May Best Bee Award!

Congratulations to Travis Kromminga for being selected as the Best Bee of the Month for May.

Here is some of what Travis’ nominator had to say: "After receiving data from the Office of the Chancellor that showed that RCTC has the most disable students of any MnSCU campus 4 or 2 year, I find myself nominating Travis for the Best Bee award. This is a true credit to the hard work of Travis. For one person to manage a population so large shows the dedication that Travis has for his work. This also shows that Travis has made RCTC the college of choice for students with disabilities to give the services they need as they pursue their educational goals."

Travis will receive an “up front” parking spot at UCR for the month of May. Thanks, Travis, for helping make RCTC great!

Commencement – May 11, 2005

Make plans to attend RCTC’s Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the UCR Regional Sports Center. This is an exciting milestone in the lives of our students and a realization of completed goals! We encourage you to give your support at the ceremony which would be much appreciated by the students.

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.

Also, if you have a family member graduating from RCTC and would you like to present the diploma, 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 would bring a nice personal touch to the ceremony.
Marketing Fact

Researchers at the Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis have taken the Measuring Up 2004 data (state higher education reportcards), and have done an Election 2004 "Red" state vs. "Blue" state analysis. According to their analysis, 50% of Blue states rated an "A" or above in undergraduate student degree completion, compared to less than 10% of Red states. (To be continued...)

2004/05 Outstanding Teachers of the Year
Each year the members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society coordinate student voting for the Outstanding Teachers of the Year Awards. PTK members have finished collecting votes and the tallies are in!

We are pleased to announce the 2004/05 Outstanding Teachers of the Year:
Rashmi Roy - English
Steve Bein - Philosophy

Members of Phi Theta Kappa will host a college wide reception to honor these outstanding teachers…see attached flier for more details of date/time.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION TODAY:
May 2, 2005 from 2:00 to 4:00pm in CF206/208

Yellowjacket Golf
Start polishing your golf clubs and get ready to have a fun time at the 11th Annual Yellowjacket Golf Tournament. All proceeds go to support the Champa/Kereakos Scholarship Fund. Set aside June 10 and head to Willow Creek Golf Course to participate in this great event. Sign up today. Slots are limited. Information sheets and registration form are attached.

Registration for College For Kids begins Monday, May 2, 2005 at the Heintz Center, HC107. Contact person is Colleen Landherr Maddox, colleen.landherr@roch.edu or 280-3113. This academically enriching program is for students in grades 3-8 who have been identified as gifted and talented. For more information and to view the on-line catalog, go to www.rctc.edu/community/youth/cfk.html.
Both the House and Senate passed the omnibus higher education bill and the differences will now be worked out in a conference committee still to be appointed. MnSCU would receive an increase of $102 million over the biennium under the current legislation approved by the House, and just over $130 million approved by the Senate. The House bill includes language that would change the name of the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and would assume several new responsibilities for planning and reporting. If this current language survives the conference committee, the Office of Higher Education would be required to monitor all student progress and develop an accountability report card on higher education. Also, the House approved language that would permit state universities to offer applied doctorate degrees and funded the Rochester University proposal at $3.2 million. The House bill includes a supplemental appropriations section that states that if the racino bill passes the House, MnSCU would receive an additional $12.7 million in one-time funds. The Senate, in addition to appropriating biennial budget funds, supported the doctoral degree provision for state universities and also approved creating a commission in Rochester to study and develop a university. Although the appropriation for the Rochester study and implementation fluctuated throughout the process, in the end, the Senate approved $2.5 million for the study.

Governor Pawlenty paid a surprise visit to the Board of Trustees meeting last week and outlined his views on high school and college education. Throughout his 35-minute presentation and Q&A, the Governor challenged the Board to anticipate changes and prepare for the future. He thanked the Board and Chancellor McCormick for their dedicated hard work and asked for their support. A key concern of the governor is the growing worry that high schools are fast becoming obsolete and fail to challenge students, especially in their senior year. The Governor’s “Get Ready, Get Credit” program proposal will use the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement and the College Level Examination programs to give talented students a jump start on college. Pawlenty restated his support for legislation creating centers of excellence within MnSCU and urged the board to create flagship programs within the system. When asked about his Rochester proposal, he noted that Rochester is a “boom town” with higher education needs that will grow and need support. He noted that he’s pleased to see his proposal moving through the legislature because he views the current higher education structure in Rochester as a “hodge podge” of offerings delivered by a governance operation with no single leader in charge.

