Two New Scholarships Established

A significant number of scholarship opportunities available from the RCTC Foundation exist because of our dedicated faculty. Departmental scholarships from the English and Science department reward high achievement students in those areas of study. Twenty-nine scholarships have been established, either endowed or annual, with contributions from current or retired RCTC employees. Two new scholarships have been created to honor the memories of recently deceased faculty. Jane Toft taught biology at RCTC for many years, influencing her students to reach their potential and appreciate the art of science. Many of her students entered the field of health care and remain in our community serving patients from near and far. The Jane Toft Scholarship will be awarded this spring to a female student excelling in the field of science. Paul Labinski died suddenly this past October. He taught economics at RCTC for 34 years, inspiring and challenging his students. Beyond his teaching, he was involved in a variety of causes primarily in the field of environmentalism. His scholarship will be awarded to a student who shows promise in the field of economics or math and can demonstrate involvement in environmental issues.

Both Jane and Paul left this world too soon, depriving students of their skill and passion for teaching. Yet, their scholarships will create a lasting legacy that will inspire students in the years to come. If you are interested in contributing to these scholarships, please send a check to the RCTC Foundation. It is a wonderful way to give a year-end gift that has meaning and will make a difference to RCTC students.

UCR Holiday Reception

Thursday, December 18, 2003 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Heintz Center - Commons Area
–Sponsored by the Administration–

The annual UCR Teddy Bear Drive continues to bring comfort and smiles to many children in our community. This year marks the 6th anniversary of UCR’s drive. Please consider making a teddy bear contribution by dropping off a bear at the RCTC’s Office of the President (SS209) or during the Holiday Reception (Heintz Center Commons Area). The bears will be collected through Friday, December 19th and donated to local law enforcement agencies.
Weekly Funny

"The Internet has made it entirely too easy for some people these days. Santa just emailed me a gift certificate and virtual stocking."

Thank you
Thank you, Upward Bound, for the beautiful ring I won in the Holiday Drawing. It is just gorgeous. Thank you also, for all the hard work and good you do for our students and our community. It is appreciated far more than you will ever know.

- Linda Kline

Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact
Interest in Online Courses

According to the 2003 Knowledge and Awareness Survey including persons 18-49 living in a 30 mile radius of campus, nearly seven-in-ten say they are at least 'somewhat' interested in taking on-line courses at UCR. The portion of adults 'extremely' interested in taking on-line classes through UCR decreased compared to previous years, while the portion saying they're 'somewhat' interested increased.

Campus Incident Reports
Attached to this week’s Crossings is an incident report for the period of: September 12-October 15, 2003.

Fourth Annual Beat the Odds Event Scheduled
The annual fundraising event, Beat the Odds is scheduled for January 29, 2004 at the Kahler Grand Hotel. The event, sponsored by the Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation, honors four area high school seniors by awarding them a Beat the Odds scholarship. Each recipient has overcome tremendous obstacles in their lives and is now ready to begin post-secondary schooling in fall 2004.

The experiences each of the student’s recouts touch your heart. Cultural barriers, poverty, juvenile law issues, chemical dependency, family dysfunction, the list goes on. But, in all cases, they had determination to keep strong and surmount their troubles. In addition, an adult also stepped in to give them the necessary support and encouragement to keep on going.

Beat the Odds is a major fundraising event for Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation. RCTC lends support with horticulture students designing table centerpieces, fashion merchandising students work on stage decorating and staff Guy Hamernik produces the evenings video entertainment. Missy Hagen also provides technical support. Tickets are $60 apiece. Corporate tables are $600 and seat eight. The event has major underwriting support from Wells Fargo Bank and Rochester Post-Bulletin. If you would like more information or wish to provide support or expertise, contact the RCTC Foundation office – 281-7770.
Supalla’s Scribblings

As the clock quickly ticks toward the end of another academic semester and calendar year, I encourage you to join me in giving to two very good causes. I urge you to contribute generously to the end-of-year RCTC Foundation request. A contribution to the RCTC Foundation is a great way to help a current or future student. During the last few years, Foundation earnings on investments (like many of our own) have declined. This means that the Foundation’s ability to provide financial assistance to needy students has waned at a time students are experiencing annual double-digit tuition and fee increases. Please read the Foundation request letter you’ll soon receive carefully and give what you can to this important cause. The Foundation Board would like to see every RCTC employee make a contribution toward this future investment. Secondly, if you haven’t already added a bear or two to the increasing number of cuddly bears under the Teddy Bear Tree, please bring one with you to the Holiday Reception next Thursday. The bears are donated to Rochester and Southeast Minnesota law enforcement agencies, carried in squad cars, and given to youngsters to comfort them during anxious moments. The bears donated by UCR faculty and staff make up the largest single annual donation of animals to the Rochester Police and Olmsted County Sheriff’s Departments. Thanks very much to those who have already contributed to these important initiatives. Most say it’s better to give than receive!

