Congratulations!!!
The buzz of the Yellow Jacket can be heard in the offices of Karen Machlica and Audrey Lidke, RCTC counselors. Both Karen and Audrey have been honored with compliments from a staff member who stated that when students were referred to them they demonstrated a wonderfully caring persona and gave students concrete plans for proceeding with their lives. Also, Karen was complimented for doing a wonderful job presenting career assessment materials to a class.

Thank you, Karen and Audrey, for showing students that RCTC cares about them! Way to go!

Baldrige Banterings
Only 10 weeks until our NCA site visit team will be on campus. Many of you have been asked to contribute materials to our resource room. Please forward these materials to Laura Tacheny or Don Baldus at Box 32 by March 1. This will provide us will sufficient time to organize the 40+ folders in the resource room. The resource room is a very important part of the visit. On Tuesday, February 13, 2001, Laura and Don, as guests of Bob Hughes on KWEB, had the opportunity to share the RCTC quality journey with the community and invite them to submit written comments about RCTC to the NCA.

Food for Thought Series – 2001 CTL
The Food for Thought Series combines free food; open discussions on selected topics; and a chance to spend time with your colleagues. Both the body and mind sustenance menu changes from meeting to meeting. We hope you can join us! Please see the attached flier for more details.

Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) and Deferred Compensation Maximum Contribution
The maximum amount an employee may contribute to a Tax Sheltered Annuity remains at $10,500 for year 2001. The catch-up maximum remains $13,500. The maximum amount an employee may contribute to Deferred Compensation has increased from $8,000 to $8,500. The catch-up maximum remains $15,000.

If you have questions, please call Mary Kay in Human Resources at 280-3131.
Weekly funny…

RCTC Chiropractic Clinic Hours
Monday – Thursday
2:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Heintz Center
Suite HC211

Looking for a gift for your sweetheart?

We have massage
gift certificates available.

Upward Bound Book Fair
Cordially invites family, friends and the community to the Upward Bound Book Fair at Barnes & Noble Booksellers on the Peace Plaza downtown Rochester on Saturday, March 3 from 10 AM – 1 PM

Please bring the voucher (attached to this week’s Crossings) with you and give the other to a friend. Present it to a cashier when you make a purchase. A percentage of the sales will be donated to the RCTC Upward Bound Program.

Ebooks available from Goddard Library
Ebooks, electronic books, are now available from Goddard Library. UCR librarians have partnered with other MnSCU, UM and Minitex Libraries in Minnesota to make over 3,000 books available on-line. The partnership provides current access to 1729 (+) Minitex titles and an individual collection of 1500 (+) public domain titles by NetLibrary. Both ebook collections incorporate a wide range of liberal art subject areas from Art and Humanities, Social Sciences to Sciences. You can access these ebooks from any computer on campus or from home via the UCR modem pool. To browse the NetLibrary ebook collection, go to http://www.netlibrary.com. A username, password and ebook reader software (free) are required to “check-out” or “download” eBooks to read offline. Further instructions and information are available in Goddard Library.

Weekly Yoga sessions
RCTC Wellness is sponsoring FREE weekly yoga sessions here on campus. See the flier attached to this week’s Crossings for more information!
Supalla’s Scribblings

A special thank you to faculty members who encouraged and accommodated student participation in the Minnesota State College Student Association Annual Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. When state employees go to St. Paul to lobby for increased appropriations, it might appear to legislators to be self-serving. But, when students go to St. Paul to rally on the steps of the Capitol and share their concerns about double-digit tuition increases, legislators listen, the television cameras roll and students experience politics up close and personal. Now that MnSCU students have shown us how to effectively lobby legislators, it’s our turn to take the “MnSCU deserves more funding” message to St. Paul. Every Friday afternoon throughout the session, MnSCU provides a legislative update of higher education activity and a listing of the next week’s scheduled hearings. Just click on the MnSCU web page (http://www.mnscu.edu), click on “News Room” and then on “Legislative Update.”

Last weekend was a hectic one both on campus and off. The Saturday/Sunday displays at Apache Mall provided a wonderful public relations opportunity. Saturday the Yellowjacket men’s and women’s basketball teams played super ball against the always tough Minneapolis CC hoopsters and a large contingent of fans and on Sunday, while Heintz Center was jammed with thousands of future RCTC students who were participating in Kidsfest, Rockenbach Gym was buzzing with future Yellowjacket wrestlers. Thanks to all faculty and staff that gave up precious weekend time to help with these excellent PR activities.

