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

The RCTC Commencement Ceremony will be held held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10 in the Field House at the UCR Regional Sports Center. 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.

FOR ASSEMBLY DETAILS PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT

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

Congratulations to the May Best Bee!

Congratulations to Tim Gilsrud for being selected as the Best Bee for May 2007! Here is some of what the nominator's had to say:

"There are not enough words to describe Tim Gilsrud. Time goes above and beyond for each of his employees. Not only does Tim handle day to day operations of the Computer Services Department; he actively gets involved and helps whenever he can. He is not only a great boss, but a good friend."

"Tim focuses on maintaining our campus as a leader in innovative technology for MnSCU and Higher Education as a whole. He truly respects and cares for his staff and the College. He is a great role model and representative for RCTC and MnSCU."

"Tim is always able to divide up work items to his employees, according to their strengths."

Tim will receive an upfront parking spot at UCR.
Weekly funny!
Snapshots at jasonlove.com

"Rex and I have been married for 3 years, but it feels more like 21."

Crossings Classifieds

For Sale: Electric Train Set. Bachmann Great Northern Express G-scale (garden size). Locomotive, coal tender, 2 cars, 20' track. Extra Gold Rush Locomotive + tender. $145. Anne Benson 280-2809 anne.benson@roch.edu

For Sale: Black soft-top for Tracker, purchased 1990, rarely used (we bought a hardtop instead), $50 or BO. Sharon Nichols, 289-3453.

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: Saturday May 5, 1-3pm; Sunday May 6, 2-5pm.

Volunteers Wanted: Elder Network is having an Open House on Saturday, June 2nd from 9:00 a.m. until Noon (1130 ½ 7th Street, NW, Suite 205). We are urgently in need of volunteers to serve the older adults in our community through Peer Support, Friendly Visiting, Transportation to medical appointments, and Caregiver Support. Stop by for refreshments and learn how you can make a difference in someone's life just by donating a few minutes of your time. For more information, call 285-5272.

13th Annual Yellowjacket Golf
Spend Friday, June 8th 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 fee. A tax deductible portion will help support the RCTC Foundation and Champa Kereakos Scholarships. For more information or to get registration forms, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings or contact the RCTC Foundation Office at 281-7771.

Marketing Fact
Results from the November, 2006 Survey of Stakeholders (a survey given to key business leaders, civic leaders, educational partners, etc.) showed an overall decrease or stagnation in the satisfactions ratings of 12 out of 12 scales. Meanwhile importance ratings tended to rise, thus increasing the gap between perceived importance and satisfaction.

Thank You!
The 2nd Annual Vern Bushlack Horticulture/Student Life Scramble was held last Monday at the Rochester Golf and Country Club. Student Senate would like to thank the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America Club and the Horticulture Club along with their advisors, Vern Bushlack and Robin Fruth-Dugstad for their role in this wonderful event. In addition, we would like to extend a special thank you to President Don Supalla for always willing to give his time and support to RCTC student life activities. Mayor Ardell Brede’s and RCTC Foundation President Diane Osland’s participation were greatly appreciated. Thanks also to RCTC staff, which without their support and expertise, these events would not be possible. Lastly, we thank the Rochester Golf and Country Club for the fantastic shape of the golf course and their excellent facilities and staff. We hope that all of the golfers and other RCTC stakeholders who attended this world-class event had a great time!

Scholarship Night Recognition Thank You
Thanks to all who stepped up to the plate and helped the RCTC Foundation host a successful Scholarship Night Program. Special thanks to Ben Hain for the outstanding job he did on the lights and sound during the ceremony, Sue Holtz for doing what she could to get extra chairs set-up in the back for the standing room only attendance, Jerry Asleson for coming in at the last minute to cool down the Theatre, Roxy Roadway for helping direct the students and guests to their seats, and to many of you who took time out of your busy schedules to present scholarship awards to our scholars. This year the RCTC Foundation distributed over $177,000 in scholarship support to deserving students.

~ Becky Thompson and Judy Kingsbury
Supalla Scribblings

As of this writing, conference committees are still waiting for their spending targets. The big news this week was Governor Pawlenty’s veto of the entire $344 million bonding bill. This action provides some evidence that the remainder of the session (scheduled to end on May 21) will be contentious indeed. The vetoed bonding bill included more $30 million for MnSCU and $4.5 million for University Center projects. The Governor followed his veto with a letter to House and Senate leadership that might indicate a very contentious rest of the session. In part he wrote…“In odd numbered years, our Minnesota tradition and expectation is that bonding bills address emergency needs and consensus items. The DFL majority exercised no restraint in passing this bill. Your disregard for this limited agenda is very unfortunate because many fine projects may be delayed. Emergency needs such as Browns Valley, meritorious items such as the Veterans Memorial, and previously agreed upon projects such as the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center should have been easily passed in this session. I hope you will address these issues and my other concerns immediately. I have repeatedly communicated my expectations about the timing and the composition of the bill. This situation is unfortunate and should have been avoided.” I urge you to stay informed on legislative issues, even if you’re off campus for the summer. Stay tuned.

Kudos to all who had a part to play in making the Second Annual Vern Bushlack Horticulture/Student Life Scramble golf tournament a huge success. A full field of golfers almost made it around the Rochester Golf and Country Club course before a lightning enhanced thunderstorm halted play. A full house of golfers and diners enjoyed a great meal and short program. Thanks to the hard work of Carol Nurmi, Scott Krook, Robin Fruth-Dugstad, Student Senators, Horticulture Technology students and a host of other volunteers; hole sponsors; the Rochester Golf and Country Club; and golfers; almost $5,000 was raised to begin a Vern Bushlack Scholarship Endowment account. Of course, none of this would have happened without Vern’s 44 years of educational public service. I encourage you to watch for future information about the annual Champa/Kereakos Scholarship Tournament (June 8, Willow Creek) and the Football Program outing (July 21, Maple Valley). get a team together, enjoy some great camaraderie and support scholarships and the Yellowjackets. We often complain about all work and no play…here’s two more opportunities to live one of our values…FUN.

