IBM Donates Equipment for UCR Math/Writing Lab

IBM has once again generously donated four laptop computers to be used by students in the UCR Learning Lab. This is the third year in a row that IBM has donated equipment for the college.

Student use of the UCR Learning Lab, which focuses on math and reading skills, has surpassed expectations, so additional equipment will help alleviate wait time for students. Tim Gilsrud, RCTC Chief Information Officer said, “IBM’s ongoing support has allowed us to equip our labs and serve our students beyond the capacity of what is possible in our technology budget. We would not have the lab we do today without their generous donations.”

Two members of the RCTC Foundation board, Linda Behrens and Bob Maroo are IBM employees who wrote the grant request that resulted in the donation. One requirement to receive an IBM equipment donation is for IBM volunteers to be involved in the recipient organization. Both Linda and Bob have served on the RCTC Foundation board for a number of years and both are alumni of RCTC. This is the third year in a row for Linda’s involvement. “I am happy to help provide equipment for RCTC students,” said Linda, “I know the importance of technology in today’s education and this contribution helps the College keep pace with higher education standards.”

RCTC and its Foundation appreciate having the resource of IBM in our community, both in terms of their philanthropy as well as the talent they provide to community organizations, including the College and Foundation.

New York Study Tour

Many faculty, staff, and community members have attended one or more of the Retail Merchandising Study Tours. Others have expressed an interest in attending. This will probably be the last New York Study Tour that I will be conducting. I have coordinated 25 Retail Merchandising Study Tours to New York, London, Paris, Hong Kong and China. Attached to this week’s Crossings is information regarding the New York Retail Merchandising/Interior Decorating Study Tour. The tour will March 29-April 3, 2007. Registration should be done before Dec. 8th. You may audit the course or take it for credit. Anyone with an interest in retail, fashion and New York is welcome to join the group. For more information please see the attached or go to http://www.rctc.edu/program/rmds

Please contact suzanne.dinusson@roch.edu if you should have questions or need more information.

Library Closed

Goddard Library will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th.
Marketing Fact
Larger percentages of students from four-year colleges as compared to two-year colleges earn bachelor's degrees. However, "The difference in bachelor's degree completion rates appears to lie in whether a community college students [sic] seeking a bachelor's degree actually transfers to a four-year institution. Once across that bridge, community college transfer students have about the same likelihood of earning a bachelor's degree as do similar students who began at a four-year college or university, although community college students tend to take longer to complete their degrees" (p. 592).

Academic Accolades
Dr. Pam Whitfield (English) has recently been notified that DoubleTake, a literary/documentary journal, is publishing a creative nonfiction essay of hers called "My Uncle's Dog Eye." Congratulations, Pam!

UNICEF Fund Raiser a Huge Success!
The International Students organized a UNICEF fund raiser in conjunction with Halloween and a few days later a International Food tasting event in the Atrium. The students set a goal of $200. They were able to raise $350.97, which is 1 1/2 times their goal. The Club wants to thank the staff and faculty for their fantastic support or this project as well as all the other projects and events on campus.

SWEATSHIRT SALE
$10.00 off ALL Sweatshirts
at the RCTC Bookstore on
November 20th & 21st

Campus Exhibits in Goddard Library
Goddard Library invites your exhibits of cultural, artistic and educational interest for temporary placement in the library. A lockable display case and wall mounted exhibit board are available in one month reservations for campus groups and organizations. The reservation request form, guidelines and schedule are available by calling the library at 285-7233 or by email to library@ucr.roch.edu.

Club Meetings
Circle of Friends will hold a free Pizza Party in EA235 at 12:00 on 11/22.
Martial Arts club works out 8-10pm on 11/20 in SC108
Martial Arts club works out 7-9pm on 11/22 in SC108
Supalla Scribblings

On November 15, the MnSCU Board of Trustees approved a legislative budget request that seeks a $177 million increase in the biennial budget and limits annual tuition increases to the average of no more than four percent across the system in each of the next two years. The request is asking the state to invest in initiatives to expand recruitment and retention of students traditionally underserved in higher education, support academic excellence and innovation and to make crucial technology infrastructure updates. The $177 million requested increase was developed assuming tuition would rise four percent per year, which would be the smallest tuition increase since 1999. The Board unanimously approved the budget request with an amendment proposed by Trustee Olson that the final adopted budget will not increase tuition by more than four percent regardless of the legislative appropriation in the 2007 session. The Board also approved a supplemental capital request of $33.8 million that includes $30 million for repair and replacement projects and $3.8 million for acquisition of properties adjacent to Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet and Bemidji State University. Securing the HEAPR repair and replacement funding is important to RCTC since included in the projects is completion of the Heintz Center roof project.

