

From The **President's Desk**



he blessings continue to fall upon Rochester College! This past academic year has truly been a "celebration of scholarship" as we conferred over 300 degrees. These graduates are choosing to serve in mission fields throughout the world, to enroll in graduate school for further education, to begin new careers and to start on the next exciting journey of life. I look forward to watching the successes of these graduates as they continue a life of study and service.

I wish you could hear their stories. Lives have changed. Hope has been restored. Lives have been claimed for the Lord. These blessings are possible because God has chosen to love and bless us with the richness of his grace.

Our students continue to achieve spiritually and academically, moving forward in the name of scholarship. The 2005 Academic Symposium was again filled with presentations and concepts that highlighted the successes of our young people. I am always amazed at the high level of scholarship that goes into these presentations. Original poetry, short stories, creative essays, documentaries and plays filled the day. To close the celebration, our music scholars performed and the Concert Band presented its inaugural concert.

Partnership Dinner XXXIV with Art Linkletter, held at Cobo Hall, provided another blessing for the College. The largest annual fundraiser for student scholarships, the event saw a 20 percent ticket sale increase. The spirit of fellowship hung in the air as we gathered for a positive evening in support of Christian education. In the near future, I look forward to hosting the Partnership Dinner in our new athletic facility. At that point, the College will have come full circle returning the Partnership Dinner to campus. What a celebration that will be!

In other exciting news, I recently spoke to local business and civic leaders; I was pleased with the positive excitement they exhibited toward the College. We have engaged and partnered with the community to reach a place of better service to the community. In this spirit, we are bringing back the Rochester Fall Festival in a much bigger way. Plan to attend on Saturday, October 1. You will be glad you did, and your family will be glad you did.

Rochester College is indeed blessed. Thank you for your support. God is working through all of us to serve in this place, at this time. I hope you enjoy this issue of the North Star and find it brings a blessing to your day.

May God Bless You,

Michael W. Westerfield, Ph.D.

President, Rochester College



On the Cover

Photo by David Vanz, '03

In this issue, we are celebrating scholarship at Rochester College. Scholarship is built through hard work—and that starts by cracking open the books and spending long, hard nights studying at your desk.

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ROCHESTER COLLEGE

800 West Avon Road Rochester Hills, MI 48307

800.521.6010 www.rc.edu

Rochester College is an academic community characterized by the fellowship-creating reality of Christ's presence in the world.

The College's mission is to engage students in a vigorous liberal arts education within a Christian community for a life of study and service.

The mission of the North Star is to give glory to God by telling of his mercy, his blessings and his continued provision for Rochester College.

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Vice President, Public Relations Birgie Niemann

Director of Public Information, Editor

Amanda M. Wolfe, '03

Publication Layout & Design Casey (Arnett) Remsing, '03

Contributors

John Barton Jennifer Hamilton Amanda Johns, '04 Jennifer Kirby, '01 Birgie Niemann Donald Robinson, '72 Jeffery Simmons Larry Stewart, '70 Michael Westerfield

Student Writers

Rebekah Parsons

Photographers

Kirsten Larsson Amy Napier David Vanz, '03

Rochester College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (30 North LaSalle, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602). The College does not discriminate on the basis of ethnic or national origin, religion, or skin color. The College does not discriminate on the basis of gender except for specific necessary religious principles held by the College and its governing body.

News Briefs

Men's Basketball back-to-back National Champions

Rochester College hit the courts for March Madness on March 5 2005 by winning the USCAA Men's Basketball Championship game for the second year in a row. Familiar faces on the teams greeted each other as Presentation College of Aberdeen, SD, met Rochester College once again as they had done in last year's final four. This year the Warriors beat the Eagles 65-55. In addition to winning their first back-to-back title, the Warriors completed their fourth consecutive season of 20 wins. Coach Garth Pleasant has now led the team to four national championships.

Partnership Dinner 2005

Television and radio personality of more than 45 years, Art Linkletter, spoke at Partnership Dinner, held at Cobo Center in Detroit, on Saturday, May 7, 2005. The event, which raises the largest amount of funding for student scholarships on an annual basis, saw higher revenue totals. Additionally, attendance



increased by about 20 percent from last year. Linkletter hosted two of the longest running shows in broadcast history—House Party, which ran for 25 years and People Are Funny, which ran for 19 years. He is also the author of 23 books, including one of the top 14 best sellers in American publishing history, "Kids Say the Darndest Things."

Students take the Word to the world

This spring, the call of the mission field reached Rochester College students, carrying them throughout the globe. Twenty-three students served inner city Chicago over spring break. Raising support to travel to his homeland of Nairobi, Kenya, Kenneth Asewe, sophomore, will work this summer with Made in the Streets, an organization that helps street kids, before returning to the College in the fall. Similarly, Henry Oyier, a senior computer systems management major from Nairobi, intends to spend his summer helping the people of his hometown. Oyier spent the last year developing his dream, Make A Change Organization (MACO) in Nairobi. Oyier envisions a place that not only educates, but also addresses the needs of the soul through evangelism. Dr. Andrew Kronenwetter and a group of seven Rochester students will spend the month of July in Australia working with the Gosford Church of Christ to reach the community through children's theater, the local radio ministry and manual labor.

2005 Sermon Seminar

Rochester College hosted the eighth annual Sermon Seminar, a 48-hour seminar designed to help ministers enhance their preaching skills and focus on biblical studies, on May 23-25. Over 200 representatives of 20 different Christian fellowships from 32 states and Ontario attended this year's Seminar, with one attendant coming all the way from Bermuda. The speakers also came from different backgrounds and perspectives, crossing denominational lines with a love of Christ and a passion for his word. Fleer built this year's Seminar around keynote speaker Fred Craddock, professor of preaching and New Testament, Emeritus in the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. The presenting speakers, including Rochester College's own Dr. John Barton, complimented each other remarkably. The ninth Sermon Seminar, "Preaching the Sermon on the Mount", will be held on May 22-24, 2006. For more information contact Dr. David Fleer at 248.218.2144 or dfleer@rc.edu.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MRE recommended for approval

A committee of scholars from the Higher Learning Commission visited campus on April 25-26 to assess Rochester College's application for approval to offer a master's degree in religious education. In their exit interview with the president, the committee indicated they would recommend that the Commission approve Rochester College's program of study. In November 2004, the Michigan State Department of Education approved the degree program. With the anticipated approval, classes will begin in August. If interested in being part of the inaugural class, contact Dr. Mel Storm at mstorm@rc.edu or 248.218.2115.

Shelly to instruct at Rochester College



Dr. Rubel Shelly—preacher to the Family of God at Woodmont Hills Church of Christ in Nashville; author of several books such as his latest with John O. York, "The Jesus Community"; and teacher within churches of Christ—brings his wealth of knowledge and influence to Rochester College this fall as an adjunct instructor.

Dr. David Fleer, vice president of church relations, said in a formal statement, "We are thrilled that Dr. Rubel Shelly will be joining the Rochester College family...[he] will be a wonderful resource person, mentor, teacher and preacher for us. We have long been impressed with his work in biblical texts and philosophy coupled with his ability to connect with a wide range of audiences within the academic arena." To read the complete statement visit www.rc.edu/news.

Teacher Education program enters next phase

A committee of scholars visited Rochester College to review the institution's education program on April 10-12. The committee complimented the teacher's education department, its directors and the College highly. Vikki Bentley serves as the education department head. In the exit interview, the committee told Dr. Michael Westerfield, president, of their plans to recommend that the Michigan Department of Education authorize Rochester College's advancement to the next phase of development. This allows the College to certify K-12 teachers and signifies that the College successfully created a viable teacher-training program. Michigan's education department will act upon the recommendation in June.

Promotions and new employees at the College

Klint Pleasant joins Rochester College as the associate vice president of special projects this summer. Pleasant will report to Dr. Michael Westerfield in this new institutional department. Additionally, Pleasant will collaborate with other campus departments such as Advancement, Enrollment Services and Church Relations. Dr. Brian Stogner has been promoted to vice president of academic affairs. Previously, Stogner taught in the College's psychology department. Stogner brings over seven years of service at the institution, and over 11 years experience in higher education to this role.

Baseball team receives public recognition

The Rochester College men's baseball team finished an astounding 39 home game winning streak. With this type of record, the Warriors received much recognition in the community. Tony Grabowski, a freshman returning to finish college at the age of 39, is committed to finishing his degree and playing ball. His story and others' drew the attention of the Detroit Free Press. Additionally, the Free Press recognized the Hendershot triplets, seniors from Macomb, Mich., because this season closes an eighteen-year tradition of playing ball together, including four seasons at Rochester College.



