Visiting Scholar on campus
Barbara Ehrenreich, author of the campus “common book”, *Nickel and Dimed: On How to (Not) Get by in America*, is scheduled to be on campus for two speaking engagements. On April 8, 2003, Ms. Ehrenreich will speak in Rockenbach Gym at 7 p.m. She will speak again in Rockenbach Gym at 10:00 a.m. the next morning, April 9, 2003.

Ms. Ehrenreich will talk about her experiences researching her book and relate her experiences in low-paying and low-skilled employment. She will also address her newest work as well as touch upon the role as a writer/activist. Ehrenreich is a political essayist and social critic who tackles a brave and diverse range of issues in books and magazine articles. *Nickel and Dimed: On How to (Not) Get By in America* is the selection for the first Rochester Community Reads program sponsored by the Rochester Public Library. The publication *Nickel and Dimed* relates Ms. Ehrenreich’s experiences working minimum wage jobs in three locations around the country, Key West, Florida, Portland, Maine and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Barbara Ehrenreich will make an additional appearance while in Rochester as the featured speaker at a Rochester Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The luncheon will be held at the Mayo Civic Center, Riverview Suites at noon on April 9. Cost is $15.00. Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber of Commerce office at 288-1122 or email the Chamber at chamber@rochestermnchamber.com In April the RCTC Theater department will present a one-act play based on Barbara Ehrenreich's featured book. Watch for more details to come!

Ms. Ehrenreich’s visit is underwritten by University Center Rochester’s Visiting Scholar Series. Additional funding has been contributed by GRAUC and Rochester Area Foundation.

Presidential thank you note
President George W. Bush was presented with an RCTC Yellowjacket football jersey during his October 2002 visit to the University Center Rochester. Don Supalla recently received the following letter from President Bush:

_Dear Mr. Supalla: Thank you for the jersey. I appreciate your kind gesture and thoughtfulness. Laura joins me in sending our best wishes. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America._

_Sincerely, George W. Bush_
$$ \textit{FREE MONEY $$}

RCTC Foundation scholarship applications now available for RCTC students for the 2003/2004 academic year. All RCTC students are eligible! Over $100,000 to be awarded on MARCH 24, 2003. Pick up your applications at the UCR Counseling Office (SS133) or the RCTC Foundation Office (C-120 Heintz Center).

Weekly Funny

"It says on your resume that your selfish, independent, you always land on your feet, and you hate dogs. I think you and I are going to get along wonderfully."

Campus Climate Survey

Rochester Community and Technical College is conducting a short Campus Climate Survey with staff and students. The information collected will be used to build a Campus Climate Improvement Plan. All responses are strictly confidential and no individual responses will be reported. The questions that are being used on the survey were developed by a MNSCU team and the same questions are being used by all of the MNSCU institutions who are participating.

To help reduce costs and to speed up the time it takes to tabulate responses, we are offering this survey electronically. We hope we are able to get a large portion of the staff and student body to respond. The survey is intended for both staff and students because we all help create our campus climate. If you are conducting classes in a computer lab situation, please consider encouraging students to take a few classroom minutes to respond to this survey. Unfortunately the URL address is a little long - but the survey is short. Thank you for any assistance you can give us with this project.

http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?Y5EA0M8WY2P99FQ770WJ0YM4

Goddard Library News

The Library receives the ScienceDirect database by way of a Minitex (a library consortium) subsidy using state appropriations. ScienceDirect contains over 700 Elsevier journals online in the Sciences and Social Sciences. This electronic resource subsidy was appropriated to help support college academic programs throughout the state of Minnesota.

Our subscription to this database is up for renewal in June 2003. Due to budgetary concerns, Minitex is seriously evaluating the need of this database at participating libraries. Goddard Library has been asked to provide feedback on the use and value of this database here at UCR. Your feedback on the Elsevier Science survey will help us with the Minitex evaluation. The survey will be available from the Library’s homepage http://www.roch.edu/library from now until Thursday, March 20th. The survey consists of 7 questions and should take no more than 5 minutes of your time. Thank you.
Supalla’s Scribblings

