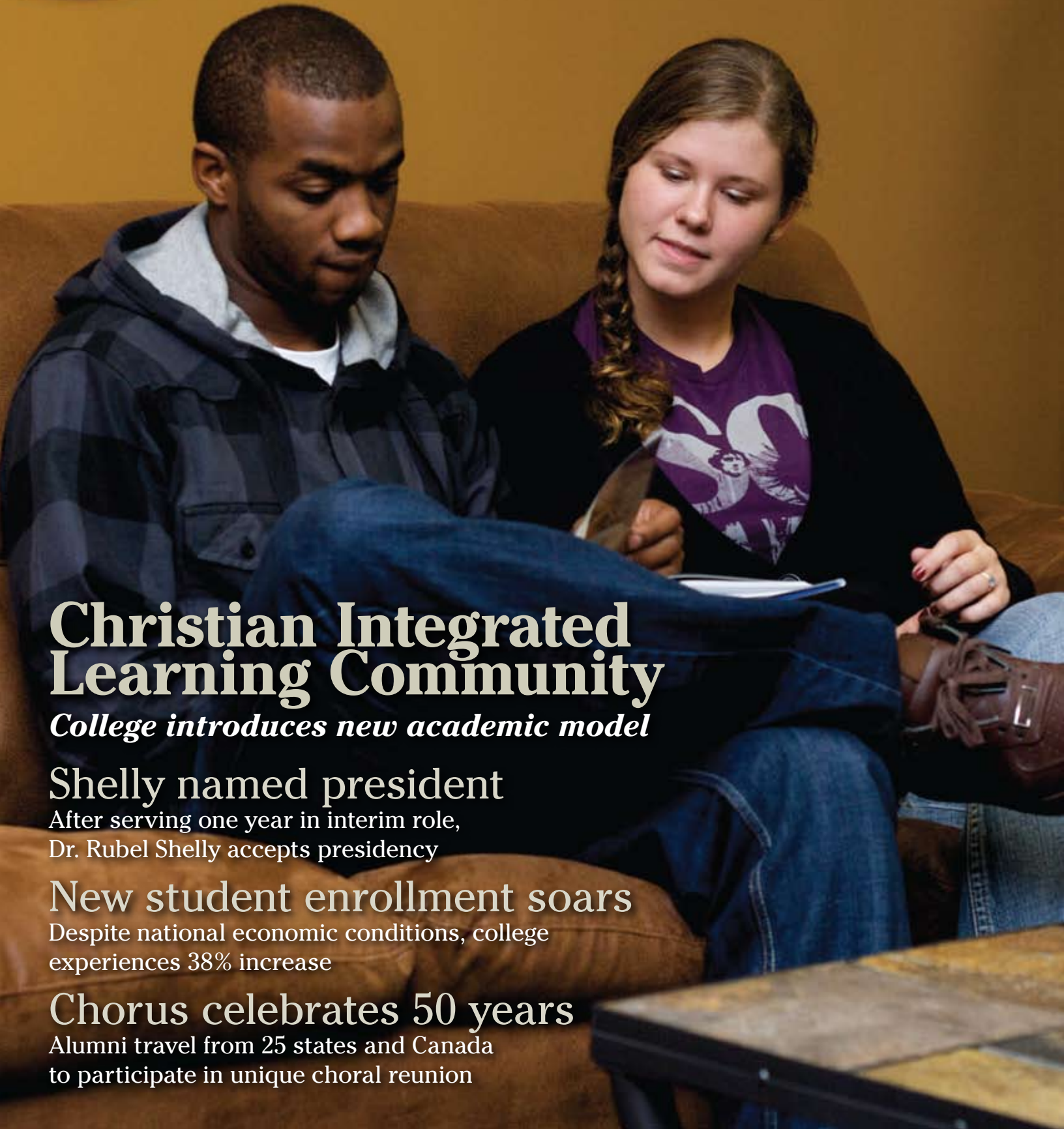


The View from Rochester College • Volume 51 No. 1 • Fall 2009

NORTHSTAR



Christian Integrated Learning Community

College introduces new academic model

Shelly named president

After serving one year in interim role, Dr. Rubel Shelly accepts presidency

New student enrollment soars

Despite national economic conditions, college experiences 38% increase

Chorus celebrates 50 years

Alumni travel from 25 states and Canada to participate in unique choral reunion



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

The mission of Rochester College is to engage students in a vigorous liberal arts education within a Christian community for a life of study and service. Rochester College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

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. The North Star is published semiannually by the Rochester College development office.

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from the *president's desk*

New semester—new academic model—new spirit on campus! Classes for the fall semester at Rochester College began September 1. I can only wish all of you who read this could have been here to share the excitement, see the smiles, and feel the sense of God's blessing.

Here are some key indicators of where we stand at the start of the 2009-10 academic year:

- 236 residential students (up 52 from last fall!)
- 269 commuter students (down 15 from last fall)
- 355 CEL students (down from fall 2008 – with Session B yet to come)
- 18 graduate students (up from 11 in fall 2008)
- Total undergraduate headcount (traditional) has increased by 25
- Total undergraduate/graduate headcount (traditional) is up by 32

Students who are new to Rochester College this year—both freshmen and transfers—now total 207. That is a 38% increase from the fall of 2008. This certainly bodes well for our retention prospects over the next three years. We had our highest-ever number of paid applications for admission and enrolled one of the largest incoming classes in our 50-year history.

By measure of actual credit hours, the numbers are even more significant. Against a total of 6,630 credit hours for all traditional students in the fall of 2008, the total number is 7,333 this fall. Since the Center for Extended Learning, Rochester College's adult degree-completion program, registers for two sessions in the fall, their student and credit hour numbers are still incomplete.

Another positive indicator for us is the 20.6 average ACT score of our new students. This is our highest-ever average score and is slightly above the national average for college freshmen.

Numbers such as these exceeded our expectations for the new academic year, especially considering Michigan's bleak economic climate. Consequently, we are slapping our admissions people on their backs and sharing big smiles with them.

Now the responsibility falls on our faculty to make the new integrated learning model work effectively with the men and women who have trusted us with their educational future. That is a challenge we accept with enthusiasm.

Good things are happening at Rochester College! Thank you for helping make them possible by your prayers, your financial support, and your help with recruiting students to our campus.

Rubel Shelly
President, Rochester College

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ON THE COVER:

Senior psychology major Ralph Fluker and junior nursing major Asia Smith study in the CHILL (Community Hub of Integrated Living and Learning), a new space created on campus this year. Photo by Sean Stockman, '04



Beautiful fall at Rochester College

Our campus never looks better than it does in the fall, when the woodlands explode in a blaze of reds, oranges, and golds. Why not pay us a visit and marvel at God's great work? For up-to-the-minute news and events, be sure to follow us online at [facebook.com/RochesterCollege](https://www.facebook.com/RochesterCollege) or twitter.com/RCWarriors.

moving forward event news

RECAP:
PARTNERSHIP DINNER
FILLS HOTEL FACILITY



Nationally syndicated talk show host Dave Ramsey spoke to a sellout crowd at the annual Partnership Dinner on April 4, 2009. Held at the beautiful Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, proceeds from the dinner provided funding for student scholarships. Dr. Milton Fletcher, former president of the college, and other individuals who played significant roles in the history of the college attended the 50th anniversary event.

RECAP
ELEVATE ATTRACTS
REGIONAL TEENS



Centered on the theme *Upside Down*, Elevate featured lessons from the Sermon on the Mount. Patrick Mead, Adam Hill, and Eddy Efaw presented challenging messages for the teen summer camp program from June 21-27, 2009. Chris Shields and Salient led worship. "The week had a great impact on the campers' spiritual lives," stated director Steve Corp. "Our small group times gave campers an opportunity to talk about presentations, share their struggles, and offer encouragement to one another." Concerts, service projects, laser tag, pottery crafting, mini-golf, and the traditional crud wars rounded out the week's activities.

NOVEMBER 5-7, 13-15, 2009
FALL MUSICAL



Contact: Cathie Parker
248.218.2154 or cparker@rc.edu

The theatre department will present *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on two consecutive weekends in November. Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, the dynamic musical is based upon the story of Joseph from the book of Genesis. Due to limited seating, reservations are recommended. Tickets may be purchased from the department of music, theatre, and visual arts by contacting Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or jhughes1@rc.edu.