Articulation agreement opens new doors

Rochester College signed an articulation agreement with Midwestern Christian Institute (MWCI) on Tuesday, May 24. In a festive ceremony, Dr. Michael Westerfield solidified the agreement with Dr. James Thompson, director of MWCI. This articulation grants MWCI students credit for the training that they received at MWCI toward a bachelor's degree at Rochester.

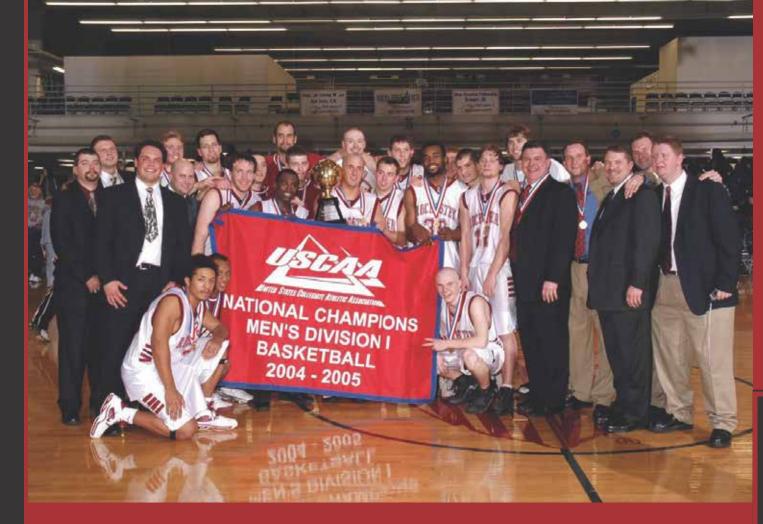
"This is a significant and meaningful step for Rochester College toward its diversity goals and its desire to embrace African American churches and I look forward to serving MWCI graduates," Dr. Westerfield commented at the ceremony.

Others in attendance included Thompson's wife, Marva; Bobby Hill, Macomb County commissioner and chairman of the board at MWCl; Doris Jones, secretary to Thompson; J C Thomas, Jr., director of diversity relations, and his wife, Glenda; Tracey Hebert, vice president of the College of Extended Learning; and Brian Stogner, vice president of academic affairs.

King's legacy lives through documentary

Students in the College of Extended Learning (CEL) created and produced a documentary for their senior project, which premiered at Rochester College's Academic Symposium on Wednesday, April 27 in the Richardson Center Theatre. Mark Edwards, Norvell Molex, Patrick Payne and Michael Ray, all currently attending CEL's site at Specs Howard School of Broadcasting, made a 30-minute documentary entitled "My Brother's Dream: An American Experiment." The film explored diversity and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.





USCAA Champs

Sweet Repeat—Men's Basketball Wins National Championship by Rebekah Parsons

ith a 65-55 victory over the number three seed Presentation College Saints of South Dakota, on Saturday, March 5, the Rochester College men's basketball team secured its second consecutive championship in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA), Division 1.

Hosted at RHEMA Bible Training Center in Tulsa, Okla., the USCAA tournament involved nine teams from across the country, including Rochester's in-state rival, Marygrove College. Although it was formatted as a double-elimination competition,

a single loss meant only a consolation championship. Though Rochester entered the tournament as number one seed, the team knew securing another trophy meant playing perfectly.

Prior to the games, the USCAA announced its All-American team. The Association named senior captains Mike Tobin and Derek Evans first team and honorable mention, respectively. Senior Colin Wilkinson also received honorable mention, while sophomores Adam Hacias and Mike Upshur received academic All-American awards.

The Warriors began competition on

Thursday, March 3 against Southern Virginia University. Rochester delivered a crushing victory, outscoring the Knights 92-55. Tobin and senior Scott Ode led the team in scoring, with 20 and 18 points, respectively. The team averaged 71.4 percent of its free throws.

"During warm-ups, you could sense the anticipation of finally playing in the first game. We were able to come out and dominate right from the start," said freshman Francis Ramirez.

The second game proved to be a much bigger challenge for the Warriors. The Eagles of Robert Morris College from Springfield, Ill., won a first round victory over host RHEMA Bible. They continued to play aggressively three assists. Wilkinson added 11 points and three steals. Tobin scored 10. Rochester narrowly squeaked out a 58-54 victory.

"I never really felt like we were going to lose. We just didn't have that mindset. It was no blow-out, but we knew we would come away with the victory," said sophomore Ty Warczinsky.

Next, Presentation College's Saints upset number two seed Northwest Christian College of Oregon in

"I never really felt like we were going to lose. We just didn't have that mindset"

look back.

The Saints continued to battle, but could not overcome the strength of a united Rochester team. The anticipation began to build on the bench as time ran down. When the buzzer sounded, Warriors swarmed the court, claiming the trophy that belonged to them.

Because of his performance, Tobin earned the USCAA tournament MVP award. He was voted to the All-Tournament Team, along with senior

Colin Wilkinson, after averaging 16.7 and 11.7 points, respectively. Wilkinson graciously accepted his plaque, but then announced to the team that he felt Evans deserved it more. With everyone watching, Wilkinson conferred his award on



against the Warriors on both sides of the ball. They blocked four shots and forced 13 turnovers, in addition to averaging 40 percent of their threepoint field goals. Additionally, the Eagles featured All-America forward Dirk Williams, who scored 15 points.

"Our biggest challenge was shutting down their shooters. They took an early lead because they were able to sink several three pointers in a row. We had to make sure we weren't giving them any easy baskets," said Hacias.

Despite the close score, team members stayed confident throughout the game. Evans shot 5 for 10 from the field, contributing 15 points and their semi-final. This win pitted Tobin against Presentation's Marcus Robinson, member of the All-America second team.

Despite their preparation, Rochester struggled against the Saint's strong plays during the first half. The aggressive defense that served the Warriors well throughout the season seemed sub-par, and the team entered the locker room down by five.

The second half began dismally as Presentation increased its lead to 10. Just when it looked like the Warriors were down for the count, Tobin took control. He scored eight consecutive points, sending the team ahead 44-42. Following Tobin's example, the Warriors turned up the heat and didn't

his teammate.

Rochester is only the second team in USCAA history to win back-to-back titles. Contemplating this overwhelming achievement, Ode compared the change from being last year's underdog to this year's heavy favorite.

"There was no difference, really. We came in both years knowing we were the best and that we deserved it more than anyone else because we had worked harder," he said.

When asked to describe the feeling of winning for the second time in a word, sophomore Andrew Clark thought for a minute and then summed it up quite nicely.

"Amazinglyawesome." •

Academic Symposium







Top: CEL students Mark Edwards, Norvell Molex, Patrick Payne, and Michael Ray with instructor Karen McDevitt after presenting their documentary on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Below, left: Keynote speaker Dr. Lora H. Schwab addresses the audience. Below, right: Dr. Gordon MacKinnon and Dr. Brian Stogner stand proud with the psychology award following the Symposium.

Capstone projects display student excellence

by Amanda Johns

Rochester College's second annual Academic Symposium gave 59 student presenters from eight departments the opportunity to formally display their capstone projects to the on and off-campus community. Projects were diverse in nature, some presenting musical recitals, while others created business proposals.

The Symposium, held on April 26-27, holds "A Celebration of the Liberal Arts" as the theme. The event first began as senior class presentations at professors' houses. Dr. Jennifer Hamilton, dean of the College of Arts and Science and chair of the Symposium, prefers the new conference-style format. After successfully implementing this format, the Symposium committee strives to continually evolve the Symposium each year to better challenge students while incorporating the theme.

Held over a span of three days, the Academic Symposium began with an academic awards ceremony on Tuesday evening. Thirteen student recipients received fifteen different awards presented by each department's representatives. Because Rochester College esteems scholarship highly, awards such as these validate students' efforts.

"We wanted to make a designated time for recognition of academic achievement," explains Hamilton.

Music recitals followed the awards ceremony that evening. Five honors students performed works of their own choice. Sheri Ringle, Kelly Garbarino, Monica Foster, Curtis Storm and Alicia Bergen presented works from several genres. The last presenter of the night, Dustin Scott, gave his senior recital, moderated by Dr. Joe Bentley.

The following day, students presented during the concurrent sessions. Senior Mia Dinnan presented "Child Abuse: A Growing Epidemic" for her capstone project. Dinnan said that the work required for the project furthered

her interest in a topic she already felt passionate about.

The Symposium highlights the theme each year through a keynote speaker who models the ideals of liberal arts education. The committee invited Dr. Lora H. Schwab to be the 2005 keynote speaker, believing that students would benefit from her experience as a threeyear Rochester College board of trustees member, liberal arts education advocate and successful president and CEO of i3 Statprobe. Hamilton explains that such speakers help students grasp how their own liberal arts education will apply to their lives and future careers. Schwab's motivational speech encouraged the audience to love and pursue learning.

