



# College Crossings

Rochester Community and Technical College

February 24, 2003  
Volume 8, Issue 25

SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

## Inside this Issue

Nutrition Competition – Pg 2

Scholarship Money – Pg 2

Scribblings – Pgs 3-4

Event Schedule – see web  
<http://www.roch.edu/rctc/about/html/weeklysched.htm>

## Attachments

- ❖ Career/Counseling Workshops

### Evening Administration

Feb. 22-27 – Nirmala Kotogal  
Mar. 1-6 – Susanne Sheehan  
Mar. 17-20 – Gail Sauter

The evening administrator can be reached at 285-7262.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cuong Tran for receiving the first Best Bee of the Month Award at the February 17<sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day. The award is based upon appreciation of extra effort, exemplary service or demonstrated expertise in your department.

To learn more about the Best Bee of the Month Award and how to nominate someone, see our website at:

<http://www.rctc.edu/hr/bestbee>

## RCTC All-College Open Forum

Thursday, February 27

11:30am - CF202 OR 3:00pm - HC107

Governor Pawlenty has presented his 2004-05 Biennial Budget and urges lawmakers to cut higher education spending along with city and county aid. Please join the RCTC Leadership Team for the next RCTC (Rumor Control Through Communication) Open Forum to discuss these and other items of interest to RCTC!

## Sabbatical approvals

Congratulation to the following faculty members whose sabbatical applications have been approved:

*Teresa Brown; Karen Fredin; Suzanne Dinusson; Chad Isrealson; Audrey Lidke; Jean Marconett; Bonnie Mercer; Julie Rodakowski; Mark Schnaedter; Darlene Voeltz; Shirley Wilson*

Chad, Audrey, and Mark will be on semester sabbaticals while the rest of the faculty listed above will be on sabbaticals for the entire year.

## Post-Bulletin available on campus

Did you know that the Rochester Post-Bulletin is available for sale in the RCTC Bookstore for only 25 cents? Monday through Friday papers, which normally sell for 50 cents a copy, can be purchased during bookstore hours of: Monday -Thursday 8am - 8pm and Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

**Weekly Funny**



*"Remember I told you that my teacher wanted me to do something artistic at home, and as you were leaving you said anything I did was fine with you?"*

**Career and Counseling Center Workshops**  
 Attached to this week's *Crossings* is a schedule featuring February 2003 career and counseling center workshops.

These workshops are planned with your student success in mind.

All are free and open to all students!

See the attachment for more information.

**Health and Wellness activity**

In light of the current budget cuts, the Health and Wellness Committee has decided to encourage you to cut up some fruits and veggies and eat better for the month of March. March is National Nutrition Month and we are encouraging all of you to sign up for this "Nutrition Competition."



This is a team activity so find yourself a team of 5-9 "players" and choose a captain. The captain will be responsible for compiling and turning in the scores. Email Steve Cole with the names of your team members and a creative team name. If you'd prefer to sign up as a single we will hook you up with a team.

The competition encourages people to make better food choices and record their progress. Attached is a copy of the point system that you will use to grade your eating habits. Please take note that you can foul out and lose points as well as earning points. As always, awesome prizes will be awarded. There is no cost for this activity, so please email Steve as quickly as possible. We will begin in March and will forward more information to you after you reply.

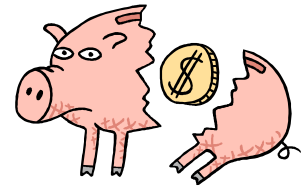
**\$\$ FREE MONEY \$\$**  
 RCTC Foundation scholarship applications now available for RCTC students for the 2003/2004 academic year. All RCTC students are eligible! Over \$100,000 to be awarded on MARCH 24, 2003. Pick up your applications at the UCR Counseling Office (SS133) or the RCTC Foundation Office (C-120 Heintz Center).

