College Crossings
Rochester Community and Technical College

November 19, 2001
Volume 7, Issue 11
FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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http://www.roch.edu/rctc/about/html/weeklyschedule.htm

Attachments
❖ Visiting Scholar

2001 Open Enrollment meetings in Rochester
Informational meetings about the 2001 Open Enrollment will be held in Rochester as follows. This is your opportunity learn about the changes in insurance coverages for 2002 and ask questions of the insurance carriers.

November 28, 2001 - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
University Center Rochester - Heintz Center Commons Area

November 28, 2001 - 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Comfort Inn Rochester - Conference Center
1625 Broadway South, Rochester, MN 55901

Mark your calendars now! Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

What is the MN Workplace Mediation Program?
MnSCU is participating in the Workplace Mediation Pilot Project, a new program available at no cost to all executive branch employees and agencies. In mediation, a neutral third party, from outside the agency, sits down with the parties who have a conflict and helps them talk through the issues and explore possible solutions. The parties themselves decide what will work to end the problem. Disputes between coworkers, supervisor/employee disputes, work team conflicts, space conflicts, environmental/air quality issues, chemical sensitivity issues, discrimination complaints, ADA accommodation issues, and parking assignment disputes are all examples of issues that can be handled through mediation. The mediators are trained executive branch employees who have good listening and facilitation skills. They will be assigned to cases outside their own agencies and initially will work in pairs. The program is sponsored by the MN Office of Dispute Resolution. For further information about the program, or to talk confidentially about whether an issue is appropriate for mediation, you can either contact Susanne Sheehan, Campus Coordinator, or contact Barbara Blackstone, Mediation Coordinator for the MN Office of Dispute Resolution directly at 651-297-4635.

You’re invited
The RCTC Foundation recognizes the great American spirit this year more than ever. Please join us to celebrate this unique American concept of Thanksgiving by stopping by the RCTC Foundation Conference Room C124 on Tuesday November 20, 2001 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come Hungry!!

Evening Administration
Nov. 17-21, 2001 - Ellen Nelson
Nov. 26-29, 2001 - Nirmala Kotagal

The evening administrator can be reached at x7262.
Weekly funny…

"Your resume is quite impressive. However, I'm a little concerned about you biting your last 4 bosses."

Christmas Anonymous coat drive
Several coats/jackets have already been donated to the Christmas Anonymous coat drive. Last year RCTC/CHOICES collected more than 75 coats as well as snow pants, mittens and hats. Donations may be left at the Information Desks at UCR and the Heintz Center from 7:30 - 4:00 Monday through Friday or call CHOICES at 280-5510 to arrange for pick-up. There is a huge need especially for infants, toddlers, children and teens. LET’S BEAT YEARS donations and set a new record. Your donation truly makes a difference.

Visiting Scholar Series
“Fact & Fiction: Award-winning Stories and Memoirs of Life with AIDS” Minnesota authors Emily Carter and Jan Zita Grove will share their stories, writings and experiences, each presenting her own unique perspectives on living with AIDS, transplanting to Minnesota from the coasts and their careers as writers. For more information, please see the flier attached to this week’s Crossings.

Condolences
John Buchl's father, Stanley K. Buchl, passed away on Thursday, November 8, 2001. Mr. Buchl had been suffering from Alzheimer. Our thoughts are extended to the Buchl family during this time of sorrow.

Recipient for vacation donation program
Listed below is a new individual who has been approved as a recipient for the vacation donation to the sick leave account program. This individual may have already or will be exhausting all paid leave time and will be losing health insurance coverages. State employees may donate up to 12 hours (per recipient) per fiscal year to this individual or any other recipients on the sick leave account. More details regarding this individual and forms to donate leave are available from the human resources office.

Rebecca Glasford - Minnesota Department of Human Services
Supalla’s Scribblings

Although the State Employee’s Combined Charities Campaign officially concluded Friday, November 16, 2001, it’s not too late to submit your pledge form. Pledge forms will continue to be accepted by Judy Kingsbury (Box 1) through Wednesday, November 21. Why not start your holiday giving by completing and submitting the pledge form (or make a cash contribution) now? On Thursday, as you sit down to give thanks for all the blessings you have in your life, please also remember those in your community in need of assistance. By participating in the State Employee’s Combined Charities Campaign - YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Teddy bears are already starting to hibernate…the first two arrived in the President’s Office last week. Once again this year, RCTC will collect bears that will be donated to local law enforcement agencies. Police, sheriff and emergency responder personnel keep a supply of the bears in their vehicles to give to children finding themselves in stressful situations. Last year, UCR staff donated more than 100 bears to this important cause. Just yesterday, your generosity was felt personally when, a bear handed to him by a firefighter calmed Grandson Gabe, involved in a minor traffic accident. As you do your Christmas shopping, please remember to buy an extra bear or two for our giving tree. Don’t forget to mark you calendar and plan to attend the UCR Holiday Reception scheduled from 2-4 p.m., December 12 in the Heintz Center Commons.

Chuck Blattner and his talented music-makers presented a terrific Fall Concert! The talents and energy of our students and staff continue to impress me. If you missed this great fall show, vow not to let it happen again this year. Let Chuck and his students ease you into the holiday spirit by purchasing tickets now for the always enjoyable December 12-15 Holiday Concerts.

