Congratulations to Fan Shen…Best Bee of the Month!

Congratulations to Fan Shen for being selected as the Best Bee of the Month for April.

Here is some of what Fan’s nominator had to say: Fan has been tireless in accommodating anyone who requests he come to class and give a lecture to students on his book Gang of One. He isn't doing it for self-promotion, but to educate current students about communist control, lack of freedom, the importance of democracy and the responsibility of citizens living in such a society. His whole life story promotes the human spirit and individual courage necessary in any culture! His story is of determination and perseverance.

Fan will receive an “up front” parking spot at UCR for the month of April. Thanks, Fan, for helping make RCTC great!

On a side note, Dr. Shen’s nominator mentioned that the Korean Press is coming in April to video him with our students and with a large community event.

MnSCU Board Policies

Attached for your review and comment are two previous system carry-forward policies proposed for repeal. They are:

1. Proposed Repeal of Carry Forward Technical College Policy 2.3.8.0 Technical Education Guarantee
2. Proposed Repeal of Carry Forward Community College Policy III.02.10 Diplomas

Comments will be accepted until final Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustee action which is planned for April 19-20, 2005.

Please direct comments on these proposed policy repeal actions to:

Deena Allen, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
500 Wells Fargo Place, 30 E. 7th Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Phone: (651) 296-8113
Fax: (651) 296-3214
E-mail: deena.allen@so.mnscu.edu
Marketing Fact
Continuing the string from last week's Crossings: Of all Minnesota high school graduates enrolling at RCTC within two years of graduation, 34.2% of them enrolled in at least one developmental math course in 2000. 45.3% enrolled in at least one developmental math course in 2003. Averages for all MnSCU Community and Technical Colleges for the same years were 32.1% and 35.2%, respectively. (Office of the Chancellor Research and Reporting).

Staff Development Day
The RCTC Staff Development Committee invites you to attend a day designed for you! Mark this on your calendar today!

What: All College Staff Development Day
When: Wednesday, April 13
Where: UCR Campus - Hill Theater

Complimentary coffee and juice available in the morning! Complimentary lunch provided by Taher at Noon in the UCR Cafe!

~Please wear school colors on this day~

Attached to this week’s Crossings is a schedule of events that will assist you in planning your day.

Special Notes:
The Introduction to Desire2Learn requires you to pre-register by emailing Missy Hagen at missy.hagen@roch.edu Class size is limited to 16 participants.

To qualify for the RCTC Office Olympics, simply pre-register by emailing Katie Swegarden katie.swegarden@roch.edu by April 8. Participants will be randomly assigned to teams. All participants receive prizes just for participating, and the top three teams win Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. (Not really, but they will get something.)

Thank You
RCTC Family: Thank you for the beautiful plant in memory of John Wolf. It meant a lot.

The family of John Wolf

Winter Intramural Results
15 teams enjoyed friendly competition in the basketball and volleyball leagues for intramurals. Team Gatz won the basketball and Team Caflisch won the volleyball.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Since I’ll be out of the office from Thursday until Monday, you’re getting legislative information that might be a bit outdated…things impacting RCTC are happening almost daily in St. Paul right now. Great news from the Capital Investment Conference Committee that reached a compromise on a bonding bill Wednesday evening! Governor Pawlenty has indicated that he’s happy with the bill. Although the conferees still have to tweak the language, they have agreed on the numbers…and the UCR Health Sciences project is funded at $12,759,000! I anticipate that both the House and Senate will vote on the bill next week and then Governor will sign shortly thereafter. The Senate Higher Education Finance Committee took up the four-year university in Rochester bill on Tuesday and moved it on to the Higher Education omnibus bill. I joined a large contingent of Rochesterists at the hearing. The first hearing of the university bill in the House has been scheduled for March 30 with a second hearing scheduled for 5 p.m., Monday, April 4 in front of the Higher Education Finance Committee. I encourage you to check out the weekly legislative updates posted every Friday afternoon on the MnSCU Web site (www.mnscu.edu).

Phil Theta Kappa International Honors Society and the Minn-Wi-Kota Region of PTK are pleased to announce that RCTC’s Ladi Grace Lumboy has been selected to the 2005 All-Minnesota State Academic Team. The formal recognition ceremony and dinner for the team will take place on Friday, April 29 at The Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park. PTK Advisor Barb Mollberg and I will be joining Grace for the recognition dinner. If you’re interested in participating, please let Judy Kingsbury know by April 6. Many of you probably know Grace as a student or campus activist. If you see have her in class or see her in the hallway, please congratulate her on this important recognition. Way to go, Grace!

