Plan to Celebrate with the 2003-2004 Graduating Candidates on May 12!

In appreciation of your dedication and commitment during the past year, you are invited to attend a President’s Reception from 4:30pm to 6:30pm in the All American Room on the 2nd floor of the UCR Regional Sports Center.

The Commencement Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12 in the Field House at the UCR Regional Sports Center. Assembly for the Commencement Ceremony will be held in the lobby of the UCR Regional Sports Center promptly at 6:45 p.m. Special seating will be provided for faculty and staff adjacent to the stage. For full commencement night information and instructions, please see the attached document! Students are looking forward to their special night and appreciate our support.

SEE YOU WEDNESDAY NIGHT!!

ALL COLLEGE STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Thursday, May 13, 2004 - 8:00 a.m. – Hill Theatre
(see attachment for agenda of the day)

Scholarship Awards Celebration

On May 5, over 145 students, their friends and family joined with 65 presenters to celebrate their achievements and selection for a RCTC scholarship. The RCTC Foundation continues to grow its scholarship program, adding twelve new scholarships this year. Several new scholarships are a result of relationships fostered right here at RCTC. Scholarships were awarded this year in memory of Jane Toft and Paul Labinski. Judy Harris, Jim Russell, and President Emeritus Charlie Hill funded new scholarships this year demonstrating their ongoing support for RCTC and its students. Many community organizations, businesses and individuals continue to support higher education in Rochester by funding scholarships. The RCTC Foundation wishes to express our appreciation to our scholarship benefactors as well as the staff and faculty who participate in scholarship selection or take part in our scholarship celebration each year. The listing of this year’s scholarships and recipients can be seen in this Crossing edition. Please note some scholarships are not listed if the student was unable to participate in the awards program.
Weekly Funny

GODDARD LIBRARY, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER, AND DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER HOURS

May 10-14, 2004
Monday-Thursday 7:30 AM-10:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Saturday and Sunday CLOSED

May 17-31, 2004
Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday CLOSED
CLOSED: May 31, 2004

June 1-6, 2004
Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday CLOSED

SUMMER SESSION HOURS

June 7-August 14, 2004
Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-8:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Sunday CLOSED
CLOSED: July 4

(Hours are subject to change)

RCTC Common Book

The RCTC Common Book Committee is pleased to announce the 2004-2006 RCTC Common Book. When asked for suggestions, our RCTC community responded in an outpouring of support for our own Dr. Fan Shen's recent book: *Gang of One: Memoirs of a Red Guard*. Our 2004-2006 Common Theme will be: "WORLD VIEWS AND HUMAN EXPERIENCE"

We received this suggestion from folks from both general education areas as well as occupational programs. Many of our administrators and staff members also passed along this suggestion. We are extremely pleased and proud of such a remarkable selection! It also is exciting to know how many of you are interested in this book already! One change has also been decided upon that we would like you to know about.

The Common Book Committee has decided to adopt a 2-year rotation of "Common Books" and "Common Themes." We feel that this will reduce the amount of "prep time" for curriculum development and will allow for more long-term planning for events, discussions, and other activities. Come learn more about the common book during the May 13th Staff Development Day. During the CTL sponsored break-out session a panel will discuss their reactions to the book and will present you with "talking points" from the book.

Additionally, we will share resources for "teaching and learning" from the book and will brainstorm ways to integrate this text and our common theme into our RCTC classes and community life. Our goal for this session is to enjoy time together in a challenging yet refreshing discussion! Did we mention that we will sponsor drawings for FREE COPIES of this incredible book? FOR FOLKS WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMON BOOK AND WANT TO READ A COPY OF THE BOOK, Please contact Lori.Halverson@roch.edu. We may need to share books, and it may take awhile, but we will try to get as many as possible!

FOR FACULTY WHO ARE ADOPTING THE TEXT:
We just contacted the publisher of this text, Nebraska Press, and they will offer free desk copies for all instructors who adopt this text. Let Lori Halverson-Wente know if you are adopting the text. In case we don't hear from you in time, there is the information about the process of obtaining desk copy for faculty who adopt the book at: http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/examcopypolicy.htm
Supalla’s Scribblings

Each academic year seems to fly by faster than the one before…I suspect that legislators might be saying the same about legislative sessions. By statute, the legislature must finish its work by midnight, May 17. The House and Senate have been wrangling over just about every issue, including arguing over the make-up of conference committees. Still to be worked out are issues important to Rochester and RCTC…capital bonding projects, sales tax extension, sales tax language change, and balancing the state budget deficit. If there is a bonding bill, the UCR Health Sciences Center project should fare well. The House has included $10,945,000 in its appropriation for the project and the Senate has included the requested $11,745,000 on its list. Please keep the pressure on legislators to resolve their differences and approve the bonding request. Check out action in St. Paul via the media or Web often. Decisions are expected right up until the adjournment deadline.

