A Look Back...

90 years ago this month..., Superintendent Johnson was empowered by the Rochester School Board to secure teachers for the new "University Department." The 1915 faculty are composed of Winfred Bolcom, Mr. John Mack, Miss Jane Nesbitt, and Miss Belle Comstock.

Student Support Services Program

**BASKET CHALLENGE**

It’s never too early to mark your calendar for the Annual Holiday Party / Silent Auction to be held in the Student Support Services office SS159 on Thursday, December 1 from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

We are trying something new!!!! We would like to challenge each department on campus to create a theme basket to donate to the silent auction. A PRIZE will be awarded to the department whose basket brings the highest bid. Be creative, have fun and bring your basket(s) to SS159 no later than Monday, November 28. All proceeds from the silent auction benefit the SSSP Iris Fried Scholarship fund. See you on December 1 for holiday cheer, good food, conversation and the silent auction.

For more information on the basket challenge, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings.

GODDARD LIBRARY, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, AND DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER HOURS

September 3-5, 2005

Saturday, September 3 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Sunday, September 4 1:00 PM-5:00 PM*
Monday, September 5 CLOSED

*Digital Media Center closed

(Hours are subject to change)
Supalla’s Scribblings

Wow, the school year is off to a very fast start. Although enrollment numbers continue to fluctuate daily, overall the numbers are looking more positive than they were just a few weeks ago. As of mid-week, we have registered 6,110 students, who have enrolled in 6,5920 credits...an all-time RCTC high! These numbers will almost certainly decline before the final drop/add day, but enrollments are still likely to exceed official tenth day numbers reported in 2004. Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard to get the students on campus and who have focused this week on accommodating their needs to keep them enrolled.

Today’s MnSCU released of a new report showing that more graduates of Minnesota’s public high schools are not prepared for college-level work should send a strong signal to high school students that they need to take more rigorous courses, especially math. “I am confident that the K-12 public education system in Minnesota will join me in sending a clear message that all high school students should prepare for a post-secondary education,” said Chancellor James McCormick. “Minnesota’s employers count on us. Global competition demands it.” The report shows more graduates of Minnesota’s public high schools are attending public colleges and universities within two years after graduation and more of these students are taking developmental or remedial courses. Nearly half – 49 percent – of the high school students who graduated in 2002 enrolled in MnSCU or the U of M within two years after graduation. The percent of these graduates taking one or more developmental courses increased from 34 percent of the 2000 graduates to 36 percent of the 2002 graduates. Of the 2002 Minnesota public high school graduates who enrolled in a MnSCU institution, 42 percent took at least one developmental
Of all the developmental courses taken by the class of 2002 at MnSCU institutions, 56 percent were in mathematics, 24 percent were in writing and 20 percent were in reading. The increase in the percentage of students enrolling in developmental courses does not necessarily mean the college readiness of new high school graduates has worsened. Part of the increase could be due to an influx of high school graduates who had not prepared fully for post-secondary education but decided to go to college. “We are gratified that more students recognize they need a college education for a fulfilling career,” Chancellor McCormick said. “Providing access to post-secondary education is fundamental to our mission.” “But teachers, parents and students should understand that even though community and technical colleges admit all high school graduates, students who are not prepared for college-level work will have to take developmental courses and those courses do not count toward a certificate, diploma or degree,” McCormick said. RCTC is committed to increasing the already significant college readiness dialogue between colleagues in District 535 and other surrounding school districts.

RCTC will once again be a sponsor of the Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Greater Rochester program. As sponsor, we agree to provide the class with much sought after engraved folios, space and lunch for Education Day participants, and space for Public Safety Day activities. This year’s RCTC applicant to the Leadership Program is Othelmo DaSilva.

The Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) is a national standard used to classify instructional programs. During 2005-06, ISRS (MnSCU’s student records system) will be converted from a 1990 version of this standard to a 2000 version. The new standard, required for national reporting, is substantially updated and allows more appropriate classifications of courses and programs. Detailed instructions and information regarding the conversion will be provided academic leadership and faculty in the next few weeks. It’s anticipated that approximately half of the 1990 CIP codes will be changed during the conversion. Faculty are encouraged to pay special attention to forthcoming information and work with Vice President Bequette and the academic deans to accomplish this important task.

College Faculty Credentialing (and licensure) has moved. All forms on the website have been updated. The new address is MnSCU College Faculty Credentialing, Wells Fargo Place, 30 Seventh Street East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN  55101-7804. The telephone number is 651-649-5738 and the new fax number is 651-632-5018. More credentialing information is available at www.licensure.mnscu.edu.

I’m certain that many of us left campus this week with plenty on our minds. Hopefully, the sleepless nights were minimal and headaches nonexistent. One of last year’s graduates forwarded me a story that might make your potentially stressful days just a bit less anxious.

A professor began his class by holding up a glass with some water in it. He held it up for all to see and asked the students, “How much do you think this glass weighs?” Ten ounces, a pound, two pounds…the students answered. “I really don’t know unless I weigh it,” said the professor, “but my question is: What would happen if I held it up like this for a few minutes?” Nothing the students said. “Okay, what would happen if I held it up like this for an hour?” the professor asked. “Your arm would begin to ache,” said one of the students. “You’re right, now what would happen if I held it up for a day?” Your arm could go numb; you might have severe muscle stress, paralysis might set in, and you might have to go to the hospital,” ventured another student. “Very good. But during all this, did the weight of the glass change?” asked the professor. No, responded the students. “So, how could I keep my arm from aching?” “Put the glass down!” said one of the students. “Exactly!” said the professor. Life problems are something like this. Hold them for a few minutes in your head and they seem okay. Think of them for a long time and they begin to ache. Hold on to them even longer and they begin to paralyze you. It’s important to think of the challenges in your life, but even more important to put them down at the end of every day. That way, you wake up every day, fresh and strong, ready to handle any issue or challenge that comes your way!

So, when it’s time to leave the office today and everyday…remember to put the glass down!

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