Employee Recognition - May 2004

Congratulations to Scott Sahs for being named RCTC's Best Bee of the month for May 2004!!! Scott Sahs is the Coordinator in the Educational Technology department and he is a Digital Arts instructor. Scott also serves on two RCTC All-College Committees: Assessment/Institutional Effectiveness and the Technology/Distance Education committees. Scott serves as the Web CT contact person for faculty and students. Scott provides classes and individual assistance to faculty regarding teaching on-line. Scott is patient beyond the call of duty. One of Scott’s nominators stated that he is so willing to demonstrate and teach all faculty no matter how computer literate they are. A second nominator affirmed that as RCTC rapidly moves into the online education era, Scott is the one who sorts out the confusion, answers the questions, and offers reassurance. Despite the fact that he fields many, many questions per day, he always responds with an upbeat, positive tone and does whatever he can to help RCTC students. RCTC is most fortunate to have Scott as a member of our team! Thank you Scott and congratulations on being named the “Best Bee of the Month”! Scott will receive the “up front” parking space for the month of May at the UCR campus.

Commencement - May 12, 2004

Make plans to attend our Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Regional Sports Center. This is an exciting milestone in our student's life and a realization of completed goals! We encourage you to give your support at the ceremony as it would be much appreciated by the students.

Retirement Reception – this Thursday!

You are cordially invited to a reception for Rochester Community and Technical College's 2003-2004 retirees:

Margaret Clark; Audrey Clausen; Patricia Dorn; Judy Harris; Sherryl Lecy; Sharon Oliver; Esther Omodt; Joan Paulson; Barbara Schultz; Edward Shafer

Please join us as we recognize our retirees' many years of dedication to RCTC and our students on: Thursday, May 6, 2004 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in CF206/208. A brief Program at 2:30 p.m.
Weekly Funny

www.4allfree.com

That guy created a computer virus. The other one copied music CDs. And the one over there got caught stealing cable. Geez... What happened to real criminals like pickpockets, bank robbers and kidnappers?

Last Chance to WIN!
Visit the RCTC Bookstore through 4:00pm on May 7th for your chance to win!! Guess the correct number of pieces of candy in the jar and win an RCTC sweatshirt!

Channel One Food Drive for RCTC Staff Development Day on 5/13/04

Please bring a food donation on Staff Development Day. Barrels will be outside the Hill Theater from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Channel One provides a five-day supply of food each month to people who live in Olmsted County and are income-eligible.

Do You Float Like a Butterfly and Sting Like a Yellow jacket?
Join your co-workers in the thrill of victory and the agony of those feet as they participate in these grueling events: Wastepaper Basket Free Throw, Coffee Cup Relay, Rubber Band Archery, Office Chair Obstacle Course, Paper Clip Wrestling, and Clown Bike File Folder Sprint. RCTC Staff Development and Employee Wellness, along with Schmidt Goodman Office Supplies, proudly announce the first-ever:

RCTC Office Olympics
May 13, 2004 (Staff Development Day)
1:00 – 3:00 in Rockenbach Gym

You won’t need to waste your precious coffee breaks training for these games. To qualify for the RCTC Office Olympics, all you need to do is pre-register by e-mailing Katie Swegarden at katie.swegarden@roch.edu by May 10.

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.)

Crossings Classifieds
For Rent: Immediate Possession - 3 Bdrm home in NW Rochester - hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, c/a, deck, fenced yard, ns=np, 2 car garage.
$1,000/month. Call Rose Conway at 282-7168 (evenings).

Thank You
Thanks to everyone who participated in the local celebration of National Library Week, April 18-24, 2004. This year's winner of the signed copy of Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich is Kendra Weber! Congratulations Kendra.
Supalla’s Scribblings

Most committees in the Minnesota House have finalized their work and sent bills to the floor for debate and vote. The Senate continues to drag its feet and with only three weeks to go until statutory adjournment, doesn’t seem to be in a hurry to address bonding, the budget deficit, or other important legislation. Assuming there will eventually be a bonding bill, funding of the UCR Health Sciences project seems likely. The sales tax language change looks positive and even the approval of the sales tax extension seems possible. Please do what you can to keep the pressure on legislators and urge them to conclude their work promptly and adjourn without a special session.

Do you feel a hum in the air? The “excitement” of the final weeks of school has really picked up as students and faculty realized the countdown is on. I hope all of you will plan to participate in Commencement on May 12 in the Sports Center. Graduates, guests, and the leadership team very much appreciate your involvement. As the year winds down, recognition abounds!

