A Look Back...

Twenty-five years ago this month the college tradition known as "Potlach" raised two tons of food for Salvation Army and Christmas Anonymous. Fifteen clubs participated in the event which began in the 1960's.

Best Bee Awards

Congratulations to Rose Conway for being named RCTC's Best Bee of the month for December 2005!!! Here is what some of her nominators had to say about Rose: Her energy is contagious! Whether it is making a new employee feel at home, promoting homecoming with limbo contests and Caribbean Music, fund-raising for scholarships or other activities which support RCTC, sees things that need to be done and does them, greets hundreds of students in all sorts of conditions and detects emergency situations and reacts appropriately. She goes way out of her way to be pleasing and takes great pride in her work. She has Excellent Service to Students. Rose is the first contact point for all students accessing the Counseling/Advising center. She is the friendly, patient connector of students of all ages and nationalities to information and people within and outside of the Counseling/Advising Center. She coordinates many celebrations within the center and in other Student Service areas...birthdays, college service anniversaries, etc. which promotes positive morale and team attitudes. She is involved in many committees such as Staff Development and Search Committees. She also coordinated combined charities events.

Congratulations also to the 3rd Shift General Maintenance Workers for being named RCTC's Best Bee Team Nomination for the month for December 2005! Here is what the nominators had to say about them: The entire 3rd shift are a deserving group because of their dedication toward their job. They are continually trying to improve their work while keeping the buildings in great condition. They are very seldom recognized for their work and, for the most part, are a group of unknown faces that get the job done. They work as a team to keep our campus in a condition that all can enjoy.

UCR Campus Closing

Just a reminder to all employees at University Center Rochester, the buildings will be closed during part of the semester break (with the exception of the UCR Regional Sports Center): Closing - December 23 at 4:30 PM - Opening - January 3 normal business hours. Because the security system may be activated, individuals accessing the buildings during this period should notify Maintenance (extension 7262) when entering the UCR Main and Heintz Center Buildings. Enjoy the Winter Break!
Marketing Fact
About 50% of 4-year college/university seniors who took courses at another college stated they did so in order to complete their degree requirements sooner. About 17% stated they did so because they wanted to take easier courses. (Chronicle of Higher Education, 11/11/05, citing National Survey of Student Engagement results)

Thank You
Dear RCTC Family: Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement that was sent to California for my father’s funeral. Thank you also for the cards and words of support that you have shown me. My family and I deeply appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Mary (Ito) Dennison and Family

Thank You
The TRIO Student Support Services Program would like to thank the faculty, staff, and departments who donated items for and put bids in for our first annual Basket Challenge. The event was a tremendous success and through your support we were able to raise $1,080 for the Iris Fried Scholarship Fund to benefit TRIO students.

Special thanks to the following donors:
ESL Department - Abby Pinsky; Financial Aid; Goddard Library; Health Services; Heather Sklenicka; Horticulture Department; Ivonne TjoeFat; J.T. Goh - Molly Rohe; Nursing Department; RCTC Disability Services; RCTC Foundation Office; RCTC Marketing Department; RCTC Office of the President & Vice President Student Development & Services; Upward Bound; Social Sciences Department; Stacey Spindler; Winona State University.

GODDARD LIBRARY, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, AND DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER HOURS
January 3-6, 2006
Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Saturday and Sunday: CLOSED

(Hours are subject to change)

Happy Holidays!
Supalla’s Scribblings

It’s hard to believe that we’re at the end of another semester and calendar year. Maybe the time flies by faster each year because we’re another year older…or maybe because we seem to be busier than ever. This academic year has been one of accomplishment and opportunity. RCTC enrollments continue to exceed the system average, new programs have been started, web-based enrollments continue to grow, the Health Sciences renovation project is moving forward, partnerships with other higher education providers have increased, two-year statewide bargaining contracts were ratified, and the community joined us in a wonderful 90th anniversary celebration. Progress continues to be made on the implementation of Edit 59, conversion to a new computerized basic skills assessment process, fuller utilization of Recruitment Plus, enhancements to ISRS, development of a balanced scorecard dashboard, and improving the integrated budget planning process. In the coming months we look forward to impacting the recommendations of the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee, lobbying the legislature for both building repair and new construction dollars, considering a potential name change, and updating our Academic Quality Improvement Process priorities. All things considered, 2005 was a very good year…and 2006 looks pretty promising as well. Thanks for helping make RCTC Minnesota’s premier comprehensive college.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities will request $31.5 million from the 2006 Legislature to fund a global educational and training initiative, expanded biosciences programs, critical infrastructure and security technologies, and unanticipated fuel costs. The supplemental budget request was approved last week by the Board of Trustees. A $3.5 million global initiative will help build the system’s capacity to teach the Chinese language, history and culture and to develop exchange programs for students and faculty. This initiative also would position the system to become the global leader in customized training for programs such as aviation management and repair, automotive technology, home health care and manufacturing. The supplemental budget also includes a request for $3 million to expand program capacity in biosciences, $15 million for systemwide information technology improvements, and $10 million for significant fuel cost increases. The supplemental budget will augment a bonding request of more than $200 million for new infrastructure.

