Making a Difference: Foundation
2012 Annual Report
2012 Beat the Odds
The 12th Annual Beat the Odds Event, held in January, honored four students from the greater Rochester area who have overcome significant obstacles in their young lives. These students have shown tremendous perseverance despite challenges that range from coping with severe family difficulties, to experiencing the loss of parents at a young age, to battling life-threatening cancer. Each of these students was awarded with a $2,500 scholarship to the accredited college of their choice. Being our most successful year yet, the RCTC Foundation was proud to establish an endowment to support Beat the Odds scholarships well into the future. Since its inception, Beat the Odds has provided over $150,000 in scholarships to more than 100 remarkable students.

2012 Outstanding Alumni
The RCTC Foundation kicked off Homecoming with an Outstanding Alumni event on September 21, 2012. As part of the festivities, a vote was conducted to select the “2012 Outstanding Alum” from a pool of three remarkable graduates. Congratulations to our grand winner, Alyce Tidball – Director for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem.

Alyce graduated from high school in Plainview, MN and then went on to attend Rochester Junior College, along with her older brother and twin brother. Following her time at RJC, Alyce continued her education at the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology. Alyce taught for a year in the US Virgin Islands and then for another year in Aberdeen, Scotland before joining the Peace Corps. She worked for two years as a Home Extension Agent in Paraguay, teaching rural women and girls basic homemaking skills such as nutrition, food preparation, and building raised brick cooking stoves. She then attended graduate school at Southern Methodist University, where she earned an MBA, and at Thunderbird School of Global Management, where she earned a Master’s degree in International Management. After three years of working in the private sector in Mexico City, Alyce joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer.

Now the Director for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the US Consulate General in Jerusalem, Alyce and her team have contributed significantly to the establishment and implementation of security sector reform and the development and operation of the criminal justice sector in the West Bank. In 2011, she was awarded the Department of State’s prestigious Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs. Alyce has served at U.S. Embassies in Kabul, London, Paris, Brussels, Canberra, Mexico City, San Salvador, and Bogota. She has two grown daughters, Alicia (27) in Atlanta, GA and Anna-Sophia (24) in Los Angeles, CA.
RCTC President’s Message

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC), I want to sincerely thank you, our donors, for your commitment to the RCTC Foundation. Your contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of our students and their families.

Please accept my deepest appreciation for everything you have done to advance the goals, initiatives, and missions of the College and the RCTC Foundation. Even during challenging economic times, you have stepped up to ensure that the important work at RCTC continues to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Thank you!

I am proud of the quality educational opportunities RCTC provides, and, after 40 years at RCTC (the last 15 as President), I have decided this year will be my last year as I will officially retire effective June 30, 2013. I am deeply grateful for the remarkable support I have received over the years, and I am especially thankful for the wonderful connections I have made with many of you, our alumni, donors, and friends!

Although I will no longer be the President of RCTC, the oldest public two-year college in Minnesota, I plan to stay connected with both the College and the community. Maybe I’ll even see you around at a Yellowjacket athletic game, an RCTC play or concert, a UCR Art Gallery opening, or at a community gathering!

Again, thank you for your commitment to our students and the College, and let’s make 2012-13, my last year, the BEST EVER!

Sincerely,

Don Supalla

Foundation President’s Message

Recently I reflected on my past two and a half years as President of the RCTC Foundation. During that time, we have endured tough economic times. But despite these challenges, the strength of the Foundation has not deteriorated. Instead, the extraordinary generosity of our donors during these trying times has enabled the Foundation to increase scholarships to students facing greater financial need due to job losses or need for re-training.

In the last year, RCTC graduated 144 nursing students, along with more than 200 students who were pursuing other medical careers. Ninety-five of those students received scholarship funds through the Foundation. Those students were able to attain needed skills in a field where there were immediate job openings.

This last year we had many community groups, businesses, foundations, retired faculty, and individuals make annual scholarship gifts to the Foundation. Those donations made it possible for the Foundation to distribute an additional $118,425 in scholarship funds. Overall, the Foundation awarded $268,081 in scholarships.

