Plan to Celebrate with the 2006-2007 Graduating Candidates on May 10th!

In appreciation of your dedication and commitment during the past year, you are invited to attend a President’s Reception from 4:30pm to 7:30pm in the All American Room on the 2nd floor of the UCR Regional Sports Center.

The RCTC Commencement Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10 in the Field House at the UCR Regional Sports Center. Assembly for the Commencement Ceremony will be held in the lobby of the UCR Regional Sports Center promptly at 6:45 p.m. Special seating will be provide for faculty and staff adjacent to the stage. Students are looking forward to their special night and appreciate your support.

Please join your colleagues (faculty, staff, and administration) in the celebration by walking in the processional. A gown is not necessary, but if you’d like to borrow one "gowns-to-loan" are available in the Office of the Vice President in SS202. Simply come by and pick one out.

This year’s commencement marks an important milestone in RCTC’s history. The 2007 graduation candidates will become our 90th graduating class! The Commencement Committee has secured a very special speaker to commemorate this event…our very own retired professor, Tom Ostrom. We think it will be truly special for students, staff and guests alike so please plan to attend and support our candidates and their accomplishments.

Receptions This Week!
The Business Department is hosting a retirement reception to pay tribute to our colleague, Suzanne Dinusson, on May 2 from 12-2 in the Atrium Faculty Lounge AT302. Hope to see you there!

Retirement Reception is Thursday – See attachment to this week’s Crossings.
**Marketing Fact**
We are often our harshest critics. The November 2006 Survey of Stakeholders asked the extent to which respondents agreed with the statement "RCTC is effective in educating students for life and work." Scores were then divided amongst respondents who are either employees or students at RCTC ("Internal") versus everyone else ("External"). It was found that the score given by External respondents rose slightly since 2005 while Internal perceptions dropped significantly.

**Academic Accolades**
Congratulations to Lori Stoltz (English) who recently completed her MFA from Hamline University. She is now working on publishing the poetry that was the basis of her MFA project. Some of you may have heard Lori read her poetry on campus; if not, next time she reads be sure to attend.

**Concert ~ Monday!**
You are cordially invited to the "Circuits and Skins" concert which will take place in Hill Theatre on Monday night at 7:00PM. The concert is FREE and open to the public.

The RCTC World Drum Ensemble, under the direction of Denny McGuire, will perform music from around the world with this 24-piece percussion ensemble... they will also be joined by student musicians to perform a contemporary Carlos Santana selection.

There will also be original music and video compositions created by RCTC/Winona State music students. The eclectic nature and level of creativity is always inspiring!

FREE Admission... FREE food after the concert! What more could we ask for? Hope to see you at this fun event!

**Bedding Plant**
**Sale hours**
- 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
- May 10: 11am - 1pm

**Weekly funny!**
Snapshots at jasonlove.com

"I knew we didn't have enough blocks for this thing."

**Crossings Classifieds**
For Sale: 2-story townhouse for sale in NW Rochester. $149,900. 1,400 sq. ft., 2-car garage, vaulted ceiling, skylight, appliances included. Great neighborhood one block from bike trail. MLS:2928786 listed through Newcastle Realty, LLC (client: Leonard Goldfine)
Contact Jan Murry for viewing: 507-281-2586
OPEN HOUSE: Sunday April 29, 1-4pm; Saturday May 5, 1-3pm; Sunday May 6, 2-5pm. Contact Jan Murry: 507-281-2586 (client: Leonard Goldfine)

**Lost and Found**
Lost & Found is OVERFLOWING!! If you have lost anything this semester, and haven't found it yet, you might want to stop at the Atrium Information Desk, Security Office EA101, or Julie Hager HB100 at the Heintz Center to see if it's been found. Just some of the items collected so far this semester include clothing, cell phones, textbooks and jewelry. All items not picked up by May 10 will be donated to a nonprofit organization.