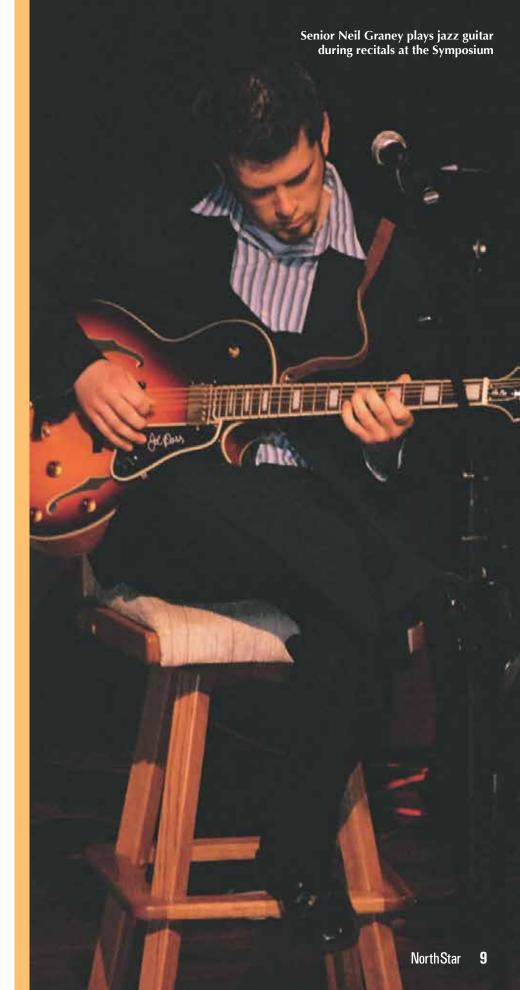
Each department took advantage of the Symposium in specific and varied ways. The business department asked students to simulate owning a company and present original proposals and strategies before a panel of business experts. Students defended their decisions and rationale using learned strategic business principles. Jeff Simmons, dean of the College of Business and Professional Studies, feels that this allowed valuable evaluation of students' performance and determined any areas needing improvement.

The question and response period after presentations challenged students to prepare beyond the parameters of the assignment. Senior Kelly Galloway, after presenting her two-act play "Adventures in Nonsense Land," found this interactive element of the Symposium valuable for objective assessment.

"I really like the opportunity for people to ask questions about the work I've done. It motivated me to study all the different aspects of my play [because] I didn't know what people would ask," says Galloway.

"If students are going into business or any occupation where presentations must be given, this is invaluable experience," says Hamilton.

The Academic Symposium demonstrates the values of a Christian liberal arts education first-hand, while improving its programs through assessment and student experience. The College views this program as an invaluable tool that will continue to serve students, faculty, and its academic community in the future.









Building **Scholarship** Through **Development**

New Programs come to RC by Jeffery Simmons and John Barton

"When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece." -John Ruskin

istoric development vigorous growth characterized spring on Rochester College's campus. The institution has not seen such changes in academic status since Rochester College implemented fouryear bachelor's degrees in 1979. This April, two landmark decisions propelled the institution ahead once again.

The first addresses the uniquely designed teacher education program, which prepares both the expertise and hearts of students. A central goal of the program develops attitudes to serve as change agents in the diverse and challenging schools of the twenty-first century.

Three components construct the They are liberal arts program. including courses in religion, humanities, communication, science, mathematics, physical education and social science. Professional studies comprise the second component, which is a standards-based, field experience oriented program that focuses on the theory and practice of teaching. The last deals with academic content. Students choose from various majors and minors to fulfill this element.

In today's social climate, many question the American educational system. Rochester College began to seek implementation of its students into the system nearly 10 years ago with the beginning of a teacher education program. This required a partnership with Madonna University while in the developmental stages. After much hard work and persistence, the College celebrated a major milestone on April 19. A committee of scholars from the Michigan Department of Education proposed that the state grant Rochester College approval to recommend teacher education candidates for certification.

During their visit, the committee of scholars complimented the teacher education department and program.



Dr. Mary Navarre from the committee said that the institution has potential to set the standard in teacher education in the state of Michigan.

"It was so pleasing talking with your student teachers. They were refreshing and left me with a sense of hope for our future teachers," stated one committee member.

The Michigan Department Education was scheduled to formalize the approval in June. Updates did not reach the department before press time.

Similarly, Rochester College changed status after receiving recommended approval for its first master's degree, scheduled to begin this fall. The pursuit of a master's degree in religion dates back to 1999 under the leadership of former President Ken Johnson and former provost, now President Michael Westerfield. The College pursued highly credentialed academic scholars and Christians, adding new members to the faculty in preparation for this degree. Additionally, this program invited the expertise of Dr. Rubel Shelly, teacher and preacher within churches of Christ, as an adjunct faculty member.

Recently, the last requirement for the program was fulfilled. After receiving approval from the State of Michigan in November 2004, the College received recommended approval from the Higher Learning Commission in April. This latter development came after an on-site visit from a peer review committee of scholars who evaluated the institution's capacity to offer a master's degree. Their positive evaluation marked the last step in the overall approval process.

While the advent of the master's degree is historic and changes the status of the institution, it aligns with the board-approved academic and institutional vision. The goals of Rochester College remain the same. Focus rests on providing an excellent Christian, undergraduate institution. Within that framework, the College continues to add depth to its current programs before pursuing additional graduate degrees. •

Jeffery Simmons is the dean of the College of Business and Professional Studies. Dr. John Barton is the associate dean of the College of Arts and Science.



The teacher education faculty, from left to right: Judy Dunham, Caye Randolph, Ann Bryan, Linda Park, James Dawson, Lynne Stewart and Vikki Bentley

Dr. Mel Storm, graduate studies chairman

Teacher Education Degree Programs

Elementary Certification Majors

- :: Elementary Math Education
- :: English Education
- :: History Education
- :: Integrated Science Education
- :: Language Arts Education
- :: Social Studies Education

Minor

:: Elementary Education

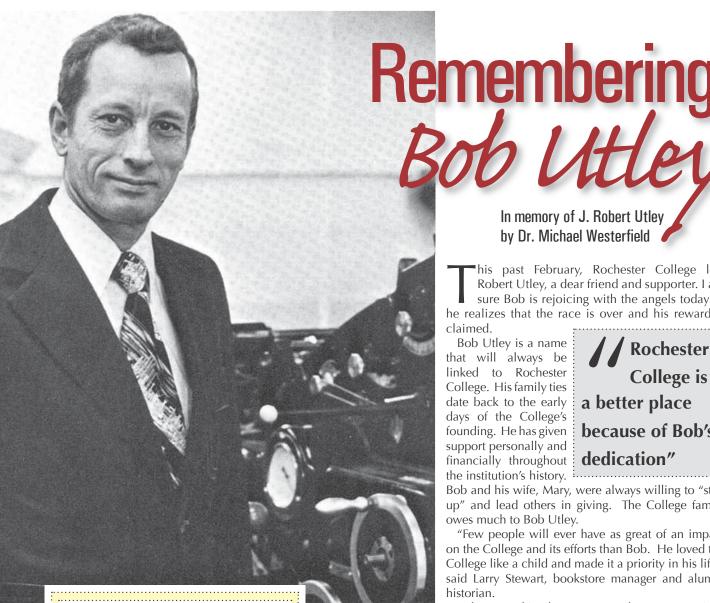
Secondary Certification Majors

- :: Biology Education
- :: English Education
- :: History Education
- :: Mathematics Education
- :: Music Education
- :: Speech Education
- :: Social Studies Education

Minors

:: Biology :: History

:: English :: Mathematics



his past February, Rochester College lost Robert Utley, a dear friend and supporter. I am sure Bob is rejoicing with the angels today as he realizes that the race is over and his reward is claimed.

In memory of J. Robert Utley by Dr. Michael Westerfield

Bob Utley is a name that will always be linked to Rochester College. His family ties date back to the early days of the College's founding. He has given support personally and financially throughout the institution's history.

Rochester College is a better place because of Bob's dedication"

Bob and his wife, Mary, were always willing to "step up" and lead others in giving. The College family owes much to Bob Utley.

"Few people will ever have as great of an impact on the College and its efforts than Bob. He loved the College like a child and made it a priority in his life," said Larry Stewart, bookstore manager and alumni historian.

Bob was a friend to many on the campus. As a board member and chair, he worked with nearly every president of Rochester College. His counsel, his concerns and his dreams for the future have helped many presidents lead effectively. Bob did not always agree, but he always focused on the good that was being done and pressed forward. We would all be a better people to adopt such a spirit.

"Bob's passion and love for Rochester College was probably the highest level of any trustee I have ever met. We are thankful for the heart and soul that he and Mary put into the school," said Patrick Kirby, the current chairman of the board of trustees.