Although my service as President of the RCTC Foundation has concluded, my involvement is far from over. I will continue to serve on the Foundation Board and advocate for its mission. Philanthropy enables RCTC to attract and nurture our community’s brightest minds. If a student is excited about learning, college provides the opportunity to be a productive citizen, employee, volunteer, and, ultimately, a philanthropist. You and our community’s generosity enable these students to seize that opportunity and continue the great tradition of charity. Thank you for investing in our community’s future and supporting the RCTC Foundation!

Sincerely,

David Pederson
My Journey

I am an African American woman who is now twenty-three years old. From a very early age I was always told that I must “go to college and get a good education.” I just never thought that the struggles I faced in my past would lead me to find so many kind and caring people who would positively impact the decisions of my future.

All through elementary and high school my mother was my biggest supporter. She was there to help identify my learning problems when the school would not acknowledge the fact they existed. After being told by different teachers that I was too stupid to learn, that I would prefer to look out the window than learn with the rest of the class, or that I would never make college material, I was diagnosed with Dyslexia, ADHD, and other learning disabilities. To my saving grace, my mother was there, and she taught me different ways to learn that would benefit my learning style.

Another struggle that I faced growing up is the fact that I come from a single parent home. I have watched my mother work hard to support my brother and me. However, my brother was physically abusive to my mom and me, and since he was seven years older than I am, he was in and out of our lives. My brother joined the army after he graduated which left just my mom and me again.

In my seventh grade year, at the age of twelve-and-a-half, my mom and I were involved in a car accident. The car accident left my mom a paraplegic. Shortly after my mother came home from the hospital, my six-month-old cousin was left at our house so her mom “could go out for the evening.” Needless to say, she didn’t return until a month later, only to leave again in a few hours and again, leaving my cousin behind. Since my mother was unable to care for herself, she was also unable to care for a baby. So it was my turn to return the favor and help her through this difficult time in her life. As I sat up at nights at the age of thirteen, doing homework in one hand and caring for a baby in the other, I decided then that I had to pursue my dream of going to college to receive that “better education,” not just for myself, but to also better the lives of those around me.

After high school I decided that going to RCTC was a good idea, especially since it was a smaller college, and with my learning challenges, RCTC could help me in so many ways. It was a very friendly school that offered me a chance to grow as a person. While there, I earned scholarships, I made the Dean’s List, I became a member of Phi Theta Kappa honors society, and after graduating with my A.S degree I transferred to Winona State University. Who would have thought, with the multitude of struggles I faced throughout elementary and high school only getting C’s and D’s, that I would ever be on the Dean’s list or that I would be a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society? Yet, despite the obstacles I faced, RCTC was a place where I could be successful, and upon my transition to WSU, I was awarded a generous Douglass Family Scholarship from the RCTC Foundation. This scholarship has made my experience at WSU so much better since I am able to concentrate more on school and less on work for the first time since I was twelve. It has brought my dream of making a difference in the lives of others closer to a reality. In fact, I am excited to announce that I will be graduating from WSU in December 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in social work! I never would have thought so many people would care about my education or my future so much. Thank you seems like so little to say to someone who does not know me personally, yet believed in me and my dreams and gave me the chance to excel. Again, thank you so much!

~ Ryann, Scholarship Recipient
Jim and Priscilla Russell

Jim and Priscilla (Pixy) Russell have been involved in civic and educational activities in Rochester for many years. Jim began teaching here in 1963 at John Marshall High School. In 1966 he moved to (then) Rochester Junior College where he taught European history and Speech. He also was active in faculty governance, serving five times as the faculty president and as a State Community College contract negotiator. Now retired, he regularly teaches for the RCTC Learning Is ForEver (LIFE) program that offers classes for older adults. Jim has played a role in a number of local organizations including the RCTC Foundation Board and Strategic Planning Committee. Pixy has been an active member in the League of Women Voters, Rochester Better Chance, Rochester Rotary, and the Charter Commission. She began teaching at (then) RCC and moved from there to Mayo Clinic’s Department of Public Affairs in 1989, retiring in 2009. In her retirement she has become a board member of the RCTC LIFE program. Both Jim and Pixy have a long-time interest in education, especially for students who face significant challenges in and outside school, which is why they support the Beat the Odds program.

