December 3, 2001
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FALL SEMESTER EDITION

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

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Evening Administration
Dec. 1-6, 2001 - Judy Harris
Dec. 8, 10, 11, and 13, 2001 - Don Supalla (Dec. 12 - Gail Sauter)

The evening administrator can be reached at x7262.

You are invited to the University Center Rochester

Holiday Reception

Wednesday, December 12, 2001 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Heintz Center - Commons Area
– Sponsored by the Administration –

The Teddy Bear Drive tradition continues. Once again, UCR employees will be collecting teddy bears and donating them to the local law enforcement agencies this holiday season. These teddy bears are used by officers to comfort children during difficult situations. If you are interested in participating in this worthy cause, you may bring your bear to either the President's Office or to the Holiday Reception.

Art Gallery opening
On Wednesday, November 28, 7:00pm - 8:30pm an Art Gallery opening will be hosted for Phillip Ahnen.

Phillip Ahnen has taught ceramics classes at RCTC this past semester. Some of the work that was produced during his tenure will be on display through December 21st. A gallery talk will be presented at 7:30pm on Wednesday, Nov. 28 in the Art Gallery (also known as Student Quiet Lounge).

Mr. Ahnen received his M.F.A. degree from the University of Montana, Boseman. He maintains a ceramics studio in Boseman where he will be returning at the end of this semester. Please stop by the Gallery Wednesday evening to recognize his efforts this semester. His work is priced for sale.

Refreshments will be served.

Holiday Buffet
Wednesday, December 5 from 11:00 am–till gone at the Heintz Center & Thursday, December 6 from 11:00 am–till gone in the South Room
Weekly funny…

"The good news is I am returning the video on time."

2001 Open Enrollment
This year’s Open Enrollment period is for two weeks only - December 1-14, 2001.

**Open Enrollment 2001.** A major function of Open Enrollment 2001 will be the enrollment of ALL insurance-eligible employees and dependents in the Minnesota Advantage Plan (the new health insurance program for state workers and their families).

**Open Enrollment Materials.** All open enrollment materials for active employees have been mailed by DOER. Employees should receive two open enrollment mailings: 1) a blue open enrollment booklet; and 2) an envelope with customized materials. (NOTE: If you do not receive these materials within the next few days, please contact your HR office.)

**You MUST Enroll.** All the information you need to elect a new Advantage Plan is included in your Open Enrollment materials. Employees MUST enroll in a new Minnesota Advantage Health Plan, because the current SEGIP health benefits program will be replaced by Advantage for the new insurance year.

**Steps for a Successful Open Enrollment.** Please carefully follow the "Steps for a Successful Open Enrollment" included on the front page of the blue open enrollment booklet.

**DOER Home Page.** A variety of information is available at the DOER Home Page. In addition to the Internet Enrollment Form, electronic versions of the Open Enrollment materials and the Advantage Provider Directory, you will find links to many of the participating insurance plans. Links to all health and dental plans include on-line provider directories. The DOER Home Page address is: http://www.doer.state.mn.us

**DOER Open Enrollment Video.** A 30-minute video cassette featuring Open Enrollment information is available to be checked out from your HR office. Be sure to have your Open Enrollment packet with you while viewing.

**Tape of November 28 Open Enrollment Meeting.** A video tape of the Open Enrollment meeting held last Wednesday at UCR is available for checkout in the Library.

If you have questions regarding open enrollment, please contact your HR office.

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RCTC Chiropractic Clinic

Massage Appointments available on Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m.
Appointments to see Dr. Elder are on Mon and Thurs from 2-6 p.m.
To set up an appointment please call 529-2736.

We are located in HC211, 529-2736.
Supalla’s Scribblings

A request from the Minnesota Commissioner of Finance for MnSCU to develop budget reduction scenarios totaling $32 million and $64 million (5 percent and 10 percent of state appropriation in FY03) will be very difficult. The Office of the Chancellor has asked the CFO’s at each MnSCU institution to draft both a 5 and 10% budget reduction scenario. I’m scheduled to attend two MnSCU meetings on this topic in the next week and then we’ll begin the process of drafting the RCTC reduction scenario that is likely to include a combination of high tuition increases coupled with significant expenditure reductions. Based on our state appropriation base budget of $12,322,486 we’ll be looking at reductions of $616,124 (5%) and slightly more than $1.2 million (10%). I’ll share more information as the process unfolds.

Staff compliments…

- RCTC’s November 13 Career Day was the single-focus of the Lanesboro Public School’s weekly column in the PRESTON REPUBLICAN LEADER. The article provided a comprehensive summary of the day’s activities and made special note of the Retail Merchandising Program’s career fashion show, career exploration sessions, and employer booths. “Overall, the junior class of LHS thoroughly enjoyed the career day and were thankful for the opportunity to attend.” - Alesha Sveen

- “I thought the career day was interesting. However, I could think of a few classes they should add.” - Matt Erickson

- Many thanks to Deb Rogne for coordinating this annual event and to all faculty and staff who participated in this important recruitment initiative.

- A sixth grade teacher whose class participated in the recent Global Education Week activities sent a two-page letter praising Lillyam Arroyave for the wonderful activities. In part, Anne Wenisch wrote…“This is just a little note to thank you so much for the absolutely delightful day on October 12! I have to admit, I wasn’t quite sure what to expect, but the day turned out to be much more than I could have hoped for. Thank you so much for inviting us to be a part of your fun-filled educational day! If you’ll have us, we would greatly look forward to being a part of your festivities next year. Thank you so very much! Way to go, Lillyam!

