Yellowjacket Golf Tournament
Mark June 4th on your calendars and plan to participate in the 10th Annual Yellowjacket Golf Tournament. All proceeds support the Champa Kereakos Scholarship Fund. To find out more information and to get the registration form, see the attachment to this week’s Crossings. It is two pages with the registration form on page two. Don't Miss Out. Fun for Everybody!! Send registrations to RCTC Foundation - Box 56

Thank You!
Many thanks to everyone who assisted with commencement exercises this year. It is so uplifting to see all of the graduates in attendance with their happy and proud families, spouses, significant others, and friends. It was truly a wonderful event. 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 in to make the event a success and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank them:
- Duplicating
- Media Services
- Foundation
- Horticulture
- Maintenance
- Music Department
- Taher
- Student representatives
- Communications
- Office of the President

I want to express my sincerest thank you to the Commencement Planning Committee for their dedication and hard work. What a team!

- Bonnie Mercer

Perennial Plant Drive on Campus
If you're in the process of dividing up your perennials, bulbs, shrubs, etc., OR have excess landscaping materials such as black felt ground cover, fencing, decorative rocks, etc. please consider donating some of them to the Adopt-A-Plot Program. This is a group that consists of UCR employees who are interested in beautifying our campus in light of budget constraints. If you would like to donate OR become a part of this group, please contact Roxy Roadway (x7127), Jenee McGurren (x7270), Judy Kingsbury (x7216) or Craig Knox (x7262).
Weekly funny…

I CAN’T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME, NUMBER AND SPECIES AFTER THE BEEP.

Noah’s Answering Machine

College for Kids

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

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

Condolences

Condolences are extended to Patty Stevens whose father-in-law, Lyle "Bud" Stevens passed away on Tuesday, May 11th. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

Patty Stevens

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jason and Daniela Meier on the arrival of Nathan Alexandru to their family. Nathan arrived on May 11th weighing in at 9 lbs 13 oz, and 22 inches long.

Congratulations also to Nikka and Will Harris on the birth of their son, Caleb Denzel. Caleb arrived on Monday, May 17, weighing in at 9 lbs 4.7 oz, and 22 inches long.

Staff Development Day

The first RCTC Office Olympics at the May 13th Staff Development Day was a huge success! Pictured are the winning teams – gold, silver and bronze and a couple of action photos. Thanks to the Wellness Committee for an exciting afternoon activity!
Supalla’s Scribblings

Well, the legislature didn’t get the job done. Unable to reach agreement on any major issues, they adjourned early in the morning of the final day of the session. Since Governor Pawlenty has already used his executive power to balance the state’s deficit, it is unclear whether or not he will reconvene legislators for a special session. So, while House and Senate leadership fly around the state pointing fingers, we spend time urging the Governor to call a special session to deal with a handful of important issues. Specifically, the convening of a special session is the only hope we have for obtaining capital funding for the Health Sciences project. It is very unlikely that either the sales tax language change or the sales tax extension will be resolved this session. Please continue to dialogue with both the executive and legislative branches, urging the Governor to call a special session and legislative leadership to compromise on the bonding bill.

The Y Mentors program is hosting its First Annual Rochesterfest Ride on Saturday, June 26. The ride, part of Rochesterfest activities, is co-sponsored by the Rochester Active Sports Club. Three different routes…of approximately 30, 65, and 100 miles…all start and end at the University Center. Help will be needed along the route and at UCR. If you’d like to volunteer, please call Teresa at 287-2260, Extension 327.

Thanks to Mark Schnaedter and Scannell McCormick who served as faculty advisors to a great editorial board who published The Yellowjacket Review. The 2003 edition of this great book of poetry, prose and art is available in Goddard Library. Congratulations to all who contributed material and supported the project.

The Minnesota Higher Education Services Office reported that undergraduate students attending Minnesota post-secondary institutions in fiscal year 2003 used $1.6 billion in grants, loans, and earnings from work study to help pay for their education. This represents a 33 percent, $385 million increase over the amount of financial aid awarded in fiscal year 2001. The growth in financial aid helped undergraduates pay for the rising prices of higher education. Between fiscal years 2001 and 2003, tuition and fees increased by 29 percent at the University of Minnesota, 23 percent at MnSCU institutions, and 10 percent at private four-year colleges.

A recent publication by The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education compared Minnesota’s educational pipeline with that of other states. In Minnesota, for every 100 ninth grade students…

- 82 students graduate from high school four years later (U.S. average = 62; Top State (NJ) = 90)
- 54 immediately enter college (U.S. average = 40; Top State (NJ) = 60)
- 38 students are still enrolled in college in their second year (U.S. average = 27; Top State (NJ) = 44)
- 25 students graduate with either an associate’s degree within three years or a bachelor’s degree within six years (U.S. average = 18; Top State (MA) = 29)

Tough decisions and broad-scale collaboration within Minnesota’s largest system of higher education have yielded greater efficiency in this time of shrinking state resources. To offset the effects of state funding cuts on students, MnSCU has been enhancing and building partnerships to provide students and other Minnesota taxpayers with the greatest possible return on investment. In particular, system advancements have enabled students to transfer credits more easily between institutions. The system captures significant savings through online services that reduce staff demands on campuses and provide enhanced services to students, including online registration, online payment and electronic transcripts. In addition, the system has gained significant savings in the purchase of bandwidth, software, hardware and low-cost telephone services.

“Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day; while failure is simply a few errors in judgment, repeated every day. It is the accumulative weight of our disciplines and our judgments that leads us to either fortune or failure.” – Jim Rohn

Enjoy a relaxing summer!

Don
Winter Campus Closing
The University Center Rochester Buildings (with the exception of the UCR Regional Sports Center) will be closed, with security alarms activated, beginning at midnight the evening of December 23, 2004 through midnight of January 2, 2005. Although the security alarms will be activated, anyone wishing to access their offices may do so by obtaining a security code through Marilyn Hansmann.

Supervisors will be compiling a list of employees that plan to work during the campus closing and alternative duties and work shifts will be made available (probably assisting during large events that will be scheduled at the Sports Center).

Employees wishing to utilize vacation, comp time, floating holidays, or Leave for Salary Savings may do so by completing the appropriate forms and obtaining approval from their immediate supervisors.

More information on the campus closing (with instructions for payroll) will be forthcoming from the Human Resources Department.

Fundraiser Breakfast on Campus Next Week!
To raise funds for the 2004 Relay for Life and the fight against cancer, the Business Office/Facilities office offers for sale a continental breakfast next Monday and Wednesday, May 24 and 26. We will have juice, coffee, fruit and assorted homemade treats (think muffins, coffee cake and cookies) for sale beginning at 8:30AM. The goodies will be available until all is sold. All proceeds will go the American Cancer Society to fund cancer research. The Food Service will be closed all next week, May 24 through 28. We appreciate Taher's generous donation of coffee for sale for our cause.

Board Policy Changes/Additions
Board Policy changes/additions have been made. Please review the proposals attached to this week’s Crossings with your constituents and forward any questions/concerns to the appropriate RCTC Leadership Council member. To view all current MnSCU and RCTC Policies, please visit: http://www.rctc.edu/policies/

CROSSINGS CLASSIFIEDS
WANTED: Used cartridges and cell phones....this year America's landfills will end with laser, inkjet, fax and copier cartridges and cell phones which are recyclable. Help save the environment and raise funds for a local non-profit by sending your items for recycling to: Roxy Roadway-Office of the Vice Presidents (Box 3).