

NORTH STAR

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WHAT MAKES RC
DISTINCT?

from the *president's desk*



"WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT?"

A visitor in my office last week had known the college over a quarter century ago, when he lived in the area. He wanted to catch up on what had happened since the old days of Michigan Christian College.

After a 10 minute overview, he nodded and smiled. "Sounds like good things are happening here," he said. I assured him that God has been very, very good to Rochester College over the past few years of national recession, Michigan's special problems related to the automobile industry, and the college's own internal challenges.

Then, when he learned that the last two years have both been years of record enrollment, this was his comment: "That means people are seeing something here worth embracing. What do you think it is? What is your best 'selling point?' What makes you different?"

That was an easy one. "There are lots of good schools in our area – ranging from sprawling community colleges to nearby Oakland University – and each has its special strengths," I said. "But our strength is a distinctively Christian culture. For students who want their faiths and characters strengthened as their minds and career options are being expanded, Rochester College zooms to the top of their lists!"

Many components of a college experience are the same everywhere. Geometry and calculus work the same for believers and non-believers. Anatomy and physiology courses use identical textbooks at Christian colleges and state schools. The facts of what happened in Ancient Egypt or in the former Soviet Union are the same for both student groups at both schools. But something is also fundamentally different.

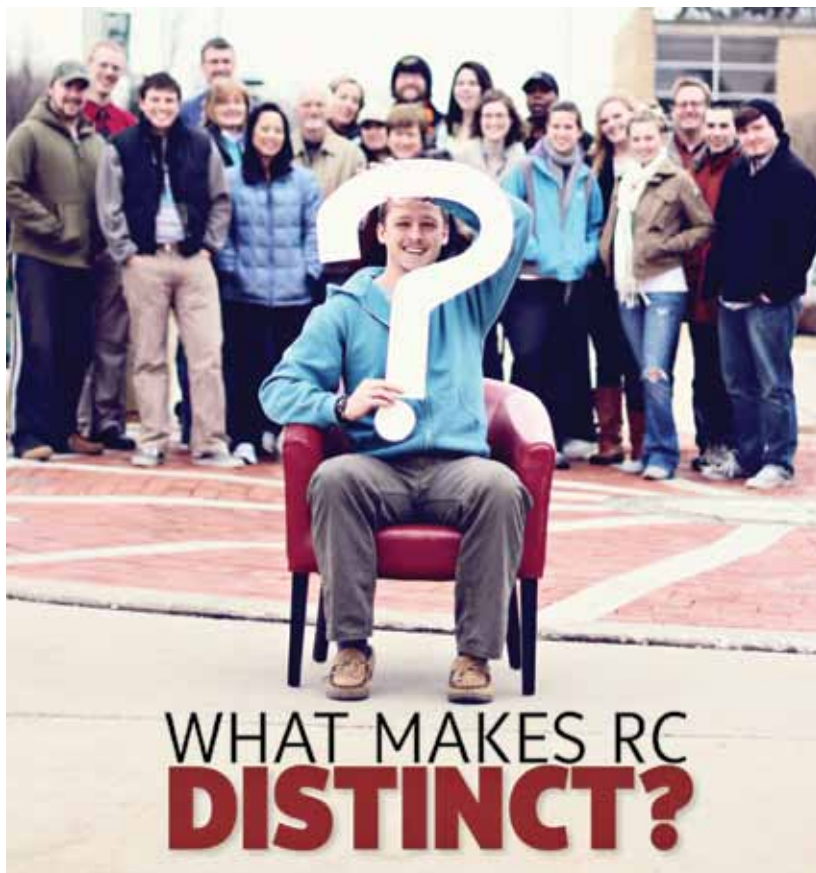
The culture that surrounds the total experience at a Christian college acknowledges the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all of life. Numbers work the same in the math class, but the respect for class members and the nature of a professor's interest in students may be very different. Beyond bones, muscles and brain chemistry, there are also minds, personalities and relationships that reflect "the image and likeness of God." History is more than economics and sociology, politics and generals; history is the unfolding of a drama in which God himself is the central figure.

It is mission that makes the difference.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE *cultivates academic excellence, principled character, servant leadership, and global awareness through a rigorous educational experience that integrates liberal arts and professional studies within an inclusive Christian heritage.*


Rubel Shelly, President

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ON THE COVER

What makes Rochester College distinct? How is our institution different from other colleges and universities? As Christians, how do we set ourselves apart just as Paul heeded in the book of Romans, saying "Do not be conformed by the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." (NIV 12:2) We're asking ourselves this question in our classrooms, our service opportunities, our daily work at RC and throughout this issue of the North Star. One answer is our loving, supportive and truly distinct community as pictured on our cover.

