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- Faculty Lecture Series
  Dr. Barry Johansen

A Look Back...

Twenty-five years ago this month, RCC celebrated its 65th Anniversary. The Anniversary Committee was chaired by Mrs. Carol Geerdes. According to Registrar Frederick Trummer enrollment hit an all-time high of 3,113 students, the largest class in the College's 65 year history.

RCTC Common Book

As you plan the second half of the semester, I would encourage you to consider discussion of the "RCTC Common Book" in at least one of your staff or department meetings and/or classroom discussions. There are many copies of the *Gang of One*, written by our very own Dr. Fan Shen, in the library. If you would like to check it out (rather than read it in the reserve area), let us know, we will find you a book to read! Also, don't forget our Common Book Resource Website:

http://www.roch.edu/org/ctl/commonbook.html. Then - after reading, discussing and considering the topics in this fabulous books, plan to attend the 1:00 pm Nov. 21st presentation on the Common Book by Dr. Fan Shen in CF 206-208. Please mark your calendars now!

- Lori Halverson-Wente

Largest Scholarship for Community College Students Offered

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has opened nominations for the largest scholarships available to students from community colleges. Through the initiative, called the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program, the private foundation will award up to $30,000 annually per recipient to help students from community and two-year institutions pursue four-year degrees at any accredited college or university in the United States and abroad. While 45 percent of all college students in the U.S. attend community colleges, few private funds are available to help these students transfer to four-year institutions, in spite of their higher levels of ability and need. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship can provide funding for room and board, tuition, fees, and books for the length of time to attain the undergraduate degree.

Approximately 30 scholarships are to be awarded through this program in Spring 2006 for use during the 2006-2007 academic year. It will renew in subsequent years based on student performance. All candidates must be nominated by faculty at their two-year institution. Deadline for nominations is February 1, 2006. Do you know of an exceptional student who understands his/her role in a world that is interconnected and interdependent – students with a desire to serve others; students with a thirst for knowledge in many disciplines? This scholarship seeks students of demonstrated excellence, having a 3.5 gpa or better and could not complete their education without help. If so, contact Judy Bird (RCTC Foundation) at x7770 for more information.
Weekly funny…

Snapshots at jasonlove.com

Professor Herman paused when he heard that unmistakable thud -- another brain had imploded.

Employee News – Thank You
Dear RCTC Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful arrangement sent to Florida for my father's memorial service. What a heartwarming feeling to also receive your many kind and supportive words of sympathy over these last few weeks. My family and I truly appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Diane Nicholls -

Crossings Classifieds
Wanted: Please donate winter outerwear to Olmsted County individuals and families who have no means to get winter outerwear items for themselves. All sizes are needed, from infant to XXXL, hats to boots, snow suits to snowmobile suits, sweaters to coats. The items need to be clean and wearable. You can drop off your donation from October 17-21, in the UCR Atrium or in HA 116 at the Heintz Center. Just look for the container. A tax receipt is available by contacting Molly Rohe.
Donations will be sorted and distributed at Hawthorne Education Center, October 26 - 29. Volunteers are also needed to sort and escort families. You can volunteer by going to: http://www.uwolmsted.org/volunteercenter/winterdrive.html
This is a community service project for RCTC Upward Bound. Thank you.

Marketing Fact
In a polling of people living in a 30-mile radius around Rochester, when asked about higher education institutions in the area, 57% mentioned RCTC unaided. This is down from 60% in 2004. WSU and the U of M had similar declines: 37%-36% and 32%-29% respectively. (Knowledge and Awareness Survey, 2005)

- Halloween Sale -
ONE DAY ONLY...

