Bob Rides Again!

Tune up your bikes and consider riding along with former Trustee Bob Erickson as he pedals his way across the state, visiting every MnSCU campus. His purpose, besides keeping in great shape and biking around beautiful Minnesota in the fall, is to raise money for scholarships. Bob Erickson Scholarships support students who are part-time students and do not qualify for financial aid or other government programs.

We want RCTC to meet the challenge presented by Bob and encourage EVERYONE to make a donation to this worthy cause. All funds raised come immediately back to RCTC and are awarded each year to RCTC students. All gifts are completely tax-deductible.

Bob will roll into UCR campus on September 19 around 11 a.m. after an early morning departure from Austin. If you wish to bike along the way with him, we can arrange a rendezvous point. Or, you may wish to accompany him for a while as he heads to Winona after his mid-day stop here.

Whatever your preference, consider getting involved in welcoming Bob to campus, supporting Bob in his fundraising endeavor and cheering Bob as he heads to his next destination. If you have ideas on how to celebrate and whoop it up when Bob visits UCR, contact Judy Bird – 281-7770 or judy.bird@roch.edu. A pledge form is attached.
Marketing Fact

99% of the community college presidents who responded to the survey, "Community Colleges Today: The Presidents Speak Study," reported using tutoring and academic counseling as strategies to retain students. Similarly, 94% of respondents said orientation was a main strategy for student retention, while 86% used personal counseling to keep students at their institutions.


Exhibit at UCR

The nationally-touring photograph-text exhibit, FOCUS ON LIVING: Portraits of Americans with HIV and AIDS, showcases sixteen Americans living with HIV and AIDS. This exhibit will be shown locally at UCR, Rochester High Schools and Rochester Public Library. The UCR exhibit will be in the cafeteria, (third floor College Center) Thursday, September 14 through Wednesday, September 20.

Over 900,000 Americans are living with HIV (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.) One quarter of these Americans are unaware of their infection. There are approximately 40,000 new HIV infections each year in the United States. Of these newly infected, half are under 25 years of age.

Young and old, gay, straight – from a diverse array of geographic, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds – Focus on Living subjects speak candidly about their lives, relationships, and how they have come to terms with the presence of this chronic and potentially deadly disease. What becomes clear in these interviews is that HIV is everybody's disease—it knows no boundaries.

Reminder – Committee Sign-Up

The academic year is underway, and the All-College Committees are still looking for volunteers to serve on the various committees in 2006-07. Please consider getting involved and serving!

For a listing of the committees, and to learn more about their roles, please go to: http://www.rctc.edu/intra/all-college_committees.html. Non-faculty members interested in serving on one or more of these committees must contact Judy Kingsbury. Faculty members interested in serving on one or more of these committees must submit their interest through Gregg Wright.

REMEMBER: If you served on a committee last year, and wish to continue to serve on the same committee, please sign-up through the above procedures.

Club Meetings

Circle of Friends, RCTC's GLBT student club, will meet Wednesday, September 13, at 2:00pm in CC408. All are welcome to attend.

RCTC's Martial Arts Club will meet Monday, September 11, at 8:00pm in SC408.

RCTC's Martial Arts Club will meet Wednesday, September 13, at 7:00pm in SC408.
Supalla Scribblings

Troy Tynsky has compiled unofficial tenth day enrollment numbers that indicate, for the first time since consolidation, when compared to the previous year, both full semester headcount and credits sold have declined. Although the official numbers, expected from the Office of the Chancellor later this month, might very slightly, it appears that RCTC’s headcount will be around 5,812 (down 3.15%) and credits sold 62,276 (down 2.82%). Staff will follow-up with those students who were canceled for non-payment in hopes of registering them for spring semester classes. Please contact an academic dean or Vice President Bequette if you have ideas on how we might increase enrollments for spring semester.

On August 31, Governor Pawlenty announced the appointment of Caleb Anderson to the MnSCU Board of Trustees. Caleb, from Maplewood, is pursuing an A.A. degree from Century College. He currently works as a lifeguard, swimming instructor and assistant preschool teacher. He is the co-founder and co-owner of Mason-Anderson Professional Cleaners LLC. At Century College, he is involved in the student senate, debate team, theater and honor society. He is appointed to the board seat for a community college student and will serve a two-year term which ends June 30, 2008.

