Baldrige Banterings
Our NCA site visit is just around the corner, April 23-25. Attached is a preliminary schedule for the site visit. We don’t foresee any major changes being made to the schedule. The schedule reflects our three areas of focus: Teaching and Learning, Assessment and Partnership.

Please make note that there will be an Open Meeting with Faculty on Monday April 23 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in CF206.

Mark your calendar! One-on-one counseling sessions
As a staff or faculty member of Rochester Community and Technical College, you are invited to take advantage of an individual counseling session to review the TIAA-CREF accounts in MnSCU's 403(b) Tax-Deferred Annuity Plan. A TIAA-CREF consultant will be on campus on Thursday, April 19, 2001 in Coffman 103. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please register on-line at http://www.tiaa-cref.org/moc. You may also make an appointment by calling 800 842-2005, ext. 5651.

For more complete information about investing in CREF and the TIAA Real Estate Account, or in the Roth IRA, including charges and expenses call 1-800 842-2733, ext 5509 for current prospectuses. For more complete information about investing in the TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 223-1200 for a current prospectus. Please read them carefully before you invest or send money. CREF and the TIAA Real Estate Account are variable annuities.

TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services distributes CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Accounts. Teachers Personal Investors Services distributes TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds.

Blood Donor Program successful
The recent RCTC Blood Donor Program membership drive was very successful. 25%, or 96 individuals joined and pledged to donate at least one unit of blood in the next 12 months. By reaching a 25% or greater participation level, all RCTC employees will receive full coverage under the Blood Assurance Plan for the next 12-month period.
Weekly funny…

"Thanks for the ‘Good luck on your new job search’ card. But I wasn’t aware that I was looking for a new job."

Volunteer Club needs your help

The Volunteer Club is an official student club at RCTC that volunteers in Rochester and surrounding communities. Right now we have many projects in the works.

YOUR help is needed. Please feel free to join us at any of our volunteer activities and please inform and encourage students to be a part of our volunteer activities.

The first project is at the Gift of Life Transplant House. We will be serving a meal on Saturday, April 28, at 6:00 pm to people staying at the Gift of Life Transplant House. The food will be provided by our own food service, Taher, Inc. If you are interested, please come to a meeting on Thursday, April 19, or e-mail me at ckvc@hotmail.com (this is the club’s e-mail address).

The second project is collecting money for the MS walk. There will be a money jar in the cafeteria for your coins!! Please watch for it.

Our third project is to help victims of the recent earthquakes in India. We are collecting personal items such as shampoos, conditioners, shavers, etc. There will be collection boxes on the third and fourth floors in the College Center.

In addition, we have been asked to help out a student with an Eagle Scout project to help supply a Literacy Van. We will have collection boxes on the third and fourth floors in the College Center. Please bring new or used (in good condition) games, books, and anything else that would help promote literacy.

If you have any questions please contact me, Melissa Doty at 285-7204, Student Life Office, or e-mail me at ckvc@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration. With your help we can make great things happen and CHANGE THE WORLD TOGETHER!!!!

Sincerely,
The Volunteer Club
Supalla’s Scribblings

Congratulations to retiree Cy Champa who will be inducted into the Rochester Quarterback Hall of Fame on Monday, April 23. Cy joins Joe Rockenbach and John Philo, previous RCC inductees, in the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame ceremony, held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, begins with a social at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and a program at 8 p.m. Call Quarterback Club President Ed Rauen at 288-7044 for information or tickets. Congrats, Cy!

An Elderhostel junkie who attended a recent RCTC-sponsored program focusing on Mayo Clinic wrote a wonderful review for “Elderhostel Notebook.” The testimonial raves about the programming, presenters, accommodations, food, and had special praise for M. J. Wagenson. Keep in mind that Leonard Rogus, who had all these wonderful things to say about the program, participated in the February 25 – March 2 programs. I hear very positive feedback on M. J.’s programs and the terrific work she does coordinating this unique learning opportunity. Way to go, M. J.!

Don’t fear Friday the 13th…plan to join your colleagues for a great Staff Development Day. The Staff Development Task Force has put together a worthwhile program that begins at 8 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. The program begins with a celebration of our first five years of consolidation, followed by an important NCA on-site visit orientation, a session on humor in the workplace, and a series of breakout sessions. See you at Heintz Center for continental breakfast at 7:15 a.m.

Have you reserved the evening of Friday, May 11 for Commencement 2001? I understand that the Commencement Planning Task Force is coordinating another wonderful evening of celebration. The festivities begin with a late-afternoon celebration for staff and then all are encouraged to stay for the evening program recognizing the accomplishments of our graduates. The Student Senate has secured a nationally recognized motivational and inspirational speaker, Jermaine Davis, who will be sharing a message on “Maximizing Your Full Potential.” Attending commencement is a great way to join your colleagues and our students as we wrap-up another successful academic year. See you at the Mayo Civic Center!