Bob's legacy lives on through Mary, his children, his grandchildren and great grandchildren. His grandchildren all attended Rochester College—the college built on the dreams of their great grandfather. Bob will indeed be missed by us all. We pray that God continues to build upon Bob's rich legacy.

As we face each board meeting, Associate's activity, or campus event without Bob, we will surely pause and reflect on how strange it is for him not to be here with Mary. Rochester College is a better place because of Bob's dedication. We will continue to work hard to build a strong college with a foundation laid upon Jesus Christ. That's what Bob would want.

Bob Utley died of an asthma attack on February 8, 2005, while snorkeling during a cruise-ship vacation with friends from the College. •

A Lifetime of Service

Board of Trustees

- :: Member (1975-05)
- :: Secretary (1976-80)
- :: Vice Chairman (1980-81)
- :: Chairman (1981-85 & 1993-00)

Interim President of College

:: 1980 and 2003

Major Donor on Construction Projects

- :: 1977 Student Center (previous location)
- :: 1994 Residence Hall Complex
- :: 2003 Utley-McCauley Student Center
- :: 2004 Athletic Center

Remembering u Bentl In memory of Jim Bentley by Dr. Jennifer Hamilton with Doug Van Slembrouck & the IT department

im Bentley worked at Rochester College for just over one year. Every day I passed his office on the way to mine down the hall. Yet, it wasn't until very recently I understood just how much a part of this campus Jim had become. Initially, his job was director of the IT department, but his responsibilities broadened to cover maintenance and construction projects because of his leadership and ability to get jobs done with speed and professionalism. But more significant than these accomplishments is the way that Jim made a difference in the lives of people around him.

I gathered with the IT department— Jayson Rainsberger, Will Waters, Mark Johnson, Matt Miller, Delyan Raychev and Doug Van Slembrouck-and I asked them to tell me what it was like working with Jim. The stories began, and they taught me about Jim through their laughter, thoughtful moments, and loving respect.

Mark remembers hearing that they were getting a new boss in January of 2004, and accepting this news with a bit of trepidation, for the last thing they wanted was an outsider to come and try to "sort them out." Yet, the men look back on that time and all agree that Jim was the best thing to happen to their department. Knowledgeable in his field, Jim brought much more than technical skills to the IT department. From day one, Jim treated his team like professionals who wanted to do their job well. Building from that foundation of respect, Jim began raising expectations not only for their performance, but also for campus relations.

Jim led by example. Mark recalls a day when a frustrated student sought Jim's help for an issue that was not his to solve. Jim listened to her, helped her calm down and

solved the problem anyway. Moments like this proved that people are the IT department's business. Likewise, Jayson remembers Jim walking his team out at the end of every day. Jim's unassuming acts of kindness extended far beyond his workgroup, across the rest of the campus.

Jim's caring attitude and enabling management style allowed him to maintain high expectations for his department. Under Jim's supervision, the department completely overhauled the computer systems at the College, updated technology in many of the classrooms and participated in the completion of the Richardson Center and Theatre.

"Jim completely changed my outlook on professionalism. His management style was to enable and use people's gifts. He would tell us, 'Dream big. Figure out what the goal is and work backwards from there," Will commented.

"Jim defined what a professional should be. My previous experience in another culture showed me that jobs were just that—jobs. Jim gave freedom to get things done, and he was concerned how the campus viewed his group," Delyan added.

The stories continued, and I realized that in a short article I could only give a hint of what Jim means to the men in his department, indeed to the campus as a whole. As our conversation wound down, the closing comments moved me as the guys recalled what meant most to them.

"What he taught us is lasting. He raised us to another level," Delyan said.

"A great testament to Jim is we continue to do our jobs, and we're doing it well...It's like he trained us for this exact situation," Matt finished.

Jim's legacy remains with us, and we will remember him. •

In Memoriam

The College mourns the death of longtime friend and supporter Royce Dickinson, Jr., 48, who passed away on June 4. Royce ('75) and his brother Edward ('79) were involved in a serious motorcycle accident on May 30 in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas. Ed is recovering from severe injuries. Royce preached for the Plymouth Church of Christ and was an adjunct faculty member in biblical studies. Additionally, he sat on the planning committee for Sermon Seminar.

Lester Allen, Sr., 81, passed away on January 2, 2005. After serving in the Navy during World War II, Allen entered the ministry and preached for over forty years throughout Michigan. A strong supporter of Christian education, Allen worked with the original board of trustees at the College and later served as public relations director.

January brought news that another long time friend of the College from Toledo had passed away. Iola **Rummel** was a charter member of the Associates, who worked tirelessly on their behalf through the Echo Meadows congregation in Oregon, Ohio. Recently, Sue Garner, Iola's daughter sent the college her original Associates Charter Membership Card issued by North Central Christian College. Iola's husband, Ronald, had served as a college trustee. The generosity of the Rummels led to the establishment of the Ronald and Iola Rummel Endowed Scholarship, which benefits a student from the Toledo area.

Jim Bentley died of a sudden and massive heart attack on February 5, 2005. He is survived by his wife, Kim, and daughters, Shauna and Taylor, ages 16 and 14.

Jennifer Hamilton is the dean of the College of Arts and Science. She recently received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

Rochester Fall Festival

A season to connect "falls" upon us by Birgie Niemann

"Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity, not a threat."

- Prince Philip of England

s the last tent peg was extracted from the ground at the 2001 Fall Festival, participants mourned that this fourdecade-long tradition had come to an end. Since construction was slated to begin shortly on the Ham Library, the big tents must give way to the advancement of the College.

Thousands attended the Festival for over 40 years. The silence during the next three autumns became deafening. A growing symphony of voices chanted the refrain, "Bring the Festival back." Life-long supporters of the Festival and College said, "I miss Fall Festival. I'm disconnected." Local residents commented, "I brought my kids to the Festival for years, and I want my grandkids to have the experience."

Hearing the petition, the College administration convened to bring back the tradition. The steering committee, composed of 12 campus departments and two community members, brainstormed to revive and improve the time-honored event. Its new name, Rochester Fall Festival (RFF), reflects the broad collaborative effort to connect and unite the diverse, multi-cultural population through common experience. The festival's theme, "A Season to Connect," underscores the fundamental human longing for belonging and bonding.

This year, the RFF features day-long, affordable family activities for all ages, including live entertainment, sporting activities, arts and crafts, food and receptions for Rochester College alumni.

The children's area features a fire truck, moonwalk, face painting and entertainment. For the older, more adventurous, the RFF offers extreme, interactive games from Planet X, Inc. These include a Quad bungee jump, NASCAR slide, Triple Play and Sky Trail obstacle course.

The College's partnership with RARA (Rochester Avon Recreational Authority) fits ideally with the goals of the RFF. This joint venture brings with it additional programming

and hours to the event. The 5K Warrior Run kicks off activities, followed by a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and concludes with the annual RARA Hoe-down.

"RARA is very pleased and excited to be partnering with Rochester College to make the Rochester Fall Festival a great annual event. This is just one more way for the community to come together to listen to great music, play games, shop, eat, entertain the kids, be active, or just walk around and observe all the fun," said Brandy Boyd, RARA recreation supervisor.

For free, live entertainment, the first annual Song Fest provides four hours of a cappella gospel singing, designed to touch the heart. Song Fest features the College's A Cappella Chorus and Autumn, the professional group Chosen from Detroit, and The Ministry from Abilene, Texas.

Not only does the Festival lend opportunities for the community to connect, but also for students. Rochester College students express excitement over the new version of the RFF. Candace Cain, associate vice president of student services, says that the event provides students an opportunity to raise funds for their social clubs while connecting with the community.

"For alumni, the RFF is an opportunity to reconnect with times gone by and to be inspired to catch the vision of what the future will hold," said Jennifer Kirby, director of alumni relations.

The Associates of Rochester College, the original sponsors and organizers of the Fall Festival, continue to play a vital role in the event. Lynne Stewart, Associates trustee, said that many chapters plan to participate in the food court and craft areas, as is their long-held tradition. Additionally, the Associates' tradition of crowning the new Associates Queen is set for noon under the big tent.

Traditions, incorporating the old and adding the new, are the connecting structure of a community. The Rochester Fall Festival connects all ages in this fun-filled day. ●

Birgie Niemann is the vice president of public relations and grants at Rochester College. She is also the director of Rochester Fall Festival.











