A Look Back...

In the spring of 1996, Minnesota Riverland Technical College Rochester campus submitted a self-assessment to the Minnesota Quality Award. This would mark the beginning of the College's formal participation in Baldrige-based continuous improvement activities. Later that fall a site visit was conducted for the newly established Rochester Community and Technical College. The College ultimately received the silver level of recognition that year.

Crossings Attachments

Just a reminder that when you are viewing Crossings on-line, make sure to check-out the attachments for each issue (located at left on the front page). All you need to do is move your mouse over the type below the yellow word “Attachments” and your mouse will turn into a finger icon that you can click and bring up a .pdf file…just click the “back” button on your browser window to resume reading Crossings.

UCR Learning Center Dedication

On Monday, April 10 the University Center Rochester partners will dedicate the UCR Learning Center. The Learning Center has been made possible by a partnership with IBM Rochester through its Community Grants program. The Learning Center which opened earlier this year is focused on enhancing access to quality learning services and fostering student success in the areas of math and reading. The event is scheduled for 10:00 to 11:00 am in Atrium (AT) 209 on the UCR campus. Students and faculty will be on hand to discuss the impact that the new Learning Center has had on their learning and will provide software demonstrations. Following the dedication, a special announcement regarding a new collaboration between Rochester Community and Technical College and IBM will be announced.

April Tornado Drill

There will be a tornado safety drill at University Center Rochester following the state guidelines on Thursday, April 20, 2006. The drill will take place at 1:45PM. Faculty, please be aware of this time and be prepared to announce to your class the designated shelter. More information will be given closer to the date of the drill that will include the designated shelters for each building.

http://www.severeweather.state.mn.us/
Marketing Fact
According to the 2005-2006 ACT (Freshman) Class Profile Service Report, this year’s freshman class had an average ACT composite score of 19.8 - the highest in the past four years. However, the 493 RCTC students who took in the ACT represent the lowest participation in the past four years, despite increasing enrollment. The next lowest participation was in 2002-2003 with 572 students participating.

Visiting Scholar Lecture
Honor Shame & Gender: Core Values in Cultures of the Mideast: A lecture by Dr. Richard Rohrbaugh. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Friday April 7, 2006 – Coffman Rooms 206-208. Dr. Rohrbaugh is the Paul S. Wright Professor of Religious Studies (emeritus) at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Over a quarter century students have responded eagerly to the chance to learn from—or even assist—a pioneering scholar recognized as a founder of social science criticism of religious texts. His numerous books, journal articles, and essay collections place New Testament writings in the cultural context of the ancient Mediterranean world. This lecture is free and open to the public. Sponsors include UCR, RCTC Foundation and United Methodist Church and A Faith for Tomorrow Series.

Methamphetamine Presentation and UCR Health Fair this WEEK!
Lifestyle Fix 2006
Wednesday April 5
10:00-1:00 in the Atrium
In conjunction with the health fair...Vince Scheckel from the Olmsted County Sheriff’s Department will hold two breakout sessions on methamphetamine, "meth" 11:00 and again at 12:00 in CF206/208.
His talk will include a history of methamphetamine, the effects of meth on the user, family and society, and the ingredients used to manufacture meth. Please encourage students to attend.

Poetry Reading
IMAA, WSU-Rochester, and the RCTC Asian Student Organization invite you to join us for a poetry reading by U Sam Oeur, author of Crossing Three Wildernesses, a 2006 Minnesota Book Award Finalist. This event will begin at 6pm on Tuesday, April 18 in the Art Gallery/ Quiet Room on the University Center Rochester campus. The Art Gallery is on the second floor of the College Center Building, just across the hall from the entrance to the Hill Theatre.

It’s a Girl!
Congratulations to Othelmo and Jennifer da Silva on the birth of their daughter, Anna Othelia. Anna arrived at 3:05pm on Friday, March 24th, weighing in at 7 lbs. and 19 inches long.
Supalla Scribblings

The Rochester Higher Education Development Committee recommendations continue to be heard by various Legislative committees. To date, most of the testimony has been focused in the Senate, but this week the House Higher Education Finance Committee heard the recommendation for a University of Minnesota branch campus in Rochester and amended language to include $5 million in FY07, $5 million in FY08 and $6.3 million in FY09. The House has also initiated committee action on their bonding bill and hopes to have a proposal on the floor before Easter. I urge you to stay abreast of higher education legislative happenings by clicking on http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/index.html for daily and weekly legislative updates. Right now, it appears that both political parties want to avoid a repeat of last year, bring this session to a timely conclusion and hit the campaign trail.

Every so often, an e-mail, letter or conversation reminds me of how important it is to always remember that the actions of every one of us associated with the college…faculty, staff and students…are a reflection on this grand institution. Just such a message reached me this week. It was so powerful, I feel the need to share it with you (misspellings and all)...