While you’re reading this, I’m participating in the Continuous Quality Improvement Network CEO workshop in Santa Fe. In addition to workshops on continuous improvement, each president is expected to deliver a presentation focused on a continuous quality book, seminar, or article that s/he deemed valuable (I selected FISH). And, while I’m focused on the learning, Stephanie is enjoying the warm weather (at least compared to Minnesota) and amenities available at The Bishop’s Lodge. By the way, at the meeting, Alexandria Technical College will be approved as MnSCU’s newest CQIN member, joining Northwest Technical College and RCTC.

This week’s installment by futurist David Zach is entitled, “Think Outside the Box.” Although we might consider the title one of today’s most over-used cliches, David’s message gives educators plenty to think about. “People in education talk too much with other people in education. If you are an educator, you need to think outside of your box. The key word of that phrase is not “box” it’s “your.” As in “your” box, “your” world, “your” career. One of the reasons we don’t talk to people different from us, is that we’re so busy working. We barely have time to talk to the people right next to us, let alone someone we actually have to make an effort to contact. The technology that we’re all so excited about actually results in us working more and more. If you have a laptop, fax and wireless phone, one study says that you’ll end up working eight more hours a week than people without the technology. We need to write some new rules to go with the new tools. The real value of the technology is not to do more work or spend more time with technology. It is to communicate. It is to learn. It is to live. If the technology is preventing you from doing these things, then you haven’t learned the appropriate role of that technology in your life. Or, maybe the organization you work hasn’t learned that appropriate role.”

Sixty-two percent of colleges and universities responding to an Association of American Colleges and Universities survey report that they either have in place a diversity requirement or they are in the process of developing one. The national survey results “suggest that colleges and universities now recognize that learning about diversity is a key element of a quality undergraduate education and should therefore be required of all students.” Thirty-two percent of responding Associate Degree granting institutions report requiring diversity courses. Is it time for RCTC to review our diversity course offerings and requirements?

Thought for the week…

“I am a big believer in the ‘mirror test.’ All that matters is if you can look in the mirror and honestly tell the person you see there, that you’ve done your best.”

-- John McKay

When was the last time you took the “mirror test?” Take the test…I think you’ll like what you see.

Don
RCTC staffing update

Administrative
- **Dean of Health Sciences** (MnSCU Administrator). Semi-finalists identified; interviews being conducted.
- **Director of Nursing** (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally. Re-posting/advertising position.
- **Vice President for Academic Affairs** (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally. Search team appointed and meeting.
- **Vice President for Student Affairs/Institutional Advancement** (MnSCU Administrator). Position posted/advertised nationally. Search team appointed and meeting.

Faculty
- **Instructor of Health and/or Physical Education and Head Football Coach** (UFT MCCFA). Appointment pending.
- **Instructor of Health and/or Physical Education** (UFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of English (Composition)** (UFT MCCFA, 2 positions). Positions being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of Speech and/or Theatre** (UFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of English (Composition)** (TFT MCCFA, 2 positions). Positions being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of Nursing (Medical-Surgical)** (TFT MCCFA, 2 positions). Positions being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of ESL** (TFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.
- **Instructor of Mathematics** (TFT MCCFA). Position being posted/advertised.

Unclassified Professional (MAPE)
- **Project Team Leader** (FT grant-funded unclassified MAPE position). Position being posted/advertised. Appointment pending.
- **Community Outreach Coordinator** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Position posted/advertised. Search team appointed; meeting this week.
- **SSSP Academic/Transfer Advisor** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Position posted/advertised. Additional recruitment/advertising in process; search team appointed; meeting this week.
- **International/Special Needs Advisor** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 2). Position posted/advertised.

Unclassified Supervisory (MMA)
- **Director of Continuing Education and Grant Development** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Supv. 1). Position posted/advertised. Additional recruitment/advertising in process; search team is being formed.

Classified AFSCME
- **General Maint. Worker** (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125.

- **SSSP Academic/Transfer Advisor** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Dir. 1). Position posted/advertised. Additional recruitment/advertising in process; search team appointed; meeting this week.

Unclassified Supervisory (MMA)
- **Director of Continuing Education and Grant Development** (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Supv. 1). Position posted/advertised. Additional recruitment/advertising in process; search team is being formed.

Classified AFSCME
- **General Maint. Worker** (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
- **Office and Administrative Specialist Intermediate** – Academic Affairs Work Area (UFT - UCR Scheduler). Mona Permann appointed effective 2/14/01.
- **Office and Administrative Specialist** – Academic Affairs Work Area (temporary FT). Naya Dubanaeva appointed effective 2/12/01.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125.
Up to Speed

Congratulations to the following CCFA faculty members who have been awarded full year sabbaticals for the next academic year. Below is a short summary in my words of the sabbatical projects of each instructor:

Anne Benson, Mathematics Instructor
Anne plans to continue work on the Math Dept. Web page and her own home page, develop a pilot course combining Math 0098 and 0099, and learn how Mathematics software might help in teaching calculus.