Can you identify the ten most common occupations for adults in 2000, according to the Census Bureau?

**Women:** secretaries, bookkeepers, sales supervisors, registered nurses, elementary school teachers, nursing aides, accounting/auditing clerks, waitresses, receptionists and cooks.

**Men:** truck drivers, sales supervisors, janitors, carpenters, cooks, computer analysts, non-construction laborers, sales representatives, construction laborers, and auto mechanics.

Intriguing but disheartening research reveals that many high school students who contemplate enrolling at a community college do not prepare themselves academically. High school teachers and counselors have been grumbling for years about “senioritis.” Recent research conducted by James Rosenbaum has proved that some students, both bound for college and not, see almost no link between working hard in high school and college success. In a survey of over 2,000 high school seniors in 12 high schools, only 28 percent of college-bound students agreed with the statement, “High school teaches me valuable skills”; 41 percent agreed that “People can do OK even if they drop out of high school”; and 44 percent concurred with the statement, “Even if I do not work hard in high school, I can still make my future plans come true.” It would be one thing if these results revealed student attitudes that were optimistic or coupled with a strong work ethic. But Rosenbaum finds that these students exert little effort in high school, believing that such minimal efforts will result in few penalties. Why don’t students understand the importance of a strong high school foundation for future academic success? One reason is that they view access to higher education as relatively easy via the community college. Many students see the community college as simply an extension of high school and not a substantive leap from one type of schooling to another. Depending on which study you believe, 40 to 50 percent of all students who enter community colleges never return for a second year. Nearly two-thirds of all community college entrants need to complete at least one remedial course in math or English composition. Rosenbaum and others have suggested that we need to work harder to show students how their work in high school will help them lead better lives via college. Moreover, we need to admit publicly that the way community colleges are currently perceived…by students, parents, four-year faculty and the media…is inadequate and needs to be redressed. **Community college is college, requiring prerequisite skills that are best gained in high school.** — Stephen J. Handel, Director of Community College Initiatives at the College Board

As I embark on some extended time away from campus for a Lake of the Woods ice fishing trip, holiday family time, and a week at the cabin, I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday and wonderful New Year!

Don
Scholarship Opportunities

Please inform students in your classes that RCTC Foundation Scholarship applications for 2006-07 are available at the UCR counseling center or the RCTC Foundation Office (HC109) - also on the RCTC website. Please encourage them to take time to apply for a scholarship. There are a variety of awards available based on various criteria for incoming and returning students; also scholarships are available for students graduating from RCTC and continuing their education at a four year college or university. The DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 7, 2006

Other Spring Semester Scholarships Available - Let Your Students Know

Rochester Area Alumni and Friends of the University of MN (RAAFUM) SCHOLARSHIP: Criteria - Awarded to a student who is graduating from RCTC and transferring to one of the Twin Cities campuses of the University of MN. Student must have a 3.0 g.p.a. or above. Award based on financial need, school activities, and community involvement or work.

St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship - $500: Awarded to students enrolled in an Associate degree Nursing program who have completed Nursing 1117. Recipients must agree to work one year at St. Marys Hospital.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING & AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS - $500: Awarded to an incoming or returning student in the CAD, BUM, or Mechanical Engineering (NOT maintenance engineering) with a 3.0 g.p.a. Recipient will be encouraged to attend monthly ASHRAE meetings at no expense to the student.

Applications for the above scholarships are available in the RCTC Foundation Office HC 109.

Financial Aid Holiday Party
Come and enjoy some holiday treats

Monday, December 19
10 - 12  SS110

Given by: The Financial Aid Office Staff