**Club Meeting**
Martial Arts Club meets M & W from 8-10pm in SC108.
The academic year winds down with a number of kudos for faculty and staff…

- Bret Fuller and Steve Monson have been selected to participate in the 2007-08 cohort of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Luoma Leadership Academy Program.
- The Veteran’s Family Reintegration Academy held last weekend at UCR attracted more than 200 participants. I was joined at the RCTC recruiting table by Stan Cram, Janell Holter, Chris Wolf, Jim Kehoe, Robert Ekstam and Gregg Wright. Almost 3,000 Minnesota Guard will be returning this summer, some just prior to the start of fall semester classes. Chancellor McCormick has requested that all MnSCU institutions do whatever possible to accommodate the enrollment and retention of veterans, part of the State’s largest reintegration in history.
- Paul Kinion, math faculty member, had the article, “Telling Time with Quaternions,” published in the March edition of The Compendium, which is the Journal of the North American Sundial Society.
- Betsy Kennedy is a contributing author of “Chapter 54 – Post Traumatic Stress Disorders” in the Complete Review for NCLE-RN, published by Thomson/Delmar.
- Nancy Manahan, former English instructor, and co-writer Becky Bohan, wrote Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully: A Journey With Cancer and Beyond. The book is about Manahan’s sister-in-law who taught mental health nursing at Minnesota State University – Mankato. Nancy will read and sign the book from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., May 4 at the downtown Barnes and Noble bookstore.
- Thanks to all of you who contributed almost 1,300 new and gently used children’s books in memory of Judy Lindman. The book drive was a success thanks in part to generous donations from the Class of 2007, RCTC students, and community members. Nancy will read and sign the book from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., May 4 at the downtown Barnes and Noble bookstore.
- The book drive was the service project of this year’s Leadership RCTC cohort. The donated books are inscribed and donated to the Crisis Nursery, Ronald McDonald House, Mayo-Eugenio Litta Children’s Hospital and the Women’s Shelter. What a great tribute to Judy from her RCTC family!
- Glen Saponari coordinated a gathering of Chinese international students and Kathy Wang’s Chinese foreign language students. Students had a great time practicing their Chinese, sharing Chinese writings, exchanging contact information, and enjoying Chinese cuisine amid Chinese decorations.
- Rochester Public Schools has won an innovation award from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs for the district’s collaboration with Mayo Clinic and RCTC. Together, the partners have developed the Health Science Careers program that educates students about health care careers and opportunities. Mayo Clinic recently invested more than $1 million to renovate an 11,000 square foot facility for classroom and lab space for the 200+ students.
- The National Junior College Athletic Association has awarded the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission (partnering with RCTC) the 2009-2011 Division III national women’s basketball tournament. Games will be played at the UCR Regional Sports Center.
- RCTC nursing students out-performed students from other programs around the state in the latest Board of Nursing exams. Ninety-nine percent of RCTC’s RN students passed the exam; 96.6 percent of PN students passed. This is a great tribute to the dedication of our students and the high quality teaching of our faculty and staff.
- Suzanne Dinusson and RCTC’s Retail Merchandising students were the focus of significant media attention at the Salvation Army’s press conference opening their new Thrift Store next to K-Mart. Suzanne poured her heart and soul into coordinating the renovation and organization of the store and her students volunteered more than 1,000 hours of labor readying the store for the grand opening. If you haven’t stopped in, it’s worth a visit.
- Janell Holter and the RCTC TRIO team hosted the Tri-State TRIO conference at the Kahler Hotel this week. Almost 300 TRIO colleagues from Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota were educated and entertained at the annual event.
- RCTC’s Horticulture Tech program, in cooperation with the American Nursery and Landscape Association and Sargent’s Nursery, will be planting a tree in the RCTC SMART Garden in memory of the students and staff who lost their lives at Virginia Tech. Sargent’s will provide the tree, the Association a plaque, and the students will coordinate the event. Please watch for a date and time of the event and join in if your schedule permits.
- The MnSCU Foundation held its tenth annual reception to recognize and thank supporters who have given generously to the foundations of MnSCU colleges and universities. This year’s keynote speaker was RCTC grad, Nancy McMorran. Nancy is a Senior Vice President at Delta Dental and current president of the MnSCU Foundation Board. Nancy asked me to share her thanks for the excellent education she received at RCC, the basis for her advancement to senior vice president.

Thought for the Week

Spring has sprung! And time remembered is grief forgotten, And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,
And in green underwood and cover blossom by blossom the spring begins.
~ British Poet Algernon Swinburne (1837 – 1909)