“Does MnSCU feel the pain?” is a question some legislators in St. Paul are asking. With the lobbying efforts of every state agency impacted by the proposed funding reduction dialoguing with legislators, it’s critical that our voices get heard. It will take the combined efforts of students, faculty and staff to make the Legislature realize that funding of public higher education is an investment in Minnesota’s future. When you communicate with legislators, make certain they know how RCTC and you are personally impacted by their decisions. MnSCU has already experienced an almost $50 million funding reduction in the current fiscal year. RCTC has had to reduce our FY03 operating budget by more than $800,000. If Governor Pawlenty’s biennial budget proposal is enacted, RCTC will lose more than $1.3 million from our 2003-04 base budget. Because of previous supply and equipment reductions and anticipated continued enrollment increases, it’s not likely that we’ll be able to find major non-personnel savings. Thus, we will be forced to further spend down our fund balance, reduce staff, suspend programs, cancel courses, limit hours of operation, and raise tuition by double-digit percentages. In addition to the budget reduction, the Governor has proposed that the State transfer $30 million from MnSCU (and an additional $30 million from the University of Minnesota) to supplement the Higher Education Services Office State Grant financial assistance program. This transfer is especially troubling for MnSCU students since more than 50 percent of HESO state grant funding goes to students enrolled in private colleges. Thus, MnSCU will give up $30 million, of which only $10-15 million will be awarded to MnSCU students. RCTC had a large delegation at last Saturday’s Eggs and Issues session...THANK YOU. Judy Harris, Dan Thompson, and Nirmala Kotagal joined me at last Tuesday evening’s Friends of MnSCU legislative pizza dinner at St. Paul College. The message to more than 100 legislators in attendance (Senators Kiscaden and Senjem and Representative Nelson were present) was...MnSCU deserves its fair share of the pie. Please do your part in making sure our legislators understand that funding higher education is an investment in Minnesota’s future.

Kudos to...

- Chuck Siefert (planning chair and coach), Jay Lee (announcer), Jim Williams (trainer) and many other RCTC employees who helped make the National Junior College Athletic Association wrestling championships held in the UCR Regional Sports Center a great success. Eight RCTC wrestlers competed in the championships. Forty-one teams from 16 states brought 229 athletes to UCR. The national tournament returns to Rochester and UCR next winter.

- Judy Bird, Marilyn Etbauer, Retail Merchandising students and faculty, Horticulture Technology students and staff, and many other RCTC staff made this year’s Beat the Odds Scholarship Banquet the best ever. Senator Kiscaden brought the Beat the Odds event to Rochester three years ago and the RCTC Foundation has taken responsibility for organizing the event the past two years. Congratulations to the scholarship winners and my compliments to staff!

- Jan Dicke and Meg Vogel, LPN instructors, received notification that 100 percent of the practical nursing students who took the state boards passed the exam. This year’s results improved significantly from previous years, a tribute to the hard work of faculty. Please compliment the AD-RN faculty as well, their 2002 graduates had a state board pass rate of 89%.

- Bonnie Flaig, English Division Coordinator and faculty member, brought home a first place award at the Minnesota Free Papers Association conference. Bonnie was recognized for her column, “The Commute,” which appeared in the Fillmore County Journal. Bonnie writes a regular column in the newspaper under the moniker, Bonnie Prinsen. Congratulations!
Tammy Lee, Anne Niccolai, Marilyn Treder, Teresa Brown and Don Baldus will be presenting at the American Association of Higher Education conference in Seattle this summer. Anne, Tammy and Judy Harris will be presenting at the annual meeting of The Higher Learning Commission (NCA) this spring. RCTC’s assessments efforts are getting national exposure. Thanks to all faculty who are involved in this very important responsibility.

Kim Peters, Dave Weber and the Staff Development Day Planning Committee did a great job coordinating a very worthwhile March 7 workshop. Peggy Maki left town very impressed with the “high level assessment questions” faculty raised during her breakout sessions. Dave’s efforts to collaborate with the Rochester Area Quality Council made it possible to bring the FISH mongers and consultant to RCTC. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the next staff development day, May 14.

Nirmala Kotagal, RCTC’s rep on the Regional Science Fair Planning Committee, invited me to offer an invitation at this year’s awards celebration, encouraging participants to come to UCR for next year’s competition. RCTC will host the 46th Regional Science Fair, February 19 & 20, 2004 in the Performance Court at the UCR Sports Center. Thanks for your efforts, Nirmala.

Larry Tucker and Vern Bell were pictured and featured in the latest issue of MnSCU PERFORMANCE. These talented woodworkers were recognized for the beautiful bookcase they crafted for the System Office. Check it out the next time you’re on the fourth floor of the World Trade Center. Beautiful work, guys!

Gregg Wright joined me in reading Dr. Seuss books to the children in our Child Care Center. Our readings were part of the March 3 Read Across America Day honoring the 99th birthday of Dr. Seuss. The kids always love, “Cat in the Hat” and “Green Eggs and Ham.” I’m not sure who had more fun…the kids or the readers.

