Best Bee for April!
Congratulation's to Vern Bushlack for being selected as the Best Bee for the month of April! Here is some of what Vern’s nominator had to say: "After 44 years of teaching and inspiring thousands of students on the joys and challenges of working in the Horticulture industry, RCTC Horticulture instructor Vern Bushlack is retiring. Vern spent nine years lobbying for a collegiate facility. Finally in 2000 the legislature approved the bonding of the new facility. In 2002, the RCTC Horticulture program moved into a state-of-the-art Horticulture Technology facility. The space includes a 4,000 square foot greenhouse, two smart classrooms/labs, a resource room, offices, attached garage, storage rooms, an outdoor lab, and SMART Garden." Vern will receive an "upfront" parking spot at the Heintz Center. Thanks Vern for all your contributions to RCTC!

Revealing Meth in Minnesota Screening
The MN County Attorneys Association, along with the Olmsted County Attorney and RCTC are sponsoring a screening of Revealing Meth in Minnesota. A panel discussion will follow the screening. Join us on Thursday, April 26 from 3:30 - 5:00 in the Hill Theater. This documentary chronicles the impact of methamphetamine in our state. For more information, visit http://www.revealingmeth.com/home.htm

Academic Accolades
Scannell McCormick has had another poem published, this time in Bayou, the publication of the University of New Orleans. It is a somewhat historic edition--the first since Hurricane Katrina. Scannell's poem is an Italian sonnet titled, "Lot (Hermes in Tulips) Reykjavik 2005." Congratulations, Dr. McCormick!

Pam Whitfield recently published an article in The Chronicle of the Horse Magazine. It is called "My Kingdom for a Horse".

Julie Christie has spoken at two Horse Owner Education Days Conferences throughout Minnesota (in New Prague and Crookston). These conferences are put on by the University of Minnesota in various communities. Julie has been speaking about equine behavior and training. On Saturday, March 31st, Pam Whitfield will be talking at the Horse Owner Education Day in Rochester, held right here in the Heintz Center. Rochester's conference has been sold out!

Mark your calendars! The End-of-Semester-Horse-Show for RCTC students is going to be on Friday May 4th from 1-5pm. This year we have the most advanced level of riders yet! Sixteen of our students have been training colts (from scratch!) since February as a part of their colt starting class and will be showing them on May 4th. Also, there will be jumping classes and a trail class. If you have questions, call Julie Christie (507-398-2326).
Weekly funny!

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

"He walks like a man with a porpoise."

Marketing Corner
Anna Pingree will be hosting another Preview Day on campus this Wednesday, April 4th.

Marketing Fact
In the Fall of 2006, the average age of an RCTC student was 25. The average age for male students was 23, while the average age for female students was 26. (Remember, 62% of RCTC students are female)

April 15th is Yom HaShoah (Yoam Ha-SHO-wa), Holocaust Remembrance Day
Michael Korenblit, writer and educator, speaks and writes about the holocaust. In his book, Until We Meet Again, and in his speaking engagements, he tells us why it’s important to remember the Holocaust. Korenblit tells the story of his Jewish parent’s survival in Nazi-occupied Poland, ghettos and concentration camps, and then reminds us that violence and genocide have continued through the years, long after the systematic persecution and murder of approximately 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime. He uses murders and violence in Nigeria, Cambodia, Iraq, Bosnia, Rwanda, Kosovo and school shootings in Columbine, Colorado and Red Lake, Minnesota as examples. He tells a story about an old Jewish man being teased and harassed by young people 65 years ago in Poland, and says, “The Holocaust didn’t start with mass murder. It began with harassment and intolerance.” He continues by saying, “There are numerous examples of middle school kids arrested for planning Columbines. Many of these kids were bullied by classmates. The old saying ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me,’ isn’t true. Words hurt, incite and they kill.”

When he talks about the hate and intolerance in the world today, he says, “Some of you are going to be asked by your kids one day, ‘What did you do about it?’” Korenblit believes that it is the responsibility of each of us to stand up against hate and intolerance when we see it, and uses the Holocaust as an impressive example of why we should.

Ricki Walters
Regional Diversity Trainer/Investigator

A Sure Sign of Spring!
Mark Your Calendars for the…
RCTC Horticulture’s Spring Bedding Plant Sale

May 1: 11am - 2pm
May 2: 4 - 6pm
May 3: 11am - 2pm
May 4: 10am - 12noon
May 7: 4 - 6pm
May 8: 11am - 2pm
May 9: 12noon - 2pm

Condolences
It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Dr. Robert C. Wright (Supervising Dentist in the Dental Hygiene Program at RCTC from 1993 to 2003) on Tuesday, March 27, 2007. Dr. Wright was 81 years old. Our thoughts are with Dr. Wright's family.

Club Meetings This Week
Martial Arts Club meets M & W in SC108 from 8-10pm
Philosophy Club meets M from 6:30-7:30pm

Be Global...Join the Net Generation
Darlene Voeltz, Jean Marconett, Becky Henderson and Carol Haag will be traveling to Tanzania soon. They will be volunteering to improve the health and future of the Tanzanian people in Singida. One area of focus is mosquito netting to improve the citizen’s health. Mosquito nets cost $5 each and for every $20 invested in mosquito nets, the statistics say, one life is saved. In Past years, Dr. Julie Rodakowski, and Dr. Bonnie Mercer have also been involved in this project. This week the International Student Club will be hosting a fund raiser to help buy Mosquito netting. For a $1 donation you can wear The Net Generation button and support this worthy cause. The buttons will be available Tues- Friday in the Atrium area at noon or by contacting Glen Saponari, or Darlene Voeltz. Our goal is 20 (cost of $100). Come get your button and wear it this week to show our support for this worthy project.
Supalla Scribblings

