Upcoming Fire/Tornado Drills on Campus
Drills scheduled as follows:

Fire Drill - April 14th - 12:50 PM
Tornado Drill - April 21st - 1:45 PM (City sirens will sound.)

Please take the appropriate action for each drill. The Crisis Management plan is located on the security website. [http://www.roch.edu/dept/security/pdf/plan.pdf](http://www.roch.edu/dept/security/pdf/plan.pdf)

*Note: when a tornado warning siren is activated by the City please proceed immediately to a designated shelter area. Do not wait for the internal warning alarms to sound.*

**Student Art Exhibit**
The opening reception for the Annual Student Art Exhibit was held Tuesday, March 29, 2005 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Art Gallery. Thirty-three students entered a variety of media, which will be on display March 28 – May 4 in the Art Gallery (also known as the Quiet Lounge, located near Hill Theatre). Art Gallery viewing hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Awards were presented to Wanda Friedrich for stoneware entry titled ‘Easter Han Pigs Farm’; Nick Kallies for graphite drawing, ‘Jesus’; Grace Lumboy for a black and white photograph, untitled; Ann Thompson, for a porcelain wood-fired bowl; Carly Touhy for a pinhole photography, ‘Reaching Light’; and Lynn Vitale for oil painting, ‘Goblet’. Each award recipient received a $50 gift card to Utrecht for art supplies.

**UCR Faculty Lecture Series**
Join us to hear MIKE MUTSCHELKNAUS’ (RCTC) lecture topic of *Somali Motivations for Attending College: The Moment of “Epiphany”* on THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1:00 PM in the Hill Theatre. For more information, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings.

**Staff Development Day Reminder**
All College Staff Development Day
Wednesday, April 13
UCR Campus - Hill Theater
See last week’s Crossings for the day’s agenda.
**Marketing Fact**
The changing faces of our students: From Fall 2000 to Fall 2003, the percent of RCTC's total headcount under the age of 20 dropped from 39.7% to 34.7%. Meanwhile the percent of RCTC's total headcount between the ages of 25 and 34 rose from 16.9% to 19.2% in that same timespan. (MnSCU Fact Book)

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**Visual Merchandising Displays**
Please take time to observe the window displays created by the Visual Merchandising Class which will be up until April 18th. A new vendor is the Rochester Art Center Gallery Shop. Merchandise displayed represents a variety of price points some affordable for students. Students enjoy FREE admission to all exhibitions at the Rochester Art Center.

Rochester Art Center Gallery Shop-EH206 Window Display
Barnes and Noble-Library Entrance Glass Case
Ginny's Fine Fabrics-4th Floor Student Center
Party Lite-Window by Human Resource Office
Kismet-Consignment & Home Decor-Tunnel Window

The participation of Rochester and area retailers provides excellent visual merchandising experience for the students. Please mention to the retailers that you saw their merchandise at RCTC, University Center Rochester.

Thank you.

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**Thank You**
Dear Colleagues and Friends: Thank you for all of your kind words, cards, and support during the recent loss of Kevin’s mother, and Teresa’s mother-in-law. “Helping Each Other” is what we are all here to do… and at this particular time- it is appreciated.

Kevin Dobbe and Teresa Tolmi

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**Condolences**
Condolences are extended to Jason Meier whose brother-in-law, Traian Pop, passed away on Thursday, March 31. Our thoughts are with Jason and his family.

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**CALL FOR ENTRIES - FIRST ANNUAL RCTC HOMECOMING LOGO CONTEST**
Rochester Community and Technical College is seeking a logo design to display on our 2005 "Homecoming" buttons and other homecoming publications. For additional details, please see the attachment to this publication.
After the Capital Investment Conference Committee reached a compromise Tuesday, it looked like we had a bonding bill. Then, on the floor of the House Wednesday afternoon, it ran into a major snag. But, Wednesday evening both the House and Senate passed the bill and moved it to the Governor’s Office for signature. Once signed, UCR will begin design work on a $12,759,000 Health Sciences project that includes renovation of Rockenbach Gym, remodeling of vacated nursing lab space in Plaza, and community dental and medical clinics at Heintz Center. Many thanks to UCR staff, community advocates and local legislators who worked very hard to make the project a reality. The university in Rochester bill has now been heard by two House and two Senate committees and has been laid over to the respective Higher Education Finance omnibus bills. Further action on the proposal is not likely until near the end of the legislative session. The legislature will now begin to seriously grapple with the biennial budget bill. It appears to this outsider that the two sides are growing farther apart, tempers are on the rise and we’re in for a rather feisty (and maybe extended) session. Action on the budget is critical because we are rapidly approaching the end of the fiscal year. Good financial planning for FY06 is impossible without knowing what our state appropriation will be, establishing tuition rates (rates will be impacted by the size of the appropriation) and knowing what contract negotiations will cost. Please continue to stay tuned to what’s happening in St. Paul, especially relative to those issues impacting higher education. Let our legislators know you want them to act on the budget sooner rather than later.