This week, SNG Research staffers and a panel of traditional and non-traditional student “shoppers” shared the results of a recently completed customer service study. Fifty-one scenarios (web/email, telephone, walk-in, write-in and direct application) were developed and 45 of the scenarios were played out, primarily by DECA students from John Marshall. Of the 45 attempted inquiries, 20 (44%) were either unable to submit an inquiry or never received a response. The lack of responsiveness and the impersonal nature of those that were contacted were cited by participants as less than acceptable. The Strategic Operations Committee will provide more details of the service study in the weeks and months ahead. Bottom line…before we spend additional recruitment/marketing resources to attract new inquiries, we simply must do a better job connecting with those already interested in RCTC. Following the study, participants were asked to share their overall impression of RCTC. And, 6% think RCTC’s overall impression is “Excellent,” 24% “Very Good,” 39% “Good,” 16% “Fair” and 14% “Poor.” With everyone’s focus on service, we must, can and will do better.

Can you name the “15 Hottest Community College Programs (Credit and Non-Credit)? The American Association of Community Colleges published the following list (by enrollments) in 2004: Registered Nursing, Law Enforcement, Practical Nursing, Radiology, Computer Technologies, Automotive, Nursing Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Health Information Technology, Construction, Education, Business, Networking, Electronics and Medical Assistant. Review the list and you’ll note that RCTC’s offering programming in almost every one of the hot programs of study. In 2006, U.S. News & World Report published the following list of “15 Hottest Careers (in alphabetical order): Actuary, Architect, Audiology, Clergy, Dentist, Editor, Engineer, fundraiser, Higher Education Administrator, Landscape Architect, Librarian, Management Consultant, Medical Scientist, Occupational Therapist and Optometrist.

Thought for the week…

If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts, liberates your energy, and inspires your hopes.

-- Andrew Carnegie

Another academic year has come and gone…it seems more quickly than the last. Just in case you weren’t feeling too old and tired today, this might change your thinking. Traditional students who started college last fall were mostly born in 1987. They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up. Their lifetime has always included AIDS. The CD was introduced the year they were born. They have always had an answering machine and cable. Jay Leno has always hosted the Tonight Show. Popcorn has always been cooked in a microwave. They never took a swim and thought about Jaws and they don’t know who Mork was or where he was from. They never heard: “Where’s the Beef?,” “I’d walk a mile for a Camel,” or “de plane, Boss, de plane.” McDonald’s food never came in Styrofoam containers. And, they don’t have a clue how to use a typewriter. Now are you feeling old?

For those of you fortunate to get some extended time off this summer, rest, relax and stay safe. For those of us that find ourselves on campus this summer, let’s make sure to schedule some time away to refresh and reenergize. Thanks for another good year!

Don
New and Exciting classes offer at RCTC Chinese
Introduction to Chinese Culture class will be offered in the Fall, 2007. It is a course that will be taught in English. Please let your students or anyone that’s interested in Chinese Culture know about this new class.

Intermediate Chinese is the other new class that will be offered this Fall. Collaborating effort is established with WSU. RCTC beginner Chinese 1101 and Intermediate Chinese 2101 will be cross listing with WSU. This will provide RCTC and WSU students more opportunities to learn Chinese languages without increasing faculty staffing at both places. Please see the attached ad that was in the Rochester Post-Bulletin for details.

News from the Child Development Program
The Katherine Roberts Keith Award is given each year to a Child Development major. The award is named in honor of Dr. Katherine Roberts Keith who was involved in the founding of Aldrich Memorial Nursery School, Civic League Day Nursery and many other early childhood programs in the Rochester area. Recipients are selected based on student vote and GPA. This year there were two recipients due to a tie! Barb Miller of CCR&R made the presentations on April 25.

One of the recipients is Jennifer Klavetter of Plainview. Jennifer is working on her A.A.S. degree. She has been working part-time at Civic League Day Nursery SW (downtown) for a year while taking courses.

The other recipient is Celida Galindo. Celida expects to complete her A.A.S. degree by December. She has experience as a paraprofessional in Arizona, and several years at Migrant Head Start in Rochester. Congratulations to both of these students!

UCR Learning Center Activities
Workshops Series (free to all UCR students):

Power of Financial Calculations
Monday, May 7, 1:00-1:50    EA111  Paul Kinion

Power of Financial Calculations
Tuesday, May 8, 2:00-2:50    SH109  Paul Kinion

Power of Geometry SketchPad
Tuesday, May 8, 2:00-2:50    SH108  ViAnn Olson

Power of Sudoku Mathematics
Wednesday, May 9, 2:00-2:50  SH102  Paul Kinion

Horticulture Bedding Plant Sale Hours
May 7: 4 - 6pm  ~  May 8: 11am - 2pm  
May 9: 12noon - 2pm  ~  May 10: 11am - 1pm

Duplicating  Summer 2007 Hours

May 10 - May 12
Thursday, May 10 - 7:30am - 6:30pm
Friday, May 11 - 7:30am - 4:30pm
Saturday, May 12 - 8am - 11am

May 14 - August 26
Monday - Friday 8am - 4:30pm
Saturdays Closed
Sundays - Closed

Monday - August 27 - Regular hours resume