Maureen Hart, Director of Choices for Southeast Minnesota, is serving on the advisory group planning the “Recruiting, Renewing, and Retaining Older Workers” forum scheduled for Monday, April 23 at Best Western Apache. The all-day program is focused on how older workers can help organizations meet today’s labor shortage. Presenters include Tom Gillaspy, State Demographer, Phil Wheeler, Olmsted County Planning Director, Randy Johnson, executive director of Workforce Development, Inc., Dr. Ed Creagan, author of MAYO CLINIC ON HEALTHY AGING, and a long list of speakers and panelists. Tim Penny will moderate a panel discussion (including RCTC’s Maureen Hart) and then facilitate a “Planning the Next Steps Together” session. Please contact the UMR at 280-2831 for details or registration information. Cost of the forum, including lunch, is $30.

Did you know…

- More than two-thirds of RCTC’s programs earned a “Gold Star” or “Blue Ribbon” award in the recent program review process. Congratulations to all who contributed to this amazing accomplishment!
- Nearly one-third of Minnesota’s 1999 graduates who went on to state public colleges or universities took a remedial class. Many lawmakers are upset with the millions of dollars in tuition and state aid spent each year on remedial course work that students should have mastered in high school. There is a sharp difference in the need for remedial courses depending on the type of higher education the student was pursuing. The number of freshmen at the University of Minnesota needing a remedial course was 15 percent. At state universities, 21 percent took a remedial class. At a two-year college, the number was 45 percent.
President Bush nominated Carol D’Amico, Ivy Tech State College, for the job of assistant secretary of education for vocational and adult education. Ivy Tech is a system of two-year technical colleges. “We’d be very pleased to have someone with community college experience in that position,” said George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Everybody’s favorite weatherman, NBC’s Willard Scott, aired a salute to community colleges on Thursday, April 5, their 100th birthday. The segment, scheduled for the 8:30 a.m. (EST) time slot of the Today Show was seen by millions of viewers nationwide. Happy Birthday to us!

In 2000, the Minneapolis-St. Paul area had 2.3 percent of the nation’s IT services employment; by comparison, the area had 1.0 percent of the nation’s population. Minneapolis-St. Paul ranked as the nation’s 12th largest IT employer.

**Thought for the Week…**

“We can all use a little coaching. When you’re playing the game, it’s hard to think of everything.”

– Jim Rohn

Have a great week!  Don

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**Congratulations!**

At the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Denver a few weeks ago, Mike Mutschelknaus gave a presentation on tutoring students in writing centers and was also recognized in the written program as an outstanding teacher. Way to go Mike!!!

**Thank you**

I would like to thank all my colleagues for the kind words and gestures following the death of my father. My family and I appreciate the memorial contribution to the dental hygiene scholarship.

Robin Painter

**Vacation donation program**

Listed below are the new individuals who have been approved as a recipient for the vacation donation to the sick leave account program. These individuals may have already or will be exhausting all paid leave time and will be losing health insurance coverages. State employees may donate up to 12 hours (per recipient) per fiscal year to these individuals or any other recipients on the sick leave account. More details regarding these individuals and forms to donate leave are available from the human resources office.

_Cynthia Sogn - Minnesota State University Moorhead_  
Scott Guscette - Public Safety

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**Financial Aid Office-Work-Study Requests**

It's that time again! The Financial Aid Office is prepared to receive your requests for work-study students for both the upcoming summer session as well as for the 2001-02 Academic Year. Everyone requesting a work-study student must complete a job description request form. On March 30, an email was sent to all faculty and staff regarding work-study requests. If you are not on email please contact our office at ext.7271 for details on how to request work study help.
**Student Life is a Great Life!**

Please remind students of the upcoming application deadlines for Senate and Sophomore Leader positions. Please encourage your students who have leadership skills and/or leadership potential to pick up and turn in an application.

We need your help to get students to take an active leadership position at RCTC. We would really appreciate your help.

- **Senate President** Applications due Wednesday, April 4, 3:00 pm
- **Senate President Election**, Wednesday, April 11
- **Sophomore Senators** Applications due Wednesday, April 18, 3:00 pm
- **Sophomore Senators Election**, Wednesday, April 25
- **Sophomore Leaders** Applications due Friday, April 27, 3:00 pm

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**Menu of the Week**

**Taher, Inc.**

- **This week’s panini** – Smoked ham and three cheese.................................................................$3.50
- **This week’s stir fry** – Spicy shrimp with vegetables .................................................................$3.45

**MONDAY** – Lumberjack vegetable soup
Beef tips over noodles with vegetable and a roll.................................................................$4.25

**TUESDAY** – Turkey noodle soup
Philly beef and Swiss sub with potato wedges and drink .................................................................$4.25

**WEDNESDAY** – Chicken dumpling soup
Cheese or chicken quesadilla’s with salsa and sour cream.................................................................$4.25

**THURSDAY** – Chicken noodle soup
Chicken Kiev with rice pilaf, vegetable and a roll .................................................................................$4.25

**FRIDAY** – Chef’s Choice soup
Chef’s Choice Entree

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**GODDARD LIBRARY AND**

**LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER HOURS**

**FOR APRIL 14-15, 2001**

- **Saturday, April 14** 9 AM-5 PM
- **Sunday, April 15** CLOSED
Sufficient Grounds Coffeehouse Concerts
Quiet Lounge/Art Gallery - Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Cookies
** FREE **

Justin Roth and Chris Cunningham
Thursday, April 19, 11:00 am–12:30 pm
Justin offers a blend of thoughtful lyric ballads, groove-oriented folk and fingerstyle instrumentals. The combination of the two aspects of guitar and voice create a unique blend wizardry and lyrical imagery that moves and inspires audiences. Chris is a fluid, open-minded songwriter. He draws his lyrics from many familiar sources and presents them with a perception and understanding that makes an immediate connection with his listeners. Roth and Cunningham together is a show not to be missed!