 LOOK FOR THIS ICON IN THE MAGAZINE TO READ HOW OTHERS ANSWER THIS QUESTION

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Rochester College cultivates academic excellence, principled character, servant leadership, and global awareness through a rigorous educational experience that integrates liberal arts and professional studies within an inclusive Christian heritage.

ANTI-FEEL



STORIES



NO TWO PEOPLE IN THE ROCHESTER COLLEGE COMMUNITY HAVE THE SAME STORY. BUT WHAT MANY OF THEM DO HAVE, WHETHER THEY'RE A TALENTED BASKETBALL PLAYER FROM GREECE, A SINGLE MOM OR AN AIR FORCE NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER, IS A SPIRIT OF PERSEVERANCE AND A CONNECTION TO THE COLLEGE THAT HAS SHAPED WHERE THEY ARE TODAY AND WHERE THEY'RE GOING TOMORROW. **STORIES BY LIZ FULTON » PHOTOS BY ELLIOT JONES**

IOANNIS LEKAKIS

BACK IN THE GAME



THE NUMBER OF DAYS IOANNIS LEKAKIS HAS BEEN ON CAMPUS HAS YET TO MAKE IT INTO THE TRIPLE DIGITS. IN FACT, THE COUNT IS AT 26. NEVERTHELESS, THE 22-YEAR OLD BASKETBALL FANATIC FROM ATHENS, GREECE, SAYS HE KNOWS ROCHESTER COLLEGE IS WHERE HE WANTS — AND MORE IMPORTANTLY — NEEDS TO BE. “I want to be in an environment with good people, good coaches and a good team. I need that...and I’ve found all it here,” he said.

Having spent his first two years in the U.S. playing ball at Florida State College, Ioannis is aware of the unique setting he has found himself in. Admittedly, he says the college’s small size threw him off guard at first. “When I came to campus and saw how small it was, to be honest I wasn’t very excited.” However, it didn’t take long for him to notice a quality that has set RC apart from other colleges and universities for more than 50 years—the community. “My view changed when I met my team and coaches. I realized that what matters most about your environment isn’t necessarily the place; it’s the people.”

These people, including his teammates and Coach Clint Pleasant, have already made an impression on him. While playing at Florida State College, he says he was a part of a group of guys who got together to practice and play basketball games.

“We weren’t a team. Here we’re like a family. We do things together. We treat each other well.” As a hoopster since the age of 6, he recognizes the importance of this dynamic. “How we interact is a big part of why this team is successful.”

Hearing him sing the school’s praises would lead you to believe his presence at RC was intentional, but that isn’t the case. Conversely, the transition to the college’s hardwoods came after a series of timeouts in the game plan he had for his collegiate basketball career. In 2010, while preparing to transfer to Northern Arizona University, he tore his ACL during a routine practice drill. The injury forced him to take a year off from school and sports—and proved to be equally mentally and physically challenging for him. “I was ready to give up, but basketball isn’t just having fun for me. It’s taught me lessons, like how to be responsible, how to help someone in need, and overall, to never give up. It isn’t an option,” he said.

Although there were days he was unsure of what the future would hold, over 5,000 miles away, Coach Pleasant knew where he wanted to see Ioannis. After watching him play on film, Pleasant was impressed. “I contacted his coach in Greece, and after several visits with him and Ioannis, it seemed like Ioannis would fit in our program — not only in terms of basketball skills, but also our mission. And now that he’s here, I’m even more excited for what the future holds for him as a student athlete, and a driven young man.”

A 6’5” shooting guard, he is red shirting for the Warriors because he joined the team mid-season. Ioannis says he will begin playing in the fall, but for now, he’s getting in as much practice time as possible and focusing on his coursework. “No matter what happens, I’m going to try to reach my goal,” he says. This drive will undoubtedly propel him to continue working toward what he wants in life, including completing a business management degree at RC. After graduation, his hope is to play basketball on a professional level in Europe. In the long run, he envisions a career in business saying, “My country is having a lot of economic problems, and I want to be a part of the solution.” If the positive influence he’s already having on his team and peers is any indicator of the impact he’ll make in the future, he’ll surely be a game-changer wherever life leads him.