Did you know…

- Mirela Jefferson was honored as RCTC’s PTK “2004 All-Minnesota Academic Team representative.
- Barb Mollberg, Pam Benson, Bonnie Mercer, Marilyn Hansmann, Jay Lee, Thea Velic (Mirela’s Daughter), and Wayne Fjerstad (Pam’s friend) joined me for a recognition ceremony at the Minneapolis Convention Center at the start of the American Association of Community Colleges Convention. Congratulations, Mirela!
- RCTC students fared well in the recent Minnesota State College Student Association state elections. Congratulations to Justin Paul who was elected MSCSA President for 2004-05 and Amy Bothun, next year’s MSCSA Treasurer. Both Justin and Amy are RCTC Student Senators. MSCSA is a comprehensive grassroots association of the Minnesota public two-year college community, which works to ensure accessible, quality, and affordable public higher education. For the first time in memory, RCTC will have two state officers serving at the same time. Congratulations!
- Thanks to Marilyn Treder and the RCTC math faculty who helped advise and coach another great AMATYC Student Math League. The RCTC team finished #3 overall in Central Region competition and was led by David Buchs who earned a second place individual finish. The RCTC team ranked #24 (out of 158 teams) in national competition. RCTC math students consistently score well in this competition. Thanks staff…great job, students.
- RCTC was well represented at the AACC Convention in Minneapolis from April 24-27. Several faculty members and administrators volunteered to help and then enjoy a terrific line-up of presenters. The highlight of the convention was the policy speech delivered by President Bush on Monday. The President’s visit put the national spotlight on community colleges as he credited the two-year schools as being the backbone of American higher education. He pledged $250 million in training dollars, a good start but nearly enough to meet the retraining and upgrade needs of today’s workforce. Thanks to all who volunteered and attended!
- Alan Charon and Sue Finck presented several sessions and led round table discussions at this week’s 2004 MnSCU IT Conference. More than 300 information technology staff from the system attended the spring conference.
- Did any of you hear Ralph Nader’s corporate responsibility presentation in Hill Theatre on Minnesota Public Radio? I did…and the audio quality was excellent. MPR took their audio feed from the recording and audio work done by our own Media Services staff. Great job, guys!
- Congratulations to five current and past faculty members…Fan Shen, Lori Stoltz, Peter Erspermer, Yuko Taniguchi, and Bonnie Flaig…who will participate in the Rochester Sesquicentennial Committee’s Book Fair of local authors on Saturday at Assisi Heights. That’s an impressive list of talented RCTC authors!
- The spring 2003 edition of the Yellowjacket Review has been published. It’s a terrific compilation of prose, poetry, and artwork by RCTC students and faculty. Kudos to faculty advisers Mark Schnaedter and Scannell McCormick. Have you checked out the student work in the Quiet Lounge Gallery? Very impressive!
- Please plan to attend the reception honoring this year’s RCTC Outstanding Teachers of the Year…Mark Stanchfield and Rashmi Roy…Wednesday, May 5 from 1-2:30 p.m. in Coffman 206.
- Jay Lee and Dave Weber presented at the April 21 Board Meeting of the Rochester Area Math/Science Partnership. Jay shared information about RCTC’s CARE Summer Bridge Program and Dave talked about use of the Baldrige framework to map our progress as well as describe the AQIP accreditation process. Last week I received word from Harry Hertz, Director of the Baldrige National Quality Program, that our eligibility certificate was approved. We will
now focus on preparing our Baldrige application for a May submission. If you’d like to be actively involved in reviewing the application, please contact Dave Weber ASAP.

- Special thanks to PTK member, Sarah Heyenga, for organizing a campus clean-up effort. We very much appreciate the efforts to maintain a beautiful, welcoming campus. Curb appeal is very important!

- A copy of Fan Shen’s “A Gang of One” was delivered to Chancellor McCormick recently. The book will become a part of the permanent Office of the Chancellor collection. Fan’s book will be placed on the shelves of the bookcase (built by our own Larry Tucker and Vern Bell) designed for the display of works by system faculty, staff, alumni and students. If you’d like to autograph and donate a book you’ve written, I’d be pleased to personally deliver it.

- Bob Patnaude and Vern Bell received a $1,000 Carpentry Program contribution as a thank you from Brock-White Company. At 1 p.m. on May 2, Habitat for Humanity will dedicate the two homes our Carpentry Program helped build. Feel free to join in the celebration as 3940 and 3942 Sunset Avenue SE. Compliments to faculty and students on this year’s wonderful partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Good job!

**Thought for the Week…**

“There are those who work all day, those who dream all day, and those who spend an hour dreaming before setting to work to fulfill those dreams. Go into the third category because there’s virtually no competition.”

- Steven J. Ross

Take some time to dream!  

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**Scholarship Award Ceremony – Please Join Us!**

Administrators, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the RCTC Foundation Scholarship Award Ceremony on May 5, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hill Theater. A reception will follow the program in the North/South Room of the cafeteria to meet the recipients. Many deserving students are recipients of scholarships for 2004-05. It is a rewarding and special evening for everyone attending.

**Music Events – ALL FREE- PLAN TO ATTEND!**

Monday, May 3rd at 7:00pm in Hill Theatre.
The Digital Arts Students will showcase their talent at the Electronic Music Concert "Circuits and Skins". This concert will feature original surround-sound Music Compositions, digital video creations and will also feature the RCTC World Drum Ensemble. The concert is free and all are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, May 4th at 6:00pm in Hill Theatre.
Come and hear the RCTC Classical Guitar and advanced Suzuki Guitar students at their first recital. The recital is free and all are welcome to attend.

Thursday, May 6th at 12:00 Noon in C113
Stop in and listen to the Applied Music students as they showcase their talents for us. There will be vocal as well as instrumental performances. The recital is free and all are welcome.

**Racial Profiling**

Rochester Community and Technical College will host a forum on racial profiling Thursday, May 6th from 12:00 - 1:00 in the RCTC Atrium. The forum is to update the public on racial profiling issues and initiatives. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings or call Teresa Tolmie – Student Support Services Office at: 507/280-3543 or teresa.tolmie@roch.edu
**Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact**

The 2003 Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) groups items into twelve categories. The category of Academic Services includes seven survey items assessing services students utilize to achieve their academic goals. These services include the library, computer labs, tutoring and study areas.

The college's overall satisfaction rating last year for the Academic Services category was 5.09 on a seven point scale, with seven being very satisfied. This compares to the 2003 national norm of 5.22.

**Death in RCTC Family**

It is with sorrow we relay information on the passing away of Joan (Singley) Jensen, daughter of the late Charles Singley (Chemistry Instructor from 1924-1960, and for whom the Singley Building was named). Mrs. Jensen was 76 years old and passed away in Evansville, Illinois on April 12, 2004.

Over the years, Mrs. Jensen has continued to stay in touch with the College through the RCTC Foundation and her donations, and her family has requested memorial contributions be made to the RCTC Foundation in memory of Joan M. (Singley) Jensen.