Rochester Fall Festival

Schedule of Events Saturday, October 1, 2005 9:00 AM-8:30 PM

7:00 - 9:30 AM

General and Vendor Set-Up

9:00 AM

RARA 5k Warrior Run

9:00 AM - 8:30 PM

- :: Live Entertainment
- :: "Extreme Events"
- :: RARA 3-on-3 Basketball Competition
- :: Children's Activities
- :: Business & Craft Vendors
- :: Guided Campus Tours
- :: Food Court Highlights
 - -Alumni Steer Burger
 - -Parkside Homemade Pies-Sausage and Gravy

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Pied Pipers Alumni Reception (Gold Room)

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

First Five-Year Reception 1960-1964 (Gold Room)

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

First Five-Year College of Extended Learning 2000-2004 (Gold Room)

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

"Songfest" (Big Tent) Children's Entertainment (Children's Corner Stage)

5:15 PM - 6:00 PM

President's Circle of Honor Program (Auditorium West)

6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

President's Circle of Honor Dinner (Fletcher Center)

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

RARA Fall Hoedown (Big Tent)

into the uncertain UUULE

Commencement 2005 by Amanda M. Wolfe

hree distinctly different lives converged on Saturday, May 7, 2005. In a celebration of accomplishments, two women and a man joined one hundred and twenty other graduates for the 45th Annual Spring Commencement Ceremony.

Three individuals—Roxana Florescu, Michael Ray and Samantha Winterrowd—don't know each other. They didn't study the same subjects, nor did they participate in the same extracurriculars. They are not the same age or at the same place in life. They are not all United States citizens. Yet, their stories are similar—graduation signified the culmination of hard work and dreams come true.

Roxana Flovescu B.B.A. Accounting Magna Cum Laude

Roxy" as she likes to be called, grew up in Transylvania, Romania. She knows first-hand what a Communist government looks like. Since birth, she had virtually no contact with the outside world. The Communists wanted to guarantee nothing would influence the Romanian citizens.

When asked if she ever dreamed of visiting another country, Florescu immediately responds, "Germany." To the question of why, she says, "Because that's where the label on my toys said they were from. That was the only experience I'd had with lands past Romania. I thought if I got



there, it would be exciting."

Florescu continued to dream of the far-away land of Germany until 1989, when Romania was liberated. She recalls turmoil and chaos during that period of time, but also exaggerated growth and excitement.

"When I actually saw things from other places—TV shows, clothes, books—I was blown away," says Florescu.

When her brother, Manuel, received a scholarship to Rochester College in 1999 and graduated a few years later, Florescu traveled to the United States for the first time. Manuel gave his sister a tour of the campus, suggesting that she, too, might like to attend. She agreed, but realized she must first learn English.

Equipped with the few words she had learned from American movies, Florescu bought an English book and dictionary. In less than six months, she taught herself enough English to pass the college entrance exams. She began attending Rochester College the fall of 2001.

Four years later, as Roxy Florescu accepts her diploma, memories of all she overcame race through her mind. She knew no one. She barely knew English. But, most importantly, she knew she could do it.

Florescu plans to marry her fiancé, Marty Morrice, on August 20. This likely means she will not return home, but make a life here. Yet, what some would consider a negative, Roxy sees as the next step in life. Her past experiences brought her to this exact point—and she embraces it.

"Receiving my degree was the greatest accomplishment of my life," she says without a moment's hesitation.

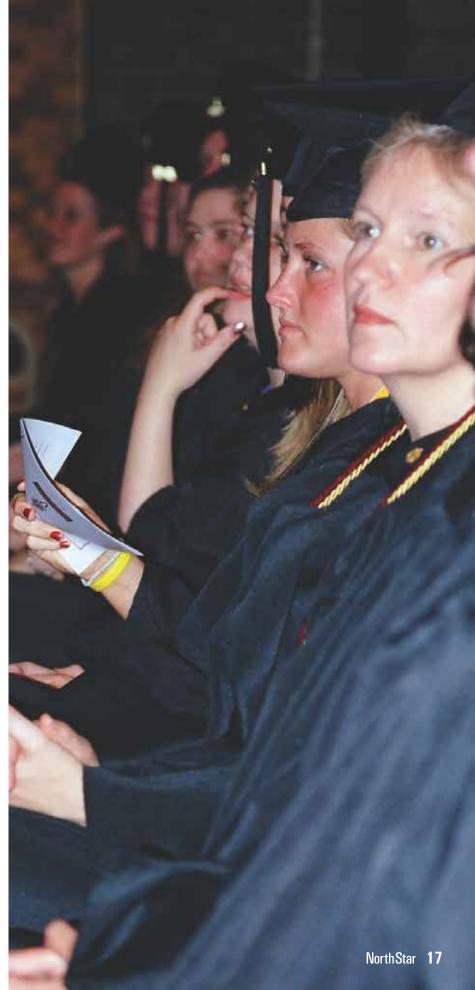
Michael Ray B.S. Mass Communication Summa Cum Laude

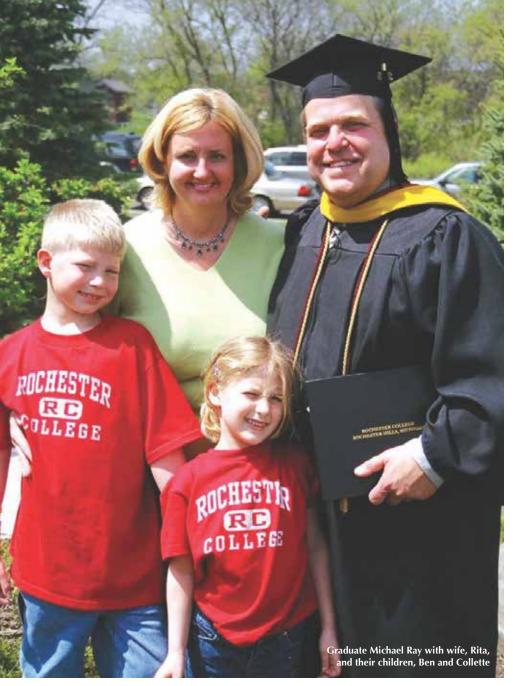
A t the age of 42, Michael Ray became part of the first graduating class in mass communication at Rochester College.

He describes himself as just an average guy who listens to God.

"I definitely think God's involved with [my experiences]. He equips people he chooses," says Ray.

He explains that he's been "molded by his environment." He grew up in Redford, which he describes as being a very "white" place at the time. Yet, he always felt there was something wrong with that picture. When he began working with Northwest Airlines fleet cleaning crew, he grabbed the opportunity to right what he felt was





wrong in his life—a camaraderie with those of all colors and races. Over time, he formed intimate relationships with his African-American co-workers.

"The guys were impressed with my genuine interest in listening to what they had to say," says Ray.

When he began classes at Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts through Rochester College's College of Extended Learning, he realized God was equipping him to fuse two of his passions—diversity and film. Michael Ray became a documentarian.

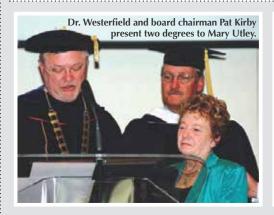
With three of his classmates, Mark Edwards, Norvell Molex and Patrick Payne, Ray filmed a documentary entitled "My Brother's Dream: An American Experiment." The film explores the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The four men created a picture experiment with 19 participants of various races, portraying the group as brothers and sisters. The film documents the experiment and its results.

"What comes across is how similar we really are. Sure, there's outward differences, but the content of our beings is similar," says Ray.

With degree in hand, Ray meets the next challenge of life. He and his wife, Rita, want to adopt for the third time. Their first two children, Ben, 8, and Collette, 6, he says look just like them. But, Ray feels God's calling to once again embrace diversity. They are looking for two African-American children needing a home.

Sure, these decisions are, in his words, "kinda scary," but with a shake of the head and a smile, Michael Ray says, "I feel like it's my calling."

Conferring of Honorary Degrees to Utley, Kirkpatrick Families





This year, Rochester College wished to recognize three recipients with honorary degrees. Robert Utley, who sadly passed away in February of this year, received an honorary doctorate. Utley contributed 40 years of service on the College's board of trustees, acting as chairman for two terms. Additionally, he served as interim president twice. Mary Utley, Robert's wife, also received an honorary doctorate for her decades of service in the Associates of Rochester College. The third recipient was Katie Kirkpatrick Godwin, who passed away on January 20, 2005. Her family accepted the honorary Bachelor of Arts on her behalf.



Samantha Winterrowd B.S. Social Work

ust being here made my faith my own," says Samantha Winterrowd of her time at Rochester College.

With the assurance that comes from a solid faith foundation, this 22-year-old social work graduate from Jamestown, Ohio, prepares to travel to Uganda, Africa, for the second time. With tears in her eyes, Winterrowd talks about making her childhood dream come true. Even as a small child, Winterrowd knew what she wanted to do when she grew up—feed orphans in Africa.

And, that's exactly what she's doing.

Last summer, Winterrowd of experienced the complexities of missionary life in a culture content with the simplicities that most Americans snub. With 14 other students and three sponsors, Winterrowd completed an internship in Uganda that included meetings with church leaders, village Bible studies and discipleship sessions. A three-day, two-night stay in town with a local family brought a great challenge to Winterrowd.