NOVEMBER 7, 2009
HOMECOMING



Contact: Terrill Hall
248.218.2042 or thall@rc.edu

Students and recent graduates will celebrate Homecoming in November. Following a campus tailgate luncheon, participants will enjoy basketball competition and the annual crowning of a Homecoming King and Queen at Rochester High School. An alumni game will begin at 1:00

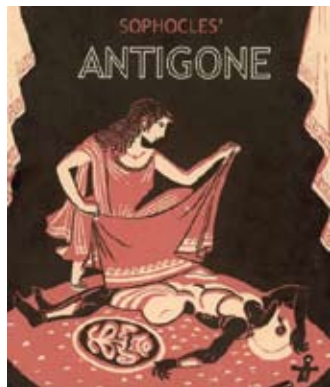
p.m. and the Warriors will face St. Clair College of Windsor, Ontario, at 3:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 8, 2009
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Contact: August Thoma
248.218.2258 or athoma@rc.edu

The Concert Band will present its annual Christmas concert in December. Ticket reservations may be placed with the department of music, theatre, and visual arts by contacting Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or jhughes1@rc.edu

FEBRUARY 11-14, 2010
WINTER PLAY



Contact: Kelly Brock
kbrock@rc.edu

Students will perform the classical Greek tragedy *Antigone* in February. Written by Sophocles, the ancient play tells the story of the youthful Antigone, who defies the king's orders and is punished for burying her deceased brother. Tickets may be purchased from the department of music, theatre, and visual arts by contacting Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or jhughes1@rc.edu.

FEBRUARY 25-28, 2010
WINTER PLAY



Contact: David Keller
248.218.2150 or dkeller@rc.edu

Jeff Stetson's dramatization of a proposed meeting between civil rights activists Martin Luther King and Malcolm X will provide subject matter for a February production honoring Black History Month. *The Meeting* visualizes what might have happened had the scheduled meeting not been cut short by an assassin's bullet. Tickets may be purchased from the department of music, theatre, and visual arts by contacting Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or jhughes1@rc.edu.

MARCH 2, 2010
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
SHOWCASE

Contact: Joe Bentley
248.218.2141 or jbentley@rc.edu

The A Cappella Chorus, Concert Band, and selected soloists will present their annual musical showcase in March. Ticket reservations may be placed with the department of music, theatre, and visual arts by contacting Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or jhughes1@rc.edu.

MARCH 13, 2010
PARTNERSHIP DINNER



Contact: Cathy Ries
248.218.2021 or cries@rc.edu

Michael Medved, a nationally syndicated radio host, best-selling author, and veteran film critic, will present the keynote address for the 39th annual Partnership Dinner. Held at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, the dinner raises funds for student scholarships. Medved's daily broadcast reaches over four million listeners on more than 200 stations across the nation. His most recent best seller, *The 10 Big Lies About America*, provides a rebuttal to both domestic and foreign critics who try to denigrate the United States. Tickets are \$125 and sponsorships are available. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Cathy Ries at 248.218.2021 or cries@rc.edu.

MARCH 25-27, 2010
CELEBRATION 2010

Contact: Stephanie Corp
scorp2@rc.edu

The student body will present *Celebration 2010* in March. The annual extravaganza of song

and dance will be produced on four occasions, including a Saturday matinee. Due to limited seating and ticket demand, reservations are recommended.

APRIL 15-18, 2010
SPRING PLAY

Contact: David Keller
248.218.2150 or dkeller@rc.edu

The Belle of Amherst will feature Cassandra Summers, a junior from Richmond, Mich., in a one-person portrayal of famed American poet Emily Dickinson. Tickets may be purchased from the department of music, theatre, and visual arts by contacting Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or jhughes1@rc.edu.

MAY 6-9, 2010
1960s REUNION



Contact: Ron Loshier
248.229.0732 or rrloshier@comcast.net

Alumni and college employees from 1959-1969 will gather in May at Montgomery Bell State Park near Nashville, Tenn., for a weekend of fellowship, activity, and singing. Under the direction of Fred Alexander and Paul Downey, all participants will record a set of traditional hymns.

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Book your personal and business travel through travelrc.com and find the same low rates on airlines, hotels, and rental cars offered by other travel websites. Every time you book, Rochester College will receive a generous portion of the commission. This is a great way to help the college while taking advantage of prime vacation deals and other travel services at no additional cost to you. Log on today—it's that simple!

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Confirmed!

After one year in interim role, Rubel Shelly officially takes office as eighth president of Rochester College



Speaking before a sellout crowd at the April Partnership Dinner, board chairman Jim Randolph announced the selection of Dr. Rubel Shelly as the eighth president of Rochester College. Dr. Shelly, who joined the religion department in 2005, had been serving as interim president since May of 2008.

“The board has both honored and frightened me by the confidence they have expressed in giving me this assignment,” Dr. Shelly stated. “I am committed to doing everything in my power to bring about what is best for the future of Rochester College.”

When the board received Dr. Michael Westerfield’s resignation in the spring of 2008, members realized a thorough presidential search process would require as much as one year. At the same time, they knew a strong leader would be needed immediately to help the college navigate through challenging financial times. On several occasions, board members approached Dr. Shelly about an interim position, but he consistently declined.

“Rubel finally said yes to one of the board members, pending a conversation with me,” Randolph recalled. “Rubel and I met for coffee. I was greeted by a man who had come to grips with what he was being called to do, not by someone who had been pushed into a corner by circumstances. He started the conversation by saying, ‘Myra and I have prayed about this all weekend and I’m much more at peace with it. Let’s talk about what needs to be done!’ He then agreed to serve as interim president for one year.”

In the year that followed, Dr. Shelly demonstrated his strong leadership abilities by completing the college’s most successful summer fund-raising campaign, streamlining college operations, and proposing a new academic

New student enrollment soars; numbers up 38% from previous year



Following a successful student recruiting season, Rochester College began its 51st year of service on September 1 with a bumper crop of new students. An air of excitement filled the campus as one of the largest groups of new students in the college's 50-year history enrolled for classes, representing a 38% increase over the previous fall semester.

"After a slow start to the recruiting season, we finished with the most paid applications ever at Rochester College," stated Scott Samuels, associate vice president of institutional advancement. From the applicant pool, the college enrolled 207 new students from fifteen states and four countries. On only four occasions in 50 years has the number of new students been higher.

"We worked hard to collaborate with both the student financial services office and the athletic department to streamline our efforts," noted Klint Pleasant, vice president of institutional advancement. "Those efforts contributed significantly to the success of this year."

Earlier in the summer, the business and financial aid offices moved to Muirhead Center and combined personnel to form the student financial services office. "Each student is now assigned a personal advisor who assists with financial aid applications, billing statements, and payment arrangements," stated Kara Miller, director of student

financial services. "We feel this change has improved our procedures and provided better customer service."

"A strengthened partnership between athletics and enrollment services gave momentum to the athletic recruiting process," stated Samuels. "The two departments worked together to coordinate campus visits, financial aid packaging, and student follow-up." The recruiting process for athletes was so successful it required the formation of two junior varsity teams to accommodate those desiring to play intercollegiate sports.

With the assistance of WorkSpace Web, a Dallas-based management company, the college launched a new web site in late July. The new site features updated information, improved graphics, and several features for prospective students. Approximately 80% of student applications are submitted through the college web site.

In an effort to increase the number of prospects interested in the college's degree-completion program, the institution launched a major advertising campaign in August. The Brumfield Group of Nashville, Tenn., developed a campaign featuring the theme "My Future. My Values. My Rochester College." The theme began appearing on billboards in strategic locations throughout the metropolitan Detroit area on August 3. The following week, five radio stations began airing advertisements featuring the same theme.

"The media campaign is laying important groundwork for future growth," stated Dr. Tracey Hebert, academic dean. "We needed this campaign to build the inquiry pool and reestablish the momentum the Center for Extended Learning enjoyed for several years."

"Due to limited funding for marketing efforts, we disappeared off the radar of most people," stated Dr. Rubel Shelly, president of the college, at an opening meeting for employees. "By sharing the Rochester College story through media and the web, we are back on the radar and expect to see significant results in coming years."

model for the college. Meanwhile, the presidential search committee continued to seek the next president since Dr. Shelly still was not interested in making a long-term commitment to the role.