Becky Henderson, Nursing Instructor
Becky plans to work on curriculum for the Maternal Newborn course that she teaches, revise nurse refresher courses in collaboration with continuing education especially in a newly mandated topic: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and develop her grant writing skills.

Katherine Hickman, Nursing Instructor
Katherine intends to transfer lectures for Fundamentals of Nursing to Power Point, organize all skill lab activities in a Power Point or transparency format, collaborate with Becky Henderson on some of the continuing education efforts, volunteer in the community, and research assessment of placement and teaching strategies for Fundamentals of Nursing.

Abbey Pinsky, ESL Instructor
Abbey will research work on English for Specific Purposes (ESP), an alternate approach to ESL instruction that may result in a proposal for “paired courses” or other content course lessons for ESL students.

Toni Teigen, English Instructor
Toni plans to take English courses, master Power Point and participate in online course discussions, create a website, and revise current assignments and instructional objectives.

Fan Shen, English Instructor
Fan will study British and World literature with the intent of creating two potential new literature courses. In addition, he hopes to teach at Oxford, Costa Rica, or some overseas site for one semester. Finally, he will conduct some research resulting in scholarly writing for publication.

Each faculty member and I visited about the connection between sabbaticals, personal development plans, departmental, and institutional goals. We’ll hope that they will share the results of their work with all of us when they return in the fall of 2002. UTCE faculty sabbaticals have yet to be awarded. Listening to each Anne, Becky, Katherine, Abbey, Toni, and Fan enthusiastically share their plans reminded me of the value of stepping away from daily teaching and focusing on learning, creating, and rejuvenating. Best wishes to each of your for a great year.

Two important events will be upon us sooner than we realize. The first, Scholarship Night is in Hill Theater on April 26th. That is the night that many local donors present scholarship awards to new, returning, and transferring students. Please note Judy Bird’s request to help recruit scholarship applicants—right now we have more dollars than scholars.

The second event, Recognition Night is an event when students are recognized for their accomplishments in Student Life, academic programs and disciplines, and for school related competitions. When we were smaller, we did some of this at graduation. Since merger, we have tried to streamline graduation and expand our recognition of students. Recognition Night will be on May 1st at Heintz Center where awards are presented to students while family and friends are encouraged to share in acknowledging the student accomplishments and in some light refreshments. If your area has not offered an award on recognition night, please consider doing so. The award does not have to be a fancy trophy; certificates created internally are wonderful. Every discipline, program, and even some courses are welcome to participate. Noting student accomplishments is the purpose of Recognition Night. Adding more academic awards to the event would be wonderful. My challenge is to add five or six new academic awards this year.

Finally, please welcome Mona Permann back to UCR. Mona is our new UCR Scheduler and will be working with Rachelle. Also, welcome to Naya Dubanaeva who will be serving as temporary receptionist for my office.

Coming soon--spring break.

Judy Harris
Menu of the Week
Taher, Inc.

This week’s panini – Turkey club...............................................................................$3.50
This week’s stir fry – Hunan chicken.................................................................Two sizes: $3.25 & $4.25
This week’s specialty sandwich – Mushroom & Swiss burger.................................$3.50

MONDAY – Cream of turkey or chicken dumpling soup
Baked lasagna with mixed greens and bread stick.........................................................$4.25

TUESDAY – Navy bean or chicken and wild rice soup
Tuna salad stuffed pita with fresh fruit...........................................................................$4.25

WEDNESDAY – Chicken gumbo or cheesy chicken tortilla soup
Vegetarian vegetable wrap..............................................................................................$3.95

THURSDAY – Cream of asparagus or vegetable beef soup
Tacos.................................................................................................................................$1.00 each or 3/$2.75

FRIDAY – Chef’s Choice soup
Philly steak and cheese with fries and a 20 oz. drink.......................................................$4.25

Thank you
So much thanks for all the love and support that you all have shown me during this time. To everyone who has had anything to do with the training of the RN's from RCTC, they are absolutely "TOPS" and the care at Methodist Hospital has been exceptional. Thank you for the spring bulb arrangement from the Science Department, the fruit basket from the RCTC employees and for all the other flowers, cards and well wishes I have received. I appreciate the expressions of love so much and I look forward to seeing you all when I am feeling stronger. Thanks again.

-Jane Toft