- MnSCU Senior Vice Chancellor Linda Baer has sent her personal thanks to of the MnSCU institutions for their support, work, and contributions to the recent Conference on Information Technology, co-hosted by MnSCU and the League of Innovation. I add my personal thanks for the RCTC representatives who attended the conference and served as host volunteers. As Linda wrote, “The conference was witness to what we all know: our faculty, staff and students are the best; and together, MnSCU can accomplish what it wants to do in a high quality way.”

Did you know…

- Two on-site evaluators will be on campus next Thursday and Friday to conduct the initial national accreditation visit for RCTC’s Health Information Technology program. Please welcome the evaluators to UCR, provide any information requisitions, and accommodate requests for visits. I’m confident the team will find HIT worthy of accreditation.

- Goddard Library’s reference section is one of several places you can find a copy of the six-volume, 3000 page, Surface Transportation Board’s Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed DM&E expansion project.

- A team of higher education representatives from North Dakota will be visiting UCR on December 5 to see first-hand how this unique three-institution, two-system partnership functions. The reps will be meeting with several constituent groups while here as they glean insights into this new model of collaboration.

- UMR is addressing the national regional nursing shortage by establishing a bachelor’s degree in nursing beginning in the fall of 2002. The program will admit up to 30 students a year. Students will take all course work in Rochester from U of M faculty and clinical training will take place at Mayo Clinic and Hospitals and other area medical facilities.

- One in ten college students claims to have a dependence on the Internet, according to a survey report authored by Richard J. DioGuardi of St. John’s University. Fifteen percent of the freshmen and sophomores polled exhibit classic manifestations of addiction, DioGuardi said; these include social isolation, encroachment on daily life, an urgent need for the Internet, and withdrawal symptoms. In addition, these students use the Internet as a social outlet and consider it essential to their well-being.
The Class of 2002 can expect a 6-13 percent contraction in the labor market for new college graduates, and graduates with advanced degrees will be even worse off, according to a national survey conducted by the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University. The decline in hiring comes from a combination of a manufacturing slowdown, reduced consumer spending, and the aftereffects of September 11, according to Philip D. Gardner, who wrote a report on the survey. The hardest-hit graduates will be those with technical degrees. The report projects that the number of engineering jobs for new graduates will be down 10%, and computer-science jobs will be down 17%.

Please be sure to mark your calendar and attend the Holiday Reception scheduled from 2-4 p.m., Wednesday, December 12 in the Heintz Center Commons. The reception is one way for the leadership team to say THANK YOU for the great job you do and it’s an opportunity to catch your breath, enjoy some holiday treats, and renew collegial friendships. See you there!

**Thought for the week…**

"Life isn’t a matter of milestones, but of moments."
- Rose Kennedy

Enjoy this week’s moments! **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). Chris Wolf has been appointed.
- **Multicultural Grant Coordinator** (TFT unclassified MnSCU Program Director 1 – MAPE). Position is temporary for period of the grant through December 2002. Position posted.

**Classified Professional (MAPE)**

**Classified AFSCME**
- **General Maint. Worker** (Intermittents). Applications accepted ongoing.
- **General Maint. Worker** (UFT). Position posted/advertised. Kenneth Tompkins has been appointed.
- **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/](http://www.roch.edu/rctc/hr/)
**403(b) – Tax Sheltered Annuity Program Changes**

Effective January 1, 2002, MnSCU’s Tax Sheltered Annuity Program is changing. The Tax Sheltered Annuity Program is commonly referred to as the 403(b) or TSA. Consistent with employee feedback, MnSCU is including TIAA-CREF investment funds and a variety of mutual funds are included in the new product. The mutual funds include the same funds many employees are already familiar with in the DCR Plan, in addition to a self-directed mutual fund account. Employees currently participating in the program, or those interested in the tax-saving advantages of pre-tax retirement accounts, should plan to attend one of the meetings that TIAA-CREF and Wells Fargo are jointly conducting. There are in-person meetings on campuses in most regions of the State, as well as two satellite meetings. Although it is a very busy time of year, the information will be invaluable to currently participating employees who must make a change by December 21 and to those of you who for the first time may be interested in saving additional amounts for retirement. **Two Campus Employee Meetings** will be held at UCR on **Thursday, December 6**. The meetings will be held in **ST108** at **10:30 a.m.** and at **12:30 p.m.** Financial consultants will be available for one-on-one questions for about one hour following the presentation. They will be talking with individuals on a first-come, first-served basis that day; however, they would be happy to schedule a specific time for a later date. In addition, Satellite Broadcast Employee Meetings are being held on December 6 and December 12. Unfortunately, UCR has no ITV or CF conference rooms available at the times of the broadcast. Media Services will, however, videotape the program which will be available for check-out in the Library. Employees who are currently enrolled in the TSA program have already received materials at their home addresses regarding these changes. Additional information will be available at the meetings for employees interested in joining at this time or for those who have misplaced their information. If you have questions regarding these meetings, contact your HR office.

### Holiday drawing

Don’t delay in getting your tickets for the **TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DRAWING**. Twelve prizes, Twelve Lucky winners!! Tickets are $1.00 each or 10 for $5.00. See the attached flier for more details!

### Condolences

Condolences are extended to the following RCTC employees:

Roxy Roadway and Jenny White whose grandfather Roy Schalk, passed away of natural causes November 28.

Judy Bird whose mother-in-law, Bernadine Bird, passed away November 29 in Minneapolis.

Jim Pehrs whose mother, Thora Pehrs, passed away Friday, November 30 in Pipestone, Minnesota.

Our thoughts are extended to Roxy, Jenny, Jim and Judy and their families.

### Visiting Scholar Series

“Fact & Fiction: Award-winning Stories and Memoirs of Life with AIDS” Minnesota authors Emily Carter and Jan Zita Grover will share their stories, writings and experiences on living with aids. For more information, please see the flier attached to this week’s **Crossings**.