Center.

**College For Kids**

REMINDER - If you or someone you know is interested in teaching this summer for the gifted and talented RCTC sponsored College For Kids, deadline for submission of course proposals is Feb 22nd. Information and proposal forms are attached to this week's *Crossings*. Questions?? contact Colleen Landherr Maddox at [colleen.landherr@roch.edu](mailto:colleen.landherr@roch.edu) or 280-3113. Camps are scheduled for July 31 - Aug 4 AND Aug 7-11.