ALEXIS PRIEST

ONE-IN-A-MILLION

WHEN WE SIT DOWN TO TALK, ALEXIS PRIEST IS CLUTCHING HER CELL PHONE. IN TODAY'S WORLD OF CONSTANT CONNECTION, YOU DON'T IMMEDIATELY THINK MUCH OF SEEING THE DEVICE NEARBY. BUT THEN WE START TALKING, AND IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT THE GADGET IS MORE THAN A TECHNOLOGICAL ACCESSORY—IT'S A LIFELINE THAT CONNECTS HER TO THE REALITY OF WHAT LIFE IS LIKE WITH HER SON, IAN. "Ask any of the professors that I've had, and they'll tell you that I sit next to the door and must have my phone out and turned on during class. I always debrief them on my situation at the beginning of the semester because if I get a call, I literally have to run.... and they've all seen me do it," she explains.

Alexis is a single mother to 7-year-old Ian, who doctors have labeled a "medical conundrum" because of the mental and physical challenges he faces. Around the age of 2, he started showing irregular signs that led Alexis and others to believe he might be deaf. After a series of testing, it was determined that he was autistic, and at that point he began getting help for his special needs. However, not long after his diagnosis, Alexis and her husband went through what she calls a "very ugly divorce" that separated her from Ian for roughly three months. "The divorce sent him into a tail-spin. He responded very badly," she says. For the next three years, Alexis lived without knowing what her day would hold on the other side of that familiar ringing noise, and Ian's mood disorders led to some difficult, even terrifying situations.

At the time, Ian was really paranoid. He

would hallucinate aliens that were all over the walls, and they would taunt him with demonic voices. He would strip himself naked, go into the corner of a room and just rock back and forth. He would defecate on himself. "It was like watching a movie when he would be in an episode," Alexis said.

In one year, Ian was kicked out of four daycares, and Alexis was asked by the state to refrain from trying a fifth location. Before he turned 5 years old, he had been admitted to Havenwyck Hospital, a psychiatric facility in Auburn Hills, on three occasions. She lost count at 55 days that she had to take off work to put out the fires in her personal life, and eventually she ended up losing her job. "I was at the point where I couldn't function. I couldn't conduct life," she said.

Nevertheless, she said that God always comes through for her family. "Regardless of whether we're rubbing pennies together for 10 days at the end of the month, everything works out."

Alexis believes God has also blessed her by placing Rochester College in her life. "I call this place my bubble. It feels like God has his arms covering this campus, and every time I come here, everything is fine." Having attended another local college before RC, Alexis sees the qualities that make the college different. She says she feels as though she would have failed had she stayed at the other school.

"Ian has been a 'one-in-a-million' kid since he was 18 months old. And because he's one-in-a-million, I get a whole bunch of one-in-a-million circumstances that I have to deal with. But Rochester is that one-in-a-million school that's willing to take me in so I can do something with my life," she said.

The spiritual atmosphere on campus has also been an anchor for Alexis, who says she was agnostic for 17 years before being baptized in 2008

after she started going to church with her sister. "It felt good to be around people who genuinely cared, but it was a hard transition for me to make after being away from God for such a long time. But, He kept working on me, whittling away my heart a little at a time."

Alexis is now pursuing a degree in youth and family ministry, and she has plans to complete graduate work in counseling. What she enjoys most about being on a Christian campus is the ability to reconnect with God during chapel, and the way the gospel is incorporated into the classroom, even if it isn't a religion or Bible course.

While Alexis has been working to improve herself, Ian has also made a lot of progress over the years. He's currently in an all-day program at Maple Lane Elementary School, and at a point where he is not heavily medicated. Alexis has found great encouragement and a wealth of resources at the University of Michigan Center for Exceptional Families.

Throughout it all, she says life with Ian has been a very humbling experience. "What you view as a success humbles you like you've never been humbled before. It got to a point that if I got a smile out of Ian that day, even for a millisecond, or I got him to come out of his episode for a few minutes, it just made the whole day worthwhile, and sometimes it would carry me for days even."

Alexis says that after a long time of having to interact with Ian solely as his handler and he as her patient, they have finally come to the point of building their mother/son bond. Now, she says the biggest challenge is keeping up with Ian and the lifestyle that goes along with him. "But Rochester is my stronghold. It's my solace, and my support. Some days I even find myself thinking that I don't want to leave." And to be honest, we'd enjoy having her around for as long as she wants to stay.