Legislators in St. Paul are working diligently to get the financial bills heard in committees and moved onto the floor for votes. Last week was very busy as major Senate and House divisions began crafting and passing omnibus (funding) bills. Noteworthy movement includes the Senate passing an omnibus higher education bill. The House is crafting its higher education bill this week. Once the House and Senate bills exist, a conference committee will be named to iron out the differences between the two versions. After one agreed-upon bill is created and passed, the bills go back to the House and Senate for a vote; no amendments will be accepted. The Senate Higher Education bill totals $296 million in new money, a number that author and Higher Education Committee Chair Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, was not happy with. Overall, the bill funding provides Minnesota State Colleges and Universities with the following biennial funding: $104 million for inflation, $10 million for technology, $14.05 million for recruiting and retaining underrepresented students, and $8 million to eliminate the nonresident tuition rate at two-year campuses. The House is expected to pass a bill that could be $100 million larger than the Senate version.

This week the Senate acted on the capital bonding bill which totals $135 million for construction and renovation projects. The legislation includes $33.8 million for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. This includes $30 million for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Restoration at the campuses, including repairing leaky roofs, updating heating and cooling systems and ventilation. University Center’s share of the building is currently $4.5 million for roof replacement, tuck pointing, and life-safety upgrades. There is also $1.8 million for property acquisition at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, as well as, $2 million to buy the Bemidji High School property to expand Bemidji State University.

Congratulations to Scannell McCormick whose poem “Lot (Hermes in Tulips) Reykjavik 2005” was published in Bayou, a publication of the University of New Orleans.

The University of Minnesota’s Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs is honoring the Rochester Public Schools for the district’s collaboration with RCTC and Mayo to offer the Health Careers program. The program educates students about health care careers and opportunities. Mayo recently invested more than $1 million to renovate an 11,000 square foot facility in northwest Rochester dedicated to serve the 200 students currently enrolled. Many thanks to Jay Lee and Mike Bequette who have worked tirelessly to make this program a success!

The United States is falling behind other developed nations in terms of the share of its population with a college degree, and the gap will widen substantially unless the nation makes postsecondary education much more accessible, according to a report released by Jobs for the Future, a Boston-based research organization. If current patterns persist, the U.S. will have 15.6 million few bachelor’s and associate-degree holders than it needs to keep up with its top economic competitors in 2025, the report says. To avoid such an outcome, the nation needs to increase its annual degree production by more than 37 percent, which will require graduating many more students who are members of minority groups, from low-income families, or beyond the traditional college age.

Community College Facts at a Glance…

Demographics:
- Average Age – 29
- First Generation – 39%
- Women – 59%; Men – 41%
- Single Parents – 17%
- Minorities – 34%
- Non-U.S. Citizens – 8%

F-T Student Employment Status:
- Employed Full-time – 27%

P-T Student Employment Status:
- Employed Full-time – 50%

Degrees Awarded:
- Associate Degrees – 486,293
- Certificates – 235,999

Average Annual Tuition and Fees:
- $2,272

Community Colleges at the Forefront…

- 50% of new nurses and the majority of other new health-care workers are educated at community colleges
- Close to 100,000 international students attend community colleges – 39% of all international undergraduates in U.S.
- 95% of businesses and organizations that employ community college graduates recommend community college workforce education and training programs
- Close to 80% of the firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs are credentialed at community colleges
- The five hottest community college programs are registered nursing, law enforcement, licensed practical nursing, radiology and computer technologies
- The average expected lifetime earnings for a graduate with an associate degree are $1.6 million – about $400,000 more than a high school graduate earns

Belated St. Patrick’s Day Blessing…May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

Don
Egyptian Kingdom Tour
Have you ever wanted to see the Pyramids or cruise down the Nile River? ViAnn Olson (Mathematics) and Ivonne TjoeFat (Psychology) are organizing an educational tour to Egypt over Spring Break 2008 (3/14-3/23). Our second information session will be on Friday, May 4th at 11:00am in AT109.

Video/Panel Discussion
In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Victim Services and RCTC Health Services Present:

CHANGING A CULTURE:
ADDRESSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Please join us for a video/panel discussion addressing the culture of sexual violence specific to college campuses.

April 23, 2007
11:00-12:00: Video/discussion
12:00-1:00: Panel Presentation
CF 206/208

This event is structured such that each hour essentially stands alone. Therefore, students and/or employees may attend one or both of the hours.

Thank You
The family of Thomas Stephenson would like to extend a thank you to the entire RCTC community for their support during this difficult time. We would like to thank all those who attended his service and those who sent beautiful arrangements. We would also like to thank those who sent cards and kind words and those who gave memorial gifts in his name. Memorial gifts will be donated to Mayo Hospice, the Diabetes Foundation, and the Red Cross. Your thoughts, deeds and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jan, Alyssa and Family, and Benjamin

Crossings Classifieds
For Sale: White floor length flower girl dresses never worn; size 4, $40.00; size 12, $60.00 Call Rose Conway at 289-5464.

For Sale: 1998 StingRay 220SX with trailer - Excellent condition - $17,000. Call Rose Conway at 289-5464 or Joe at 272-8864.

For Sale: 1999 Split-level 4 bedroom home, 4 car garage, on 1/2 acre fenced backyard, 5 minutes to Rochester. Ceramic tile floors, hardwood floors, freshly painted-move in condition. $239,900. Call Rose Conway at 289-5464 or Joe at 272-8864.