"Most candidates we identified chose not to pursue the discussion, and by the time spring rolled around no one with the proper credentials had surfaced," Randolph stated. "We again encouraged Rubel to continue in his role. He was then confronted with a decision of whether to allow what he had accomplished to be set aside, or to find a way to continue and allow the college to flourish under his leadership. Several presidents from affiliated colleges also encouraged him to continue in his role."

"I did not know Rubel very well on a personal basis prior to his taking this job," Randolph continued. "Everyone I spoke to recognized him as a high energy, clear-thinking, honest, and relationship-based individual.

Rubel clearly has brought a high level of energy and credible leadership to his role. He has done an enormous job of pulling the faculty and staff together."

News of Dr. Shelly's appointment as president met favorable reactions on campus. During his year as interim president, both employees and students grew to appreciate his kind

spirit, strong leadership, and love for Rochester College.

"I am only one person who is a member of a much larger team," Dr. Shelly affirmed. "As a good team player, I want to do my part to make our joint effort successful. I have to expect everyone else on the team feels the same way since we are all in this together." •

“Everyone ... recognized him as a high energy, clear-thinking, honest, and relationship-based individual. Rubel clearly has brought a high level of energy and credible leadership to his role. He has done an enormous job of pulling the faculty and staff together.” –*Jim Randolph*



Student athletes benefit from campus improvements

Student athletes benefited from both team expansion and facility improvements as Rochester College opened for the fall semester. A record number of athletes enrolled for classes and immediately began preparing for another season of intercollegiate competition.

“So many students at Rochester College are athletes. We want to make sure we provide for them as best we can,” stated Klint Pleasant, who serves in a dual role as vice president for institutional advancement and athletic director. Pleasant recently assumed the role of athletic director after his father, Garth Pleasant, relinquished the position to assist with public relations efforts in the Rochester community.

Aggressive recruiting efforts for the fall semester resulted in the exceptional number of student athletes. In order to provide those students



opportunities to participate in intercollegiate competition, the college recently added junior varsity teams in both men's baseball and women's basketball.

"Our fall roster includes a record number of 48 players between the varsity and junior varsity squads," stated head baseball coach Jordan Ackerman. "We had players travel from such states as California, Florida, New Jersey, Nebraska, and New Mexico to play baseball for Rochester College. With the help of recent graduates Matt and Mark Albertson, we were able to bring in quality young men who not only can play baseball, but more importantly exhibit top notch character."

"We have 15 freshmen who are new to our program," commented Joel Schroeder, head coach of the women's basketball program. "We have 18 games scheduled with other junior varsity teams and junior colleges, so the additional squad will provide a great place for developing our young players in real competition."

Since 1963, the college's intercollegiate teams have practiced in a small gymnasium on the north side of Lake Norcentra and played scheduled games in local athletic centers. Despite modest facilities, Rochester College teams have excelled and won several national championships. While waiting for funding of a new Health and Life Science Center, the athletic staff recently identified the crucial need for a new floor in the present gymnasium.

"Over the years, we have replaced sections of the floor as they warped from moisture, but much of the surface dates back to 1963," stated Garth Pleasant, who still serves as head men's basketball coach. "The original flooring, which was glued directly to a concrete surface, is no longer produced and has always been hard on the legs of our athletes."

Late in the summer, workers began a month-long process of removing the original flooring and replacing it with an entirely new surface. "The new floor has multiple layers of wood and rubber, providing a 'bounce' for running," Pleasant continued. "I don't expect as many shin splints this season!"

"We are excited about the improvements in our athletic program," noted Klint Pleasant. "We are also grateful for the sacrifices in time and energy the athletes make as they compete and represent Rochester College."

Currently, the college offers intercollegiate basketball, baseball, soccer, and golf for men. Women's teams compete in basketball, volleyball, softball, soccer, and golf. Information about the teams and their progress can be tracked at www.rc.edu/athletics. •

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS



College pursues membership in NAIA

Competition expected to begin with 2010-2011 season

Since 1961, the Rochester College Warriors have participated in intercollegiate competition. The college has held membership in an athletic association for most of its history, first as a charter member of the Michigan Christian College Athletic Association and most recently as a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA).

"We have competed and been very successful in the USCAA for several decades," stated Klint Pleasant, athletic director. "However, we have now decided to formally apply for membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)."

"For years we have competed against institutions with much larger enrollments and better facilities, but have continued to excel and win championships," Pleasant noted. "Membership in the NAIA would provide our student athletes an opportunity to compete in nationally recognized conferences and to participate in a widely recognized national championship."

Rochester College already competes on a regular basis with both NAIA and NCAA institutions. College teams often interface with opponents from the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference of the NAIA, and have developed rivalries with some of those teams. NAIA membership would solidify those relationships and enable conference competition at the regional level.

"Membership in the NAIA would give us more visibility," stated Garth Pleasant, head men's basketball coach. "When we recruit players and tell them we are a member of the USCAA, they often do not know anything about our athletic association."

"The USCAA is an outstanding organization that is on the rise and has served us well over the years," Pleasant continued. "I favor dual membership, which is a common practice among many colleges and universities." As athletic director emeritus, Coach Pleasant would continue to serve as the college liaison with the USCAA after NAIA membership is achieved.

On October 8, the athletic department hosted "An Evening with Don Meyer" to raise funds for the NAIA application process. Don Meyer, head coach of Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., and former head coach of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., holds the record as the basketball coach with the largest number of wins in NCAA history.

The college will submit a formal application for admission into the NAIA in January 2010. Within two months, an NAIA committee will visit the campus. The NAIA Committee of Presidents will act upon the application in April. If approved, the college will receive probationary status for the 2010-11 academic year, and full membership in the NAIA the following year.



“Rochester College is uniquely positioned to implement this approach ... the entire institution will become known as a single, focused community of integrated learning.” –*John Barton*

Integrated learning model adopted

Last fall, an institution affiliated with Rochester College announced plans to close its doors at the end of the academic year. The institution cited its inability “to identify an academic operating model that is compelling and sustainable” among the reasons for its closing. That experience captured the attention of Rochester College officials.

Facing a variety of challenges similar to many educational institutions across the nation, Rochester College administrators decided to respond proactively and pursue the development of an academic model that would carry the institution into the future. In January 2009, the board and employees received a proposal outlining plans for the fall semester.

“After considerable thought and discussion, we decided to reframe and formalize the college’s institutional identity as a ‘Christian Integrated Learning Community,’” stated Dr. John Barton, vice president for academic affairs. “The integrated learning approach seeks to build the entire educational experience around the simple idea that learning happens most effectively when it takes place in intentional communities, when it is holistic in its focus, and when it is interdisciplinary in its delivery.”

“While the language of integrated learning has not been used previously on our campus, this approach to education is what Rochester College has offered for 50 years,” Dr. Barton continued. “Implementation of the integrated learning model has moved the institution closer to its stated mission by increasing academic quality and improving our Christian residential atmosphere. Furthermore, it has nurtured a more efficient and focused use of the college’s resources.”

In the process of outlining plans for the integrated learning model, administrators identified the college’s primary strengths. Those strengths included small size and close-knit community, Christian identity and atmosphere, quality faculty and staff, and geographic location. They decided to build upon each of those qualities through the integrated learning model and to use them to develop a stronger brand identity for the institution.

“Rochester College is uniquely positioned to implement this approach on a level not possible at bigger institutions,” Dr. Barton noted. “The college’s Christian commitment provides unique focus and motivation for the approach. The entire institution will become known as a single, focused community of integrated learning.”

In order to successfully implement the new integrated learning model, administrators announced all future strategic decisions would be governed by a set of basic institutional goals: 1) to reframe the entire campus culture and academic curriculum around the idea of a holistic, integrated, interdisciplinary approach to education and spiritual formation; 2) to revitalize residential life by offering a different kind of residential experience; 3) to improve academic quality, organizational efficiency, budgetary integrity, and enrollment; and 4) to attract and retain top quality students, faculty, and staff.

