Open Forums – Interim associate dean
This is to announce that three candidates will be interviewed for the Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs position. All staff are invited to participate in the “open forums” for the three candidates scheduled for Monday, November 22, 1999. The forums will be held in CF206 and will last no more than 30 minutes.

3:00 p.m. – Candidate 1
3:30 p.m. – Candidate 2
4:00 p.m. – Candidate 3

Candidates are being asked to give a brief introduction of their background and qualifications as they relate to this position, followed by a question-and-answer period.

There will be your opportunity to provide feedback to the interview team by completing an evaluation form which will be available at the forums.

Inclement weather policy
Even with above 70 degree weather the second week in November, reality is winter is almost here! Periodically the administration needs to close the University Center Rochester campus or cancel academic or non-academic activities due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions. The specific policy relating to the Closing of the University Center Rochester may be found in the RCTC Policy Book (located in the President’s Office), and also accessed via the internet site http://www.roch.edu/rctc/about/html/policies.html

Attached to this week’s College Crossings is the procedures and work schedules followed when it is becomes necessary to close the campus or cancel classes and activities, or delay the opening of college due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions.

Come one, come all
The Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation would like to invite all employees of RCTC to stop by our office (Heintz Center – C120) on Monday, November 22nd, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for treats and refreshments. This is our way of saying THANKS! for a great year and for your kindness, generosity and support. We hope you will continue to support us in the future and, if you haven’t already contributed to the Foundation, we hope you will think about the RCTC Foundation when you consider your year end gifts.

Faculty reminder
Please submit your textbook orders for Spring Semester as soon as possible.
Weekly funny...

“Sure I heard you -- you said something about being a workaholic.”

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Recipients for vacation donation program
Listed below is the new individual who has been approved as a recipient for the vacation donation to the sick leave account program. This individual may have already or will be exhausting all paid leave time and will be losing health insurance coverage’s. State employees may donate up to 12 hours (per recipient) per fiscal year to this individual or any other recipients on the sick leave account. More details regarding this individual and forms to donate leave are available from the human resources office.

Gerald Krahmer

Thank you acknowledgement
Thank you to American Legion Post 92 and Post 92 Auxiliary for their continuing support of education. Again this year, the Legion has taken time to honor teachers during American Education week by placing an apple in each RCTC faculty member’s mailbox. Thanks also to the special delivery of the apples by RCTC retired English faculty member Mike Madsen.

Thank you
Thanks to all who generously donated items to Christmas Anonymous. Donations included:

- Coats: 46 Adult (+ 5 light raincoat/jackets); 21 children/youth;
- Mittens/Gloves: 18; Hats: 22; Scarves: 6; Headbands/ear muffs: 5; Boots: 15; Shoes: 17; Women’s purses: 13; Teddy Bears: 6

Volunteers are still needed for the December 10 and 11 Christmas Anonymous Store. Contact Earlene Hackenmiller at x7219 if you are interested in helping out.

The Christmas Anonymous drive was sponsored by: Rochester Community and Technical College; Phi Theta Kappa; Student Senate and Choices of SE MN.

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You’re invited!
You are cordially invited to attend a Retirement Reception for

Dr. Julie Goodman
Dean of Nursing and Allied Health
Rochester Community and Technical College

Wednesday, December 1, 1999
2:00-4:00 p.m. in CF206/208
(UCR Coffman Center Bldg. - 2nd floor)

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Thought for the week...
Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Many thanks to those of you who took time from your busy schedules to visit with the Minnesota Council for Quality on-site evaluation team. The evaluation team, comprised of representatives from Robbinsdale Public Schools and NSP, along with two private consultants shared very preliminary exit information regarding their three-day on campus visit. In the next six to eight weeks, the team will provide RCTC with a more extensive feedback report of their visit, review of RCTC’s written overview, and analysis of the Baldrige Express survey results. During the exit interview, the team shared strengths and next steps for three core values and concepts included in the educational criteria...leadership, partnership development, and learning-centered education. Details highlighted during their exit interview will be shared with staff at the November 30 all-staff meeting. The team confirmed that many very positive things are happening on campus, they were most impressed with the quality of our employees, and several mentioned that RCTC is a place they’d like to work. My compliments to Laura Tacheney, Don Baldus, Judy Harris, and Dave Weber who coordinated the visit and to all of you who were visited by the team!

