Baldrige Banterings
The Baldrige Educational Criteria are built upon a set of core values and concepts. These values and concepts are the foundation for developing and integrating all requirements within a results-oriented framework. These core values and concepts are Learning-Centered Education, Leadership, Continuous Improvement and Organizational Learning, Valuing Faculty and Staff, Partnership development, Design Quality and Prevention, Management by Fact, Long-Range View of the Future, Public Responsibility and Citizenship, Fast Response, and Results Orientation. We will continue to update next semester as our NCA accreditation visit approaches.

Don’t forget...“New Music” concert
RCTC students involved in the Electronic Music classes will present short compositions (1-4 minutes each) in a two-part concert at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 18th in the Hill. The second part of the concert will be new compositions by invited professional composers and the concert. It should be a fun event! We hope to see you there!!!

Speech class gives performance
Mary Swart's Oral Interpretation class performed *The Night Before Christmas* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* for the RCTC Day Care Center on December 13th.

I would like to thank the RCTC Day Care Center staff and children for attending our performances and also a thank you to the Day Care children for their songs at the end! Special thanks to my oral interpretation students, Latham, Sarah, Derek, Sam, Kurt, Justin, Mohamed, Anna, Seth, Carrie, Jenny, Nichole, and Malinda for all your hard work with this project!

- Mary Swart
Weekly funny...

"Ever since I started this diet, I've been seeing everything as junk food."

Food Service break hours

Monday-Thursday, December 18 - December 21, Regular Hours, Chef's Choice

Friday, December 22, Limited Service (11 am - 1 pm), Honor System for Morning Coffee and Donuts

Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1, (Closed)

Tuesday-Friday, January 2 - January 5, Limited Service (11 am - 1 pm), Honor System for Morning Coffee and Donuts

Monday, January 8, Regular Service Resumes

Chiropractic Clinic news

RCTC Chiropractic Clinic Winter Break Hours:
The clinic will be open on Wednesday, December 27th from 2-6 p.m., and also on Wednesday, January 3rd from 2-6 p.m. If you have an emergency please contact: Dr. Jeff Maness @ 507-527-2201. Messages will be picked up once in the morning, and once in the afternoon during the break.

Admissions Office hours

December 26 - 29: 8am to 4:30 pm
January 2-5: 8 am - to 4:30 pm

January 3 is an evening SOAR session, the office and web registration lab will be staffed until the students are registered.

January 8 is start of term, we will resume our 8-8 schedule that day.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Deb Hanson from Enrollment Services and husband Eric on the birth of a baby girl, Allison Danielle. Allison was born on December 13 at 12:40 p.m. She weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces. Mother and baby are doing well!!

Recipients for vacation donation program

Listed below are the new individuals who have been approved as recipients for the vacation donation to the sick leave account program. These individuals 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 these individuals or any other recipients on the sick leave account. More details regarding these individuals and forms to donate leave are available from the human resources office.

Lisa Smith - Minnesota West Community and Technical College
Vicki White - Minnesota West Community and Technical College
Sean Smith - Department of Corrections
Supalla’s Scribblings
Please help me congratulate Deb Rogne on her recent appointment as Interim Dean. Deb will be filling in for Jay Lee from January through July while he is on sabbatical.

RCTC was visited this week by an onsite evaluation team from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The evaluators praised John Helmers for his work; complimented the college on the equipment, condition of the facility and budget process; noted good program support from grads and advisory committee members; and were pleased with the amount of staff development resources available. A preliminary report of strengths and findings will be forthcoming with a final reaccreditation decision by the Commission expected in July.

Twice in the last week RCTC received kudos from MnSCU System Office staff on the number and quality of our web-based course offerings. As a result of our leadership in this area, Judy Harris has been asked to serve, as one of two MnSCU academic officers, on a soon-to-be organized academic forum. In requesting Judy to serve, Deena Allen noted that “your institution is one of the most progressive in terms of e-learning [in the MnSCU System]; therefore, it would be wonderful if you could participate.” Way to go, Judy…and all who are delivering and support courses offered via the Web!

Congratulations to Brian Watters on a wonderful Law Enforcement Simulator Training Center Open House. The college, community and media turned out in big numbers to see demonstrations of the AIS Use-of-Force and I-Sim Driving Simulators. These state-of-the-art training tools were purchased from grant and gift funds and provide RCTC’s law enforcement students and area public safety employees a training tool seldom found on educational campuses. Thanks to Jay Lee and Brian Watters for securing the funding and equipment!

Laws (authored by Senator Kiscaden) and passed during the 2000 legislative session required the MnSCU Board of Trustees and Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Economic Security to develop a report by the upcoming legislative session on a ten-year plan for the possible location of workforce centers on MnSCU campuses. RCTC has had a very positive working relationship with the Rochester Workforce Center and is supportive of possible future collocation. The report indicates that at the current time, adequate space is not available at UCR and that the State would be expected to allocate funds for any new Workforce Center construction. The College will continue to track this report and any follow-up legislation relative to future collocation opportunities.

What are you doing on January 15? Why not join your colleagues at the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce Sixth Annual Martin Luther King Breakfast? The breakfast is scheduled for the Kahler Grand Hotel, Heritage Hall, and begins at 7 a.m. Then head over to the Government Center Atrium for a noon rally and Freedom March from the Government Center to Mayo Civic Theatre for a commemorative celebration. Contact Judy Kingsbury for event details. See you there!