"I was a little scared and completely out of my comfort zone. I couldn't communicate with them because they didn't speak English so we could only relate on a very surface level," she says.

Winterrowd slept on a floor mat for a couple nights. She ate plantains, corn meal and beans, living like most other Ugandans. She helped with chores. She says that when the team picked her up, she cried.

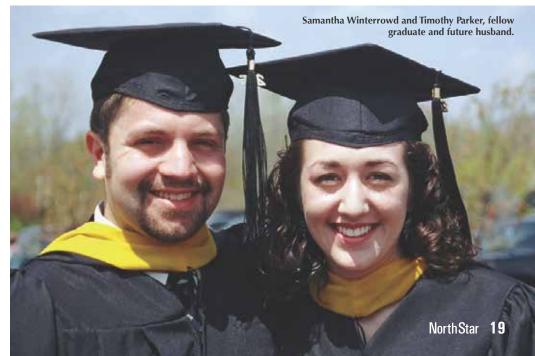
"I was overwhelmed with emotion. These people don't have our 'necessities' of life and they're happy," Winterrowd said.

Winterrowd left for her second stay in Uganda on June 4, shortly after graduation. She returns to the United States on July 28, just in time for her August 13 wedding to fellow graduate Tim Parker. Parker accompanied Winterrowd on last year's trip to Uganda, but she feels she needs to complete this one on her own.

"I don't know how soon I'll be able to return to Africa after this summer. Tim will be in graduate school and I'll be looking for a job. It was important for me to make this trip," she says.

ommencement day brings bittersweet emotions. It is a time of firsts and lasts. Students take their last exam, hand in their final paper and hug friends for possibly the last time.

These three students faced the same decisions that accompany all students at graduation. Marriage, children and relocating are all life-changing judgments. Throughout each of their stories, one fact remains true. God prepares his children for whatever may come. Roxana Florescu, Michael Ray and Samantha Winterrowd laid the foundation for life's next step while navigating their time at Rochester College. Because of this, they now take the first tentative steps into the future.



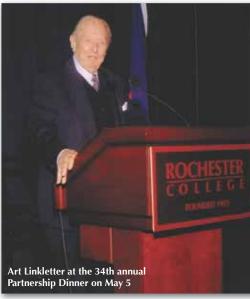
Partnership

Supporting Scholarship through Celebration by Amanda Johns

artnership Dinner featured Art Linkletter, author and media personality of more than 45 years. Held on Saturday, May 7 at the Cobo Convention Center in Detroit, Partnership Dinner is the largest annual scholarship fundraiser for Rochester College students. Attendance increased by about 20 percent from last year. speakers include Barbara Bush, Colin Powell, Elizabeth Dole, John Major, Sam Donaldson, and Mary Lou Retton.

This vear, Linkletter spoke from his life experiences and the knowledge he gained. Linkletter served on the President's National Advisory Council for Drug Abuse Prevention and the Presidential Commission to Improve Reading in the United States, and worked with children on his radio and television shows. From these experiences with children, Linkletter wrote "Kids Say the Darndest Things." At 93years-old, Linkletter leads an active lifestyle, which includes serving on several school boards and speaking at fundraising events. Linkletter sees a great need for student scholarships so individuals have an opportunity to attend a Christian institution.

Many students attending private institutions must finance the cost of this education. Approximately 90 percent of traditional students at Rochester College receive some form of financial aid. The average Rochester College student accumulates almost \$10,000 in debt to pay for their undergraduate education. The goal of the College is to secure funding to give all students an equal opportunity to obtain the same quality education. Rochester College spends over a million dollars on scholarships each year, believing that higher Christian education is essential to positively shape the moral culture of our country and strengthen the church's faithfulness to the Lord. Partnership Dinner raises



funds for these scholarships, which are awarded yearly.

"Art Linkletter was a fantastic choice for this year's Partnership Dinner. Our constituents received him well. I was impressed by his message and support of our College. We thank him for sharing with us on this day," stated Dr. Michael Westerfield.

United under this common goal of supporting quality, liberal arts, Christian education, guests from various churches, companies, schools and states gathered for this special night. Birgie Niemann, vice president of public relations, recognizes the power of Partnership Dinner to link supporters.

"Partnership Dinner connects people from across the greater Detroit area and beyond. It is delightful to see people's eyes light up as they spot a friend across the room, smile and then give each other a hug. They connect

with each other as they support the common values and mission of the College," says Niemann.

The Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus (MDYC), directed by Mr. Tim Meixner, performed at the event for the first time in several years. Currently in its 41st year of ministering across the country, MDYC is comprised of young people ranging from 14 to 18 years of age from 20 congregations in the metropolitan Detroit area. Additionally, guests enjoyed the performance of Rochester College's A Cappella Chorus, now in its 20th year of direction by Dr. Joe Bentley. performers represent many of the students who benefit from the scholarships Partnership Dinner supports. Attendees of the

dinner eagerly anticipate Chorus performances each year.

Gifts of any size directly impact quality Christian education at Rochester College for its students. To find out more information about contributing to student scholarships, contact Elton Albright, director of institutional advancement, annual gifts, at 248.218.2022 or ealbright@rc.edu.

Rochester College anticipates next year's guest speaker John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth and the oldest astronaut to visit space.

Shack-A-Thon Shack-A-Thon

Love shacks raise money to eliminate poverty

my Napier, 22-year-old senior interdisciplinary studies major from Tekonsha, Mich., spent an entire weekend without a shower, wearing the same clothes and living in a shack. She also convinced 19 other students at Rochester College and three employees to do the same. This unique weekend had a purpose, though—Napier and her crew wanted to raise money for Habitat for Humanity.

Napier hosted and coordinated the "Shack-a-Thon" on Rochester College's campus after an inspiring meeting with the Oakland County executive director of Habitat, Steve Campbell. Campbell suggested options for student involvement, and a Shack-a-Thon was one of them. Napier gathered

friends and RC students, Jenny Hoggatt and David Rotberg, and the ideas started to flow.

"We started to dream and dream big. We decided there were no limits to what we could accomplish," says Napier.

Fast forward to the weekend of April 8. After raising donations for the event, the students gathered and built their new residences for the weekend. Businesses, churches and passers-by saw the effort and donated over \$3,000. The shacks also drew the attention of WXYZ Channel 7, who covered the event.

"Seeing the success that we had with this first attempt, we have to do it next year. There's no way we can't," finished Napier. ●

Shack Expressions



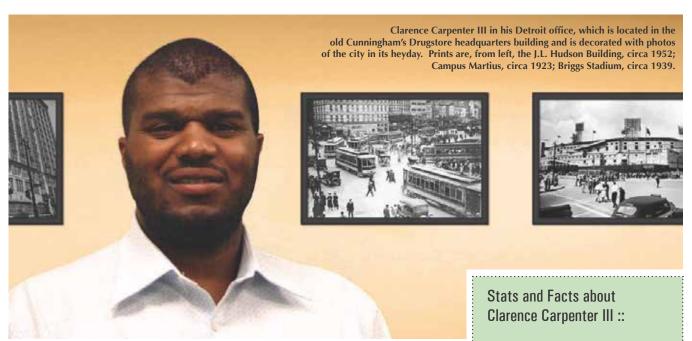




Top: Joan Sullivan, Amy Napier, and Jenny Hoggatt stand in front of their newly-finished shack. Middle: Each shack shows individual personalities. Bottom: Participants Lindy Emerson, Danny Hardman, and Hannah Jensen advertise for Habitat for Humanity.







Alumni in the SPOTLIGHT

Clarence Carpenter III makes news with innovation by Amanda M. Wolfe with reporting by Jennifer Kirby

here sits a young boy in a small house in the middle of a city somewhere today. He looks out his window and sees a world waiting for him to make his mark. This boy comes from a lower income family, not having much money for life's extras. His parents encourage him to dream big, so he does. But, behind their bedroom doors at night, his parents worry how they will fund their son's dreams. One day, this boy picks up the newspaper from the doorstep of his non-descript house somewhere in the city. He thumbs through and finds a story about a man that made his dreams come true through hard work and determination. That man is Clarence Carpenter III.

Carpenter grew up in Barrington, Ill. Thirteen years ago he married his wife, Michelle (Siegel), and now they have

three children—Kelsey, Sydney, and Elijah. On the surface, they look like your average American family. But dig deeper, and an extraordinary story unfolds.

While attending Rochester College (then Michigan Christian College) with Michelle in 1992, Carpenter learned the nuts and bolts that got him where he is today.

"It's important to get an education, it's also a privilege and we lose focus of that," says Carpenter.

He says his classes instilled in him a hard work ethic and rigorous discipline. The interest professors took in his personal life left a mark forever branded in his memory. These lessons served as the catalyst for what happened next—the events that landed him in newspapers across Detroit.