“By formalizing this approach, we will protect and enhance our mission for the next half century,” Dr. Barton stated. “It will allow Rochester College to not only offer a college education of the highest quality, but also to nurture future generations of Christian leaders.” •

Campus enhancements support new learning model

Following a January 2009 unveiling of Rochester College's integrated learning model, committees of faculty and students began planning for fall implementation of the new initiative. Those committees and maintenance personnel worked throughout the summer to improve learning facilities, academic programs, and support services. "We have been extremely pleased with student response to the new model," stated Debi Rutledge, director of integrated learning. "Beginning last spring with the residence life staff, we asked students to help us develop ideas for the residential portion of the model. They embraced the project with a great deal of enthusiasm and creativity, and have taken ownership in helping develop the program. At every step of this journey, we have encountered a similar response."

Enhancements supporting the integrated model include opening of the CHILL (Community Hub of Integrated Living and Learning), establishment of freshman cohorts, development of residential study rooms and an athletic study lounge, formation of linked classes, and the launching of ARISE, a multifaceted program of integrated learning for residential students.

Designed as a focal point for the new model, the CHILL opened at the beginning of the fall semester in space formerly occupied by the college bookstore. With special assistance from Myra Shelly, wife of the college president, committee members transformed the area into a trendy coffee shop atmosphere with tables, bookcases, and brightly covered couches and chairs. Mrs. Shelly also redecorated the nearby Gold Conference Room to better facilitate lunch and dinner meetings, seminars, and discussion-based courses.

Centrally located near the auditorium, cafe, and cafeteria, the CHILL provides an atmosphere designed to nur-

ture the integrated learning culture through student and faculty interaction, individual and collaborative study, and special programming. The ACE Lab, which provides individual peer tutoring and supplemental instruction, moved into the adjoining room.

"I like how learning at Rochester College now extends from the teaching halls to the residence halls," stated Ben Nelson, a senior from Waterford, Mich. "We have new opportunities to adjoin multiple aspects of our college experience rather than compartmentalize each one. The CHILL is one such avenue by which we can combine an atmosphere of study with dialogue and discussion."

Throughout the summer, academic advisors helped place new students in freshman cohorts. "The cohorts help create a sense of belonging, shared experiences, and collaborative learning among our freshmen students," noted Debi Rutledge. Consisting of 10-15 students each, the cohorts allow members to share many of the same courses together during their first two semesters.

Cassie Summers, a junior from Richmond, Mich., and Ben Nelson focused their efforts on the development of residential study rooms for late-hour tutoring and study. "The rooms provide a tangible connection between residential life and academic success," Summers explained. "Ben and I are planning to partner with teachers to target specific class needs and to provide supplemental instruction in relevant ways."

Late in the summer, the athletic department decided to partner with the ACE Lab to establish an athletic study lounge in the lower level of Gatewood Hall. "With the growing number of students on campus, we felt such an addition would be a huge help to the ACE Lab and our student athletes," stated assistant athletic director Clayton Bissett. Supervised by assistant basketball coach Brian Thrift, the new area provides additional space for athletes to study in collaboration with tutors, teammates, and coaches.

Establishing models for an integrated curriculum, several faculty members joined efforts during the spring and summer months to introduce linked classes. Instructors linked such courses as Cross Cultural Communication, International Business, and Pluralism in Literature. Others linked less obvious combinations like Introduction to Preaching and Theories in Coaching.

"This approach links a few appropriate courses together, encouraging students to see their education as a holistic experience rather than a patchwork of unrelated classes," explained assistant dean Debi Hoggatt. "Instructors find a common thread in their courses, develop a few mutual assignments, and schedule one or two class meetings together

“Centrally located near the auditorium, cafe, and cafeteria, the CHILL provides an atmosphere designed to nurture the integrated learning culture through student and faculty interaction, individual and collaborative study, and special programming.”



Freshman LaToya Fowler catches up on her studies in the CHILL.

Exciting expansions made to health science programming

“Health care is forecasted to remain a large source of job growth in the labor market,” claimed authors of a July 2009 report submitted by the President’s Council of Economic Advisors. The report, entitled “Preparing the Workers of Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow,” also stressed the growing importance of higher education.

In keeping with national trends, Rochester College continues to expand its options for those interested in health care professions. Adding to an existing pre-med concentration, the faculty recently approved a Bachelor of Science major in health science and a new pre-physician assistant concentration. The first phase of a nursing program will begin in January 2010.

“Our department believes the preparation of students interested in pursuing health care professions fits the mission of the college beautifully,” stated Dr. David Brackney, chair of the science and mathematics department. “Whether serving as nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physical therapists, or physician assistants, our alumni will be able to carry out the mission of the college in extremely tangible ways through lives of study and service.”

Within the new health science major, students may choose a track in either pre-pharmacy or pre-physical therapy. Both programs provide excellent preparation for those planning to enter professional schools. The Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy recently finalized an agreement providing preferential admission for Rochester College graduates who possess equal qualifications to applicants from other institutions.

Similar to the pre-med concentration, the pre-physician assistant program provides not only the necessary science background required by most professional schools, but also the strong liberal arts foundation preferred by such institutions. “Both programs are flexible enough to be tweaked to match specific requirements of any given professional school,” Dr. Brackney commented.

As the first step toward implementation of a full bachelor’s degree in nursing, Rochester College will begin offering a degree completion program for registered nurses in January 2010. Funded primarily by a grant from Crittenton Hospital, the RN to BSN program will be taught largely online. Crittenton Hospital also will host an administrative/management component of the program at their Rochester facility. A \$188,000 federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services will enable the college to equip a nursing simulation lab on the campus before the first cohort completes its studies.

“Even in this troubled economy, there is a high and increasing demand for well-trained nurses,” stated Dr. Brian Stogner, director of the Health and Behavioral Sciences Institute. “Developing a high-quality BSN program with an emphasis on spiritual values and holistic care can position Rochester College to meet this demand in a unique and important way.”

to discuss subjects relevant to each discipline.”

Rounding out the major integrated learning initiatives introduced during the fall semester, Debi Rutledge led the residential life staff in the development of ARISE (A Residential Integrated Student Experience). The fall semester version of the program, described in greater detail on pages 14-15, offers four tracks that enable further interaction and learning among the college community.

“I am so glad I have been able to help plan and can now participate in the first year of the integrated learning model,” noted Lydia Johnston, a senior from Wheaton, Ill. “I believe the integrated learning classes and ARISE program will be very engaging for the entire student body.” •

Mass Comm major added to Macomb Center roster

Responding to requests from the Macomb Community College media and communication arts department, Rochester College introduced a mass communication major at the Macomb University Center this fall. Rochester College began offering bachelor's degree programs at the center in 1999, and currently offers five on-site majors.

"We are thrilled with our new cooperative agreement with Macomb Community College," stated Lora Hutson, chair of the mass communication department at Rochester College. "This special partnership will help students expand their understanding of mass communication while developing the essential skills needed to succeed and advance within the media industry."

Before entering the Rochester College program, students will obtain an associate degree from Macomb Community College with majors such as art for advertising, digital design and layout, photographic techniques, web page design, and digital video production. They will then enter the Rochester College program with up to 50 hours of college credit.

"With us, students will explore theory and scholarship in media, media's impact on society, strategies for using new media, writing for the media, and ethical decision-making," Hutson explained. "We're striving to train students in the technical skills of this industry while helping them become critical thinkers, ethical decision makers, and skilled media practitioners."

In addition to the new major at the Macomb Center, Rochester College offers the mass communication major both in the traditional program on campus and at the Specs Howard School of Broadcast Arts in Southfield, Mich. In cooperation with Specs Howard, Rochester College offers mass communication tracks in broadcasting, graphic design, and public relations.

Learning model benefits residential population



Students attending an ARISE Wellness Seminar are treated to a pasta toss while discussing diet and nutrition in the Fletcher Center cafeteria.

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uring the early 2000s, Rochester College experienced phenomenal enrollment growth but began noting a decrease in the percentage of students living on campus. Over the past two years, rising costs and the effects of economic recession further fueled that trend. Since the residential experience has always served as the bedrock of the college's Christian community, major components of the integrated learning model were designed to reverse the trend.

"While we do have valuable mission-oriented components that are not residential, such as our commuter population and satellite programs, it is around the residential base that those components revolve and thrive," stated Dr. John Barton, vice president for academic affairs. "If Rochester College were to lose the strength of its residential base, it would lose something central to its mission."

