UCR Blood Drive
The next UCR Blood Drive is scheduled for February 3-4-5, 8:30 - 3:30 each day in "That 70's Room." If you donated during the November Blood Drive, it is not too soon to donate again! Call 285-7261 or reply by e-mail to HealthServices@rctc.roch.edu to schedule an appointment. Please include your full name, Mayo Clinic Number or SSN, birth date, work phone number (with prefix), and the day and time you prefer. Donations take approximately 30-45 minutes (up to 60 minutes for first-time donors.) Faculty, please encourage students to schedule donation appointments!

Thank you
Thank you for attending the Annual UCR Holiday Reception. The turnout was great and the UCR Administrative Leadership deserve a special "thanks" for the great job hosting and baking. A special thanks to Vern, Robin, and the Horticulture Technology Students who, again, graciously donated the centerpieces/door prizes for the reception.

Finally, a big thank you to those who participated in the 2003 Teddy Bear Drive. Our final count of 125 teddy bears and other stuffed animals were delivered on behalf of the UCR employees to the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department on December 19th. In addition, Lori Halverson-Wente's daughter, Naomi, presented her own collection of 135 stuffed animals to the Sheriff's Department. This year's donations will surely provide a large selection for distribution to children in need during 2004.

Tour New York – April 1-6, 2004
You are all invited to join the Retail Merchandising Department and students on a fantastic tour of the Big Apple. We will study the fashion industry where it is happening with appointments and tours throughout the city. New sites of interest this year will be interior decorating appointments and a special event at Madison Square Garden you won’t want to miss. See the attachment for more information.

Assessment of Student Learning
This committee will meet on January 27th. See the attachment to this week’s Crossings for more information.
Weekly Funny

"That's an artist's rendering of a fish I caught but got away. It's the actual size... at least I think it is. I never actually got to see it."

Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact

In 2003, the average visitor to the colleges’ web site spent just under four minutes on the site. During their visit they viewed an average 14 pages.

Book Discussion

Join us on Thursday February 5, 2004 in the Alumni and Charter Rooms (College Center, 4th Floor – UCR) from 7:00-9:30 pm for a book discussion.

Across the nation, groups of people will discuss the late Senator Paul Wellstone's book, Conscience of a Liberal, on Thursday, February 5. Locally, one of the hosts is University Center Rochester.

At UCR, small groups of about six people will gather with a facilitator for an intimate discussion of the book; even if you have not read the book, you are welcome to attend the discussion!

UCR's common theme this academic year, Corporate Responsibility, is one that was close to Senator Wellstone's heart.

People can purchase the book at most bookstores, as well as on-line at Wellstone Action's website.

Bring your cup of coffee or can of soda, join a small group of readers, and enjoy the evening!

Contact Ann Whelan or Joe Marchesani for more information.
ann.whelan@roch.edu or call 285-7515
joseph.marchesani@roch.edu or call 280-2819

Condolences

Condolences to Heather Sklenicka whose grandfather-in-law, Leonard, passed away on January 9. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS


Cute baby minirex bunnies for sale. They make great pets or 4-H projects. For more information, call Jane Burgstaler, x6131 or (home 365-8063).


Thanks from Mark Stanchfield

I would like to thank my "RCTC Family" for the balloon bouquet and the magazines that were sent to me as I recover from my recent surgery. That was very thoughtful and I truly enjoyed them. I would also like to thank everyone for their thoughts, concerns, and prayers. It is nice to know that I work with such special and caring people!
Supalla’s Scribblings

The first day of spring semester revealed that RCTC’s increased enrollment trend continued into 2004. This year, 5394 students started classes; compared with 5349 last year. Even more surprising was the increase in full-year equivalents…3911 this year compared to 3712 in 2003. Although these numbers will change slightly due to student drops and adds, overall, we should end the year with increased headcount and FYE numbers and exceed our enrollment projections. The focus now shifts from enrollment to retention. Please continue to do everything possible to accommodate student needs. The research is clear…our best recruitment tool is a satisfied student.

On Wednesday Governor Pawlenty released his capital bonding proposal that recommended just less than $90 million for MnSCU and $76.6 million for the University of Minnesota. The disappointing Governor’s recommendation represents about 32 percent of MnSCU’s $275 million request. The governor recommended $49 million for major repair and replacement projects and $39.6 million for building and renovation. RCTC’s Health Sciences Center project is not included on his list. He did include a systemwide request for funds for renovation of workforce development space and RCTC’s proposal for funds for renovation of the vacated ISD535 space at Heintz Center is included in that request. Area legislators will now work to get the Health Sciences Center project heard and eventually funded by their colleagues. The only major Rochester project on the Governor’s list is a request for $20 million in funds for a University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic Biotechnology Research Facility.