Good Morning President Supalla,
I am compelled to write you of the experience I recently had with the Rochester Basketball Team and the fans that accompanied the team to the NJCAA Basketball Tournament held at SUNY Delhi, New York. I have assisted the tournament committee for several years as a team host. I work with the team, transportation, etc to assist in anyway I can to ensure that their experience is a pleasant one while at the tournament. I was assigned to assist the RCTC Yellowjackets this year and from the moment I met the first player, the coach and the rest of the team, I was thoroughly impressed. Coach Brian LaPlante welcomed and accepted me as a member of his team. One could easily understand why the team had several impressive wins at the end of their season which propelled the team to the national tournament. Coach LaPlante repeatedly reminded his players to be polite to all they came into contact with. At the annual banquet he insisted that they wear ties. His actions on the court as well as off impressed many in attendance at the tournament. Assistant coaches Mike Bonde and Steve Schroeder reinforced Coach LaPlante's philosophies. Both were a pleasure to work with. The players, well they were simply wonderful. They treated me with respect every moment of our time together. I won't forget Sean, Cory, Bob, Joey, Tyler and all of the other members of the team. Immediately, the local fans as well as many of the tournament personnel wanted the Yellowjackets to win the tournament. The hard work ethics demonstrated on the court and the politeness exhibited off the court compelled many to root for the team. The Yellowjacket fans, well what can be said for a group of individuals who are willing to travel twenty one hours to watch basketball. Several times during the tournament attendees of the tournament spoke of their friendliness. I have never hosted a team which I was so proud being a part of. I can only hope and pray that the Yellowjackets will return next year to the NJCAA Basketball Tournament. Rochester Community and Technical College should be very proud of the team, the coaches, and the fans.
Thank you very much. - Steve Oles

Campus Kudos...

Warren Kemplin, Customized Training and Business Development Director, returned from Washington carrying a signed contract with the National Association of Home Care and Hospice to provide Internet health care training for front line providers across the nation. This contract represents the ultimate market endorsement of the vision and strategies put in place over the last few years. More than 4,000 Minnesota health care providers have already accessed the training. Preliminary discussions with executives from Utah, Iowa and Michigan have indicated strong interest. Congratulations, Warren. This new contract focuses national attention on RCTC’s continuing education efforts.

Julie Rodakowski presided over a very well-attended Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony that saw 64 new members inducted into this international two-year college honor society. Bob Sanborn encouraged inductees to consider enrolling in honor’s offerings and Ginny Wright-Peterson delivered a thought-provoking “Living Like Weasels” keynote address. Don’t hesitate to contact any one of these staff members if you want more information regarding PTK, the Honors Program or weasels. Congratulations to our smart students and talented staff.

Hope you took advantage of the opportunity to see Jerry Casper’s rendition of “Rumpelstiltskin.” What a play!

If you get a chance, congratulate MnSCU’s four new two-year college presidents…Larry Lundblad, Central Lakes College; Anne Temte, Northland Community and Technical College; Kathryn Jeffery, Hennepin Technical College; and Joyce Helens, St. Cloud Technical College.

Thought for the week…

You know there’s a problem with the education system when you realize that out of the three R’s; only one begins with an R.
- Dennis Miller

No problem here…there’s an “R” in RCTC!

Don
**World Wide Pinhole Day**

Join the RCTC Art Club in celebrating World Wide Pinhole Day on April 30, 2006. WWPD is an annual international event created to promote and celebrate the art of pinhole photography. People throughout the world take some time off from the increasingly technological world we live in to participate in the simple act of making a pinhole photograph. The Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day is held each year on the last Sunday in April.

Pinhole photographs are made with a light tight box (camera) minus a lens. Often the cameras are handmade, using materials normally found in the kitchen and garage. Participants are invited to attend one of two workshop sessions to learn the basics of pinhole photography and build a simple camera. On April 30, World Wide Pinhole Day, the RCTC darkroom will be open for participants from 10AM-4PM, to shoot and develop pinhole photographs. There will be lots help! You do not need experience in photography.

Pinhole basics and camera construction workshops (pre-registration is required):
1-4 PM, Friday, April 7
1-4 PM, Saturday, April 8
Both sessions will be held in AH201.

Pinhole shooting and printing
10AM-4PM, Sunday, April 30

Pre-register with almae.larson@roch.edu. Be sure to use pinhole as your subject when sending the e-mail. Indicate which camera construction workshop you will be attending. First come first served. Space is limited. The workshop is free. You need to bring an oatmeal box or Pringles can…or something that’s cylinder. It needs a cover and should not be plastic. Other materials will be provided at the camera construction workshop.

Check out [http://www.pinholeday.org](http://www.pinholeday.org) for more information on this World Wide event. Galleries with pinholes from previous years, as well as resources are provided on this website.