As a first step in rebuilding the residential base, college officials outlined in the January 2009 integrated learning proposal a plan to decrease fees for room and board. That strategy contributed to a 30% increase in the boarding student population for the fall semester and the reopening of Barbier Hall, which had been closed for the past two years.

In order to enhance the residential experience on a long-term basis, designers of the integrated learning model developed ARISE (A Residential Integrated Student Experience). The voluntary, semester-by-semester program provides additional educational experiences outside the classroom and further interaction between faculty, staff, and residential students.

Each semester, students may choose one of several tracks within the ARISE program. Each track is designed to provide an integrative experience involving mind, body, and spirit. Students who successfully complete a track receive one free semester-hour of elective credit. Students must maintain a 2.50 grade average to participate in the program

and can earn up to eight ARISE credits during their college career.

“It seems there is quite a growing buzz about the ARISE program,” stated Debi Rutledge, director of integrated learning, in a September 4 memo to college employees. One week after the memo, students visited the CHILL to sign up for one of four tracks scheduled for the fall semester: arts and culture, mentoring, service learning, and wellness.

Hosted by Dr. David Keller, professor of interdisciplinary studies, the arts and culture track will allow participants to attend events and visit venues of cultural, historical, and aesthetic interest both on campus and in the metropolitan Detroit area. Students will attend six activities, participate in follow-up discussions, maintain a response journal, and write a final summary paper detailing their personal and academic growth.

The mentoring track, sponsored by Adam Hill, assistant professor of religion, will provide students with opportunities to interact relationally with individuals or small groups outside their current life stage. Students will participate in a minimum of two weekly or biweekly mentoring groups, one as a mentee and the other as a mentor, and they will complete a summary paper reflecting on their personal growth from the experiences.

In the service learning track, students will complete a minimum of 30 hours of service with an approved provider. Led by Brian Cole, dean of students, participants will choose from such options as working with the homeless, volunteering in a local retirement community, tutoring children, and serving at local food and clothing distribution centers. The experience will include journaling, group discussions, and a final summary paper.

The wellness track, organized by David Hutson, assistant professor of sports management, will help participants make responsible choices promoting emotional, physical, social, and spiritual well-being. Students will join accountability groups designed to uphold commitments to exercise and healthy diet, attend seminars focusing on wellness topics, participate in either a walking or running club, and complete a final summary paper.

“I think a lot of the students were doing these kinds of things already,” stated graduate student Wayne Beason as he reflected upon the integrated learning model. “They were going to coffee shops to study in groups, working out together, going to museums, serving their communities, and participating in mentoring groups. The great thing about these new programs is the way they formalize and empower the best parts of being a college student.” •

“ [Students] were going to coffee shops to study in groups, working out together, going to museums, serving their communities, and participating in mentoring groups. The great thing about these new programs is the way they formalize and empower the best parts of being a college student.” –Wayne Beason

New master's degree launched

“Congregations and their leaders do everything they know to do with greater skill, but with diminishing impact,” stated Dr. Mark Love, director of the new Rochester College master's degree program in missional leadership. “The world has changed and congregations are awakening to the fact that we are in a missionary engagement with our own culture.”

Based upon the challenges of reaching today's world, the college has developed an innovative degree program focusing upon leadership preparation. “The degree assumes the primary classroom for ministry is the congregation and its context,” noted Dr. Love. “You can't prepare for ministry on this new frontier apart from an immersion in a congregation. Congregations will benefit from a two-year period of coaching and consulting from some of the leaders in the area of missional church.”

“Our cultural situation demands we find wisdom not only from professors, but from our peers and other practitioners,” Dr. Love continued. “We are designing a learning experience that takes full advantage of the new ways people collaborate online.”

Students will work toward completion of the degree over a two-year period within a cohort of 15 students. Each will complete eight of 12 required courses online and spend two weeks per year in face-to-face learning on the campus. Courses will be taught by Rochester College professors and guest instructors. Leading thinkers from missional church movements will provide further resources.

The first cohort began its program on campus with an August retreat entitled “The Life of the Missional Leader.” The retreat focused on the spiritual life of the leader, community building among cohort members, and an orientation to the degree. At the conclusion of the retreat, students engaged in one week of face-to-face classroom time with professors.

Dr. Mark Love joined the Rochester College faculty this summer. For 17 years, he served as a full-time minister for congregations in Texas and Oregon, and from 2001 through 2007 taught in the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University. He holds a doctorate of ministry from ACU and currently is completing a Ph.D. in congregational mission and leadership from Luther Seminary.

“It's great to know what you want to do when you grow up, and approaching my 50th birthday, I can say that I know,” stated Dr. Love. “Even greater is finding a place like Rochester College willing to design a degree not only with missional content, but missional instincts with regard to degree delivery. I have discovered enthusiastic colleagues and visionary leaders intent on supporting congregations and their leaders.”

New cohorts in the missional leadership program will form each semester. The next term begins in January 2010. For more information about the program, contact Dr. Mark Love at missional@rc.edu or check the missional leadership blog at <http://rcmlrc.ning.com>.

Volunteers restore historic room for campus store



h

elping bring the college's 50th anniversary celebration to an appropriate conclusion, volunteers completely restored one of the main rooms of Gallaher Center during the summer months. Formerly the estate house of advertising executive Lou Maxon, Gallaher Center has served as a campus focal point since the institution's founding in 1959.

"In the early years, we had so many activities in this room," commented Joanne Shinsky, wife of the college's first coach, as she first entered the restored room in early August. With tears in her eyes, she stated, "There are so many good memories in this building."

The beautifully restored room now serves as home for the campus store. Administrators began looking for a new store location last winter after identifying the space previously occupied by the bookstore as the best location for the CHILL, the proposed hub for the college's new integrated learning model.

Based upon the limited amount of available campus space, college officials decided to reshape the bookstore operation. Over the spring months, the store partnered with MBS Textbook Exchange to provide all textbooks online and with 21st Century Christian to service its church customers. The new campus store then only needed adequate space to sell imprinted sportswear and other specialty items bearing the college name.

Late in the spring, administrators decided to combine business office and financial aid operations into a student financial services office. The newly formed office relo-

“Bringing a central piece of Rochester College’s history back to life emerged as an exciting concept ... [and] it places Gallaher Center back into the flow of daily campus life.” —Rubel Shelly



Volunteer Ron Loshier ('62) reseals wood in a room adjoining the store that once served as the estate house kitchen.

cated to Muirhead Center, leaving behind a Gallaher Center location the business office had occupied for nearly 40 years. Originally two large rooms in the estate house, the space had been subdivided into six smaller offices and two hallways for many years. The potential of reopening the space offered a unique opportunity for the college to restore a feature of the original estate while providing a beautiful location for the campus store. Everyone liked the concept.

“Bringing a central piece of Rochester College’s history back to life emerged as an exciting concept,” stated Rubel Shelly, president of the college. “But we did not consider the refurbishing as memorial or reverie. It places Gallaher Center back into the flow of daily campus life.”

Since maintenance personnel already had a full schedule of summer projects, Larry Stewart, the campus store manager and director of alumni relations, immediately began seeking volunteers to help with the project. “We first contacted Rob Clarke, an architect and member of the class of 1982, who helped the Alumni Association renovate the music center during the summer of 1992,” stated Stewart. “Rob not only knows how to plan and design beautiful buildings, but always is willing to assist with the physical labor as well.”

John Harvey, also a member of the class of 1982, volunteered to provide electrical services. Terry Callahan, husband of admissions administrative assistant Eva Callahan, offered to share his electrical and carpentry skills. Lyle Clarke, Rob Clarke’s father, agreed to rebuild intricate grills for the

ventilation system. Ron Loshier, class of 1962, and Lynne (Yoakum) Stewart, class of 1974, joined the other volunteers to form a nucleus of people who eventually accomplished most of the work. Before the project ended, 22 individuals donated nearly 500 hours of labor to the project.

As students arrived on campus for the fall semester, they quickly began discovering several facility changes. Many visited the store and within a short period of time returned to show their friends the new surroundings. “I love the look of the new campus store,” stated Randee Rowell, a sophomore from Sparta, Wis. “The new store has a lot of character and is very inviting. It makes me want to buy all of the new RC apparel.”