**Condolences**

Condolences to Alice Hidalgo whose mother, Bernelda Busian, passed away on February 15. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

### Supalla’s Scribblings

As predicted, Governor Pawlenty revealed his budget proposal to balance Minnesota’s \$4-plus billion deficit and higher education felt the brunt of his fix. By now you know that the governor has proposed a \$204 million cut for MnSCU on the base budget for the biennium. This is a 15.7 percent cut from the current base, or a cut of \$1,571 per full-time student. This proposed reduction is on top of the \$50 million dollar cut absorbed in the FY03 budget through the earlier budget-balancing bill and recently through the governor’s unallotment. The Governor did recommend funding MnSCU’s \$67 million enrollment adjustment, payment for students already served. His proposal also included capping tuition increases at 15 percent. Pawlenty has proposed a permanent \$185 million cut in the University of Minnesota’s budget, also a 15 percent reduction in state support. It will take all of us...students, staff, and faculty...working together to convince legislators to restore the reduction to protect the core mission of public higher education and retain Minnesota’s investment in the future. Personally, you can help by making certain the governor, legislators, businesspersons and taxpayers realize that a cut of this magnitude will impact access, affordability and quality of programs and services. If the governor’s recommendation prevails, the cut for RCTC would be more than \$1.3 million per year. The Rapid Response Team will continue to review options for balancing the college budget which are certain to include significant expenditure cuts, reserve reductions and tuition increases. When the February budget forecast is released next week and during the next few months as the Legislature grapples with the budget, we’ll better understand the options available to us. Tuition rates for next year will not likely be known until the Legislature adjourns in May or June. We’ll keep you informed about legislative happenings via websites, e-mails, CROSSINGS and forums. Please communicate your concerns with area representatives and Higher Education Committee members early and often. The next college-wide update will be shared at the RCTC forums on February 27....be there!



### Congratulations to...

- **Kim Sinn** who was recently recognized by the Diversity Council for more than 200 hours of volunteer service.
- **Cuong Tran** who received RCTC’s first “Best Bee of the Month Award.” You are encouraged to nominate a colleague or team of co-workers for the “Best Bee Award” by completing the form available on the HR website.
- **Julie Rodakowski** who’s been selected to teach in MnSCU’s semester study abroad program. Julie will be teaching at Oxford, England during fall semester, 2003.
- **Erv Berg and the maintenance team** who were awarded the “Excellence in Facilities Management Award” presented by MnSCU in recognition of the team effort in efficiently and effectively managing operations during the simultaneous construction of the Sports, Technology and Horticulture Centers.
- **Stacy Titterington** who was elected Student Senate President for 2003-04.

MnSCU has agreed to partially fund a study to evaluate the potential need for student housing. The study will help determine if lack of student housing is a barrier to college success. In an effort to accurately assess the role that student housing plays in serving our existing and future students, MnSCU has engaged the firm of Maxfield Research, Inc., a housing specialist, based in Minneapolis, to assist in conducting the community analysis. RCTC has joined ten other two-year colleges in the study. **Marilyn Hansmann** will be our point-person during the study. We’ll share the results with you after the analysis is completed and a report filed.



**Have you signed up for the second UCR Blood Drive?** Mayo Clinic Blood Bank is holding a drive on February 25 and 26 in CF206/208. Regular donors, as well as those who’ve never given before, are encouraged to participate. The drive is open to faculty, staff, students and the public. Call Student Health Services at 285-7261 to schedule an appointment. Appointments usually take 45-60 minutes and can be scheduled between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on February 25 and 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. on February 26. Your donation will be most sincerely appreciated.

Wish us luck on February 28 when **Diane Nicholls, Nirmala Kotagal and Marilyn Hansmann** will join me at the MnSCU Capital Bonding Public Hearing to present testimony in support of a new UCR Health Sciences Building.

**Thought for the Week...**

*"It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it.  
If you think about that, you'll do things differently."*

-- Warren Buffett

To your good reputation!

**Don**

**Thank you notes**

Thank you to the college staff and administration for the beautiful plant and expressions of sympathy after the recent death of my Mother. Your kindness and caring is greatly appreciated.

*Alice Hidalgo*

I want to extend my sincere thanks to the RCTC Administration, Faculty and Staff for the lovely bouquet of flowers. Also, a special thanks for all the phone calls, visits, and cards that I have received since my car accident. Your get well wishes and caring thoughts have helped with this very slow healing process. Your kindness is very much appreciated! I'm looking forward to getting back on my feet and seeing you all soon.

*Patty Stevens*