This month, an independent research group released the findings of the first-ever attempt to grade all 50 states on how well they deliver higher education. The results were mixed. No state received straight A’s, and some had several poor grades. Most states were average: C’s dominated the report, with B’s close behind. Minnesota received the following grades: Student Preparation – C+, Participation – B-, Affordability – A, Completion/Retention – B+, and Benefits – A. What struck the graders most about their final product was how closely the quality of a college education is tied to where students live. “The unevenness of opportunity is a real surprise,” said Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. “The benefits of higher education are still influenced by geography, income, wealth, and ethnicity.” [See the December 1 CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION for more details.]

As we prepare to lower the curtain on this semester and prepare for next semester, let’s keep in mind that each of us has our own tool kit…strengths we bring to our work. The following poem exemplifies how we might use our tools to serve our stakeholders. Best wishes for a very Joyous Holiday Season! Thanks for sharing your stepping stones.

A Bag of Tools
Isn’t it strange that princess’ and kings…And clowns that caper in sawdust rings…And common people like you and me…Are builders for eternity? Each is given a bag of tools…A shapeless mass, a book of rules…And each must make – Ere life is flown – A stumbling block or a stepping stone
TeachNet Inservices

December

20- Grades - SH 203 - 10:15-11:00 AM and 1:15-2:00 PM
An open lab aimed at assisting instructors in entering or updating their course grades online through the MnSCU system. Requires the knowledge of account information (Stinger ID and password) and student grades.

Up to Speed
The Holiday Buffet is over. Soon the RCTC Band and Choir 2000 Christmas Concert will be history. Best wishes flavored with a pinch of envy, and a teaspoon of sadness have been offered to fall semester retirees Dave Carisch, Edna Gutman, and Iris Fried. The end of another semester. What's left? Just final exams. Final exams can never be “just” finals, can they? Do take care of yourselves and be watchful of your students. This is a very stressful time for all of us. Take advantage of that wonderful De-stress Relief opportunity from the wellness committee.

In the spotlight will resume on the second and fourth Tuesdays beginning on January 23rd. I'm looking for volunteers to spotlight academic and support services areas and other departments to bring treats on those days. Please e-mail me if you wish to volunteer.

Something to mull over as you are relaxing: What if...our new catalog did not include any program sheets!!! Instead of program sheets that quickly become outdated, what if a colored page insert included a list of programs and a reference to our web site. Students could find updated program sheets on the website. Of course, paper versions would be available for SOAR sessions and to send via mail inquiries. I suggest this because of my frustration with inaccurate paper versions of program sheets. Our goal is to have a catalog out in February, so if you have comments or suggestions about my idea, please share them.

Meanwhile, enjoy a break and time with those dear to you.

Judy Harris

IBM Continues Partnership with Higher Education
IBM Rochester has donated a laptop computer to the RCTC Foundation. In its continued effort at supporting education, IBM has several programs that help schools leverage equipment as well as match cash contributions from IBM employees. In addition to the computer contributed to RCTC Foundation, this year IBM also matched employee and retiree contributions with a cash contribution of nearly $9000.

But there is more. RCTC also benefited from the generosity of IBM. The Biology program was the beneficiary of a donated plasma spectigraph from IBM. The Child Development program received a Young Explorer computer and software package, valued at $3500, as part of the IBM Funds for Dependent Child Care program. IBM also approved a grant request to increase student access to technology by providing computers and printers for Goddard Library and the AS/400 lab. This equipment grant has a value of $9,918.

Finally, through the efforts of Dr. Valerie Pace, IBM’s External Program Manager, the UCR Visiting Scholar series featured Dr. William Pulleyblank this past April. Dr. Pulleyblank is director of mathematical sciences for IBM’s research division and director of the IBM Deep Computing Institute. This spectacular opportunity to learn something about the future of technology was made possible with the support of Rochester IBM.

As this year winds down, I want to take the time to applaud and send special thanks to IBM for all that they do for RCTC and the RCTC Foundation. They truly are responsible and generous corporate partners in education.
And the winner is…
Thank you to everyone who participated in the Upward Bound Lucky 7 Holiday Drawing. The lucky winners are:

Rose Conway - Sun Country airline ticket
Don Strelow - Kahler Hotel Sweetheart package
Amy Benike - Treasure Island package
Hien Zilz - Broadstreet dinner for two
Katie Sweegarden - Rochester Art Center family membership
Sandra Castillo - Christmas Collection
Ben Rohe - Ceramic Pot

Congratulations everyone!! You may claim your items in the Upward Bound Office, SS150.

Condolences
Condolences are extended to Judy Lindman on the recent loss of her mother, Marvel Peterson. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

Scholarships available now!
Scholarship applications are now available at the Counselors Office, UCR SS150 or RCTC Foundation Office, Heintz Center, C120. Information sheets listing all the scholarships available and specific criteria also are available. Approximately 160 scholarships are being offered from the RCTC Foundation for entering and returning students as well as for graduating students. Deadline for applying is March 9, 2001. Scholarship amounts range from $250 up to $3000 annually.

DUPLICATING HOLIDAY HOURS
Saturday Dec 23 - Closed
Sunday Dec 24 - Closed
Monday Dec 25 - Closed
Tuesday – Friday Dec 26 - Dec 29 8:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday Dec 30 - Closed
Sunday Dec 31 - Closed
Monday Jan 1 - Closed
Tuesday – Friday Jan 2 - Jan 5 8:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday Jan 6 - Closed
Sunday Jan 7- Closed
Monday Jan 8 - Regular hours resume

You’re invited!
Come celebrate Dave Carisch's retirement from RCTC. Dave has been teaching here since 1970! Join the Science Department in ST211 on Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 1 to 2 PM for a reception in his honor.

Don’t forget to DE-STRESS next week during finals! See the attached flier from your Wellness Committee!