Katie Swegarden coordinated a very successful UCR Blood Drive. More than 50 donors, many of them first-time givers, participated. Because several volunteers had to be turned away, next fall’s on-campus drive, scheduled for early September, will be expanded from two to three days.

Mark Schnaedter, ECHO advisor, and the newspaper staff brought home three awards from last week’s Best of the Midwest newspaper convention. The ECHO won honorable mentions for its Arts and Entertainment Section and in the best overall two-year school newspapers competition. Chief Photographer Kirk Klocke won third place for news photography. Way to go!

Sang See, PTK member, will be recognized at a ceremony and dinner for the 2003 Minnesota Academic Team at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre on April 25. Congratulations to Sang and many thanks to Barb Mollberg, Chapter Adviser.

Thought for the Week…

"Respect doesn’t come from the kind of work you do; it comes from the way you do the work."

– Kenneth L. Shipley

Stephanie and I are joining the spring-breakers for ten days in southern Florida. We’ll be checking out the sights and enjoying the warm temps and sun in Miami, the Keys and West Palm Beach. Hope you enjoyed your spring break. See you March 20th.

Don
Search Update

FACULTY

The following anticipated full-time faculty positions have been posted within MnSCU and have been advertised nationally in the Chronicle of Higher Education February 7 issue. Search teams have been established and are meeting.

- AD Nursing (1 UFT position)
- Art (Ceramics) (1 UFT position)
- Art (Photography) (1 UFT position). Search cancelled.
- Building Utilities Mechanic (1 TFT position)
- Business Administrative Technology (BTEC) (1 TFT position). Search cancelled.
- Chemistry (1 TFT position)
- English (Composition) (3 UFT and 2 TFT positions)
- LPN Nursing (1 UFT position)
- Psychology (1 UFT position)
- Reading (1 UFT and 1 TFT positions)
- Retail Merchandising (1 TFT position)

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Director of Human Resources (MnSCU administrator). Position has been posted within MnSCU and was advertised nationally in Chronicle of Higher Education February 7 issue. Search team has been established and is meeting.

MAPE (Unclassified)

  Danielle deNeui has been appointed.

MAPE (Classified)

- Information Technology Specialist 2 (UFT). Server Technician. John Mattson has been appointed.

AFSCME

- General Maint. Worker (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.

TEMPORARY POSITION

- Temporary duplicating position, operating Xerox duplicators. Rhonda Mitchell has been appointed.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125 or visit our website at http://www.roch.edu/rctc/hr/

Recipients for Vacation Donation Program

Listed below are new individuals who have been approved as recipients for the State’s vacation donation program. State employees may donate a total of up to 12 hours of accrued vacation leave/personal leave each fiscal year to the sick leave account of one or more state employees (M.S. 43A.1815). An employee may additionally donate up to 12 hours of accrued vacation leave/personal leave in any fiscal year to an account established for employees who have unreimbursed medical costs of at least $10,000 (M.S. 43A.181). The following have been approved recipients on the vacation donation sick leave account program.

William Markovich – Economic Security; Godwin Nwadiashi – Revenue; Kirk Allen – DOT; Raymond Beckfeld – Minneapolis Community and Technical College; Loretta Skwaror – Rainy River Community College; Lois Notch - Corrections

If you wish specific information regarding the medical situation of these State employees, please contact the Human Resources Office.
Third Annual MnSCU Diversity Conference

“Weaving Minnesota’s Rich Tapestry” is the theme of this year’s MnSCU Diversity Conference on the campus of St. Cloud State University, April 3-4, 2003. If you are interested in attending, go to http://www.stcloudstate.edu/diversityconference/ for full conference information.

Identity Theft

Malcolm Byrd was home with his two children on a Saturday night when a knock came at the door. Three Rock County, Wis., sheriff’s officers were there with a warrant for Byrd’s arrest. Cocaine possession, with intent to distribute, it said. Byrd tried to tell them that they had the wrong man, that it was a case of mistaken identity, that he was a victim of identity theft. But they wouldn’t listen. Instead they put him in handcuffs and drove him away. Again. It was nothing new for Byrd, who has spent much of the past five years trying — unsuccessfully — to talk skeptical police officers out of arresting him. But this time, it was worse. Two days later, he was still in jail.

This is the worst-case scenario for identity theft victims. Losing your clean credit history is one thing; losing your freedom is another. And victims of America’s fastest-growing crime are discovering they often have much more to worry about than the hundreds of hours of paperwork necessary to clean up the financial mess associated with ID theft. Sometimes, they have to worry about ending up in jail — again and again.

