Thank you

Many thanks to the everyone who assisted with this year’s commencement exercises. It was truly a wonderful event. It is so uplifting to see all of the graduates in attendance with their happy and proud families, spouses, significant others, and friends. Thanks also to those who attended the ceremony. I hope you found it to be a fulfilling way to see the fruits of your labor - something that is not always visible or tangible in our line of work.

Many folks pitch into make the event a success. I want to express my sincerest thank you to Audrey Clausen who is responsible for pretty much the entire contribution that is made from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Institutional Advancement.

-Daniel J. Thompson

Lecture Series

James M. Russell is presenting a series of four lectures on "Changing Values Through the Centuries" at Christ United Methodist Church. The lectures will be on Tuesdays: May 27, June 24, July 29 and August 26 from 7:30 to 9:00pm. The fee for each lecture is $5.00. For more information or to register, contact: Carolyn Chaapel at 507-288-4459.

Russell, a retired World History teacher at John Marshall High School and European History professor at Rochester Community and Technical College, continues to teach at ElderHostels and Elder Institutes. In the four lectures, he will examine:

1. Changing Values in the Ancient Greek and Roman World - An examination of how Greek and Roman values impacted the emergence of Christianity.

2. Church and State in the Middle Ages: A Return to Universal Truths - A secure world: the harmononizing of classical thought with medieval theology.

3. Conflict and Change - An examination of the social, economic and religious circumstances that gave rise to the protestant reformation of the 16th century.

4. The Impact of the Philosophy of the Enlightenment on Modern Thought - Science and reason were exalted in the 18th century...what impact did this have on the values of the times? Are there lessons to be learned by us for today?
Weekly funny...

"It's a house made out of sand. What did you think I meant when I said I owned a beach house?"

Assessment of Student Learning
Visit the Assessment of Student Learning website at www.acd.roch.edu/asl. As the academic year comes to a close, we would like to recognize the faculty that have been involved in assessment of student learning pilot projects this year. In addition, we would like to introduce the faculty that will be initiating new projects this summer.

General Education Pilots 2002-03:
The English Department utilized a standardized writing exam from ACT. The exam was taken at the beginning and end of ENGL 1117, Reading and Writing Critically I. Bonnie Flaig and Mike Mutschelknaus have lead the assessment activity in the department.

The Math Department embedded three critical thinking questions in MATH 098, Elementary Algebra. While Don Baldus and Marilyn Treder lead the departmental activity, their project has stimulated much discussion among faculty within the department as to the definition of "critical thinking" and different styles of questions that may be used in future assessment activities.

The Science Department created a series of questions that were used to assess the students' ability to read and interpret graphical representations of data. Teresa Brown and Jim Stegge conducted pre- and post-assessments in BIOL 1101 and CHEM 1127.

All of the pilots worked with a database software pilot project sponsored by MnSCU. We continue to search for a database that will allow faculty easy data access.

Meet the Occupational Program and Critical Thinking Pilots 2003-04:
The following individuals will be working with pilot projects this coming year...
Judy Lindman and Marsha Connelly-Child Development
Kathy Jacobson and Jane Kruger-Surgical Technician
Brian Watters-Law Enforcement
Jessie Martinez-Economics
Jason Dahl-Auto Inf Tech
Paula Theisen-Supervisory Management
To Be Identified-Critical Thinking

Thanks to all of the other individuals that have been involved in RCTC's assessment of student learning journey.

Have a great summer...Anne and Tammy
Supalla’s Scribblings

With the House and Senate still almost a billion dollars apart on budget targets and just days to go before the May 19th session deadline, it’s almost certain that the Governor will call a special session. Like other areas of the state budget, the Higher Education appropriation for the biennium remains an uncertainty. Hope remains that the Higher Education Finance Conference Committee will ultimately restore $50-100 million of the Governor’s proposed reduction. Now is the time to write, e-mail, or call your legislator (especially Carla Nelson, IR-Rochester and Gene Pelowski, DFL-Winona) who serve on the conference committee and urge them to restore full higher education funding as an investment in Minnesota’s future. Please continue to follow legislative proceedings though media sources or the MnSCU web page…
http://www.mnscu.edu/Legislative/LegislativeUpdates/CurrentYear.html.

Many thanks to those who, in the past week, helped students and staff celebrate another successful year…

➢ Taher Food Service who donated the delicious food and beverage for the Presidential Reception. We are delighted that agreement has been reached on a two-year extension of Taher’s food service contract. The quality of the food, price, service, and pleasant personalities of staff are appreciated by internal and external stakeholders.

➢ Janell Holter and the Student Support Services staff who threw a wonderful reception celebrating the talents and accomplishments of students served by the Program. Thanks to all who contributed to a great evening.

➢ Jennifer Haug, Sharon Oliver, and Judy Kingsbury who coordinated a wonderful reception for our eight retirees. Thanks for making this important life experience one that our dedicated employees won’t forget.

➢ Diane Nicholls and the AD nursing faculty and staff who organized a very impressive Nursing Pinning Ceremony. The talents of this diverse group of students were showcased with presentations and a delightful slideshow that chronicled their education (and social) experiences.

➢ Audrey Clausen and the Commencement Planning Committee who coordinated a wonderful graduation celebration. Many students, family members, friends and platform guests commented on the diversity of the graduates and audience, quality of the program, functionality of the facility, and atmosphere of celebration. Thanks to all who had a role to play in organizing or who participated in this important event.

➢ Kim Peters and the Staff Development Committee who organized the half-day year-in-review staff workshop. Many thanks to all who presented and participated in this time of celebration and networking.

MnSCU has released information on graduation and transfer rates for all two-year institutions for the 1996-1999 student cohorts. Below are the RCTC and Metro and Greater Minnesota comparisons…

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<tr>
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CONVERGE magazine’s February/March edition featured an article on higher education campuses that have excelled in utilizing technology. The only Minnesota institution highlighted was Winona State University. They wrote…

"In the small town of Winona, Minnesota, technology has become an everyday necessity for the students at WSU. With just under 7,000 students, it’s one of the country’s largest notebook universities. To increase student interaction with technology, the university developed a program to outfit all students (and staff) with laptop computers. By 2003, all full-time students will be required to have a notebook computer. With WSU as a UCR partner and many RCTC students enrolled in programs that articulate to WSU, is it time for RCTC to seriously consider moving to a laptop college?"

**Thought for the Year…**

"At the end of the year, you should play back the tapes of your performance. The results should either applaud you or prod you."

-Jim Rohn

*Do you hear the applause? Don*

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**Thank you**

Thank you for all of the cards, memorials, prayers, kind words of sympathy and support during the death of my Mother, Janet Harstad. It means so much to be surrounded by such caring people during this difficult time.

*Marilyn Martin & Family*

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

May 19-June 1, 2003

Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday CLOSED

Memorial Day, May 26, 2003 CLOSED
(Hours subject to change)