Joyce Gibbs

Joyce Gibbs, a Rochester resident for nearly 50 years, has always been active in the community. In her earlier years in Rochester, she was involved with the Girl Scouts, YWCA, and Rochester Civic Theater and has been a part of the Auxiliary program at St. Mary’s Hospital since 1986. As a supporter of the arts, she currently volunteers for the Rochester Symphony Orchestra. She is also a member of the NAACP Rochester chapter and has volunteered for the Diversity Council. A strong advocate for education, Joyce taught pre-school to students with multi-disabilities for 17 years and is presently a substitute teacher in the Rochester Public Schools District. She also works as an election judge in the county. In 2001, a scholarship fund was established with the RCTC Foundation in memory of her late husband George Gibbs. As a requirement to apply for the George Gibbs Memorial Scholarship, students must submit an essay on freedom. Over the years, Joyce’s essay topic choice has produced compelling papers on: Freedom of Speech, Religious Freedom, the Price of Freedom, America’s Responsibility to Spread Freedom Abroad, Oppression of Personal Freedoms during the Spread of Fascism, Racial Equality and the American Dream, and one very touching story about a recent immigrant’s family journey to the U.S. to escape further torture and persecution in their war torn home country. Joyce has inspired people to think about important social issues concerning equality and freedom and has contributed to the advancement of diversity acceptance within the Rochester community. The RCTC Foundation is honored every year by Joyce’s presence at the Annual Scholarship Ceremony.

Shayn Jensson

Shayn Jensson joined RCTC as the Facilities Project Manager in June of 2010. Prior to RCTC, Shayn worked as an Architectural Project Manager for Yaggy Colby Associates. Mr. Jensson graduated from Lanesboro High School and attended the Northwest Technical Institute earning a degree in Architectural Design. While employed with Yaggy Colby Associates, he earned the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional (AP) credential and is currently working toward earning his Project Management Professional (PMP) credential. Shayn Jensson has chosen to support the RCTC Foundation Scholarship Fund because he believes in how the community college system works and the job outcomes it produces. Shayn is committed to increased educational access for all students to earn their degree, allowing them to build careers and support their families.
Challenging global equity markets, concerns about the U.S. debt ceiling, and uncertainty regarding the fate of Europe and China all contributed to the severe economic headwinds that marked Fiscal Year 2012. The RCTC Foundation Investment Portfolio finished the fiscal period ending 6/30/2012 off slightly with a net return of (1.8%). This modest decline is consistent with peer group performance and even Ivy League institutions despite the limitations related to our relative portfolio size. "Falling equity returns, especially international equity—proved to be a drag on performance of all institutional plan types," according to the Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison service in reference to the Fiscal 2012 performance reporting of its plan universe.

After posting strong net returns of +9.6% and +20.5% for Fiscal 2010 and 2011 respectively, we indicated in the 2011 annual report that "The outlook for markets ahead has elevated our concerns and will likely drive future emphasis on risk management strategies.” This became our focus for several quarters as we made tactical adjustments to the portfolio, introducing risk balance components and replacing some long only equity managers with portfolios authorized to seek absolute return in other asset classes at the manager’s discretion. In addition, we maintained strict adherence to our high credit quality focus within the fixed income portfolio and realized sustained benefit from FDIC insured instruments that are not tied to the historically low interest rates. Lastly, we continue to build on the Foundation’s dividend oriented investments allowing us to produce cash flow for disbursements regardless of short term asset prices.