To read more about this story, and learn what you can do to protect yourself, visit: http://www.msnbc.com/modules/exports/ct_email.asp?/news/877978.asp

Bob Morris
Campus Security Officer
Rochester Community and Technical College
Minnesota State College Faculty (MSCF)
Faculty Shared Governance Council
Minutes for Tuesday, February 25, 2003 – 2:00 p.m. –AT109

Present: Administration Hansmann, Harris, Supalla, Thompson
Faculty Shafer, Hill, Israelson, Marconett, Wright (Chair)
Recorder: Kingsbury

ITEM 1 (A) Official Student Communication Policy Follow-up – Wright reported faculty comments were shared directly with Weber. Supalla reported that there currently wasn’t an effective tool available to filter unsolicited off-campus e-mails at this time. ACTION: Administration will bring the final policy (along with procedures) back to a future meeting for a first and second reading.

ITEM 1 (F) Registration Lock Out – Wright indicated the faculty were sensitive to the technical and personnel issues surrounding registration, but announced the faculty would like administration to pursue a registration system process that prevents students from registering for courses if prerequisites were not fulfilled. Harris and Thompson responded there have been obstacles preventing implementation in the past, but they will further investigate. ACTION: Harris and Thompson will report back the feasibility of implementing a registration lock/out process for Fall Semester.

ITEM 2 (A) Review Weather Policy – Harris indicated a faculty member had canceled evening courses because of bad weather, and reminded everyone that faculty do not have the authority to cancel classes because of weather emergencies. Harris announced the Weather Policy will again be published in Crossings. Wright and Shafer agreed that a reminder was necessary. ACTION: Harris will place a reminder of the weather emergency policy/procedures in an upcoming Crossings.

ITEM 2 (F) Student Readiness – Wright announced faculty were concerned about the lack of readiness by several ESL students, noting ASAP scores reflect a specific level, yet students continue to register for inappropriate courses. Wright requested that everyone be reminded that only counselors and designated faculty may award waivers of the placement scores. ACTION: Harris and Wright will work together to draft a memorandum for distribution to appropriate personnel.

ITEM 3 (A) Faculty Absence Posting – Harris announced that with lack of support staff in key areas of campus during early morning hours, faculty absence posting were not always being posted in a timely manner. Harris requested course cancellations be placed on campus monitors, broadcast on cable channel 20, and posted on RCTC’s web site rather than posting on classroom doors. Harris added that only course information, without names, would be published. Marconett noted the UCR Sports Center had no campus monitors. Harris will investigate the possibility of installing monitors in the Sports Center. ACTION: Harris will implement the changes to the faculty absence posting process.

ITEM 3 (F) Website Updates for Program Requirements and ITEM 4 (F) Current Catalog and Archive Old Catalogs – Wright requested a progress report on the website updates for program requirements, as well as the publishing of current and archived catalogs. Harris reported the program sheets were being updated by support staff, and are being reviewed for accuracy. Harris added difficulty has been experienced with format consistency when several individuals update program sheets, adding the process may need to be centralized. Harris will follow-up on the status of the archiving of catalogs. Thompson suggested the faculty review the Minneapolis Community and Technical College Academic Affairs and Standards Committee website (http://db.mctc.mnscu.edu/curriculum/) which limits how often curriculum changes can be made. Harris responded that recommendation was suggested previously, but was met with reservation from the faculty. Thompson also distributed a draft catalog review assignment chart, noting key contact individuals should be established to ensure all bases are covered. Wright responded these issues relate to academics and must go through the Academic Affairs and Standards Committee for consideration. ACTION:
Harris will follow-up on the status of the archived catalogs on the web. Thompson will distribute the Catalog Review Assignment document electronically to the members of FSGC and the faculty will provide feedback directly to Thompson.

**ITEM 4 (A) Two on Tuesdays** – Harris announced several e-mails were received from faculty who indicated they could not participate in meetings because of office hours. Harris reminded the faculty that office hours were not to be scheduled during Two on Tuesdays. The intent of Two on Tuesdays is to provide an opportunity to participate in meetings and large all-campus activities. **ACTION:** Information Only.