Last week the Star Tribune’s Lori Sturdevant wrote an editorial very favorable to MnSCU. In part, Lori wrote…

Lakes and loons might have little to do with it. But many economists say the thing that has most made Minnesota a standout among Upper Midwestern states is the educational attainment of its people. Minnesota now tops the nation in the share of the population with a high school diploma, at 92.3 percent. That’s only a few percentage points ahead of the neighbors. But Minnesota leaves Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota in the dust when comparing share of the population with college degrees. The state ranks ninth, with nearly a third of its people having a degree to their credit. The neighbor that ranks closest, Wisconsin, ranks 24th. The advantages Minnesota derives from its well-educated population can hardly be overstated. A state so blessed by education should pay particular attention to increasing signs of trouble in the education pipeline. The high urban high school dropout rate, the minority-race achievement gap, signs of declining college participation among the poor – all warrant an urgent response from state leaders. The most recent signs were contained in results released last week of a student survey by MnSCU – the state’s lowest-cost institutions of higher learning. Tuition at state colleges and universities is up 60 percent since 2000. Tuition costs are such a stretch that four out of five of those surveyed hold jobs and go to school simultaneously. For many, the job goes way beyond a few hours per week. Full-time students work an average of 28 hours per week; part-timers work an average of 36 hours a week. Even with all that work, students report mounting debt. A third of those surveyed will graduate with student loans exceeding $10,000. That’s in addition to credit card debt. A third said they are using credit cards to cover some of their educational costs, and most said those bills won’t be paid in full this semester. Of those surveyed, 17 percent said they had to drop out of college for at least one semester to earn more money. Half of those juggling work and school said their degree completion would be delayed as a result. Nearly two-thirds said they lacked sufficient study time. This picture ought to bother the stewards of this state’s future – particularly those at the Legislature. After four years of underfunding, the Legislature needs to be generous enough with higher education to keep tuition increases at MnSCU institutions out of double-digit range in the next two years. Keeping Minnesota strong requires keeping the college grads coming.

The Office of the Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa is pleased to announce that RCTC’s Omicron Chapter received special commendation during the Minn-Wi-Kota Regional Convention. Our PTK Chapter fulfilled all requirements to the distinction of being named a “1 Star Chapter.” This commendation recognizes the chapter’s successful attainment of goals as presented in the Society’s Five Star Chapter Development Program. The RCTC chapter will also receive international recognition by being cited on the PTK Society website and in the PTK Chapter Progress Report mailed to all college presidents this summer. Congratulations to Barb Mollberg, PTK Advisor, and Omicron student leadership.
If you haven’t checked out the Annual Student Art Exhibit 2005 now on display in the Quiet Lounge Art Gallery, I urge you to take a few minutes to stop by and marvel at the works of our talented students. Almae Larson has done a wonderful job as the UCR curator, coordinating an interesting variety of exhibitions this year. Thanks, Almae!

Congratulations to Vice President Mike Bequette who was elected Chairman of the Board for Southern Minnesota Quality Broadcasting (KSMQ), Inc. RCTC is a charter member of the public/private partners that now own and operate KSMQ.

For the first time in my 33 years on campus, RCTC’s two-year technical programs face some potentially serious competition. The Minnesota School of Business has announced it will build a two-story, 40,000 square foot center in northwest Rochester. The first students will begin classes October 3. The school offers associate degrees in business, medical fields and technology. The school will begin with a staff of 25 to 50 and expects to have about 200 students enrolled this fall; 1000 within three years.

Thought for the week…

_He who thinks himself the wisest is generally the least so._

I’m looking forward to some exciting learning at both NCA and next Wednesday’s staff development day. See you there.

_Don_

Scholarships

1. MPWA Technical College Scholarship application - Award of four $750 scholarship to students entering a civil engineering, public works administration, or closely related program are encouraged to apply- Please call Joanne Schentzel: 952-563-4629 or Jschentzel@ci.bloomington.mn.us or Shelly Pederson: 952-563-4866 or spederson@ci.bloomington.mn.us Specify that you need a technical application. Preference given to MPWA members, spouse, or dependent. **Deadline: June 10, 2005.**

2. ACCOUNTING MAJORS: Winona State University is offering a scholarship - $500- for a community college transfer student who will commence WSU studies either summer 2006-or fall 2006, declare ACCOUNTING major and enroll in ACCT 311 or higher level ACCT course for fall 2006. Minimum 23 ACT and minimum 3.5 GPA; student must pledge to work toward a B.S. in Accounting at WSU and maintain a course load of at least 12 credits. Participation in extracurricular activities and letter from candidate that accompanies application form will be considered in the selection process. **Deadline to apply: November 1 2005** Application available at the RCTC Foundation Office HC 109 or UCR counseling center.

3. MARY JANE YOUNG SCHOLARSHIP: $3000 Awarded to a re-entry undergraduate transfer student accepted for admission at College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN. Applicant must be over 23 and either single woman with custody of children or a married woman who delayed her education to raise a family. She must have completed at 30 semester credits with a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or above. Recipient must be enrolled at St. Catherine at least half-time (8 cr.). Two faculty recommendation need to be attached with the application. **Deadline: April 29, 2005** Forms available at the RCTC Foundation Office HC 109 or UCR counseling center.