JARESHA OBEY

FORWARD MARCH

SHE LAYS IN BED, PARALYZED WITH NERVES. IN THOSE LAST FEW MOMENTS, SHE REMEMBERS LISTENING TO THE QUIET DRONE OF HER WATCH. INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLES CUT THROUGH THE NIGHT AIR, ANNOUNCING THAT IT IS TIME. SOUNDS OF STOMPING BOOTS, POUNDING FISTS AND GRUFF EXCLAMATIONS FOLLOW. IT'S 4:30 A.M. ON NOV. 7, 2011, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, 2ND LT. JARESHA OBEY'S

DREAM HAS JUST STARTED TO COME TRUE. It's her first day of officer training school at Maxwell Airforce Base in Montgomery, Ala. A 2007 graduate of Rochester College who currently works as an admissions recruiter and women's basketball coach at RC, Obey is a self-described

"Air Force brat." Her mother worked as a civilian on bases across the country, while her father served as an enlisted load master for 22

years, including a voluntary tour in Iraq in 2003 and his current position of Senior Pastor at Selfridge Air Force Base.

During her college years, Obey says her dad began talking to her about joining the military, but at the time it wasn't something she was interested in doing. A year after graduating, she changed her mind and decided to enlist and go active duty as an officer. However, she didn't score well on the test. This didn't stop her from moving forward with her goals though.

First, Obey completed enlisted boot camp, a life-changing experience where she learned how tough she was mentally, after having her physical endurance run dry. Not only did she finish the brutal training, she graduated with the second highest physical fitness scores among the females. She then attended technical school in order to continue her work with the military as an enlisted maintenance scheduler in the National Guard. In this position, her job entailed managing the flight schedules, regulating cargo and coordinating maintenance needs for military aircraft. "I prepared people for their mission," she says. "But I still had the goal of being an officer."

In 2010, Obey committed herself to a final attempt at the officer's test. With a maximum limit of two times that a person is allowed to take this test, she knew that if she didn't pass, her dreams of becoming an officer and plans for the future would be over. For several months she did everything in her power to prepare. It wasn't uncommon for her to wake at 6 a.m. to study, or spend her lunch breaks in the HAM Library cramming. She even audited a math course with Gary Turner, professor of mathematics at RC, and attended bi-weekly tutoring sessions offered free of charge by Vivian Turner, also a professor on campus. Finally, it came time to take the grueling 12-part test. She did so, but left feeling like she had completely failed again.

"I went to my dad and, trying to hold back tears, I said, 'I know I didn't pass.' His response was, 'Just trust God.'" About a week later, Obey found out she had indeed passed the exam.

Whereas basic training is designed to build followers in the military, officer training school is six weeks of grooming leaders. Designed to put pressure on you, test your limits and teach you how to handle the stresses of war, this training caused Obey to doubt her ability to make it through. At a low point, she remembers emailing her mom a note with a subject line that read, "GET ME OUT OF HERE!" It was during this time that her faith was strengthened. Daily Bible verses sent by her parents kept her going throughout the week. Sundays were spent gaining encouragement at the church on base. She recalled the struggles that she had endured and overcome during basic training because of an impromptu decision to volunteer to be a chapel guide (without even knowing what the post entailed). "It turned out to be a huge blessing because I got to spend my day at the church, praying, worshiping and renewing myself for the week ahead of me." Again and again, she relived those moments.

Obey says that when she finished officer's school, it was definitely the greatest accomplishment of her life, and her dad "was all smiles." A proud moment for any father, the occasion meant more to her family because of her father's lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. Despite schooling and ROTC training, his dream had been squelched many years ago because he was born in Liberia, West Africa, and lacked U.S. citizenship. "For him to be there during this moment in my life was huge for me," says Obey.

In addition to her work at the college, Obey now outranks 80 percent of the Air Force as a force support officer. She admits that the transition to a lieutenant has been odd at times, but she says that her work experiences at RC have helped in her military career as well. Her future is undecided, except for the well-calculated list of goals she intends on accomplishing. For now though, she's enjoying what she sees as the two best jobs in the world—coaching and mentoring young women through basketball and serving her country.





