Global Connection Days
Plan to attend some or all of the Global Connection Days activities planned for October 11-13. Attached to this week’s Crossings is the most up-to-date calendar of events…please disregard previous versions of the calendar. We hope to see you at one or more of the events!

SSSP Basket Challenge
Get your department involved and fill a basket for the SSSP Silent Auction to benefit the SSSP Iris Fried Scholarship Fund. A prize will be awarded to the department whose basket brings in the highest bid. Get creative, have fun and bring your basket to SS159 no later than 4:00pm on Monday, November 27th. Then come on November 30th for food, fun, conversation and an opportunity to bid on the basket of your choice! See the attached flier to this week’s Crossings for more information.

Minnesota Combined Charities Campaign
CHALLENGE 2: CHILI COOK-OFF:
10/11/06 in the Cafeteria - 11:30am - 1:00pm
The goal is to have at least 12 crock pots full of chili to sell for $3.00 a bowl. We can do this!! There will be a prize for the crock pot of chili that empties first! Winner will be announced on e-mail at 3:00 pm. “Recipe must accompany the chili”. Prize can be picked up at Rose’s desk, SS133.

UCR Blood Drive
There will be a blood drive at UCR on Wednesday, October 11 from 8:30 - 3:30 in AT301.

Please contact Mayo Clinic Blood Bank (507) 284-4475 or e-mail donateblood@mayo.edu to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome!

UCR participates in the Blood Assurance program. This program lowers your costs in the event you should ever need blood. For more information, visit http://www.mayoclinic.org/donateblood/assurance.html

For more information on blood donation, visit http://www.mayoclinic.org/donateblood
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

If I fall asleep now, I'll get six hours sleep and be all right.

If I fall asleep now, I'll get four hours sleep and drink lots of coffee.

If I wake up now, I can call in sick before anyone gets to the office...

Marketing Fact
53% of community college faculty responding to the Higher Education Research Institute’s (HERI) 2004-05 Faculty Survey reported that a high level of ease for students to see faculty members outside of regular office hours was "very descriptive" of their institution. [Source: (October 28, 2005). Views and characteristics of community-college professors. The Chronicle of Higher Education, S2(10), B10.]

Kids Voting – Rochester
Kids Voting Rochester is part of a grassroots national voter education program that brings young people and their parents to the polls on Election Day. Students in grades kindergarten through twelve may accompany their parents/guardians to the polling site on Election Day and vote for the same candidates and issues as adults. Though not part of the official results, student votes are tallied and reported at schools and by the media.

On Election Day, November 7, 2006 Kids Voting Rochester Volunteer Poll Workers will greet each young voter, provide them with a special Kids Voting ballot, and assist them as needed. Each young voter will receive an "I Voted Sticker".

For more information or questions about volunteering, contact Julie at 288-8267 or Debbie at 281-8194.

Additional information available at http://www.mnpower.com/kidsvoting/

Academic Accolades
We are excited to announce our very own Simon Huelsbeck (Art Instructor) will be having his paintings featured on exhibit in the Accent Gallery of the Rochester Art Center. The exhibit, entitled Kicking a Dead Horse, is scheduled to run from October 12th through December 31st. Two openings are scheduled (one on Thursday Oct 12th at 7:30 and another on December 8th with a time to be announced).

Congratulations, Simon! It is great to have the work of our RCTC family on display and shared with the entire community!

Below is a sample of Simon’s work. It is entitled Rochester Pop.

Condolences
It is with deep sorrow we announce that Laura Sinning (Program Director of our Motorcycle Safety Program) passed away on October 4, 2006 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. A memorial service for Laura will be held on Sunday (October 8) at 2:30 p.m. at Ranfranz & Vine Funeral Homes Chapel in Rochester. Friends may call from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service Sunday at the funeral home. Our thoughts and prayers are with Laura's family.
Supalla Scribblings

Please take a few minutes to review the recent “2006 Minnesota State Employees’ Combined Charities Campaign booklet you received and then go to Page 2 of the materials and follow the “Instructions for making a gift” directions in the shaded box. As you consider your payroll deduction tax deductible gift, please be generous. You’ll find a wealth of information at www.charities.state.mn and then make your pledge at the State of Minnesota Employee Self Service web site where you go for payroll information – www.state.mn.us/employee. I know that RCTC employees are “State Employees Caring for Minnesota.” Working and investing together, you make Southeast Minnesota, Olmsted County and Rochester a better place to live, work and learn. Rose Conway, RCTC’s Campaign Coordinator, has organized three upcoming challenges you don’t want to miss…

- Wednesday, October 11  Chili Cook-Off  Cafeteria  11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Monday, October 16  Ugliest Tie Contest  UCR Campus  All Day
- Tuesday, October 31  Halloween Finale  Atrium  3 p.m.