Congratulations to Janell Holter and the Student Support Services Program team who received word this week that their TRIO program has been funded for another four years. This good news assures our much needed and highly respected SSSP staff will be available to assist students for the next several years.

It’s now official…the Department of Natural Resources has transferred custodial control of 37.3 acres of property just north of Evanston Heights to MnSCU. The transfer was agreed to with the understanding that the acreage will remain a permanent wetland, will provide a drainage way for the Mayo Run Flood Control Project, and the open space can be used by RCTC and the Rochester community.

Last week IBM-Rochester released the results of an internal survey of their economic and social impact in Minnesota. Just like RCTC, IBM has been a proud Minnesota organization for 90 years. Here are a few findings, gained from the survey analysis, on how IBM’s operations and employees affect Minnesota.

- IBM employs nearly 6,000 people in Minnesota, with an estimated payroll of over $500 million.
- More than 3,700 IBM retirees live in Minnesota.
- IBM is the largest technology company in Minnesota and pays more than $1.6 million in local property taxes annually.
- IBM employees pay an estimated $24 million in local sales and property taxes annually and donated $1.9 million in cash and technology to local schools and charities during the past year.
- IBM employees pledged a record total of $1.85 million to Minnesota nonprofit organizations through the annual Employee Charitable Contributions Campaign and more than 2,500 IBMers volunteered for various charities.

RCTC is proud to call IBM one of our closest business partners.

Some of our region’s best examples of responsive workforce training and education were recently recognized by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. “These programs, institutions, employers and partnerships,” says Trixie Ann Golberg, Foundation President, “demonstrate the practices necessary to keep our workforce and businesses competitive for the long term. This investment will generate economic returns and dividends for both people and communities for years to come. We congratulate each of them for their innovation and dedication.” Included in the list of nine honorees to receive the Best Practice Recipient certificate and a $200 cash award were Rochester Community and Technical College, Greater Rochester Area University Center, Riverland College, Southeast Minnesota Technical College (Winona) and the Owatonna College and University Center. Congratulations to Michelle Pyfferoen and her Small Business and Workforce Development Center team!

On February 9, the Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy released a new report urging a National Opportunity System for Adults. There are not enough young people in the educational pipeline to fill the nation’s workforce needs for decades to come. Thus, it is essential to focus more attention and resources on the three million adult education students in the system and the 30 to 50 million other adults with low basic skills. A National Opportunity System for Adults, built on stronger links between adult education and community colleges, is urgently needed, and will benefit the nation and all parties involved. The report urges education leaders and government policymakers to accept the challenge “as a chance for strategic, forward-looking statecraft.” The gap between the “haves” and “have
nots” in American society is growing, and the main pathway for the education and training needed to hold decent jobs and function well as parents and citizens is through the community college door. The report warns that too few adults are enrolled in ABE, ESL, and GED or other diploma programs, and too few are making the transition to community colleges. The report noted that the adult education and literacy system and community colleges (which already collaborate more than is realized) will have to find new ways to work together toward a common goal of developing more transitions. A PDF version of “To Ensure America’s Future” is available free at the CAAL Web site, http://www.caalusa.org.

**Thought for the Week…**

Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.

Continue to set sail and seek calm waters as you venture into turbulent and troubling waters. Until next week…

*Don*

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**ATTENTION: FACULTY**

Please submit you Fall textbook adoptions online now. These are due **Friday, April 11, 2005**.

If you need help with the online process call Linda Curtis, extension 7202, who will be happy to walk you through the process. You may come to the bookstore Monday through Thursday between 3 and 7:30 PM for individual help or you may call to arrange another time.

Textbook adoptions for Fall 2005 will only be accepted online at: [http://bookstore.roch.edu](http://bookstore.roch.edu) or by email to: pat.wolfgram@roch.edu.

If your class does not require a book please let us know.

**A supply list such as graph paper (type of), special pencils, safety glasses, etc. should be included in the provided comment box or you may send an email to:** marilyn.harstad@roch.edu or pat.wolfgram@roch.edu.

**Every effort will be made to have the supplies on hand that you request.**

Thank you for your help in a timely manner so that your students will be ready for class on the first day!