"Without failure you cannot have success," said Carpenter of his past. Because of various unforeseen circumstances, Carpenter left college and began an entry-level job as a field technician for Testing Engineers and

- :: Residence in Brownstown, Mich.
- :: Member at the Trenton Church of Christ
- Sits on the board of the Midnight Golf Program, which assists under-privileged youth in Detroit
- :: Recently entered joint venture with Work Squared in furniture procurement
- :: EKS Services, Inc. has been approved by the state of Michigan to train in environmental courses

Consultants in Troy, Mich. for \$6.50/ hr. Not content to maintain the status quo, Carpenter transitioned into the industrial hygiene field. He realized with this move he had found his passion, which catapulted him to where he is today. Taking the knowledge he gleaned from various industrial hygiene companies, Carpenter stepped out in faith and opened his own business in 2000.

EKS Services Incorporated, which he named for the first initials of his three children, started as a one-man team in Carpenter's basement. Today, EKS celebrates five years of success with a team that has grown to 16 employees. Additionally, EKS Services, Inc. generates revenues over \$3 million and maintains lucrative contracts with customers

like General Motors, Wayne State University, Federal-Mogul, Comerica Bank, and Henry Ford Health Systems. These monumental accomplishments led to back-to-back nominations for the Minority Supplier of the Year Award.

"It's very important for people to stay focused and grounded on the most important things in life"

The Detroit News and Crain's Business picked up on Carpenter's triumphs and featured his story. Newspapers hit the front stoops of houses, waiting to inspire others to follow their dreams.

Carpenter's failures have indeed turned to success. On the day of his interview, Carpenter revealed another triumph to add to his story. His most recent acquisition, Detroit Industrial Services, is an industrial painting company that positions Carpenter as 51 percent majority partner. The company boasts over \$5 million in revenue with clients such as Comerica Park, Walbridge Aldinger, Durr Automotive, Ford Field, and Trammell Crow to name a few.

Sitting in his bedroom, reading Carpenter's tale, the young boy in the small house in the city asks himself how he, too, can have a successful life. He wants to dream big, but has always been scared to fail. Yet, Carpenter's story has shown failure to be part of success.

"It's very important for people to stay focused and grounded on the most important things in life. And, when you stay focused on God, family and friends, you will always be a success no matter what you do in life!" enthuses Carpenter.

With that, the young boy sets aside the newspaper, gets up, and walks out into the world ready to make things happen. •



Jennifer Kirby ('01) is the new director of alumni relations at Rochester College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration.



Upcoming:

Look for an update from Stephanie Britten and Nadine Taylor in the Fall issue of the North Star. Stephanie and Nadine have committed nearly a year of their lives, starting July 1, to missionary work in Honduras with the organization Little Hands, Big Hearts. To contribute to this ministry, send your tax-deductible payments to their sponsoring congregation, Rochester the Church of Christ, 250 W. Avon Rd., Rochester Hills, MI, 48307.

Alumni News

1980

After serving eighteen years as missionaries in South Africa, Clay and Cherry (Echols) Hart returned to the United States in 2003. Both recently accepted staff positions with Let's Start Talking Ministries. They will be setting up short-term mission projects and recruiting participants for the program. The family can be contacted at 101 Valley View Drive North, Colleyville, TX 76034.

Tom Gosser recently began new responsibilities as a human resource assistant for the National Guard. Tom and his wife, Lauren, have two children, Rachel and Paul. The family lives at 107 Riverside Drive, Centerville, TN 37033.

1983

Gordon and Becky (Williams) Rush can be contacted at Box 81, Delavan, IL 61734. Becky is working as a church secretary and Gordon is a communication specialist with the Army Corp of Engineers. The couple has three children, Christina, Margaret, and Sabrina.

1985

Lisa (Gilbert) Foreman and her husband Mark adopted Kiana Micaiah on May 2. They also have a daughter, Bonnie. Lisa is an actuarial consultant for Mass Mutual Financial Group, and Mark is the minister of the Greater Springfield Church of Christ. The family lives at 59 Ludger Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020.

1990

David Patrick Christian Jr. joined Ashley and Kayley in the home of David (91) and Karen (Petrich) Christian on May 16. David is a salesperson for Art Van Furniture and Karen teaches for Flint Public Schools. The family lives at 3611 Brentwood Drive, Flint, MI 48503.

1996

Jennifer Garrity-Moody and her husband, Mike Moody, welcomed Emalee Rebecca on March 14. Jennifer is the director of public relations and marketing for Metrolink, and Mike is the sales manager for Brenny's Motorcycle Clinic. The family lives at 539 North Meadow, Geneseo, IL 61254.

Owen Robert joined Bria in the home of Robert and Kristen (Fulton) Sowles on March 23. Robert is a team leader for ChannelNet and Kristen is a homemaker. The family lives at 5250 Wilby, Shelby Township, MI 48317.

1999

Daniel and Tiffany (Nickols-Schmidt) Reece welcomed Jordan Dean on February 16. Tiffany is a teacher in the Gibraltar Schools, and Daniel is a designer for Camou-Pico. The family lives at 23519 East Fairway Drive, Woodhaven, MI 48183.

2000

Ben Seligson recently opened a new business named Budget Powerwashing and Car Care. In addition, he still preaches on a regular basis. He lives at 2809 Dearborn Avenue, Rochester Hills, MI 48309.





Campaign Announcement

Connecting to the vision by Donald Robinson ('72)

he transformation of 800 West Avon Road from non-assuming buildings to the collegiate of Ferndalepresence Hoggatt, Ham Library and Richardson Center caught the attention of long-time supporters and

the community. The administration and board carefully and prayerfully crafted the plan—Catch the Vision, Phase I and II—that funded these projects.

As I give campus tours showing the results of Phase I and II—impressive library, state-of-the art science labs, the Theatre, classrooms equipped with SMART technology, the new student center—tears often well up in the eyes of long-time supporters who say, "I never thought I would live to see this day." And yet, they also say, "There is one piece still missing—where is the gym?"

Today, Rochester College embarks on the next phase of the board-approved strategic plan for the College's new look by the year 2010. While the new athletic center, a 65,000 square foot facility, sits as the centerpiece of the campaign, the plan includes other capital improvements,



depth in the academic offerings, a growing residential student campus and market expansion for the College of Extended Learning.

Supporting this strategic capital requires operational and endowment funding. Thus, Catch the Vision, Phase III, a comprehensive

campaign totaling \$31 million, was born. This seven-year campaign aims for completion in December of 2010. To date, over \$8 million in gifts and pledges have been raised during the silent phase of the campaign.

Administration targets completion of the much-needed athletic canter in time for the 2006-07 men's basketball season. Other capital improvements include a new softball field, soccer field, an extensive energy conservation upgrade, new roadways and parking as well as several campus beautification improvements.

Additionally, Phase III encompasses an aggressive endowment component. Our goal is to build the permanent endowment to \$21 million by the end of the campaign. Significant increases in the annual fund and restricted funds are also built into the comprehensive campaign.

As we publicly announce Catch the Vision, Phase III, we challenge the alumni, parents and friends of Rochester College to prayerfully consider how to assist us in attaining this goal of raising \$31 million by 2010. There are a number of ways you can help. One significant opportunity is to make a naming gift. If you would like to consider naming a classroom, an office or a building in honor of a loved one, please let me know. Naming opportunities range from \$1,000 to as much as \$3 million, and can be paid out over several years.

Lastly, our goal is to raise \$1 million to name the performance court in honor of Coach Garth Pleasant and \$500,000 to name the recreational gym in honor of the late Coach Bill Shinsky. Perhaps you would like to participate in this effort.

The North Star includes a business reply envelope, listing options to support this campaign. Please take a few minutes to consider these options and enclose a gift or make a multi-year pledge. Your gifts validate the campaign and make it possible to realize this vision. Pledges signify a partnership with Rochester College in our efforts to build a dynamic campus and to connect young people to quality Christian education. •

Donald Robinson, '72, is the vice president of institutional advancement campaign strategies. His son, Justin, currently attends Rochester College.





Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian Stogner becomes vice president of

academic affairs by Amanda M. Wolfe

Seven years ago, God re-directed Brian Stogner's ('80) path. Content in his job at the time, Stogner had not contemplated any professional moves. He was settled and he says he was happy. Then, a conversation with his wife, Lisa, sparked an idea. As



he recounts the story, a smile spreads across his face.

"One night my wife asked me if I would ever change jobs. Just out of the blue like that. I told her that the only way I would change is if a full-time faculty position at a Christian school opened that allowed me to also practice neuropsychology. A couple days later, I got a call from [then president] Ken Johnson offering me a position at Rochester College. Next, Genesis Regional Medical Center said they were looking for someone to practice neuropsychology. It was pretty clear what I was supposed to do."