While economic conditions during the fiscal year resulted in global market growth below the long term averages, our portfolio was steadied by the risk management strategies deployed. Each of these strategies has proven to be effective in adding value and assisting with portfolio preservation. We are confident that this disciplined process will continue to provide the long term portfolio growth that is consistent with our plan objectives.

**Donations to RCTC Foundation:** During Fiscal Year 2012, donors generously gave $249,936 in contributions and support to the RCTC Foundation. In addition, the Foundation also received $138,449 in in-kind donations, and $125,437 was received from Special Events and other Revenue.

**Disbursements to RCTC:** The Foundation made 256 scholarship disbursements totaling $268,081 to help support RCTC students pursuing their academic goals. The Foundation also provided $53,874 in support to RCTC’s academic, student life, and diversity programs.

**The Total Ending Value for the Investment Portfolio** was valued at $3,551,225 as of Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012. The chart reflects beginning value plus investment performance plus net contributions/withdrawals. Net contributions to the investment portfolio were $74,087 for 2012.

1 Dollar amounts represented by net contribution and withdrawal transactions are excluded from the calculation of investment portfolio returns.
New Scholarships

- **RCTC BUM Instructors Scholarship** — This scholarship, established by the instructors of the Building Utilities Mechanics (BUM) program, is an annual scholarship awarded to a second-year student enrolled in the BUM program, with a 2.5 GPA or greater. A brief essay on community involvement and its relation to the BUM profession is required.

- **Kathy Richardson Scholarship** — Kathy Richardson, Academic Advisor for the Upward Bound Program at RCTC, established this scholarship to benefit graduates and/or tutors of the Upward Bound program. The student must be pursuing a two-year degree or continuing on for a four-year degree and must maintain a 2.5 GPA to be eligible.

- **Julie Rodakowski CLC Writing Tutor Training Scholarship** — This scholarship was established by several RCTC faculty members in honor of retiree Julie Rodakowski, who worked in the English Department and played a monumental role in the development of RCTC’s Comprehensive Learning Center. The scholarship will be awarded to a student tutor to defer the cost of writing tutor training.

- **Dr. Paul E. Zollman/Kiwanis Rochester Scholarship** — The Kiwanis Club Rochester established this award in memory of the late Dr. Paul Zollman, a veterinarian who was active in the community and became the namesake of Oxbow Park’s Zollman Zoo. This one-time scholarship will be awarded to a second-year student in the Vet Tech program with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

- **Southeastern MN Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates Scholarship** — The SE MN Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates established this scholarship to benefit a full-time student majoring in health sciences with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

**Spotlight on: Bateman Family Scholarship**

Walter Bateman was a long-time Social Science professor at Rochester Community College and a published author. He was dedicated to education and lifelong learning and was a tireless advocate for his students. He was active in community causes and made an impact on many people’s lives through his teaching and community involvement. Sue Bateman was also active within the community, championing the causes of women and underrepresented populations and working with various political and religious organizations. Mrs. Bateman was also a strong proponent of education and was passionate about lifelong learning. She completed her Master’s degree in liberal arts at the age of 79. Together, the Batemans had three children. The Bateman Family Scholarship fund was established in honor of Walter Bateman after his passing in 1997. Since then, the Bateman Family, as well as close friends and former co-workers, have continued to contribute toward the scholarship endowment. Since its inception, nearly $40,000 in scholarships has been awarded to students pursuing social science related careers. Each year, Nancy Bateman, daughter of Walter and Sue, joins us from Texas to present the Bateman Family scholarship awards and meet the recipients.
UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31, 2013 - 5:00 pm
Beat the Odds
Rochester International Event Center

April 30, 2013 - 5:00 pm
Scholarship Night
University Center Rochester Regional Sports Center

May 16, 2013 - 7:00 pm
Commencement
University Center Rochester Regional Sports Center

June 7, 2013 - 5:00 pm
Don Supalla Retirement Dinner
Rochester International Event Center

June 14, 2013 - 12:30 pm
Yellowjacket Classic Golf
Willow Creek Golf Course