Assessment of Student Learning
The next Assessment of Student Learning committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th, 2:30-3:30 p.m. in East Hall EA-235. Everyone is welcome to attend.

AGENDA
* Overview of Child Development Assessment Pilot
* Discussion of Critical Thinking Assessment Pilot
* Invitation to Participate on Rubric Development Team

Have you heard the news?
The 2003 Minnesota State Employees Combined Charities Campaign runs from October 27 to November 7, 2003!

Pledge your gift through the convenience of payroll deduction.

Pledge on-line http://www.state.mn.us/employee

For more information, contact:

Cheryl Morgan
Combined Charities Coordinator
Extension 5504
cheryl.morgan@roch.edu

Meeting Minutes
Click below:
http://www.rctc.edu/intra/html/meeting_minutes.html
Weekly Funny

"My SUV ran out of gas. Can you lend me $2,200 to fill up my tank? I'll pay you back next month."

Birth announcements

Congratulations to Sara and Russ Soukup who are the proud parents of a new baby girl...Addy Rose! Addy was born Wednesday, October 15 and weighed in at 7lbs and is 20 inches long.

Congratulations also to Margie Barrows on the arrival of a new grandson. Margie's daughter, Sarah, gave birth to a boy on October 16. Jesse Lamar Crum, Jr. (soon to be nicknamed "JJ") weighed in at 9lbs.

Weekly Stakeholder and Market Fact

According to the 2003 Student Satisfaction Inventory the following areas were identified by students as RCTC's institutional strengths:

- On a whole the campus is well maintained.
- Class change (drop/add) policies are reasonable.
- Library resources and services are adequate.
- Bookstore staff are helpful.
- This institution has a good reputation within the community.
- There are a sufficient number of study area on campus.
- Library staff are helpful and approachable.
- New student orientation services help students adjust to college.
- The student center is a comfortable place for students to spend their leisure time.
- Most students feel a sense of belonging here.

Condolences

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Myrtle Stewart (mother of retired RCTC instructor, Terry Dennis). Mrs. Stewart died October 12 of injuries suffered in an auto accident on October 4. She was 91 years old. Our thoughts are with Terry and his family.

Students excused

The visual merchandising students will be on a field trip to Marshall Field's October 22 from 8:00 - 9:00 am. We may not arrive back to campus until 9:15. As follows are the students excused: Karri Burns; Kevin Dahl; Jake East; Abbey Einerwold; Jen Feldhake; Erin Hall; Kalli Heimsness; Sammy Igou; Heather Johnston; Jessica Kimber; Lori Krejci; Jade Landgrebe; Regina Lewis; Mandy Nelson; Katie Page; Raielle Peterson; Emily Qualy; Amy Rain; Amber Stephenson; Dorothy Strickland; Stacy Vang; Hillaree Waldhoff.
Supalla’s Scribblings

The new Health Sciences Building proposal takes center stage on Wednesday when the Senate Capital Investment Committee will be on campus to learn about the project and tour Rockenbach Gym. The committee will have lunch at UCR before moving on to look at other area bonding projects. Immediately following the Senate’s departure, Susan Heegaard, Legislative Liaison for Governor Pawlenty, will spend the remainder of the afternoon on campus learning about the UCR partnership and the Health Sciences project. The project has already gotten a positive reaction from the House Higher Education Committee and MnSCU facilities staff. Nirmala Kotagal and Marilyn Hansmann are looking forward to spreading the good news about this project in St. Paul come February when the Legislature convenes. Stay tuned!

The 30-day enrollment numbers are in and once again RCTC’s increases were more than twice the MnSCU average. Officially, RCTC enrolled 5803 students fall semester, a 6.5% increase. Even more impressive, RCTC’s full-time equivalent enrollments grew to 4145, an 8.4% increase. Thanks to all who made these exceptional increases possible.

Thanks to Warren Kemplin and Ellen Nelson who joined me at the Rochester Chamber of Commerce Annual Member meeting on October 9. Congratulations to Mayo Clinic who was awarded the first annual “Lamp of Knowledge” award co-sponsored by GRAUC and the Chamber of Commerce. Other winners included RCTC friends Barbara Porter (Athena Award), Nancy Domaille (Chamber Volunteer of the Year) and Corporate Web Services (Small Business of the Year). Theresa Tolmie and several RCTC students joined me at the UCR table for the October 14 NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. John Jackson, NAACP Education/Training Coordinator, delivered a passionate speech touting the benefits of education and reminding us that much work still needs to be done to assure fair and equitable treatment for all. Monday I traveled to St. Paul for the Minnesota Chamber Annual Meeting and heard Senators Coleman and Dayton share the benefits of affordable and accessible higher education. I’m pleased to serve on the local Chamber Board of Directors and I’m proud of the excellent working relationship RCTC has with the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce. Tuesday I returned to St. Paul to celebrate with Winona State University as they unveiled their new National Child Protection Center program at the Minnesota Children’s Museum. I encourage every program leader or division coordinator responsible for training public service employees that have contact with minors to invite Victor Vieth, Program Coordinator, to the table to discuss how we might partner with WSU to deliver components of this innovative program to our students.

E-mail Rule #5: Make yourself look good online. As in the world at large, most people who communicate online just want to be liked. Networks let you reach out to people you might otherwise never meet. You will be judged by the quality of your writing. Spelling and grammar do count. Pay attention to the content of your writing. Be sure you know what you’re talking about. Bad information propagates like wildfire on the net. And once it’s been through two or three iterations, you get the same distortion effect as in the party game “Operator.” Whatever you originally said may be unrecognizable. Make sure your messages are clear and logical. Keep it simple. Be pleasant and polite. Don’t use offensive language and don’t be confrontational for the sake of confrontation.

Babson College and the Sloan Consortium recently completed a survey of almost 1000 public and private college chief academic officers and presidents. One third of the respondents said online education would be superior to in-class instruction at their institutions within three years. And 57 percent said Internet-based courses at their colleges were already at least equivalent to lecture-hall counterparts in educational quality. According to the survey, more than 1.6 million students – 11 percent of those enrolled in postsecondary institutions – took at least one course online in the fall of 2002. More than one-third of those students took their entire course offerings on the Internet. The authors of the report say the number of students working online will grow by almost 20 percent this year.

Lesson for the Week…A water bearer in China had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the posts had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half
full. For two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of his accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what was perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. “I’m ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.” The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot’s side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.” Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it’s the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You’ve just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

It’s a Whole New World! A teacher asked one of her pupils, “Name the nation’s capitol?” He said, “Washington, D.C.” On being asked what the “D.C.” stood for, the pupil proudly replied, “Dot com!”

Quote of the Week…

“The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who’ll get me a book I ain’t read.”

- Abe Lincoln

Ask a friend to share a good book, curl up in an easy chair in front of a warm fire, read, and enjoy! Don