If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, think of the value of an Apple for the Teacher during American Education Week. Many thanks to the American Legion for the case of apples provided RCTC as a token of appreciation for the great job you do. This year’s theme…“Together: Making Schools Great for Every Child”…is a reminder to each of us that we have a duty and a responsibility to see that students are prepared to take up the role of citizens and leaders in the years to come.

I watched anxiously, along with several other members of the Vote Yes for Kids Steering Committee, as the votes on the levy referendum were tallied. Although Rochester voters ultimately approved the referendum (50.3% yes, 49.7% no), a piece in the most recent MSBA Journal caught my attention. After reading today’s statement from the MnSCU Office of the Chancellor…We have been advised that the executive branch has begun to develop plans for budget reductions. We will communicate in the coming days as we learn more about the reductions and the process… I felt compelled to share the MSBA message.

The doorbell rang and as I opened the door the freckled face of a little boy came into focus. I didn’t recognize him. He was nervous. In his hand was a large brochure featuring colored photos of candy and gift-wrap for sale. Quietly, he started his pitch. “Hi. My school is selling candy and wrapping paper.” He shoved the brochure my way with a hopeful expression. “Wanna buy some?” I engaged the little guy in some one-sided conversation as I wrote my name on the order blank and gave him a check. He promised he’d return in a few weeks with my order. He hopped on this bike and scooted down the driveway on his way to my neighbor’s. It was cute. A slice of Americana. And it really ticked me off. Oh…not the little boy. He was charming. No, it’s just the idea of having to raise money for schools like this. I’ve worked in public schools for 30 years. Every one of those years has seen children peddling everything from magazines to nuts in an effort to pay for the microscopes, the field trips, the poet-in-residence, the new swings, the computer, the library books…the myriad items that don’t fit into the current budget. I’ll never forget the bumper sticker I saw during my first year in education: “Someday schools will have all the money they need and the Pentagon will be holding bake sales.” Thirty years later, it’s not so funny. And, somehow, that little boy’s knock on my door made me realize how little ground we have gained in at least one indicator of the importance of children to a nation: funding for education. It’s preposterous to suggest that the Pentagon would have to sell cookies to raise money for the defense of our country. Why is it acceptable for schools to sell magazines and wrapping paper to raise money for the education of our children?

Thought for the week…
Always do right! This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”
- Mark Twain

Best wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving! - Don
RCTC staffing update

Administrative
• Director of Nursing (MnSCU Administrator). Position being re-posted/re-advertised.

Faculty
• Instructor of Chiropractic Technician (PT). Position posted, locally advertised.

Unclassified Professional (MAPE)
• Admissions Officer (FT unclassified MnSCU Program Director 1 – MAPE). Interviews have been conducted; finalist selection pending.

Classified Professional (MAPE)
• ITS 2 – Server Technician (UFT). Position posted/advertised.

Classified AFSCME
• General Maint. Worker (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
• General Maint. Worker (UFT). Position posted/advertised. Interviews have been scheduled.
• College Lab Assistant (UPT – Academic Affairs work Area – Chiropractic). Position posted/advertised.
• Plant Maintenance Engineer (UFT – College Wide Work Area). Position posted.

For information on any of the above openings, contact the human resources office at x7125 or visit our website at http://www.roch.edu/rctc/hr/

Youth Commission of Olmsted County
SPEAKER SERIES

The Youth Commission of Olmsted County invites you to attend the following presentation that will address economic/ethnic diversity in Rochester and the surrounding communities. Through active discourse, our community can create a more caring and healthy environment for all residents. Youth and adults of all ages are invited to attend.

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ENOUGH
Ethnic and Economic Diversity in Olmsted County
Monday, December 3, 2001
7:00 p.m. – Presented by Sigrid M. Ruhland

Sigrid is a Guardian Ad Litem Program Coordinator, Supervisor and Trainer. She serves as Guardian Ad Litem for the Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community. She is also a mediator. She has a multicultural family and has been a refugee and an immigrant.

For more information, contact the Youth Commission of Olmsted County at 287-2135 or e-mail: juedstrom@rochester.12.mn.us.
Upcoming Student Life events

Fred Winters Hypnotist
Thurs. Nov. 29
12:00 pm-1:00 pm
South Room

Holiday Buffet
Wed., Dec. 5
11:00 am–till gone
Heintz Center &
Thurs., Dec. 6
11:00 am–till gone
South Room

Food For Finals
Tues., Dec. 18
9:30 am–till gone
Atrium

Preacher Moss
Tues., Jan. 22
12:00 pm–1:00 pm
Atrium

Chris Johnson, Comedian
Wed., Feb. 6
12:00 pm–1:00 pm
South Room

Christopher Carter Mentalist
Thurs., Feb. 14
12:00 pm–1:00 pm
South Room

You're Invited

Rochester SAM'S CLUB - Special Shopping/Appreciation Event
Friday, November 23, 2001 from 7am to 9am

Beat the holiday crowds and lines
Free continental breakfast provided
Door prize drawings every 20 minutes *
Come early for more chances to win
$2.50 coupon to Rochester SAM'S CLUB Cafe for first 60 attendees
Grand prize drawing of $100 SAM'S CLUB shopping card
Non-members can purchase during this event with cash or Discover Card

* For attendees present and age 18 and over

Please present a school district or college staff ID, business card or name-tag for entrance
No RSVP is necessary.

GODDARD LIBRARY AND
LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER HOURS
NOVEMBER 22-25, 2001

Thursday, November 22 \closed
Friday, November 23 \closed
Saturday, November 24 \9 AM-5 PM
Sunday, November 25 \1 PM-5 PM