Sara Hendrix
Wednesday, April 25, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Sara is a graduate of Mayo High School and gave a great performance at RCTC a few years ago. (Sara Hendix was Sara Spelsburg). Sara is a first rate musician and has a great stage presence. This is a performance you will really enjoy.

Zane Williams
Tuesday, May 1, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Singer*Songwriter*Storyteller
A Zane Williams concert is nothing less than a visual, sensory and emotional journey. He has a knack for drawing you in with his story telling, keeping you enthralled from the first work to the fading of the last chord. Whether it’s the wistful, bittersweet remembrance of love lost in “Fall Again” or the high-spirited “What’ve I Done (And When Can I Do It Again),” Zane’s up-front lyrics and spell-binding stage presence make every performance a joy for all ages. Zane graduated from Abilene Christian University with a degree in math and a smile on his face and drove to Nashville two days later to pursue his love of song writing and performing.

Administrative Professional’s Week
(Formerly know as Secretaries’ Week)
April 23 – April 28

# __________ Bud Vase Arrangement - $5.00
Deliver to: ____________________________________________

# __________ Bud Vase Arrangement - $7.50
Deliver to: ____________________________________________

# __________ Basket Arrangement - $15.00
Deliver to: ____________________________________________

FREE DELIVERY ON CAMPUS – Wednesday, April 25. Send orders and payment (checks to RCTC Horticulture) to Robin Fruth-Dugstad, box 49 by Wednesday, April 11. Designs/delivery by RCTC Floral Design Class
Up to Speed
General Education at RCTC: Moving from Confusion to Clarity
One of those moments when the lightbulb suddenly glows has helped me understand RCTC’s struggles with general education. My flash of insight may not burn brightly for you, but I hope it will allow us to begin working on our own RCTC definition of general education.

At RCTC, it appears to me that general education is equated with the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. In application at RCTC, MnTC and general education are considered one and the same. If a course is designated MnTC, it is also a general education course. I think all of us would agree that MnTC designated courses are general education courses. Where we might disagree, however, is whether courses not designated as MnTC can also be considered general education courses. First year language courses such as we offer in Spanish, French, and German, for instance, were highly debated when the MnTC was created. Eventually, the rule was that first year courses would not transfer as MnTC courses. Inver Hills Community College includes a list of general education courses in its catalog that does list first year language courses as general education courses. Let me reiterate—at Inver Hills a first year language course is not part of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, but it is part of Inver Hills general education listing and does count as a general education course. Thus, a student who completes the MnTC requirements for a program or degree and still has general education credits to complete, could, at Inver Hills, receive credit for a first year language course. Another way of looking at it is to say that at Inver Hills and at many other colleges, general education is broader than MnTC. To give you an idea of some of the courses that are accepted in addition to MnTC courses as general education courses, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings. I believe a great deal of our confusion and considerable student frustration has resulted from some of us on campus defining general education as equivalent to MnTC while others of us believe that general education is much broader than MnTC.

Our February Program Leaders/Division Coordinators meeting featured MnSCU’s Craig Froke who spoke on the topic of general education and MnTC. In part, his message sparked my understanding of our current confusion between MnTC and general education. Craig reiterated that RCTC needs to define what general education is for RCTC. As a college, we have worked hard this year developing institutional performance measures, program/discipline review measures, course performance measures, and where the personal evaluation cycle applied—individual performance measures.

I would propose that we must now define general education at RCTC. On April 10th, I will ask Curriculum Council to support a process for redefining general education at RCTC—target completion date—Thanksgiving 2001. We won’t have to start from scratch, but rather from NCA guidelines for general education and from samples of work done by our colleagues as well as work that has been done at RCTC in the past. Done well, a clear definition of general education that includes measurable outcomes, tools for measuring the outcomes, and actually uses the tools to measure will benefit all of us. To be of real value, your bright ideas need to be added to the glow. Watch for opportunities for you to be involved.

Judy Harris

Correction
RCTC Student Mathematics League Participants
Our apologies to Luong Chau whose name didn’t appear on the RCTC Team member listing in last week’s Crossings. Luong Chau participated in the competition along with Brian Carlson, Aaron Johnson, Kristin Wicks and Jon Knutson. Congratulations again on a job well done!
Take a look!
Faculty and staff had an opportunity to review the draft of our new catalog on March 27th, in CF 206/208. Thanks for all your hard work!