A Look Back...

In the spring of 1970 the Rochester Area Vocational Institute opened with a building dedication. Classes in 14 program areas had begun in the fall of 1969.

Mark Your Calendars to Join Us for the PTK Induction Ceremony!

The Spring 2006 Induction Ceremony for new members of Phi Theta Kappa is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 and will begin at 7:00 pm in the College Center cafeteria. Join us as we celebrate the academic achievements of these fine students. Virginia Wright-Peterson and Robert Sanborn will be the guest speakers. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome! Phi Theta Kappa

Inductees, Spring 2006:

Asghar Ali; Roseline Asawale; Jenny Betz; Michele Breza-Berndt; Kelly Burnoski; Grace DeVries; Janette Dragvold; Beth Dubbels; James Eickhoff; Alyssa Ellingson; Karl Erie; Elizabeth Franklin-Hanson; Melissa Gay; Erin Geise; Jason German; Walter Giesmann; Gene Hall; Kyla Halverson-Williams; Kathryn Harris; Kevin Hoeltzle; Keith Hovis; Farhia Ilmunde; Paul Jacobs; Jill Johnson; Joshua Jones; Jesse Kelly; Joshua Kranz; Joseph Kruger; Carolyn Lamb; Eric Ling; Sheila Maass; Matthew Machacek; Heather Martin; Paula McCann; Andrew McDaniel; Jessica McElmury; Kristine Miller; Shane Moe; Jennifer Neid; Susan O’Connell; Scody Oesterich; Eric Olson; Jessica Olson; Ka Park; Sophorn Pho; Tara Potts; Darryl Priester, Jr.; Mary Russell; Roeun Sam; Matthew Schimek; Jacqueline Schmitt; Wendy Schultze; Matthew Selnes; Angela Senst; Kelsey Simmons; Christa Snyder; Aaron Speltz; Sheryl Tran; Hope Van Proosdy; Jill Vollmer; Juliet Whitlock; Carolyn Ziecina; Brittany Zolondek; Andora Zrucky; Gary Zylstra

Academic Accolades

Congratulations to Eric Mein, English faculty member, whose article entitled "A Princess of Where? Burroughs's Imaginary Lack of Place" has been accepted for publication in the West Virginia University Philological Papers, volume 53. The content of this article was presented to interested faculty members at a faculty development lecture this past fall.
Marketing Fact

According to the CCSSE National Report: "Engaging Students, Challenging the Odds" almost ½ of community college students state that "Lack of Finances" or "Transfer to a 4-year College or University" is a likely or very likely reason they would withdraw from their current community college. RCTC students report similar results regarding Lack of Finances, but are less likely than the national average or other Minnesota community colleges to withdraw to transfer to a 4-year college. (Full report available at: http://www.ccsse.org/publications/CCSSE_reportfinal2005.pdf)

Faculty Workshop Opportunity

Dr. Lee Jenkins will present a two-day workshop titled “From L to J” at Heintz Center. Register for this event by April 7th. Objectives of the workshop include:

- Increase student success and reduce student failure
- Move from a focus on teaching to a focus on learning
- Use data to increase student achievement
- Through active participation learn to use meaningful graphs to document student growth.

For more information, see the flier attached to this week’s Crossings.

Diversity Update

In April, we Minnesotans celebrate spring. We wait impatiently for melting snow, sunshine, rising temperatures, and Robins on the front lawn to warm us after a long winter chill. We also commemorate a number of other things to help us raise our awareness of them. April is Parkinson Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Autism Awareness Month, among others. In April, we mark Allergy Awareness Week, National Soil Conservation Week, and Arts and Culture Week. World Health Day, Global Youth Service Day, and Earth Day are also celebrated in April, along with Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

Sometimes, because there are so many of them, these commemorative months, weeks and days become invisible; they blend into the wallpaper of our every day lives. People wonder why we need to have so many of them. When taken together, they’re a bit overwhelming, but for each particular group, the day or week or month is singular. It’s important to pay attention to these commemorative times in order to be aware of the strengths and needs in the world, so that we can be more aware of the individuals and groups around us, to celebrate the diversity in the world, to eliminate the hate in it, and to make it a more inclusive place. If each of us got to know our neighbors just a little bit better, picked just one thing to be passionate about, to celebrate, to help people become more aware of, the world would be a better place for all of us.

Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator

Crossings Classifieds

FOR SALE: Crib by Baby Italia: natural wood has bottom drawer for storage, converts to toddler daybed as well; Simmons Baby Beauty sleep mattress, pad and sheets included. $100 Call Sara Soukup at 289-0843.

WANTED: used, dependable electric stove, washer and gas dryer. contact Michelle Messenger at 280-3178.
Supalla Scribblings

Judy and I were overjoyed with the excellent response to the recent Office of the President survey. More than 240 of you took time to complete the survey and share your thoughts and ideas. Thank you! Attached to this edition of Crossings is a two-page summary of the quantitative results and a summary of the strengths and opportunities we gleaned from your comments. We’ve also included several possible activities, some that we’ve included in our IPP and some that can be implemented without cost, which we’re planning to initiate in hopes of improving our service. You should expect to see both of us out and about more around campus; an invitation to share what’s happening in your program, department, or service area; more encouragement to serve on committees, sub-committees and task forces; a re-emphasis on teaching and learning; team building for the leadership team; and the elimination of RCTC (Rumor Control Through Communication) Forums…you confirmed on the survey what we anticipated from recent attendance. Judy and I thank you for your feedback…both the kudos and the constructive criticisms…and we promise a follow-up survey next year.

Thanks to Mo Amundson, Education-to-Careers Coordinator, Chuck Briscoe, Century HS Principal, and Jay Lee for inviting me to the Century High School staff meeting at Heintz Center on Monday. Dr. Briscoe thought it was extremely important to have his faculty/staff set foot in the facility that he believes offers many Century students training they would never get without CARE (Collaborations Among Rochester Educators). Jay, Chuck and I shared with the staff the many exciting programs and initiatives that currently exist between ISD535 and RCTC, provided an inkling of new collaborations planned for the near-term and some dreams of what we might be able to do together relative to the establishment of a secondary vocational center attached to Heintz Center. The meeting concluded with tours to several classrooms, shops and labs. Since the meeting, there’s been some talk about RCTC hosting a John Marshall staff meeting at the college. The CARE partnership continues to grow!

While many of you were on spring break, Governor Tim Pawlenty released his supplemental budget recommendation. Included in his recommendation is $49 million in tax reductions and credits, $102 million in emergency items and budget fixes, $159 million added to the budget reserve, and $95 million in other initiatives. The Governor recommended $100,000 for MnSCU as part of his package to support members of the veteran and military communities. These funds are intended for a systemwide coordinator for the campus Veterans Assistance Offices. The governor also proposed $5 million for new higher education programs at the University of Minnesota’s branch in Rochester, as recommended by the Higher Education Development Committee. Legislative activity in St. Paul continues to pick up with several bills being heard by committees, including the RHEDC report, bonding and the MnSCU supplemental budget request. Several RCTC reps joined hundreds of Rochester citizens on Wednesday for “Rochester on Tour at the Capitol.” Campus development at UCR, the supplemental budget and our request for HEAPR and Workforce Center collocation bonding money was presented to legislators throughout the day. Thanks to all who joined me in this “Showcase Rochester” event.

Recently, the MnSCU Board of Trustees approved the Strategic Plan for the system. The plan builds on the previous strategic plan with three of the four strategic directions remaining essentially the same. They are:

1. Increase access and opportunity
2. Promote and measure high quality learning programs and services
3. Provide programs and services integral to state and regional economic needs

The fourth direction, “Innovate to meet current and future needs efficiently” is new and replaces the former direction that focused on integrating the system. This new plan will drive the board’s actions; set the priorities of the system; guide development of the 2008-09 biennial budget requests; provide a framework for presidential evaluations; form the basis of the system accountability framework; and be a significant component of institutional plans. Our challenge will be to assure that RCTC’s plan aligns with MnSCU’s new plan.

Congratulations to GRAUC on their recent 20th Anniversary Celebration, to the Diversity Council who held their 17th Annual Meeting at Heintz Center, to the organizers of last week’s Coffee and Conversations series on the three stadium proposals and to Colleen Landherr who picked up a $1,000 check at the Rotary/US Bank Holiday Classic awards luncheon for her “Get Up, Get Moving…” summer camp. Many thanks to the RCTC employees who worked and attended these events.

**Thought for the week…**

If you think the worst and get the worst, you suffer twice,
if you think the best and get the worst, you suffer once.

- Anonymous

Be an optimist…think the best…you’re likely to get it.

Don