“The time taken to refurbish the new location was well worth it and brought back some of the original beauty the building has to offer,” noted Shane Stinnett, a senior from Mattawan, Mich. “What a fitting time to do such a thing after Rochester College’s 50th year celebration.”

“Larry Stewart has done an amazing job of pulling together volunteers and coordinating the key moves in this project. I can’t say enough in praise of his efforts,” noted Dr. Shelly. “But I think his reward is coming in the reactions on the faces of people who walk in—especially people who remember Gallaher Center from its glory days.”

Alumni and friends of the college are encouraged to visit the new campus store in historic Gallaher Center. The store is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. •

Memorial Gifts

January 14-September 10, 2009

Charles W. Akers
Bob & Jennie Cross

Claudette Alexander
John & Carole Whitwell

Everette & Nan Alexander
Jim & Barbara Ingram

Larry Barton
Pam Barton

Kathleen Brackney
Mark & Christine Brackney

E. R. Bruce
Leccia Penrod

Donald & Marie Carter
Don Carter

Norman Christman
Marge Christman

Roy & Corinne Ezzell
Lee Miller

Juanita Frey
Kevin & Janet Thie

Jefferson Eugene Fussell
Karen Fussell

Ronald D. Gebhardt
Ann Fellows
Marina Gutmakker
Muriel Hucul
Mr. Mehrdad Ketabcki & Mrs. Roya Roosta
Dennis & Doris Lamers
Dan & Pat Lane

George & Carolyn Gregg
Richard & Karen Fruzia

Jackie Stowe Hannah
Tom & Carol Thompson

Katherine Harshman
Jonathan & Lisa Harshman
Lessie Lee
Ralph & Wilma McQueen
Dale & Joan Monday
Marge Stone

Leo Hebert
Paula Bonbrisco
Donna Mosley
Joe & Sarah Reddick

Gloria Howell
Ronald & Teresa Johnson

Doris Huey
Joe & Sarah Reddick

Doris Jackson
Joe & Sarah Reddick
Cathy Ries

James H. Keller, Sr.
Ray Brashaw
Dorothy Butler
Paulette Carter
Chris DeBoer
Annette Donn
Deborah Garnett
Jan Kuirsky
Linda O’Keefe
Jill Tapani
Peggy Tiemann
Renee Vangilder

Sandra Kerns
Karen Fussell

David “KP” Kirkpatrick
Doug & Janet Edwards

Renfro Lloyd
Joe & Sarah Reddick

Mildred MacAdam
Joe & Sarah Reddick

Loree Utley McCauley
Julie Savard

Joseph McCoin
Gateway Church of Christ

Prentice Meador
Robert & Gail Hargrove

Andy Miller
Lee Miller

Pauline Montgomery
Lee Miller

Theodore F. Oelkers
Bob & Jennie Cross

Micah Rine Pate
Zearl & Betty Watson

Clyde Phipps
Brian & Tamara Phipps

Annette Riley
Joan Rogin

Cheryl Riley
Joan Rogin

A Cappella Chorus celebrates

50 great years



Top to bottom: Former director Fritz Petrich (1973-1976) leads the chorus in "Sing Unto the Lord"; Women spanning decades of choral participation join their voices together; Former director "Fessor Fred" (Fred Alexander, 1959-1964) congratulates Ed Ritchie (1968-1973) as the audience recognizes the former directors.

"I have never seen such a large group of people so happy to be together," stated Cyndi (Franklin) Cini, a 1973 graduate from Gwinn, Mich. "There was joy in the air so thick you could almost hold it in your hands. This was a once-in-a-lifetime gathering and I will always be glad I didn't miss it."

Hundreds of alumni and friends of the college shared Cyndi's sentiments as they experienced the 50th Anniversary A Cappella Chorus Reunion and Concert on April 24-25, 2009. Over one-fourth of the individuals who performed with the chorus over the past 50 years participated in the event. Former students representing each of the 50 classes traveled from 25 states and Canada to renew acquaintances and to sing with the college's oldest student organization once again.

Planning for the weekend began almost a year in advance. After former chorus directors Fred Alexander, Paul Downey, Ed Ritchie, Fritz Petrich, and Randy Gill each committed to joining current director Joe Bentley for the event, planners announced the reunion with a postcard to former chorus members. Names from around the nation quickly began appearing on a "who's coming" list posted on the college's web site.

Anticipation grew as the months passed until the long-awaited arrival of Friday, April 24. Crowds of alumni and friends packed the Utey-McCauley Student Center and hallways outside the Richardson Center Theatre as participants renewed friendships. "Many of us never would have crossed paths again had it not been for this event," noted David Matthews, a member of the class of 1973 who traveled from Jonesboro, Ark., for the weekend.

Later in the evening, participants gathered in the theatre for a devotional led by representatives of each decade. Wayne Baker ('62, Wetumpka, Ala.), Dean Smith ('72, Austin, Texas), Jim Calkin ('87, Canton, Mich.), Steven Bruce ('98, Robinson, Ill.), and Brett Cummins ('04, Redford, Mich.) led favorite song selections from their time at the college. John Smith, a member of the 1962 class from Coweta, Okla., shared personal reflections with an enthusiastic audience.

"What a glorious and uplifting time," stated Dean Moore, a 1962 graduate from Leesburg, Fla., as he recalled the Friday evening devotional. "I admit to being deeply moved by the experience. I could have packed up the truck and headed back to Florida right then, and the thousand-plus-mile drive from home would have been well worth it."

Prior to the reunion, each director selected a favorite piece of music from his time period for the anniversary chorus to rehearse and perform. Participants were mailed music packets and recordings to enable preparation for the concert. Several former chorus members admitted a fear the music might be too difficult for a one-day rehearsal. That fear vanished quickly, however, as talented directors and singers filled the rehearsal hall with amazing harmony in typical Rochester College fashion.

On Saturday evening, guests packed the auditorium of the Rochester Church of Christ for the final concert. After a performance by the current A Cappella Chorus and presentations honoring the directors, a sea of former chorus members filled the front of the auditorium as the reunion chorus prepared for an incredible concert. Former director Ed Ritchie from Murfreesboro, Tenn., commented, "I am certain that everyone who participated, whether directors, singers, or audience, was profoundly touched and moved." Several individuals extended the joy of the weekend by planning Sunday gatherings at homes and restaurants.

Ann (Jones) Varner, a 1977 graduate from Abilene, Texas, described the 50th Anniversary Chorus Reunion and Concert as an "incredible weekend." Wellington, Ohio, resident and 1989 graduate Ady (Hutchins) Mascari referred to the weekend as "one of the most amazing experiences in (her) life." Dean Moore wrote an email message to his classmates soon after the event stating, "Friends are a gift from God and deserve to be treasured. Each one of you is special to me—now, more than ever." An unforgettable weekend confirmed the importance of the memories and relationships formed at Rochester College. •



Leonard Selke

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Harold Slater

Frances Anderson
 Cecilia Augustyn
 Lorett Bresette
 Greater Lansing Church of Christ
 Howard & Joan Hagerman
 Fannie Johnson
 Dolores Markowski
 Joan Maszatics
 Lorene McDonald
 Rick & Carol Passage
 Andrew & Alis Poladian
 Art & Marge Pope
 Douglas & Edna Pridemore
 Cathy Ries
 Helen Slater
 Jerry & Janet Tarrant
 Gary & Barbara Williams
 Tom & Catherine Winek

Jamie Carole Stowe

Patricia Jacobs

Ross William Trinklein

Doug & Ann Doyle
 Corby Merriman

J. P. Tucker

Lavon Tucker

Robert Turner

Joe & Sarah Reddick
 Joseph & Audrey Venus

Almerry Wash

Louis & Gealene Bacon
 Mike & Sandra Booth & Family
 Robert & Barbara Content
 Howard & Joan Hagerman
 Heritage Church of Christ
 Alice Jones
 Mark & Connie Reavis & Family
 Mike & Lisa Reavis & Family
 Tony & Valerie Reis
 Bob & Dorothy Swift
 Jerry & Janet Tarrant
 Don & Elaine Yuvan

