Come One, Come All…

It’s the SSSP Basket Challenge Scholarship Fundraiser!
You and your department are invited to compete in the 2nd annual SSSP Basket Challenge in support of the Iris Fried Scholarship fund. Create a theme basket to be donated to our silent auction and if it brings the highest bid, you or your department will be awarded a special prize. Baskets are due in the Student Support Services office SS159 by Monday, November 27. Please stop by the window on the 4th floor of the College Center (at the top of the stairs, great way to get in some extra steps!) to view the display created by the RCTC Retail Merchandising students of some of the baskets to be auctioned off at this year’s event. The Basket Challenge Silent Auction/Holiday party will be held in CF206/208 on Thursday, November 30 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend our annual event, have some treats, and bid on the basket(s) of your choice. Please R.S.V.P. to Deb at ext. 7230 with your plans to contribute a basket. Be creative, have fun!

International Food Tasting Event
The International Students will be offering an International Food tasting event in the Atrium on Nov. 14th from 11:00 -12:30. We hope to have over 15 different countries represented. We are using this as a fund raising event for the UNICEF program of the UN. We chose UNICEF because we actually have a student who did volunteer work in his country for UNICEF. Our goal is to raise $200. We thank you for your support over the past years and hope you enjoy an international treat.

“Hats Off” to our International Students!
On Nov 4th, 24 International Students served a bountiful spread of dishes to the Gift of life Transplant house in Rochester. The guests were very appreciative of all the fine dishes that the students prepared for them. From India to Japan, the Philippines to Kenya -- the dishes were just a treasure for the residents they said. Some of the recipes were even requested by the families of those recovering from their ordeal. The residents were even happier to know that they didn't have to clean up the kitchen afterwards. Hats off to our International Students that put forth an extra effort to do a service for the community and represent RCTC in such a fine manner.

Thank You!
A special thank you to EVERYONE for ensuring the Polling Location at the UCR Regional Sports Center ran smoothly on November 7th. Several verbal compliments were shared with the Office of the President by the Election Judges and other workers, and we appreciate you showing the community that RCTC is commitment to our civic responsibility of making our facilities available. A special thanks to Chuck Siefert for coordination of the facilities, Steve Monson for coordination of the set-up, and Bob Morris for coordination of the security during the day long event.
Thank You
Thank you from the International Student Club to all who contributed their annoying loose change in their desk. You are helping us reach our goal of raising $200 for UNICEF. We collected $12.94 from your desks. Thanks also to all who stopped by and purchased Halloween candy bags and dropped off their change. We collected $28.00 at the table. So far, we have collections from students of $81.00. If you have a UNICEF box out, please return them by our International Food tasting event on Tuesday 14 Nov in the Atrium at 11:00 am. We thought the goal of $200 was lofty, but we are realizing that is not that high in this generous institution as we were advised. We are excited and hope to reach higher than our expectations. Thank you again for your support.
~International Student Club

Faculty Lecture Series
It's time to mark your calendar for the last faculty lecture in the fall UCR Faculty Lecture Series. It's coming up at 11:00, Tuesday, November 28, Hill Theater, with a reception following in the Quiet Lounge. This one will be presented by Dr. Diane Forsyth of the WSU nursing division. Her topic is Families and the Life Transition of First-Time Mental Illness: Swept Along on the Waves. It will be especially relevant for nursing and psychology students, but Diane also indicated that it will be relevant for sociology as well. Please plan ahead and consider bringing your classes or recommending that your students attend. A flier with more information is attached to this week's Crossings.

Marketing Fact
Of the 70 indicators of satisfaction on the Student Satisfaction Inventory administered at RCTC this past Spring, the three that are the greatest predictors of overall satisfaction are: "My academic advisor is concerned about my success as an individual", "Faculty are understanding of students' unique life circumstances", and "Most students feel a sense of belonging here"

[*Using forward regression analysis, these three statements were significantly and positively associated with all three summary satisfaction statements: "So far, how has your college experience met your expectations?", "Rate your overall satisfaction with your experience here thus far", and "All in all, if you had to do it over, would you enroll here again?"*]

Academic Accolades
Wow--Kim Zabel (English) has had more poetry published! Accepted in the poetry journal, EDGZ: "Forming a triangle, unconnected" and "Shadowprints". Accepted in the poetry journal, Green Blade: "Becky" and "Judi". Congratulations, Kim! People like you make us all look good.