With the legislative session fast approaching, a grassroots network of faculty, staff, students, community members and alumni has launched the MnSCU Friends Action Network (FAN) to promote the state’s investment in higher education during the 2007 legislative session. Members of the FAN are expected to talk to friends, family, neighbors and elected officials about the value of MnSCU and what the system delivers to Minnesota. I encourage each of you to become a FAN. Your show of support begins with a visit to http://www.fan.mnscu.edu.

MnSCU and RCTC Applause…

- Minnesota Online, the gateway to programs and courses offered via the Internet by the MnSCU system, has received the 2006 Institutional Service Award from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). The international nonprofit organization presented the award November 10 during its international conference in Boston. “CAEL applauds the efforts of Minnesota Online to provide students with an outstanding educational opportunity,” the organization states. “By allowing student to access the online learning opportunities provided by Minnesota State community colleges, technical colleges and universities through one Web site, Minnesota Online is working toward CAEL’s mission to expand learning opportunities for adults.” Minnesota Online offers more than 4,700 course sections and 150 programs, making it the largest public provider of online education in Minnesota.

- RCTC’s “Learning is ForEver” (LIFE) Program was highlighted in a five-page article in the November issue of TODAY Magazine. For the past 13 years, now under the leadership of Chrisanne Pieper, LIFE ha provided hundreds of classes to a myriad of retirement-aged attendees from Rochester and surrounding communities. LIFE’s mission is to provide humanities-based educational programs that are stimulating and allow for social and personal growth. The programs are geared for adults fifty-five and older. You can think of LIFE’s programs as a local version of Elderhostel, where instructors come to the students. LIFE offers a fresh slate of courses each fall, winter and spring. Classes are typically one to two hours long, although some classes consist of multiple sessions held over a set number of weeks. Most classes are conducted at Heintz Center. The best part of LIFE might be that there are no educational prerequisites, term papers are not assigned and neither exams nor grades are given.

- Thanks to American Legion Post 92 and Auxiliary Unit 92, dozens of apples were made available to RCTC faculty members. “Great Public Schools, A Basic Right and our Responsibility” was this year’s theme intended to remind each of us that we have a duty and responsibility to assure that young people are prepared to take up roles of citizens and leaders in the years to come. We thank the American Legion for reminding us each year during American Education Week that no student should decide s/he cannot afford to continue her/his education beyond high school. The apples serve as a reminder to say THANK YOU to all educators…you’re performing one of America’s highest forms of public service.

Collaborative plans for helping people advance through the educational system and the ranks of a chosen career – an approach known as “career pathways” – work best when incorporated into institutions and organizations through systemic change rather than developed as discrete programs, according to a report released by the nonprofit Workforce Strategy Center. The report, “The Career Pathways How-to-Guide,” lays out a five-step process for working toward that systematic change and highlights community colleges that have made developing career pathways part of their core mission. More information is available at http://www.workforcestrategy.org.

Thought for the Week…

_The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn._

-- Alvin Toffler

Happy Thanksgiving!  

Don
**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.*

**Employee News**

An update on Pat Kraemer: Pat was supposed to go home last Wednesday (11/8), but Pat and her husband, Hugh, asked for an extension until Saturday to give her a bit more time with physical therapy and allow Hugh time to get their home set up for her recovery. Then on Thursday (11/9) they determined she had staff infection, hence she is still being hospitalized. Pat is on medication, and the doctors are watching her carefully before they make a determination of when she'll be able to go home. This is surely a setback and obviously Pat is discouraged. Please continue to keep her in your thoughts!

**RCTC Hosts National Volleyball Tournament**

The NJCAA Division III National Volleyball Tournament will be held at the UCR Regional Sports Center this weekend on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Nov. 18th. If you love watching volleyball COME ON OVER! The top 8 teams in the nation will be here for two days. A lot of great volleyball. Play begins on Friday at 11:00am and will go as late as 8:00pm. Saturday is the championship round with the top four teams squaring off at 11:00pm for the final day. Bring your RCTC Faculty ID, bring a $1.00 (dollar) and come join the excitement. Two teams from Minnesota are in the tournament so come cheer on Ridgewater (Willmar) and Central Lakes (Brainerd).