Bruce Willis

Mary Anzick
 James & Jackie Bodine
 Evelyn Bonner
 Gladys Castle
 Derek & Carla Colbert
 Lloyd, Vera, & Karen Crutchfield
 Earl & Jackie Davis
 Chuck & Diana Devereaux
 Dennis & Linda Finley
 Rick & Kay Gallagher
 Dave & Linda Goddard
 Karolotta Heath
 David, Karon, Janet, & Philip Hunt
 Tim & Susan Johnson
 Dale & Maxine Keene
 Lapeer Regional Medical Center
 Arlene Loviska
 Craig & Jill Loviska
 Chuck & Jeanette McCoy
 Terry & Lynette Parker
 Tracy & Nancy Putman
 Terry & Carol Rardin
 Gregory & Mary Raterman
 St. Mary's Medical Center Laboratory
 Orene Starnes
 Joe & Glenda Stevenson
 Larry & Lynne Stewart
 Bill & Jill Thomason
 Jeff & Crista Thompson
 Paul & Nina Van Gilder
 Barbara Weatherhead

Robert Yoakum

Sarah Yoakum

Honor Gifts

January 14-September 10, 2009

Virginia Ebeling

Emily Clement

Milton & Evelyn Fletcher

John & June Estes

B. E. Fussell

Karen Fussell

Kenneth Webster Fussell

Karen Fussell

Duane M. Harrison

Jeff & Pattie Simmons

Larry Stewart

Ron Loshier

Louise Tarrant

Jerry & Janet Tarrant





Sue (left) is pictured at the reunion with her good friend and former classmate Sylvia Eisenmann.

A Reunion Experience

Following the 50th Anniversary A Cappella Chorus Reunion and Concert, Sue (Gentry) Wasson of Kingman, Ariz., shared her reunion experience with classmates in a moving testimonial. The piece, reproduced in part in the paragraphs below, speaks volumes about the value of reunion events.

A native of Royal Oak, Mich., Sue graduated from Michigan Christian Junior College in 1962. She then attended Abilene Christian College, where she obtained a teaching degree and met her future husband, David Wasson. The Wassons were blessed with four children, so Sue decided to leave the teaching profession to stay at home with her children. David passed away in 2004. Sue is now actively engaged in the planning process for a reunion next summer. Enjoy her touching words!

As I recall, it was early in 2008 when I started getting announcements about the big 50-year reunion. I read them with interest but knew I couldn't handle such a package without my beloved David at my side. Then I wondered why I even had to concern myself with it, since I'd never gone to a reunion, either high school, MCC, or Abilene Christian.

Sylvia Eisenmann [one of Sue's classmates] and her husband, Don, visited me for a few days a year ago last April; first time we'd seen each other for many, many years. Before they left, Don suggested I fly to meet Sylvia in April of 2009 so the two of us could make the road trip to Michigan for the reunion. I made no promises. I just wasn't sure I was strong enough to face all that would be involved in such a decision.

I prayed much about the venture and asked our four children to pray with me. I felt so fragile. As I prayed, I was convinced something very important, something of great magnitude was going to take place. How could I miss out?

I reserved my flights in January. I was committed even with fears still lingering, the same kind of fears some of you had. Will I be a misfit now? Will anyone recognize me, or worse yet will I not recognize my best friends? I won't recognize the campus. How could I describe David to everyone who asked without making him sound like an impossible dream?

The days passed, slowly at first and then faster. I found myself putting aside things for the trip and scanning my old yearbooks, won-

dering if my teeth had yellowed over the years and checking to see how many wrinkles I'd accumulated since I was 18.

Early on the 21st of April, I headed to Las Vegas to catch my flight to Madison, Wis., where Sylvia would meet me. It would be a comfort to be with her again, and I wouldn't have to arrive on campus alone. Her welcome greeting at the airport put me at ease.

On Thursday we headed for Michigan for what proved to be a 10-hour trip. By this time, I'd already gone through three time zones and was droopy by the time we reached Joanne Shinsky's house [wife of the college's first coach], where we were to reside. Joanne was so gracious. Right away I relaxed. Little did I know how much Sylvia and I needed the safety, the joy, and godliness of her home.

When Sylvia and I drove onto the campus the next morning, my knees felt mushy as emotions filled every cavity. I told Sylvia I couldn't see anyone for a while. Could we just drive around and walk down by the old buildings and the lakes? For an hour and a half we did just that, taking pictures, reminiscing, laughing, being quiet. Finally, we headed toward the crowds to formally register. While there we saw Betty (Work) Watson [a classmate] who, believe it or not, recognized me. Our visit was fun, encouraging.

By the time we got back "home," Joanne was preparing our salad dinner. Yum. The table was set for four. Why? Sylvia and I were soon to find out when Fessor Fred [Fred Alexander, the college's first chorus director] walked in the door. Could it be? I teared up just think-

1969

ETHELENE (BRUCE) WHITE earned her master's degree in historical theology from the Harding Graduate School of Religion in May 2009. An abbreviated version of her final project, "Jane Campbell McKeever: Her Life and Beliefs with Selected Comparison to Her Brother Alexander Campbell," was awarded first place in the graduate division competition at the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference in April, as well as the Isaac Errett Award for excellence in scholarship from the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Ethelene is married to Roy White. She has two stepchildren and two granddaughters. She volunteers with local charitable and civic organizations, and is a missions ministry leader and a ladies class and VBS teacher for the Exchange Street Church of Christ. She lives in Union City, Tenn., and can be reached at royandeb@yahoo.com.

1983

CHAD AND LESLY (HOGGATT) BROCK recently relocated to Winter Haven, Fla. Chad is preaching for the Central Church of Christ in Winter Haven. He can be contacted at cbrock28@tampabay.rr.com.

1984

KELLY MOORE of Valparaiso, Ind., was recently recognized by the United Way of Porter County for 25 years of exemplary service and as Professional Staff Member of the Year. In her post as executive vice president, she serves as the organization's chief financial officer. Financial auditors have cited an operations handbook created by Kelly as a record keeping and operations model for other not-for-profit organizations.

1987

Now serving in his eighteenth year as a member of the Rochester College science faculty, **DAVID BRACKNEY** completed his doctoral degree at Wayne State University last December. David and his wife, **ALISA (WILSON, '86) BRACKNEY**, have four daughters, Katelyn, Leneigh, Hannah, and Grace. The family resides in Attica, Mich. David's email address is dbrackney@rc.edu.

1996

BRAD IRWIN married Tracy Smith on October 3, 2008. Brad is the director of partnerships for Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, and Tracy is director of exhibitions and programs at the Detroit Historical Society. The couple lives in Hazel Park, Mich. Brad can be contacted at btirwin75@gmail.com. ▶

ing about how much the Lord was giving me. We laughed, talked, hugged, and had photo sessions. Again I thought how amazingly good the Lord was being to me. And this reunion was just beginning.

We all headed over to the evening "get reacquainted time" and for worship. How do I describe the bit of heaven that opened up that evening as we filled the room with 300 a cappella voices? Then John Smith [a classmate] bared his heart to us. I didn't want the evening to come to a close. It wasn't really the people whom I was reticent to leave; it was the presence of the Lord that accompanied us.

Saturday was filled with singing and eating and a wonderful visit with Miss Ida [Ida Palmer, wife of the college's first dean and second president]. I was the first one of our group to walk into the hospital room. She hadn't seen me since 1962, and what she said floored me. "It's so good to see you, Sue. Thank you for the letter."

The evening brought the grand finale. We sang the "Alma Mater" and then Fessor came forward to direct "Alleluia." After his words of

introduction, I wasn't sure I could even sing. Would anyone notice if I cried instead? As Fessor faced us and I watched him compose himself, I breathed deeply and joined in the worship, reliving the "early years" when Fessor was at the helm daily.

More hugs, laughs, and photo shots filled the waning hours before we all gave up and the lights were turned out. Tomorrow we'd gather in various places in the Rochester area for more worship time. Sylvia and I drove to the Heritage Church of Christ

to hear John Smith speak again. Several others from our class were also there to support John. The singing was great. I wholeheartedly joined in until "He is Able." I cried through that one with tears streaming down my cheeks and was undone until noon when we gathered at Ron Loshier's [a classmate] for a wonderful time of lunch and fellowship. It was a blessing to be able to extend our gathering into the late evening.