On the federal scene, U.S. Senator Mark Dayton has introduced the Nontraditional Student Success Act. The bill, cosponsored by Senators Hillary Clinton and Bob Graham, would provide comprehensive services to help nontraditional services complete their college degrees. Provisions include increasing the maximum level of Pell Grants, expanding the tax credit for education expenses, and enhancing access to childcare for working parents. In the 2002-03 academic year, MnSCU enrolled more than 80,000 undergraduates over the age of 25, typically considered nontraditional students. Passage of this legislation would be a great help to those nontraditional students who are often struggling to meet family, work, and education responsibilities.

If you missed the final concert of the 2004 season, you missed one of the finest performances ever of the concert band and choir. The concert was dedicated to Margaret Clark, long-time adjunct music instructor and talented accompanist for the choir. The final showstopper featured a piano duet by Conductor Chuck Blattner and Margaret. Thanks to our talented music-makers and faculty for a job well done.

The Masque Theatre’s “Transformations” season is being dedicated to Gary Schattscheider, RCTC’s talented artistic technical designer. Although Gary is relinquishing his technical designer role, he will continue to teach at RCTC and share his set design and construction skills with the Masque and others. Gary has inspired, enlightened, and encouraged hundreds of aspiring actors at the Masque and RCTC. Thanks, Gary!

Staff at the Office of the Chancellor has submitted federally required information regarding the graduation rates for the 2000 entering cohort. Although RCTC graduation rates fall below the average for the system, they are consistently better than the rates of Metro community and technical colleges. Listed below is the most recent data:

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Combined Graduation and Transfer Rates:

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Thought for the Week…

"Community colleges quite often offer post-high school opportunities to students who would never otherwise have a chance in life to expand their hearts, to expand their minds, to prepare them for their future duties as constructive citizens.” — President Jimmy Carter (1988)

Thanks for helping prepare our students as constructive citizens. Thanks for another great year!

Don
RCTCANNOUNCES"LEADERSHIPRCTC"

RCTC is proud to announce "Leadership RCTC" beginning next fall. This leadership development program will be offered fall and spring terms in a cohort-based model. The program resulted from ideas generated by RCTC's 2004 Continuous Quality Improvement Network (CQIN) Team. The program is patterned after leadership programs offered by other community organizations locally and nationally, but topically focused on RCTC. An application form is attached. Interested persons for the fall 2004 cohort should complete and return their completed application to the Office of Human Resources by June 15, 2004. The following is an overview of the program.

Mission
To develop emerging leaders at RCTC in a comprehensive framework that recognizes the college's role in the community and its strategic vision as a teaching and learning organization.

Application
All applicants will complete the Leadership RCTC application form and submit it to the Leadership RCTC Team Leader by the published deadline.

Application Criteria
• Commitment and ability to attend the 8-10 sessions
• Interest in developing as a leader
• Statement of leadership philosophy
• Support from supervisor

Applicants
Two cohorts - Fall and Spring Semester
Consisting of 15-20 people
Session dates and times to be determined (i.e., Friday afternoons)

Objectives
• Create a better understanding of RCTC and its role in the community.
• Develop an understanding of RCTC's strategic vision, mission, values, and goals.
• Develop relationships that foster growth and promote teamwork.
• Develop leadership skills to support leadership succession.
• Align people and work systems to college goals.

Topical Areas
• History of RCTC and the UCR
• Leadership and personal development
• Strategic vision, goals, and challenges
• Diversity - Build an inclusive community
• Economic and community development
• Teaching, learning, student development, student life, and services organization
• Cohort team building project
• Finance 101

Cost
There is no application or registration fee required to participate in the program.

Again, complete and return your application to the Office of Human Resources by June 15, 2004. Participants will be notified of their selection in July.

Thank you!

The Leadership RCTC Team: Jessie Martinez; Jaime Malcore; Don Baldus; Cheryl Morgan; Tim Gilsrud and Dave Weber
Please join us...as we say farewell to: Karen Machlica
Tuesday, May 11th from 1:00 to 2:30pm - SS133 Counseling Center

Crossings Classifieds
Community Event: Rochester Area Gymnastics Academy will hold a fundraiser golf tournament at Somerby Golf Community on Monday, August 9th. For more info contact Teri Hill 285-7504 (w) or 346-1936 (h).

College For Kids
College For Kids registrations are now being taken. Catalog of classes can be viewed online at: http://www.rctc.edu/workforce/community

If you have questions, contact Colleen Landherr Maddox at colleen.landherr@roch.edu or 280-3113

Summer Crossings
Dates for publication: May 24; June 21; July 19 and August 16. Please e-mail items to be published in these editions by 3:00pm the preceding Thursday.

Jenee McGurren

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!