Stogner says he made the move for spiritual reasons rather than professional. Yet, he believes this decision furthered him professionally as well. Since coming to the College in 1998, Stogner has served as a professor of psychology and chair of the behavioral sciences department. Simultaneously, he held a private practice in psychotherapy and the neuropsychology practice at Genesis Regional Medical Center. Additionally, he helped construct the College's current academic vision, which is the cornerstone for the strategic plan.

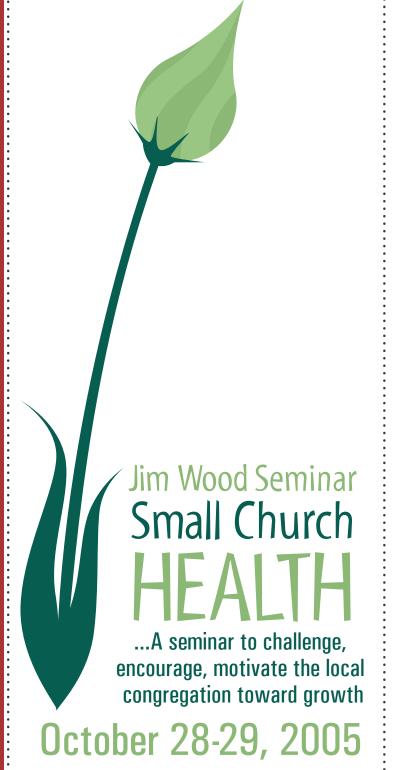
Recently, his path curved once more. Stogner accepted the role of vice president of academic affairs, the position Dr. Michael Westerfield held before becoming the institution's president.

This new role brings with it new challenges. The vice president of academic affairs oversees and coordinates the institution's deans, the vice president of the College of Extended Learning, the director of the Academic Center for Excellence and the director of library services—six separate positions in all. To successfully oversee these roles, Stogner must effectively communicate with administrators.

Filling this role signifies another move forward for the College. Upholding scholarship and its pursuit requires individuals with a vision—individuals with a passion for academe and, at Rochester College, individuals with a heart for God. Brian Stogner fulfills each of these requirements.

"This institution has exceeded the expectations of many. We want to continue to excel and this necessitates those with a united vision. Dr. Stogner's dreams for Rochester College align with what we have been accomplishing and where we want to go. We welcome him into his new role," stated Westerfield. •

Presented by Rochester College and the Parkside Church of Christ



For information, contact Elton Albright at Rochester College

E-mail: ealbright@rc.edu III Phone: 800.521.6010 x.4

Academic Center for Excellence

Instruction for students wanting to "ACE" classes by Amanda Johns

unded by a Title III grant from the Federal Government, the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) began free tutoring services in fall 2003, targeting student retention. Rochester College's goal was to bring its retention rate to national level and beyond. Evidence proves ACE does the job.

Studies show that failure in core subjects discourages students from completing college. Because of this, ACE focuses heavily on math and writing classes.

"Students quit for many reasons, but we want to make sure students do not leave Rochester College because they are struggling academically without help," says Tedd Case, director of Title III.

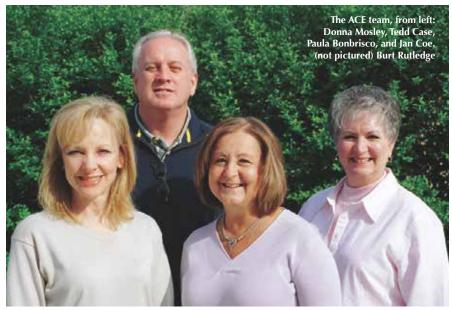
"Students learn quickly that ACE staff will not do their work [for them]; they must actively engage in their own education. We see students grow, accepting responsibility and working hard to complete their own education," reflects Paula Bonbrisco, Title III activity director.

Administrative assistant Donna Mosley stresses that ACE helps any student that wants to improve. For example, students like Cassie DeWitt, who already excels in class, have taken advantage of ACE.

Located in the new Richardson Center, ACE offers a walk-in lab operated by faculty and student tutors. Sarah "Lenny" Grabowski, a current Rochester College student and math peer mentor says that one of ACE's best features is its flexibility.

"We are open seven days a week and are willing to fit students' schedules, including tutoring in the dorms," says Grabowski.

Bonbrisco reports that ACE's efforts are paying off—the number of students passing math courses increased by 11 percent in the first year. With statistics like



this, ACE expanded to include a program called Supplemental Instruction (SI) in several subjects. SI uses peer mentors that attend classes and hold small group study sessions.

Currently, SI offers instruction in Bible, which is funded through the College. Other SI programs include English, chemistry, psychology, and accounting. Other efforts by ACE are academic workshops, held each fall. The workshops teach time management, goal setting, note taking and writing skills. ACE also initiated the Student Athlete Success Plan, supporting the academic studies of athletes balancing the extra demands of collegiate sports.

Striving to always improve aspects of the program, ACE plans to implement in-residence tutors in freshman dorms next semester. Additionally, an on-line tutoring service will allow students unable to attend ACE sessions the opportunity to benefit from the program.

"Freshmen, if you come to Rochester College, you will succeed!" concludes Case. ●



Jessica McKinney receives help from SI tutor Sarah Grabowski. The ACE lab and SI proved to help many students do better in their classes this year.



r. Craig Bowman says he is not an "armchair scholar." Since last year, Bowman has led two teams to Israel for excavation expeditions on what is called "Biblical Tamar." Rochester College students and faculty have accompanied him both times.

"I truly believe scholarship and 'getting dirty' go hand in hand because it enhances your experience with the texts and knowledge of events that took place. For scholars, the classroom can get old...and I've always loved to dig," says Bowman with a smile.

Bowman's interest in Israeli archaeology began in 1988 when Princeton sent him as a photo-journalist on an archaeological photographic mission. He was studying at Princeton Theological Seminary at the time and jumped at this opportunity to couple his studies with real-life experience. Sixteen years later,

presented with a chance to give his students at Rochester College the same adventure.

Bowman began discussing a relatively unknown region of Israel called Tamar of the Wilderness, with colleagues Terrance Christian and Mark Shipp. Christian is an archaeologist, and Shipp is a professor at the Austin Graduate School of Theology. A previous expedition on the site uncovered over 20,000 artifacts, and the men felt further study and excavation would expose the full significance of the area.

Based on passages in I Kings depicting Solomon's building projects, the men began excavating a 10th century fortress at the site to determine if, indeed, it could be linked with King Solomon's projects mentioned throughout these passages. Bowman says that if the fortress is determined to be Solomonic, the region would have been a strategic area for

fortifying military establishments that governed southern Israel. If funding for the excavation and publication projects continue, Bowman's team plans to involve students in the restoration of the city gates and towers of Biblical Tamar.

Bowman's motivation for continued discovery aligns with his passion for learning. He plans to incorporate expeditions to Israel into the curriculum at Rochester. Previously, trips have been limited to a couple weeks at a time, but Bowman dreams of expanding the experience to a full semester abroad. Classes in culture, history and religion would be added to augment the program. Bowman believes in getting his hands dirty, and wants to teach his students the same mentality.

"This is an opportunity for personal growth. It opens up a fascination with discovery for students. Discussing sites first hand invites students to

Bowman was dream," said Bowman.

Left to right: Tom Brown, Craig Bowman, Todd Hall, Yigal Israel, Ron Hall, Mark Shipp, Terrance Christian, and John Cardenas

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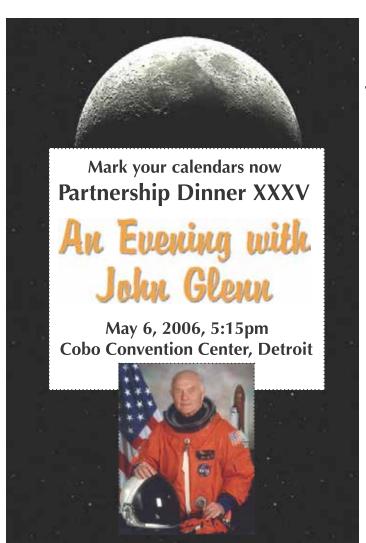
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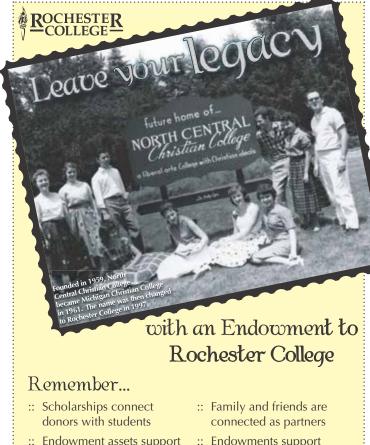
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