I hope each of you find a way to celebrate the life and contributions of Marin Luther King, Jr. Participating in the MLK Breakfast, march, community program or finding some way to incorporate Dr. King’s teachings into your class are great ways to honor his legacy.

Please remember that March 2, 2004 is Precinct Caucus Day in Minnesota. Educational institutions are prohibited from scheduling any event, including classes, after 6 p.m. This prohibition applies to any college-sponsored classes and events, whether or not they are physically located on the UCR campus. Plan now how you will deal with the loss of instructional or clinical time if you have a Tuesday evening offering.

If you haven’t been donating blood when Mayo’s Department of Transfusion Medicine has been collecting on campus, why not sign up to participate in the next UCR Blood Drive. The next collection is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., February 3-5, in “That 70’s Room.” Collection takes less than an hour and new donors are most appreciated. If you’d like to reserve a donation time or have questions, call 285-7261 or send an email to HealthServices@rctc.roch.edu. Your contributions are most appreciated.

If you know someone who has a passion for public higher education and might be interested in serving on the MnSCU Board of Trustees, why not encourage them to apply. The Board of Trustees Candidate Advisory Council is currently accepting applications for four positions on the MnSCU Board. Governor Pawlenty will make appointments in April. Applications are available at http://www.tcac.leg.mn and should be submitted by February 20, 2004. A 15-member Board of Trustees governs MnSCU. The council is currently seeking candidates to fill four open seats; these seats are designated as one 2nd Congressional District position, one 8th Congressional District seat, and two at-large positions. The terms are six years in length. The Board of Trustees oversees a total of 32 colleges and universities. Actions of the Board affect the 370,000 students served each year, the system’s 16,000 employees, and an annual budget of more than $1 million.

If you haven’t checked out the “Principles of Uncertainty” artwork that was dedicated on January 14, I encourage you to investigate the piece located just off the Atrium area near the receptionist desk. The interactive installation is meant to formally echo the activity displayed on the adjacent digital wall. The artwork is intended to be mysterious and
transformational, reflective of the ever-changing nature of technology. Artist Brad Kaspari’s work is often seen in educational settings and can be found in the collections of Ohio State University, Winona State University, Iowa State University and Inver Hills Community College. The artwork was funded by the state-mandated Percent for Art Program that dedicates one-percent of all capital bonding construction projects for art in public places.

The American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference is often touted as the best conference for two-year public institutions in the country. Next April 24-27 the conference will be held in Minneapolis. This premier conference will never get any closer to RCTC. A request for a large number of conference volunteers will be forthcoming shortly. If you’re interested in serving as a co-chair for each of three planning teams (Conference Personnel and Technical Support, Events and Hospitality, or Public Relations), please call Tim Price at 651-297-1584.

Thoughts on Dreaming Big Dreams…

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.”
--Franklin Delano Roosevelt

“At first, dreams seem impossible, then improbable, and eventually inevitable.”
-- Christopher Reeves

“Nothing happens unless first a dream.”
-- Carl Sandburg

Keep dreaming! Don

Regarding Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MNTC)

AASC has determined the following courses do not meet the state level agreed upon Minnesota Transfer Curriculum general education guidelines (that is, by content they are professional, technical and/or vocational or field experience) and will no longer count toward RCTC MNTC general education beginning August, 2004 (beginning of Fall semester).

This decision is subject to possible individual course rewriting/reconstruction and Academic Affairs and Standards Committee (AASC) review after a February 11th all faculty training session on MNTC to be presented by MnSCU and MSCF. It should be noted that the listed courses will continue to transfer but not as state agreed upon/acceptance mandated general education (MNTC):

JOUR 1132 Principles of Advertising
ART 1120 Computer as a Creative Tool
ART 1131 Presentation Graphics
ART 1232 Designing for the Internet
ART 2224 Graphic Design II
ART 2230 Computer Graphics II
ART 2237 Animation and 3D Modeling
MUSC 1601 Electronic Music Synthesis I
MUSC 1602 Electronic Music Synthesis II
MUSC 1621 Audio Production I
MUSC 1622 Audio Production II
SPCH 2210 Field Experience for Intercultural Communications

If you have any questions, please contact Rachelle Splittstoesser at x7234.