It would hardly suffice to say the reunion

was too hard, too wonderful, which is true. The Lord anointed every detail, and I have come away realizing it will be one of the highlights of my life. Over and over again as I timidly, at first, stepped forward, He met me with joy unspeakable. Yes, tears flowed, but laughter was much more abundant and stories were repeated and embellished for sheer pleasure. Oh, that we would be willing to take the risks, for out of them comes the splendor of such worship and reunion. •



It would hardly suffice to say the reunion was too hard, too wonderful, which is true. The Lord anointed every detail, and I have come away realizing it will be one of the highlights of my life."

Worth Repeating

“ I remember you. You made chocolate eclairs for me when I was a student. I am now feeling really good about leaving my daughter here!”

—*Charlesetta Nash-Buckley, a Chicago resident and former student from 1981, upon seeing her daughter Sydney's advisor, Lynne Stewart, while on a campus visit to register Sydney for fall classes.*

“ Combine natural beauty, an eye on history, economic viability, good schools, affordable homes, and low crime rates—and you get one of the best places to live in America.”

—*Linda Shepard, a writer for the Rochester Post, in response to the city of Rochester's recent distinction by CNN Money magazine as one of the 100 best small towns in America. Rochester makes an ideal college community as well!*

“ This fall I started grad school at Wayne State University. On the first few class days, we talked about the need to follow the APA style guide when writing papers. Most of the students grew very nervous since they had never used the guide. I, on the other hand, was prepared since I had experienced the APA guide and Mrs. Reddick's red pen at Rochester College.”

—*Jenny Hoggatt, a 2006 graduate who has served as a social worker the past three years.*

Library offers new alumni service

Responding to inquiries from former students, the Ham Library recently added a new service for alumni of the college. Former students may now obtain a library card to borrow circulating books and audio visual materials from the campus facility.

“We want to show appreciation for our graduates and encourage lifelong learning,” stated Allie Keller, director of library services. “Lifelong learning should include a library. Alumni occasionally have a need for specific books from our collection and we would like to assist with those needs.”

Upon request, the library staff will issue a library card to a former student after completion of a registration form. The cards do not expire and are available at no cost. In addition to using library computers to access databases, card holders may borrow up to eight books and three audio visual materials at a time.

For more information about the library, click the Ham Library link at the bottom of the college's home page (www.rc.edu).

1996

JENNIFER (GARRITY) MOODY, her husband Mike, and daughter Emalee (age 3) welcomed Aidan Leon on December 20, 2007. Jennifer graduated from Harding University in June. The family resides in Geneseo, Ill.

1999

ELLIOT AND SHANNON (HILLMAN) JONES, along with big brother Trent (age 2), welcomed Jace Taylor on March 5, 2009. Elliot is the director of marketing and design at Rochester College and Shannon is a high school special education teacher. The family lives in Sterling Heights, Mich.

BOB AND CHARISSA (VOLZ, '00) KOFAHL welcomed their second daughter, Myla Eloise, on October 30, 2008. Bob, Charissa, Myla, and big sister Mackenna live in Milan, Mich. Charissa can be contacted at charissajoy34@comcast.net.

2001

LUKE AND AMANDA (BROWNLEE, '03) ROWE welcomed Jack Emerson on June 27, 2008. Luke recently completed his law degree at the University of Toledo and Amanda is an accountant. The family lives in Neapolis, Ohio.

2002

JUSTIN AND CASEY (ARNETT, '03) REMSING welcomed Wyatt James on January 20, 2009. Justin is the youth minister at the Heritage Church of Christ in Clawson and Casey is the senior designer at Rochester College. The family lives in Rochester Hills, Mich.

2003

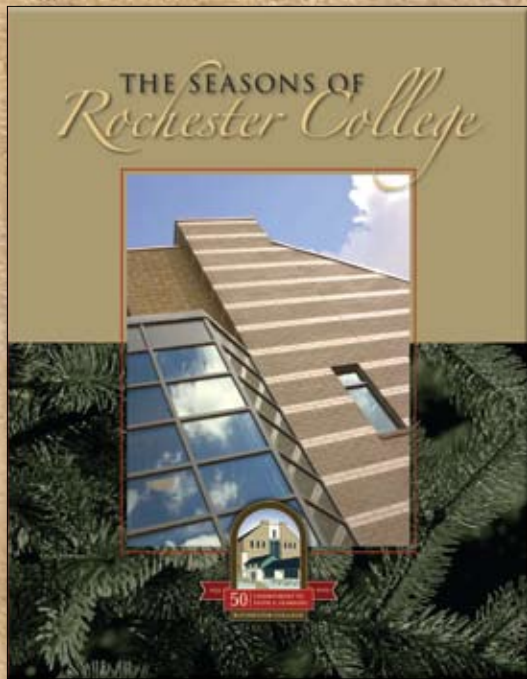
MATT AND KENDRA (RILEY, '04) PIERCE welcomed Leah Joy on January 9, 2009. The family resides in Hartselle, Ala. Kendra can be contacted at snunkeypierce@yahoo.com.

2005

NICK AND JESSICA (PORTER) HOTTMAN welcomed Tildon Lee on February 13, 2009. The family lives in Lake Orion, Mich. Jessica's email address is prple94@yahoo.com.

DARREN AND KARA (WESTERFIELD) MCCULLOUGH welcomed Owen Harvey on September 14, 2009. Darren is an IT support specialist at Rochester College, and Kara recently left her job in the academic services office to stay at home with Owen. The family lives in Shelby Township, Mich.

To submit alumni news, see rc.edu/alumni or send information to Larry Stewart at 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.



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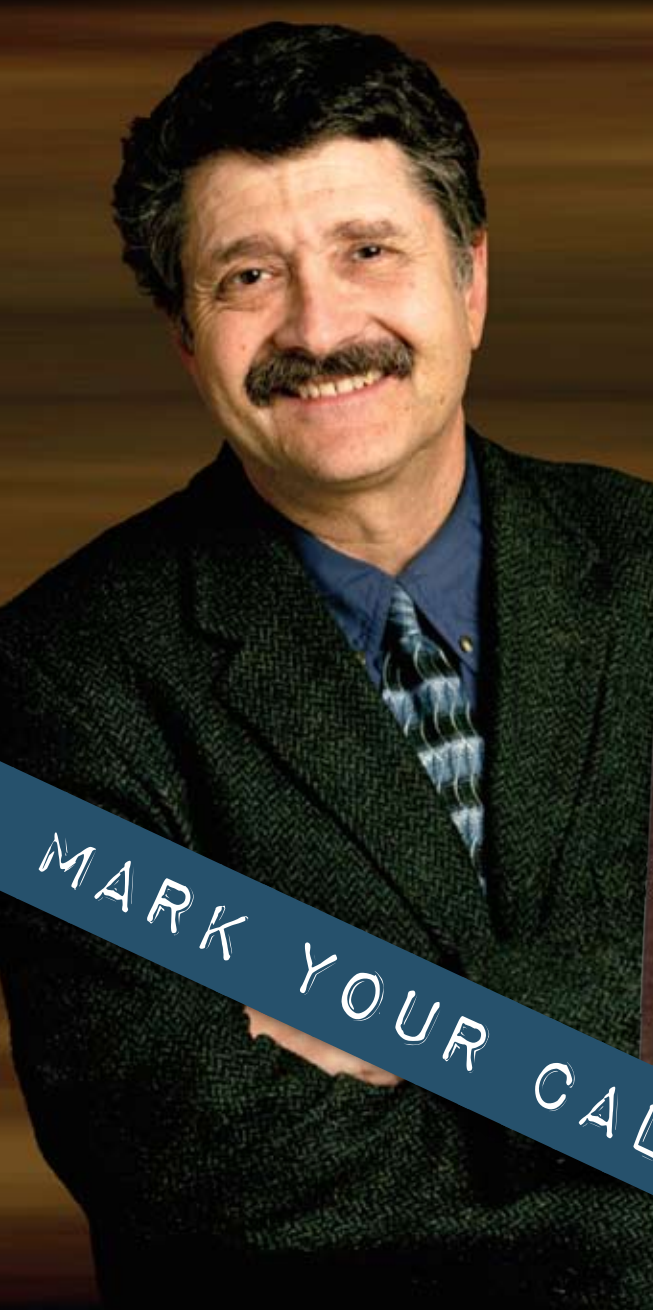
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