As the new school year begins, the nation’s 1200 community colleges are being deluged with hundreds of thousands of students unprepared for college-level work. Though higher education is now a near-universal aspiration, researchers suggest that close to half the students who enter college need remedial courses. The shortfalls persist despite high-profile efforts by public universities to crack down on ill-prepared students. The efforts, educators say, have not cut back on the thousands of students who lack basic skills. Instead, the colleges have clustered those students in community colleges where their chances of succeeding are low and where taxpayers pay a second time to bring them up to college level. The phenomenon has educators struggling with fundamental questions about access to education, standards and equal opportunity. Michael W. Kirst, a Stanford professor who was a co-author of a report on the gap between aspirations and college attainment, said that 73 percent of students entering community colleges hoped to earn four-year degrees, but only 22 percent had done so after six years. “You can get into school,” Professor Kirst said. “That’s not the problem. But you can’t succeed.” Nearly half the 14.7 million undergraduates at two- and four-year institutions never receive degrees. The deficiencies turn up not just in math, science and engineering, areas in which a growing chorus warns of difficulties in the face of global competition, but also in the basics of reading and writing. According to scores on the 2006 ACT college entrance exam, 21 percent of students applying to four-year institutions are ready for college-level work in all four areas tested, reading, writing, math and biology. For many students, the outlook does not improve after college. The Pew Charitable Trusts recently found that three-quarters of community college graduates were not literate enough to handle everyday tasks like comparing viewpoints in newspaper editorials or calculating the cost of food items per ounce. The unyielding statistics showcase a deep disconnection between what high school teachers think that their students need to know and what professors, even at two-year colleges, expect them to know.

From The New York Times, “At 2-Year Colleges, Students Eager but Unready”

On September 7, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released “Measuring Up 2006: The National Report Card on Higher Education.” As was the case with its six predecessor reports, “Measuring Up 2006” compares and evaluates the performance of each state along critical dimensions of college opportunity and effectiveness to assess our national performance. “Measuring Up 2006” introduces, for the first time, an international perspective to our understanding of higher education performance by comparing the performance of our states and nation to that of other countries. The results will surprise many Americans, especially those who have become comfortable with the conventional wisdom that our higher education is the “best in the world.” Many individual colleges and universities do rank among the best anywhere, but other nations now surpass us in several key indicators of higher education performance, particularly on measures of accessibility and completion of degree and certificate programs. Generally, the United States is doing as well on these measures as it has in the recent past, but the nation has improved very little since the early 1990s. While our progress is stalled, much of the rest of the world has improved. Unevenness of performance across states led to this conclusion in “Measuring Up 2004”: “The inescapable fact is that the United States is underperforming in higher education.” The international comparisons in the “Measuring Up 2006” report card confirm this earlier conclusion. More national and Minnesota details from this year’s report will be shared later.

Thought for the Week…

There are two types of people who never achieve very much in their lifetimes. One is the person who won’t do what s/he is told to do, and the other is the person who does no more than s/he is told to do.

— Andrew Carnegie

Don
**RCTC Journalism Boot Camp**

Mark Schnaedter is pleased to announce the unqualified success of the first (of what he hopes to be annual) RCTC Journalism Boot Camp!

On Saturday Aug. 26 and Sunday Aug. 27, several RCTC students gathered on campus for a series of training sessions in multiple facets of print journalism. They learned about newswriting, conducting interviews, researching stories, page design, ethics, First Amendment laws, story generation, and photography.

Among the presenters were seven writers and editors from the Post-Bulletin. Their sessions were lively, deeply informative, and very highly rated. Of the thirteen sessions, the students gave a rating of "good" 25 percent of the time, and a rating of "excellent" 75 percent of the time.

Although the student turnout was small, the event was well received and very productive, and there is great confidence that the program will grow significantly in the coming years.

And hopefully this early training and broad-based knowledge will show itself in this year's issues of The Echo!

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**UCR – Official Polling Site**

As President Supalla announced through Scribblings and during his "State of the College" address on August 18th, the City of Rochester approved a resolution making the University Center Rochester an official polling site (4th Ward, 5th Precinct and 4th Ward 7th Precinct). The first-ever voting (primary elections) will occur in the Performance Court of the UCR Regional Sports Center on Tuesday, September 12. Note: RCTC classes are not in session due to a scheduled fall semester staff development day.

Because this is our first time as a polling site, we would like to remind everyone of some legal issues associated with this new role.

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**211B.11 Election Day Prohibitions:**

**Subdivision 1. Soliciting near polling places.** A person may not display campaign material, post signs, ask, solicit, or in any manner try to induce or persuade a voter within a polling place or within 100 feet of the building in which a polling place is situated, or anywhere on the public property on which a polling place is situated, on primary or election day to vote for or refrain from voting for a candidate or ballot question. A person may not provide political badges, political buttons, or other political insignia to be worn at or about the polling place on the day of a primary or election. A political badge, political button, or other political insignia may not be worn at or about the polling place on primary or election day. This section applies to areas established by the county auditor or municipal clerk for absentee voting as provided in chapter 203B.

The secretary of state, county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk may provide stickers which contain the words "I VOTED" and nothing more. Election judges may offer a sticker of this type to each voter who has signed the polling place roster.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judy Kingsbury in the President’s Office at 285-7216.