A Look Back...

Sixty-five years ago in 1941, RJC graduated its largest class with 39 students to participate in commencement exercises. The commencement address was given by Bernard Ridder, publisher of the Saint Paul Pioneer Press. The event was held in the Central school Auditorium.

Retirement Reception

You are cordially invited to a reception for Rochester Community and Technical College's 2005-2006 Retirees: Erv Berg, Beverly Hawkinson and John Murray

Monday, May 8, 2006
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in CF206/208
Brief Program at 2:30 p.m.

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 on May 10 in the Field House at the Sports Center. Assembly for the ceremony will be held in the lobby of the Sports Center promptly at 6:45pm. Special seating will be provided 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.

If you have a family member graduating from RCTC and you would like to present the diploma to them, please contact Stan Cram at 280-3133. This is a great way to expand the meaning of RCTC "family" by demonstrating pride in academic accomplishments and bring a nice personal touch to the ceremony.
Marketing Fact
While there is general agreement among sub-sets of students regarding what is most important to them at RCTC, there are still some notable differences. For example, students of color (non-white) gave higher importance scores than white students for "Students are made to feel welcome on this campus" and "Library resources and services are adequate." Conversely, white students gave higher importance ratings to "Classes are scheduled at times that are convenient for me" and "The amount of student parking space on campus is adequate."

Groundbreaking – THIS WEEK!!
UCR staff, faculty and students are invited to attend the Health Sciences Building Groundbreaking Ceremony on Wednesday, May 3rd. A brief program will be held at 11:00am. The event will be held outside on the grassy area west of the former Rockenbach Gym. Attendees will have an opportunity to view architectural drawings of the renovated Health Sciences Building, the Amphitheater and also the Migrant Health and Dental Clinics at Heintz Center.

RMDS Vintage Fashion Show and Tea
The Retail Merchandising Program students enrolled in History of Costume would like to invite you to “Springthyme Tea and Vintage Fashion Show” held as a benefit for Mayowood and Historic Sites. A flier with more information and an RSVP form is attached to this week’s Crossings (see attachment section on page one). Please note: RSVP May 7th.

12th Annual Yellowjacket Golf
Spend Friday June 9th on the links, shooting a round of golf and sharing a fun-filled day with friends. Prizes, drawings, dinner and a great round of golf with cart are included in the $75.00 fee. A tax deductible portion will help support the RCTC Foundation and Champa Kereakos Scholarships. Plan to be part of the Best Shot Tee Off at 11:30 a.m. on Friday June 9, 2006. For more information or to get registration forms, contact the RCTC Foundation Office: 281-7771

Employee News
Congratulations to Mark and Jennifer Schnaedter on the birth of their son Nolan Travis. Nolan arrived on Friday, April 21, weighing in at 7lbs, 13 oz. and was 19 3/4" long.

Congratulations and best wishes to Matt Frank on his engagement to Amber Bastyr. They are planning a June 24th wedding!

Condolences to Max Gernand whose father-in-law, Kenneth Carlson, passed away on Thursday, April 27. Our thoughts are with Max and his family.

Applied Music Recital
There will be a music recital on May 3 at 7:00pm in Hill Theater featuring the voice and piano students of Sue Ockey and Gary Sprague. Free admission. Hope to see you there!
RCTC is seeking authority from The Higher Learning Commission, through MnOnline, to offer degree programs through distance delivery methods. These online programs would not replace traditional programs but would allow RCTC to expand so that programs are not restricted by time and space. Several exciting changes would occur should this approval be granted. The College would increase its student base, student options would grow, ideas and new ways of doing business would occur, our reputation as a “cutting edge provider” would be enhanced and our vision to become a gateway to world class learning opportunities realized. On Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, a three-person team, lead by Dr. Larry Lundblad, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at South Central College and newly appointed President of Central Lakes College, will be on campus for an accreditation visit. Please be helpful, cooperative and respond honestly to questions. If you have questions regarding the visit, please contact Scott Sahs who is leading a great team that has drafted the Institutional Change study and is coordinating the onsite visit.

Not much has changed legislatively in the last week. Higher education continues to wait for the bonding conference committee to iron out the House and Senate differences, vote and send the bill to Governor Pawlenty. Work continues on the higher education omnibus bill which includes several items of importance to Rochester, MnSCU and RCTC. Stay tuned via your favorite media service or check out the MnSCU update at http://www.mnscu.edu/about/legislative/index.html.

Campus news and notes…

- Beth Diekmann has been chosen to participate in the 2006-07 Luoma Leadership Academy Program. Beth was selected from among many talented faculty and staff within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. During the next year, Beth will spend two intensive one-week sessions at the Riverwood Inn and Conference Center in Monticello. During the intervening year between the one-week sessions, she will participate in an action learning project with team members from her cohort. Way to go, Beth!

- Faculty, staff, students and the community are invited to the Health Sciences Center groundbreaking scheduled for 11 a.m., Wednesday, May 3 on the grass just west of Rockenbach Gym. See you there!

- Congratulations to the AD Nursing faculty and staff! A report of the first quarter RN candidates who passed the state licensure exam showed 50 RCTC grads took the exam and all 50 passed…WOW! No other cohorts of two- or four-year public or private AD nursing programs in Minnesota scored a perfect 100 percent pass rate. Nice job!