I was pleased to receive a note from one of our colleagues whose sister has great things to say about RCTC. The sister is looking into a four-year Business Administration Degree at Viterbo College in LaCrosse. She has a two-year degree from WWTC from the mid-80’s. In reviewing her credits, the admissions advisor told her none of her credits from WWTC would transfer, however, she was told that if her degree had been from RCTC, all her credits would be accepted! The student thought that the compliment was quite a tribute to RCTC and wanted the message passed along. Transfer, even from RCTC, continues to be a major issue for some students so it’s wonderful to hear good news stories like the one from LaCrosse.

In 2002, for the first time, more American women than American men earned doctorates at U.S. universities. But the change may not mark the ascent of American female academics, who have earned around 13,000 doctorates annually for several years, so much as the descent of their male counterparts. American men were awarded slightly more than 12,800 doctorates last year, a drop of nearly 15 percent since 1997.

A single question, posed to members of the International Association of University Presidents by J. Michael Adams of Fairleigh Dickinson University, was: What five books should every undergraduate read and study in order to engage in the commerce, intellectual discourse, and public duties of the 21st century? Of the five books most frequently mentioned, none received anywhere near a majority of the vote. The Bible, cited most often, appeared on only one-fifth of the respondents’ lists. Here are the five most-mentioned works:

1) The Bible
2) The Odyssey
3) The Republic
4) Democracy in America
5) The Iliad

Winning Thoughts for the Week…

- “The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur.” – Vincent Lombardi
- “Winning isn’t everything…or even the only thing…it’s the single thing that determines who gets the prize.” – Doug Fierbaugh
- “The trouble with being number one in the world, in anything, is that it takes a certain mentality to attain that once you do achieve number one, you don’t relax and enjoy it.” – Billie Jean King

Hope to see you at the Holiday Reception, Thursday, Heintz Center Commons. Happy holidays! Don
You're Invited!
Please join me in celebrating my retirement from RCTC by accepting my gift to the RCTC staff and faculty, an evening of entertainment and delight in the form of a theatrical performance by: The Reduced Shakespeare Company's. A complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged. Presented by Jerry Casper, Nick Mezacapa and Greg Miller. The entertainment begins at Hill Theatre on Thursday, December 18 from 3:30 to 6:00pm. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to join you. Come, fill the theatre! Rather than a card or gift, please consider a dollar or two contribution for RCTC scholarships. Dave and I will match every dollar collected on the 18th...as long as it isn't more than my severance!

Judy Harris

Scholarship Applications
Scholarship application and information forms for RCTC Foundation Scholarship Fall 2004 are available in RCTC Foundation Office Heintz C110 or UCR Counseling office. DEADLINE TO APPLY: March 4, 2004. Start the paper work during the Christmas holiday break!

Academic & Athletic Youth Summer Camps
Letters of Intent must be turned in to my office no later than Dec. 23rd. Please note that my office is in the Heintz Center, so if you put it in the mail late on that day - just send me an e-mail to let me know it is on its way. I will then look for it when we return from break on Jan. 5, 2004.

Colleen Landherr – (507) 280-3113
Community & Youth Program Director

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Pat Pacyna and Eunice Mahlum whose father (Everett Main) passed away. Our thoughts are with Pat and Eunice and their family.

GODDARD LIBRARY, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, AND DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER HOURS

December 20, 2003-January 4, 2004

December 20                  CLOSED
December 21                  CLOSED
December 22-23               8:00 AM-4:30 PM
December 24-2003-January 4, 2004  CLOSED

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
ENJOY YOUR BREAK!!

You are invited to the
Student Services Holiday Coffee Party 2003
Hosted by the Student Services Staff at UCR
Friday, December 19, 2003 from 9:30 to 11:00 am
in Student Services Area SS123 Entrance