Congratulations to Darlene Voeltz who was named Post-Secondary Business Educator for the Year by the Southeast Minnesota Business Educators. Way to go, Darlene!

It was my honor to represent RCTC at the Minnesota High Tech Association Annual Laser Awards Banquet, the premier event showcasing Minnesota’s high tech industries. At the banquet, IBM Rochester received the Laser Award for Education because of their partnering efforts with RCTC, Minnesota State University—Mankato, Winona State University, and the University of Minnesota. While accepting the award, IBM recognized the higher education providers’ contributions to their workforce development activities. In the nomination form, RCTC was singled out for our contributions to the AS/400 University, our partnering with IBM to secure workforce development funding from the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, and our UCR collaborative efforts. I appreciate the significant efforts of our Continuing Education/Workforce Development team and others that have continued to strengthen the bridge with one of our most important customers.

Thanks to Steve Kereakos and Carol Nurmi who hosted a wonderful Recognition Banquet honoring our Yellowjacket state and regional golf medallist, Jandra Fromm, and the entire RCTC women’s soccer team, who in their first year of competition brought home the Region XIII championship trophy. Many thanks to golf coach and athletic coordinator Anne Green and to soccer coach Deb Hare for their leadership! By the time you read this, the Yellowjacket football team will have played the feature game at the UNI-Dome in this year’s Pepsi-Cola Bowl. The players, coaches, and all that supported the team throughout the undefeated regular season are all winners. Way to go!

I recently received an e-mail from Stephen and Gail Fine, parents who last year lost their 26-year old son to melanoma cancer. They have established a web site in hopes of helping prevent similar tragedies in other families. If you’re interested, check it out at www.skincheck.com.

The University of Minnesota has invited me to serve as a member of the search committee for the Provost who will be responsible for academic affairs of University of Minnesota Rochester. The initial meeting of the search committee is scheduled for December 1 and I’ll keep you updated as the search progresses.

John Frey, Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology at Minnesota State University—Mankato, sent a very nice note thanking Judy Harris and the faculty for a very productive day discussing program articulation opportunities. Thanks to all who made this visit such a success and for the continuing articulation dialogue with all higher education providers who might provide our students with expanded upper-division educational opportunities.

At its November meeting, the MnSCU Board of Trustees reviewed current and projected budget information for all MnSCU institutions. I’d encourage staff interested in comparing RCTC data with that from other two year Minnesota colleges to check out the fiscal data available at www.budget.mnscu.edu. Very interesting!

Research finding of the Week…College students prefer ties with dots, suits with stripes, and letters with checks.

Enjoy a relaxing and happy Thanksgiving!

— Don
Up to speed

Last Wednesday 30 Elderhostel participants from all over the US celebrated our ten year involvement in Elderhostel offerings by attending the RCTC fall music concert. On stage were RCTC students and in the audience was another group of RCTC students—our current Elderhostel class. And as the concert ended, the Elderhostel class rose to give the CC Aires a standing ovation.

“Wonderful young people.” “Renews my faith in our youth,” were a couple of the comments I heard. I’ll bet many of you don’t realize that in programs like Elderhostel, RCTC has close to an equal number of noncredit student headcount each year as we do credit student headcount—10,000. CE/CT/WD makes a huge contribution to our college. Thanks to Kathy Richie and all of the CE/CT/WD staff.

The energy that Chuck is able to evoke from his choir and band members has always sent me away struggling with the question: “How can I draw on all that wonderful energy in my composition classroom?” Don’t hold your breath for an answer; I was never able to figure out how to make that happen.

Kudos to Ray Mikesh, Gary Schnattschneider, crew and cast of “A Streetcar Named Desire” for an extraordinary production. Ray told me about half way through rehearsals that this was going to be one of his best shows. It was.

For three days last week a team of five from the Minnesota Council for Quality visited many of you. Their exit presentation on Wednesday will be shared at the all faculty and staff meeting from 2-4 on Nov. 30. A more detailed report will follow in a few weeks. What fine people were involved and how seriously they took their roles. Looking at what we do with new eyes (re-vision we call it in English jargon), offers us a great chance to build on strengths and shore up weaknesses. Thank you to all who participated in the sessions with the on-site team.