**ITEM 5 (F) Scheduling Delays for Summer and Next Year** – Marconett requested timelines be more consistent in the future to ensure faculty input is obtained before finalized. Harris responded the schedules were based on the yearlong proposals submitted last spring by the faculty, hence input was obtained from the faculty. Harris added if a yearlong schedule was not submitted, then courses were based on the previous years’ schedule. Harris added the base schedule is not created to force faculty to teach specific courses, but for cost efficiencies, the schedule should not be created from scratch every semester. Harris added if faculty require the schedules be created from scratch each semester, then additional clerical support would need to be hired for her office. Israelson responded the yearlong schedule submitted last spring from his department was not reflected in the fall schedule draft distributed. Shafer questioned if the input submitted from the faculty was being considered, and if not, the process may be in violation of the contract. Shafer also questioned the cost efficiency of offering on-line courses during the summer when tally/max numbers are higher for traditional course offerings. Harris responded speech offerings were established to meet the demands of the students, especially when many WSU students can’t obtain the speech requirements through their own institution. Harris also responded the on-line course offerings were proposed by the faculty, but she would reconsider the offerings if another instructor ultimately taught the course and preferred traditional instruction. Everyone agreed there was a consultation issue that needed to be resolved. Israelson shared concerns with the limited turn around time for the faculty to review the draft schedule, and requested faculty be allowed two weeks to review the fall schedule. Harris agreed to extend the deadline for fall semester review to March 7, 2003. Shafer suggested timelines be established months in advance. Supalla noted this issue has caused difficulties every year and suggested that Harris, the deans, and faculty leadership meet to review and establish a mutually agreed upon process and timeline for future scheduling. **ACTION:** Harris will follow-up on the yearlong proposals not being reflected in the draft schedules. The fall semester schedule deadline was extended to March 7, 2003. Harris will notify the faculty of the schedule deadlines and that these schedule requests will begin with those most senior in the department. A deadline of November 15, 2003 was established for faculty to submit yearlong schedule for 2003-2004.

**ITEM 5 (A) Governor’s Budget Proposal** – Supalla reported that the Governor’s recommendation did include funding MnSCU’s $67 million enrollment adjustment in payment for students already served. **ACTION:** Information Only.

**ITEM 6 (F) Hiring for Next Year** – Shafer shared his thoughts on the positive steps taken last fall in the hiring process, and requested in the future that faculty be included in the decision making meetings. Harris responded the intent was to include the faculty in the discussions during the December FSGC meeting, but the opportunity was lost when the meeting was cancelled. **ACTION:** Faculty will provide input at future FSGC meetings before final hires are made.

**ITEM 6 (A) Summer School Rooms** – Hansmann announced a GMW employee would be on extensive leave of absence during the summer, hence plans were being implemented to not schedule classes in Endicott Hall and the “A” and “B” wings of the Heintz Center to reduce the necessary cleaning and maintenance needs in those areas of the campus. Faculty and staff offices in these areas will still be usable. **ACTION:** Information Only.

**ITEM 7 (A) Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC)** – Supalla shared information on the Chancellor’s support for MnSCU campuses to participate in the Minnesota National Guard program “Servicemembers Opportunities College.” Wright requested the issue be referred to the Academic Affairs and Standards Council for consideration. **ACTION:** Harris will present the proposal to the Academic Affairs and Standards Council for consideration.
ITEM 7 (F) Football Stadium – Shafer questioned if an architect was hired to develop drawings for a football stadium on campus, sharing his concerns about such expenditures during the current fiscal crisis. Supalla responded the architect completed drawings several months prior to the budget unallotment and Governor’s 2004 budget recommendations. Supalla also announced the stadium proposal currently lacks support from GRAUC and the City of Rochester. Supalla updated everyone on the 2004 Capital Bonding request for a Health Sciences renovation project at UCR. Shafer questioned, with the elimination of athletics at several metro colleges, if consideration would be made on the elimination of costly athletic programs (i.e. football) at RCTC. Thompson and Harris have put together a cost per student analysis for the athletic programs and Thompson noted the report reflects other sports appear to be more costly per participant then football at RCTC. Thompson cautioned the comparison of the metro colleges to RCTC, noting the community connection and publicity the athletic programs bring to RCTC has been tremendous. ACTION: Thompson will share the athletic cost/FYE analysis with Shafer and Wright.

ITEM 8 (A) Faculty Evaluation Update – Hill requested the issue be brought back for consideration at the March meeting. ACTION: Hill will provide an update on the Faculty Evaluation Policy and Procedures at the March meeting.

ITEM 9 (A) PEPSI Funds – Hansmann announced the Pepsi Task Force has met and are considering several options, of which some include extensive maintenance agreements for software purchases. Wright responded he had not seen or evaluated this particular proposal; however, considering the fiscal crisis, his personal desire would be to avoid anything that includes maintenance agreements. Wright recommended that the fund distribution decision be tabled at this time, and also encouraged the review and analysis of all maintenance agreements for software currently in use on campus, including the recent Multiview purchase for the online catalog. ACTION: Information Only.

Adjourned at 3:25 p.m.
Next Meeting: TO BE ANNOUNCED