April 18, 2005
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SPRING SEMESTER EDITION

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Business Office Deadlines
**REQUISITIONS OR REQUESTS ENTERED INTO PCS** for the purchasing of supplies, equipment, payment to speakers/consultants, repairs etc. MUST BE in the Purchasing Dept. (June Meitzner EA135) no later than Friday, May 6, 2005.

**REQUISITIONS FOR THE USE OF A LOCAL PURCHASE ORDER** (over the counter purchase) can be used up to and including Friday, June 3, 2005.

**ALL TRAVEL EXPENSE REPORTS** for travel done from July 1, 2004 thru June 30, 2005 must be in the Cashiers Office on or before Wednesday, July 6, 2005.

STUDENT LIFE accounts are included in these deadline dates!!

Purchasing questions can be directed to June Meitzner X-7213. Budget questions can be directed to June Meitzner X-7213, Mary Long X-3132 or Ruth Siefert X-7472. Travel questions can be directed to Mike O'Dea X-7212 or Ruth Siefert X-7472.

Upcoming RCTC Concerts
Jazz Band/Aires - April 20 and 21 - 7:30pm - tickets are $5 each; Concert Band/Concert Choir Spring Concert - April 27 and 28 - 7:30pm in Hill Theatre - tickets are $5 each. Call Rhonda Jensson at 285-7200 for more information or to reserve tickets (CC401).

Upcoming Tornado Drill on Campus
Tornado Drill - April 21st - 1:45 PM (City sirens will sound.) Please take the appropriate action for this 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)

UCR Faculty Lecture Series
Join us to hear MIKE MUTSCHHELKNAUS' (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.
Marketing Fact
RCTC Fall-to-Spring retention rates have been steadily increasing. Of all Fall 2004 enrolled students, 78.1% either enrolled again in Spring 2005 or completed their degree program. This is up from 73.7% in Fall 2001-to-Spring 2002 retention/graduation.

Employee News
It is with much joy and excitement that we announce a new addition to the RCTC Family. Cole Richard Smith (son of Pam and Nate Smith - Academic Advisor) arrived on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 11:29pm, weighing in at 7 lbs 3 oz and 20 inches long. Mother, Father, Son and Grandma Ruth are all doing great! Congratulations, and welcome to the RCTC Family.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Wirt (nursing instructor) and her daughter Abigail who was chosen as the Winona County Dairy Princess. Abigail will compete at the regional level in May. Good luck from your RCTC fans!

Crossings Classifieds
For Sale: Graco high chair and matching play pen. Good condition. $20.00 each or both for $35.00. Contact Shelly Peterson 285-7474 or 932-4290.

Horse Farm For Sale: 12.68 acres, creek, outbuildings. 3 miles to RCTC on main road. Well kept older home. $265,000. Serious inquiries only. Call Karen Fredin at 507-288-0436/leave msg.

Supalla’s Scribblings

It was nice to have Governor Pawlenty come to Rochester and reenact the signing of the bonding bill. It was a pleasure to be given a moment to thank the Governor, legislators, GRAUC, Chamber of Commerce, community reps, faculty/staff and especially the students who lobbied to secure the $12,759,000 in funding for the Health Sciences project. The project will allow us to save a structurally-sound Rockenbach Gym, convert it into a two-story health education instructional facility, renovate existing nurse education space into large classrooms and develop community dental and primary care clinics at Heintz Center. The UCR project is part of the $213.6 million appropriation that included funding for all 32 projects on the MnSCU request list. The appropriation includes $41.5 million for repairs and safety improvements to roofs and mechanical and electrical systems at colleges and universities and nearly $11 million to renovate and upgrade science, workforce and technology classrooms. That’s the good news!

Shortly after returning from the Governor’s press conference, the Office of the Chancellor released some depressing legislative news. This week the House Ways and Means Committee adopted a budget target for each of the finance divisions. The resolution is complicated because it contains two options depending on whether the House passes the racino gambling bill yielding an additional $210 million. A number of amendments to increase the spending level were offered but none were approved. The Higher Education targets were set at a best case scenario of the original Governor’s recommendation ($107 million for MnSCU) plus a relatively small increase of $2 million for higher education. This is the first option and is dependent on passage of the racino bill. The second option set the target with a reduction of $23.4 million from the governor’s recommendation if the racino bill doesn’t pass the House. Please continue to communicate with legislators that these reductions are not acceptable and that MnSCU needs and deserves its $130 million enrollment adjustment and $66.5 million in new initiatives.

Thanks to the Staff Development Planning Committee who worked hard to coordinate a very worthwhile April 13. If you haven’t completed the electronic survey assessing the day’s activities, please do so today. Your feedback will improve future programs and help plan upcoming staff development activities.

You don’t have to leave UCR to join more than 70,000 business professional around the country for an unforgettable day of leadership development training. On Friday, April 29, from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. you can learn from some of America’s most recognized and respected motivational presenters. Renowned coaches, authors and leadership experts will be presented via a live satellite feed to room HB117 at Heintz Center. If you’re interested in registering for “The Influential Leader – Unleashing the Power of People,” simply contact the Chamber of Commerce at 288-1122. Cost is $140.

Last week I shared some summary information about a recent survey of MnSCU students related to how they manage their educational debt. The survey found students are:

- Working many hours to pay college expenses. More than 81% of the students work and over half of these students work at least 30 hours a week while attending college. Seventeen percent work more than 40 hours per week.

- Largely bearing the financial burden alone. Only 25% of those surveyed said their parents pay some or all of their educational expenses and 95% reported their parents are not helping them repay their student loans.

- Having less time to study because they work so much. More than 60% of the students said that working limits their study time and nearly 40% said working prevented them from enrolling in a least one course they wanted to take.

- Delaying their studies. About 17% of the students interviewed said they have stopped taking all courses for at least one semester to earn more money for educational expenses.

- Resorting to credit cards for tuition, fees, books and supplies. A quarter of the students reported they used credit cards to pay a portion of tuition and fees this semester. More than one-third used credit cards for other educational expenses. Most of these students said they will not be able to pay off their credit card balances this semester.
RCTC’s direct competition from other two-year higher education providers has been almost nonexistent. That will change this fall when the Minnesota School of Business opens a new, two-story, 40,000 square foot center in northwest Rochester, just north of the former Aviary restaurant. The first students will begin classes on October 3. The School is expected to open a temporary office soon and will open an admissions office in Rochester on May 1. The Minnesota School of Business offers associate degrees in business, medical fields and technology areas. School officials say the school will begin with a staff of 25 to 50 and expects to enroll 200 students this fall. The school has 700 to 1,000 students at its Twin Cities campus and expects to have that many students in Rochester within three years. The school has branches in Plymouth, Brooklyn Center, Richfield, Shakopee and St. Cloud.

It’s appropriate, I believe, that as another academic year draws to a close, I share an e-mail I received this week…

SUBJECT: What Do Teachers Make?
The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, “What’s a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?” He reminded the other dinner guests what some say about teachers: “Those who can, do. Those who can’t, teach.” To stress this point he said to another guest, “You’re a teacher, Susan. Be honest. What do you make?” Susan, who had a reputation for honest and frankness replied…”You want to know what I make. I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of study hall in absolute silence. You want to know what I make. I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them write. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math and perfect their final drafts in English. I make them understand that if you have the brains, and follow your heart, and if someone ever tries to judge you by what you make, you must pay no attention because they just didn’t learn.” Susan paused and then continued. “You want to know what I make. I MAKE A DIFFERENCE! What do you make?”

Thanks to each of you for making a difference. You’ve touched lives in ways you’ll never know.

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