Remember back in early Oct. when I asked each of you to pick a student to mentor. I warned you that I would be checking up to see how you’re doing. The time has come. Name your student—to yourself, of course. The student does not have to know that you have chosen him/her. But if your attention, no matter how minimal, encourages one student to remain on campus next semester, we will have made progress. Multiply that by 300—one student for each employee. Wouldn’t that be impressive. I’ve been working with my student. I hope that she sticks around.

Hope you are able to spend a restful Thanksgiving with those you love.

A Python is really a rather heavy snake

Join us for an informal presentation by Joyce Wood about her recent trip to Nepal. Joyce has slides, information and wonderful stories to share about her exotic journey. Bring your lunch and join us on Wednesday, November 24 from 12-12:50 p.m. in Coffman 202. (It is also rumored that Joyce was seen riding an elephant on this trip.)

Come and learn! We hope other faculty and staff will volunteer to share their recent travel experiences! Join us! This is a great way to begin your Thanksgiving holiday!!

Baldrige Bantering

All faculty and staff meeting
Tuesday, November 30
2:10 p.m. - Hill Theatre

AGENDA
2:10-2:30 p.m.
Overview of MN Council for Quality On-site visit

2:35-3:00 p.m.
Rapid Response Teams Meet

3:10-3:25 p.m.
Rapid Response Team Reports

3:30-4:00 p.m.
Sample on All College Committee

Horticulture sale

The Horticulture Department will be selling the following after the Thanksgiving Holiday:

Poinsettias: $5 to $15
Wreaths: $10 to $15
Planters with evergreens for outdoor use: $8 to $12
Boxwood Trees: $20 (retail value of $60 or more)

All Thanksgiving orders should be picked up by 4:00 pm on November 24.

Growing for you,
Robin, Vern, & Horticulture Students
Are you prepared for Y2K?
Is your computer Y2K compliant? Do you have classroom or laboratory equipment that requires a computer chip to operate or perhaps equipment that uses a clock setting? Do you have facilities, security, or other building concerns regarding Y2K readiness? Prevention is the best plan. Faculty are encouraged to make your Y2K needs or inquiries known prior to January 1, 2000. Faculty may also want to come to campus to check equipment or labs needed for classes after the winter break but before classes are scheduled to resume. Please think ahead. The following individuals will serve as RCTC’s Y2K resource persons:
Tim Gilsrud: Instructional Technology/Computing
Jon Krusmark: Media/AV
Gary Swenson: Facilities, Security, Safety, Buildings
Dennis Kronebusch: Cont. Ed./Custom Training

Plan for your Y2K needs now! Prevention is smart thinking!!!

Goddard Library and Technology Center hours
November 22-28, 1999
Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Thursday and Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

RCTC staffing update
Administrative
- Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. (Full-time temporary appointment from February 1-July 31, 2000.) Interviews and open forums being conducted November 22 and 24, 1999.

Unclassified Professional/Supervisory
- MnSCU Program Director 1 – Cont Educ. Option (Community Outreach Coordinator). (unclassified MAPE). Position re-posted and re-advertised.
- MnSCU Program Director 2 – Special Needs Option (unclassified MAPE). Full-time, grant funded. Posted for internal interest-bid.
- MnSCU Program Director 1 – Continuing Education Option (unclassified MAPE). Youth Program Coordinator. Position posted.

Faculty
- Phlebotomy Instructor (UTCE – part-time for Spring Semester).
- Network Specialist Instructor (UTCE – full-time for Spring Semester).
- AS/400 Mid-Range Computing Instructor (UTCE – full-time for Spring Semester).

MAPE
- ITS2 (4 positions) (TeachNet Grant). (UFT temporary).
  Scott Sahs has been appointed at Rochester. John Harris has been at Southeast Technical. Bill Dowden has been appointed at Riverland. John Binsfeld has been appointed at Winona SU.
- ITS2 (3 positions) (TeachNet Grant). (UFT temporary).

Classified AFSCME
- General Maintenance Workers (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
- Office and Administrative Specialist (Academic VP Office). (Unlimited part-time .75 FTE). Position re-posted (FTE change). Michelle Stahlman has been appointed.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x3131.