- Mary Olson was presented a beautiful clock and RCTC plaque for being recognized with an Exemplary Leadership Award at the Chair Academy’s 15th Annual International Conference, April 19-22 in Tucson, Arizona. The Chair Academy provides first-class worldwide leadership training for post-secondary leaders. Congratulations, Mary!

- PTK President Matt Schimek presented a plaque to Kathy Olson, honoring her as this year’s Teacher of the Year, at a college reception on April 27. The Teacher of the Year award is very special as the winner is selected by students. Kathy, long-time faculty member in BTEC and medical programs, is especially deserving. Congratulations, Kathy!

A recent survey released by College Parents of America provides evidence of high parental involvement with college students. Parents of today’s college students are often referred to as “helicopter parents” for their hovering habits. Seventy-four percent of survey respondents indicated they communicated with their student two or three times a week and one in three did so at least once a day. The ease with which parents can now contact their children – via cell phone, e-mail, or text message – is the main reason for the high level of communication. Ninety percent said they used cell phones to keep in touch, 58 percent frequently used e-mail and 75 percent said they actually visited the college campus at least once during each semester. More than half reported they were “much more involved” than their parents were while they were in college. The survey found that parents’ top concern regarding their children was their academic work, although the topic that students most often sought advice from their parents about was finances.

Retired Coach John Wooden lists five “Rules for 2006” that serve as this issue’s Thought for the Week:

1) Don’t ask a question if you can’t live with the answer.
2) Observe everything; admire little.
3) Rarely resist the opportunity to keep your mouth shut.
4) If you want a new idea, read an old book.
5) Never argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell which of you is the idiot.

Mark your calendars and plan to join your colleagues on May 8 for the RCTC Retirement Reception, May 10 employee reception followed by Commencement and May 11 staff development day.

Have a great week!

Don
American Business Women's Association "Golfing for Scholarships"

Each year our organization donates $5,000 for local scholarships. This is one of our biggest fundraisers. To date our organization has raised almost $100,000 for national and local scholarships. Have some fun and help us raise money for scholarships!

OPEN TO MEN AND WOMEN
Wednesday June 14th, 2006
Willow Creek Golf Course
11:30 registration
12:30 Shot Gun Start
Entry Fee: $65 per person
18 holes of golf
½ cart
Goodie bags
Dinner and Prizes
Pick your own foursome!

Contact by May 1st:
Rose Conway - Counseling Center – 285-7260

University of Minnesota - Great Conversations Lecture Series 2006
In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the prospect of rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in a manner that assures its safety and livability — while preserving its unique character and heritage — poses both daunting challenges and unprecedented opportunities. Join two visionary urbanists as they assess the various issues at hand.

Social Forces Reshaping Retirement
Speakers - Phyllis Moen and Marc Freedman
Tuesday, May 16, 2006, 7:30 PM – UCR ST110

Dramatic social changes and shifting demographics are starting to alter our traditional notion of retirement. In this conversation, two innovative thinkers will challenge previously held myths and explore new possibilities — how to reshape retirement in ways that offer retirees a greater range of options while improving overall quality of life. These events are free and open to the public. For more information: Erin Ahnen –UMR 280-.

Thank You!
Thank you to all who attended a Financial Aid Workshop over the past weeks. To all the students who have been proactive in completing their Free Applications for Federal Student Aid in a timely fashion for the 2006-2007 academic year and to the Bookstore, Student Life and the Office of the Vice President of Student Development Services for their donations of incentives for this initiative.

Crossings Classifieds

Wanted: Sponsors for the Rochester Regional Equestrian Center July 8th horse show. There are approximately 40 classes. Each needs a sponsor for $20.00. As a sponsor, you can put about three lines of information to be read off as the class enters the riding ring...such as _______ department encourages RCTC students to ________, We shall see you on campus in the fall. (or a poem). The show raises money to assist with equine education at all levels. Contact Audrey Lidke-288-8726.

Wanted: New/used items for a "silent auction" at the July 8th Rochester Regional Equestrian Center fund raiser show (located at Diamond D Ranch about 5 minutes from campus). Need not be equine related. Vacation packages, frequent flyer miles, "regifting", gas cards, wooden furniture, rockers, or any item. We are a 501c3 organization. Donations deductible according to law. Audrey Lidke 288-8726.

For Rent: 3 bdrm home with fireplace, 2 car garage in NW close to schools. Available June 1st. $950. n/s, n/p. Call Rose Conway at 507-208-0853 or 507-289-5464 after 5:00.

For Sale: 2000, 2 Bdrm. 14x60 Marshfield mobile home overlooking Lake Pepin, 3 miles north of Lake City. $43,000 (includes lot rent of $1150 for this season). Call Rose Conway at 507-250-1102. Immediate availability.

FY6 Deadline Dates
1 - REQUISITIONS OR REQUESTS ENTERED INTO PCS for the purchasing of supplies, equipment, speakers/consultants repairs etc. must be in the Purchasing Dept. (June Meitzner EA135) no later than Friday, May 5, 2006.

2 - REQUISITIONS FOR THE USE OF A LOCAL PURCHASE ORDER (over the counter purchase) can be used up to and including Friday, June, 2, 2006

3 - ALL TRAVEL EXPENSE REPORTS for travel done from July 1, 2005 thru June 30, 2006 must be in the Cashiers Office on or before Wednesday, July 5, 2006.

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 direct to Mike O'Dea X-7212 or Ruth Siefert X-7472.