Governor Pawlenty has appointed Carol C. Ley of Alexandria Technical College as a new student rep to the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Carol is currently a full-time student who will graduate in May with an Associate of Applied Science in Marketing and Sales Management. Ley has been named to the Dean’s List and is a member of PTK. She has served as a Vice President of Business Partnerships for the Minnesota Chapter of Delta Epsilon Chi. Carol is member of the Student Senate and participated as a student representative on the search team for a new college president at Alexandria Tech. She works as membership coordinator at the Alexandria Lakes Chamber of Commerce and had a 20-year career as a clerk/phlebotomist at the Douglas County Hospital Laboratory. She will serve a term that ends on June 30, 2006.

Phi Theta Kappa co-presidents Sarah Hayenga and Brooke Winchester announced that students have voted Rashmi Roy (English) and Steve Bein (Philosophy) RCTC’s 2004-05 Outstanding Teachers of the Year. PTK will host a college-wide reception honoring this year’s recipients. Congratulations, Rashmi and Steve! Brenda Frame, math instructor, has been recognized as an Instructor of the Year by the Minnesota State College Student Association. Way to go, Brenda!

Year-after-year, RCTC students and teams perform at or near the top in state, region and national math competition. This year is no exception. Math League moderator Marilyn Treder announced that “David Buchs, one of our RCTC students, has the top Student Math League score in the state, top score in the Central Region, and second highest score in the nation for 2004-05.” As a team, RCTC is fourth in the State and sixth in the Region.” Congratulations to our students and thanks to Marilyn and her outstanding faculty colleagues.

I bet you noticed the campus appeared a bit cleaner when you arrived for work this week. Many thanks to our Omicron PTK Chapter members who, as part of Earth Day, conducted a campus wide clean-up on April 22. Thanks so much!

Thought for the Week…

Through perseverance many people win success out of what seemed destined to be certain failure.

Many students will graduate on May 11 because they persevered….thanks for helping make it happen.

Don
You’re Invited…

The Students of Chemistry 1128 invite you to a poster session on Common Chemicals in Our World!

Wednesday May 4th 2:15 – 4:15 and Thursday May 5th 9:15 – 11:15
(different groups of students)

3rd floor hallway of ST building
Light refreshments will be provided.

Scholarship Night
You are cordially invited to attend Scholarship Awards Night, next Thursday, May 5th - 7 p.m. Hill Theater. Come celebrate with current students and incoming students who have been awarded Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation scholarships. Share in their achievements and joy.

Pottery Sale
Art Club Fund-raiser

Tuesday May 3
from 10 AM to 2 PM
Art Hall 200 Ceramics Studio

Reasonable prices!
Come early for best selection.

RCTC Announces “Leadership RCTC”
RCTC is proud to sponsor “Leadership RCTC”. This leadership development program will be offered fall and spring terms in a cohort-based model. The program resulted from ideas generated by RCTC’s 2004 Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) Team. The program is patterned after leadership programs offered by other community organizations locally and nationally, but topically focused on RCTC. More information about the program and an application form is attached to this week’s Crossings. Interested persons for the fall 2005 cohort should complete and return their completed application to the RCTC Leadership Team by June 15, 2005 for full consideration (final roster determined Sept. 6, 2005).

Complete and return your application to Scott Sahs, Box 16, or one of the RCTC Leadership Team members by June 15, 2005 for full consideration. Participants will be notified of their selection in July.

The Leadership RCTC Team: Scott Sahs, Allan O’Bryan, Len Goldfine, Rashmi Roy, Jon Wetenkamp and Merry Beth Gay

Duplicating Summer 2005 Hours
May 14 - August 22
Saturday May 14 - Closed
May 14 - August 22
Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30pm
Saturdays - Closed
Sundays - Closed

Employee News
Laurel Panser will be delivering a short course entitled, ‘Tools for the conduct of research projects,’ at the Center for Studies of Sensory Impairment, Aging and Metabolism (CeSSIAM) in Guatemala City, Guatemala, this summer after she is in Germany.

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Nancy Shumaker whose father, Willard Carl Eppen, was killed in a car accident on April 26, 2005. Our thoughts are with Nancy and her family.

Condolences are also extended to Steve Cole whose father, Douglas, passed away on Tuesday, April 26th. Our thoughts are with Steve and his family.