Congratulations to Beth Arntson and all those who helped draft RCTC’s 2006-08 Affirmative Action Plan. The Plan has been approved by the Department of Employee Relations! An Office of Civil Rights RCTC on-site visit is scheduled for October 24-26? A team of evaluators will be on campus to appraise our facility accessibility, review support services and access accommodations. The team will be conducting both scheduled and unscheduled interviews with staff and students. Please be helpful and answer questions honestly and to the best of your ability.

Did you know this about our student body?

- Compared to other like two-year colleges across the country, RCTC students are younger than those of our counterparts. Our reverse of the national trend might be a result of our increased market share among Rochester and area high schools.
- The percent of RCTC students 25 years and under has grown by more than one percent annually. This year’s 3% percent increase (to 68.4%) is the largest increase in recent years.
- Female students at RCTC consistently outnumber male students by more than 60 to 40 percent.
- Self-reported students of color continue to increase at RCTC, with 14.1% enrolled fall semester 2006.
- The percent of full-time to part-time students (55% to 45%) has remained consistent in recent years.
- The potential applicant pool for colleges and universities is going to grow significantly in some states between now and 2014, according to data gathered by the National Center for Education Statistics. The top five states expected to increase graduates…Nevada (59.2%), Arizona (31.6%), District of Columbia (30.4%), New Jersey (29.6%) and Florida (22.6%). And the biggest drop…Iowa (-11.9%), West Virginia (-10.2%), Oklahoma (-8.8%), Minnesota (-7.3%) and New Mexico (-7.2%).

Kudos!

- The Yellowjacket Women’s Soccer team is going to the NJCAA National Tournament in Dallas in November! Congratulations to Coach Deb Hare and the team of talented players who ended the regular season ranked #3 in the country. At the recent NJCAA Regional Golf Tournament in Madison, Wisconsin, three RCTC golfers qualified for the national two-year college tournament next spring. Congratulations to Coach Brian LaPlante and Golfers Matt Dalke (St. Paul), Mike Radosevich (JM) and Leah Fanning (Century)!

- RCTC’s World Community Grid ranking currently stands at #2 in the world! The World Community Grid’s mission is to create the largest public computing grid benefiting humanity. When your computer is turned on, but idle, the Grid is able to utilize your unused processing power to benefit mankind. Tim Gilsrud is coordinating our participation which is garnering rave reviews from our IBM-Rochester friends.

- RCTC/MnSCU has contracted with local contractor Knutson Construction and architectural firm HGA to move the UCR Stadium project forward. This project has been identified as MnSCU’s first attempt using the increasingly popular design-build concept. Phase I work is expected to begin shortly after the frost is out of the ground next spring, with the artificial turf installed next summer, parking lots and lights by fall and the bubble erected in November. A significant number of Rochester organizations are supporting the project and eager to see the construction begin. The RCTC Foundation has contracted with a consulting firm to help develop the fundraising campaign needed to raise $2.5-3 million for Phase II construction.
I hope you stopped at the Rochester Art Center on Thursday and joined Channel One in raising awareness about hunger at the 2006 Empty Bowls Event. Attendees received a simple meal of soup and bread to remind them of those who struggle with hunger in our community. Each participant received a handcrafted bowl, many of them the work of Robert Banker and his RCTC ceramics students. I was honored to be asked to join a number of community activists who gathered three weeks ago to design and paint a “celebrity bowl” for the event. Did anyone pick the navy blue and gold bowl with the Yellowjacket design on the inside?

The Boards of the Minnesota Council for Quality and the Rochester Area Quality Council recently voted to approve an alliance that makes the Rochester organization an affiliate of the State association. Dave Weber, a Rochester Quality Council leader since the organization’s inception, was instrumental in making this initiative happen.

Thanks to all who helped draft RCTC’s third Baldrige Award nomination. RCTC took a major leap forward this year when our application was moved to Stage 2 – Consensus Review. Although we didn’t garner an on-site visit from the Panel of Judges, moving up in the scoring to Stage 2 is considered a major accomplishment. Work will begin almost immediately on application number four.

**Quote for the Week…**

*One reason we had to merge three higher education systems in Minnesota was because credits wouldn’t transfer. There were reasons why they wouldn’t transfer of course. But legislators didn’t want to hear them any longer.*

– Linda Baer, MnSCU Senior Vice Chancellor

Enjoy the beautiful colors, sunny days and crisp nights. You know what’s just around the corner.