IN OVERTIME

WARRIORS CONTINUE TO IMPRESS WHILE DREAMING OF THE DAY THEY HAVE A "HOME COURT ADVANTAGE"

STORY BY *Rebekah Parsons* **PHOTOS BY** *Great Lakes Action Photography & L McKee Photography*



MIDST A SEA OF BLACK, BLUE AND WHITE, THE CRIMSON ROCHESTER COLLEGE UNIFORMS LOOK SLIGHTLY OUT OF PLACE IN THE 300,000 SQUARE-FOOT ATHLETIC MEGAPLEX DESIGNED TO SEAT 4,200 PEOPLE. THE SETTING, WHICH INCLUDES MOSTLY GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

FANS, IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR FOR THE VISITING WARRIORS.

GVSU has consistently been one of the top NCAA Division II schools. Yet despite RC's disadvantages when it comes to money, facilities, training and personnel, the Warriors did more than show up—they came ready to fight. Almost immediately, they jumped to a quick 5-0 lead, as juniors Dramell Hogan and Sean Mattia contributed a layup and three-pointer, respectively.

All the momentum seemed to be on RC's side as the Warriors controlled the game and the scoreboard for most of the first half. Heading into the locker room at halftime, the Lakers had barely managed to pick up a 3-point lead, while Rochester hoopsters had shot 50 percent from the floor and from beyond the arc.

It's not a "once-in-a-miracle" story. In fact, with some minor tweaks in terms of details, the anecdote sounds like a recount of most games played by the Warriors. Yes, RC is a small, private liberal arts school, but it consistently lands its punches against much bigger, much better-equipped athletic teams.

Against Kent State, a mid-major Division I school that has been to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament, the Warriors fought the entire game, before ultimately dropping a 76-63 contest. Kent State set a record for posting 10 straight 20-win seasons and has made it to the national tournament five times. On paper, the Golden Flashes should have defeated the Warriors by 40 points or more.

"After playing us, they went on to beat Alcorn State, Morehead State and James Madison University (all Division I schools) by 20 points," said Coach Clint Pleasant. "In reality, we were a tougher game for them than 35 to 40 percent of their other D-1 opponents."

This year's competition, aside from GVSU and Kent State, included the University of Tennessee-Martin, Eastern Michigan University, Austin Peay State University and local rival Oakland University, who has also been to the NCAA tournament on more than one occasion.

As Pleasant's first season leading the Warriors came to a close, RC took on the Ambassadors of Oakwood University, falling 54-51 for a second place finish in the USCAA National Championship game. However, All-Americans Dramell Hogan and Rick Doran were named to the USCAA Tournament team.

DOING DAMAGE WITHOUT DOLLARS

It's not just the hardwood court where the Warriors are doing damage, either. Many people have become accustomed to the basketball team's success, as it is the school's longest-standing athletic department staple. However, the "David vs. Goliath" stories are happening among all of the Warrior teams.

Last April, the baseball team embarrassed Oakland University in its home opener, beating the Golden Grizzlies, 6-3. The Warriors fielded four double plays and shut out Oakland in the first five innings, despite playing a team that has produced nearly two dozen professional ball players.

Women's basketball beat the University of Michigan-Dearborn by 15 points in November. Additionally, the Warriors suited up against Wayne State, Oakland and Grand Valley State during the 2011-12 season. At the USCAA National Tournament, the Warriors started strong with a 79-39 win over Central Maine Community College. The team finished fourth after falling to the



University of Cincinnati-Clermont Cougars 64-50.

The men's soccer team took on Lawrence Tech University and Saginaw Valley State University in its 2011 campaign and the softball team has UM-Dearborn and Grand Valley State on their schedule this season.

BIG NEEDS FOR BIG DREAMS

RC practices in the athletic facility equivalent of a small basement, and does its own fundraising to produce media guides. Any school can do big things with an unlimited budget. The RC difference comes from its ability to compete, and even defeat, larger budget operations on limited resources, particularly in the facilities department.

With the exception of the baseball team, each of the intercollegiate sports teams plays their "home" games at locations off the Rochester College campus. This severely limits the teams' abilities to create favorable schedules for themselves.

"We play about 30 games during our regular season, and if we're lucky, maybe 10 of them will be considered 'home' games. Winning on the road isn't easy in any sport, but for us, it's not an option. We absolutely have to win the majority of our road games," said Pleasant.

Since RC does not have a proper athletic facility, many schools will not travel to play RC. This puts the coaches in the position of scheduling more road games, which, by nature, are more difficult to win. Grand Valley State played 12 games on the road this season and won just four of them. Rochester played 21 away games, and including the six losses from Division I and Division II teams, posted a record of 12-9.