Way to go Equine Science Department! Practical Horseman magazine has nominated an article written by Pam Whitfield, about equestrian education in colleges, for the U.S. Equestrian Federation’s “Pegasus Media Award.”

The Minnesota 4-H junior horse judging team, coached by Pam Whitfield, won the team and individual championship at the National Morgan Horse Judging Contest in Oklahoma City last month.

The Equestrian club raised close to $1000 last Saturday thanks to a generous donation by Bonnie Minor. Bonnie, an Equine Science adjunct instructor, donated two days of her time to teach a western riding clinic. The clinic was covered by local television news on Saturday evening.

UCR Blood Drive
The next UCR Blood Drive is Tuesday, November 14 from 8:30am - 3:30pm in AT301. To schedule an appointment, please call the Mayo Blood Donor Center at 284-4475. Walk-ins are welcome. Please encourage students to donate!

Crossings Classifieds
Supalla Scribblings

Less than 24 hours after they learned that their party had swept back control of the U.S. House of Representatives, Democratic leaders said on Wednesday that they would move quickly next year to pass legislation to make college more affordable for students and their families. During the run-up to the election, Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in the House, said that if her party gained control of Congress it would make higher education more affordable by slashing the interest rate on student loans in half, raising the maximum Pell Grant award to $5,100 (up from $4,050), and increasing the tax deductibility of college tuition. In terms of higher-education policy, the Democratic takeover of the House is expected to further delay action on legislation to renew the Higher Education Act, the law that governs most federal student-aid programs which is scheduled to expire the end of June.

From THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION – 11/9/06

Several new area legislators won seats in Tuesday’s election and will need a higher education orientation. The good news is that all of the legislators returned to St. Paul for another term and some of these newly elected representatives already have a very good understanding of RCTC’s mission, vision and operations. We will be scheduling a meeting with all area legislators prior to the start of the session to brief them on our legislative initiatives and Chancellor McCormick is committed to visit with each newly elected legislator prior to the January session start to orient them to the MnSCU legislative agenda.

On October 24, the College Board released the results of the report Trends in College Pricing 2006 and Trends in Student Aid 2006 and an update to Education Pays 2004: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society. Some of the many findings…

- Published tuition and fee charges at two-year public colleges averages $2,272, $90 more than last year. The 4.1 percent increase is less than one-half of one percentage point above the rate of inflation.
- In 2005-06, postsecondary students received about $135 billion in student aid from federal and state governments, colleges and universities, and other private sources. About 44 percent of this aid was in the form of grants and 51 percent was in the form of loans through the federal government.
- In each of the federal student aid programs, aid per student was lower in inflation-adjusted dollars in 2005-06 than it had been earlier in the decade. Both the total amount of Pell Grants awarded and the average Pell Grant per recipient were lower in 2005-06 than they had been in 2004-05.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, nearly one-third of all undergraduate college students are enrolled at community colleges, a number that has grown by about 20 percent in the past decade to 6.5 million students. The New Journal reports several reasons for this trend. One factor said to be contributing to the surge is the number of college-age students. Another contributing factor is the rising cost of tuition. The article reports that the cost of tuition at public universities has grown by nearly 60 percent in the past decade. Regardless of the reasons for the increase, the type of students community colleges serve has largely remained the same. These are students who use the community college as a springboard to a four-year degree, students who are looking for a two-year professional degree, and students who want to receive professional training. The community colleges also serve older community members who want computer training, high school students looking to get ahead, and immigrants who take English classes.

Growing by Degrees: Online Education in the United States, 2005, is a new report from The Sloan Consortium. The report notes that public institutions and those in the South are more likely to embrace online education than their private counterparts or than institutions in other parts of the country. Some 65 percent of higher education institutions say that they use primarily core faculty (not adjuncts) to teacher their online courses, a number that jumps to 74 percent when limited to public colleges. The report noted that faculty have not yet fully accepted the value of online education. According to the survey, most types of schools now see online education as key to their long term strategy. Overall, online education has sustained a very impressive growth rate. While higher education as a whole is growing at a rate less than two percent per year, online education is an order of magnitude higher, at 20 percent. Schools are expanding their online offerings with no signs of slowing down.