HURRY IN FOR SOME SPOOKY SAVINGS!
The RCTC Bookstore will have a one-day only Halloween sale on Monday October 31st. Receive $10.00 off all sweatshirt and jacket purchases!
Big news out of St. Paul this week! Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will establish centers of excellence in health care, manufacturing/engineering and information security at four state universities and 17 two-year colleges under a recommendation adopted by the Board of Trustees. Each center will be headed by a state university and community and technical college partners. Winona State University and its partners…RCTC, Pine Technical College, Minnesota Southeast Technical College, and Ridgewater College…comprise the Center for Integrated Health Science Education and Practice. The focus of the Center for Integrated Health Science Education and Practice is to position Minnesota as a leader in health care education, practice and innovation, particularly for recruiting and retaining a more diverse health care workforce. The Center will prepare and support professional development of a workforce that understands technological advances and will link health care education with health care practice. The four centers were selected from among 11 finalists reviewed in a two-step process by business and industry and higher education leaders. Each center is or will seek to become regionally or nationally recognized in its area. “By building on the outstanding academic talent, programs and resources already at these institutions, the centers will establish flagship programs in areas critical for the state to maintain its competitive edge,” said MnSCU Chancellor Jim McCormick. “With two-year colleges and state universities working together, the centers will no doubt attract strong faculty talent that will provide Minnesota residents with best-in-class national programs and draw top students from outside the state.” Congratulations to Christine Barajas, Mike Bequette, Nirmala Kotagal and the team from the participating institutions who developed an exceptional proposal. I was most proud to be in attendance at the Board meeting where Christine and Mike, joined by business and industry reps, presented the proposal to the Education Policy Committee. The Center for Integrated Health Science and Practice presentation was, without doubt, the most professionally produced and delivered of the four finalist proposals. Congratulations to all involved!

It’s now official! Enrollment at the 32 Minnesota state colleges and universities held steady over the last year. This fall, the system enrolled 170,754 students, an increase of 341 students from last fall’s enrollment…a 0.2% increase. Enrollment increased at 13 colleges and three state universities and decreased at 13 colleges and four state universities. Overall, enrollment was up 1 percent at the seven state universities and down .3% at the community and technical colleges. System officials said they are concerned that recent tuition increases over the past few years may make it more difficult for students to begin or complete their education. RCTC was one of the two-year colleges experiencing a headcount increase, growing from 5,925 students in the fall of 2004 to 5,961 students in 2005…a .6% increase. It appears that RCTC students are taking slightly higher credit loads this year since the projected full-year equivalent numbers increased from 4,383 in fall 2004 to 4,485 this year…a 2.3% increase.

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is the core higher education data collection program for the National Center for Educational Statistics. IPEDS released its 2005 Data Feedback Report which compares RCTC with that of 10 other comparable MnSCU institutions…Central Lakes, Century, Hibbing, Lake Superior, Minneapolis, Minnesota West, Northland, Ridgewater, Riverland and St. Paul. In a nutshell, the report indicates that RCTC’s…
- headcount and full-time equivalent enrollment exceeds that of the comparison group
- academic year tuition and required fees for full-time, first-time degree/certificate seeking undergraduates, significantly under our counterparts in 2002-03, now exceeds that of our counterparts
- percent of students receiving financial aid in the form of grants and loans is lower than like institutions, but the number of students receiving institutional grants (scholarships) is twice as high as the control group
- graduation rates are less than that of our partner institutions
- tuition and fees are significantly higher, and our state appropriations significantly lower than the group
- percent of employees assigned primarily to instruction and executive and management are lower than the comparison group, while the number of other professional staff exceeds that of our counterparts
- average salaries are slightly lower than those of the comparison group

Thought for the week…

According to our surveys, the American public is definitely not anti-higher education. However, they do not view higher education as a ‘public good.’ It’s viewed as something you do to get a good job or a better job, and you should pay for it.”

-- Jane Wellman, Senior Associate, Institute for Higher Education Policy

I encourage you to attend the October 28 meeting of the Governor-appointed Rochester Higher Education Development Committee, 8 a.m. – Noon (you don’t have to stay for the entire meeting) at Edina Realty (lower level) to hear presentations from University of Minnesota, IBM, and Hormel Institute.

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