H2O University…At the University of California at Santa Barbara, 50% of the students say they never or rarely drink tap water, 48% prefer spring water to other types of bottled water, 5% believe their bottled water comes from glaciers, 23% feel that bottled water in plastic bottles is too expensive, and 25% believe that bottled water is really just tap water. Perrier, the first mass-marketed water in the U.S., started the bottled water boom in 1978. Thirty-three percent of the bottled water brands tested by the Natural Resources Defense Council contained at least one chemical contaminant above state health limits or guidelines.

Thought for the Week…

"Do what you love, love what you do, and deliver more than you promise."

~ Harvey Mackay

Don
RCTC Christmas Concerts

Reservations are now being accepted for the annual Christmas concerts held December 6, 7, 8, 9 at 7:30pm in Hill Theatre. As usual, this show has something for everyone; including the legendary build-your-own-ice-cream-sundae-buffet at intermission. There's sweets and treats served in the 3rd floor cafeteria and the jazz band plays some toe tappin' Christmas tunes while you indulge your sweet tooth. It's a great show for kids of all ages. This is a popular show with the general public as well as with staff and shows have been known to sell out rather quickly. Tickets go on sale Monday November 13th. Stop by the Hill Theatre Box Office or call 285-7200 for reservations or more information. Ticket prices are: $8.00 for adults; $7.00 for seniors (65 and over), children, and students.; UCR staff receive 2 at the $7.00 price, with additional tickets available at the above prices.; RCTC/WSU students receive one free ticket with valid ID. All seats are reserved. Checks are made payable to RCTC Music.

~ SWEATSHIRT SALE ~

$10.00 off ALL Sweatshirts

at the RCTC Bookstore on November 20-21

Employee News

Condolences

Condolences to Kevin Dobbe whose brother Clifford "Mitch" Mitchell Dobbe, Jr. passed away on Thursday, November 2, 2006 in Appleton, Wisconsin. Mr. Dobbe was 53 years old. Our thoughts are with Kevin and Teresa!

It's a Boy!

We are delighted to announce an addition to the RCTC Family. Neila Vele (Accounting Officer) gave birth to a 8 lb 9 oz (21" long) baby boy on Friday, November 10 at 8:58 p.m. Congratulations to Neila and her husband, Mirsad!

Winter Weather Emergency Policy/Procedures

The warm weather is quickly becoming a thing of the past, and sweaters, scarves and mittens will soon be the necessary attire. With the return of cold weather, we need to remember to be safe and informed. November 13-27 is Winter Hazard Awareness Week, which highlights a number of safety issues that arise during the winter months. In addition, it is time to refresh our memories on the Weather Emergency Policy/Procedures and Definitions at UCR. Notifications to employees not on duty and students not at the College will be made through the media. At a minimum, the following radio and television media will be notified: KROC AM/FM, Y105, KWWK, KLCX, KWEB, KRCH, KMFK-FM, KNFX-AM, KTTC and Fox 47. For those employees and students who live outside the area, you may access the KTTC and KROC website for closing notifications by going to the RCTC website: http://www.rctc.edu//policies/html/weather.html

Definitions:

a. CLOSING THE UNIVERSITY CENTER: Closing the University Center means to cease all operations for all three (3) institutions (RCTC, WSU-RC, UMR), other than those operations deemed essential to the protection of life and property. Closing the University Center results in the cancellation of classes, student and staff activities and meetings. All general offices are closed. Only weather essential employees (as defined below) must report to work during their regularly scheduled shifts.

b. DELAYED OPENING: Delayed opening refers to opening of all operations for all three (3) institutions at a later time, other than those operations essential to the protection of life and property. Only weather essential employees (as defined below) must report to work during their regularly scheduled shifts.

c. CANCELLATION OF CLASSES: Cancellation of classes (off-campus or on-campus) means to cancel one, several, or all classes, of either a single institution, several of the institutions or all the institutions, in the absence of officially closing the entire University Center.

d. CANCELLATION OF NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: Cancellation of non-academic activities refers to the cancellation of an event such as athletic events, theatrical productions, concerts, or workshops.

To review the entire policy/procedures, please visit: http://www.rctc.edu//policies/html/weather.html