"The biggest thing holding us back is our lack of facilities," Pleasant noted. "It goes beyond just not having a gym to call home. It severely affects our ability to recruit players. Other schools use it to their advantage if they are trying to recruit the same students we are."

Yet even without a facility and a decent operating budget, the Warriors have established themselves in a way that many other small schools have not. In the last decade alone, they have brought home six national titles — two in men's basketball, two in men's golf, one in men's soccer and one in softball.

Life on the small college level means that the teams travel in 15-person passenger vans that are falling apart. They eat meals at fast food restaurants to stay within budget (often times even pooling their money to cover everyone), and the coaches personally wash the uniforms between games. It's not a complaint from the athletic department, however. It is simply what they are accustomed to, and yet it does not stop them from looking forward.

"What we've been able to accomplish without a facility and on the budgets we have is remarkable," said Pleasant. "Just imagine what we could do with the resources to take it to the next level."



THE TRADITION OF WARRIOR ATHLETICS

13 NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S BASKETBALL
'89, '97, '04, '05

SOFTBALL
'11

MEN'S GOLF
'09, '10

MEN'S SOCCER
'96, '06

VOLLEYBALL
'98, '99

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
'89, '90

ROCHESTER COLLEGE HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCE CENTER

WHEN THE WARRIORS "LOOK FORWARD," THEY SEE THE ROCHESTER COLLEGE HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCE CENTER. *What do you see when you look to the right? Do you see a long-awaited dream, or perhaps a snapshot of campus life? We see our students, athletes, faculty, staff, alumni and community. We see a need. We see our legacy.*

When we look toward the Rochester College Health and Life Science Center, we see a facility that will accommodate chapel — a time for our community to gather for powerful worship and prayer. We see health and wellness increasing on our campus because of convenient access to fitness facilities. We see growth in our athletic program as the facility aids in recruitment and retention of athletes, and space for playing home games on campus instead of at a local high school. We see a venue that allows us to host events such as our annual Partnership Dinner. We see a space that will enhance current programs benefiting the greater metropolitan community and beyond, including Lake Norcentra Basketball Camp and the Global Justice Conference.



MUHITCH SPILLS *the* BEANS

ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES & CHALLENGES OF CONDUCTING EXTENSIVE RESEARCH ON SOYBEAN SEED DEVELOPMENT

Not many people would choose (much less enjoy) a vocation that involves failure most days on the job. However, Dr. Michael Muhitch, a chemistry professor at Rochester College, thrives in this setting.

For more than 25 years, Muhitch has worked in the field of research, including a post at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most of his work has dealt with various aspects of plant metabolism. "I've looked at novel compounds in tomatoes and how they relate to disease; explored the synthesis of amino acids in pea leaves; and studied the metabolism of corn seed development," he said. Along the way, he also did a project on a model system for growing plant cells in culture to produce medicinal compounds and another inserting anti-fungal genes into plants to enhance their disease resistance.

If all of this science-speak sounds complicated, one can probably imagine the challenges of conducting extensive research at a small school. Muhitch says that modern approaches typically demand a sizeable collection of large equipment. Not having access to these resources generally guarantees that the work won't end up being publication-worthy—something he says is always an added incentive for students to perform with excellence. However, Muhitch views the research process as an invaluable opportunity that should be available to undergraduates.

"Unlike most undergraduate lab experiences, which are set up to succeed, research is often difficult and frustrating because the way is unclear. Most experiments fail. Quite frankly, it's not for everybody," he says. Nevertheless, Muhitch has found that a certain subset of students, most often self-starters who also perform very well in the classroom, actually enjoy the challenge. "It gives them a chance to think outside the lab manual and explore and experience things they would not otherwise get to."

Muhitch's professional relationships have presented a way around the obstacles RC faces. During the summer of 2010, Muhitch spent a few weeks working with a former research colleague, Dr. Jan Miernyk, who had recently transferred to a USDA facility located at the University of Missouri. A major focus of systems research in the Miernyk lab is soybean seed development, and it was Muhitch's hope that he and Miernyk could find a niche of work for Rochester College students to be involved in.

The first student to take part in this research partnership was Sarah

Schewe, a pre-med major who graduated in 2011. Schewe and Muhitch focused on trying to measure a particular metabolite in soybean seeds, and their work culminated in a science fair presentation at the University of Missouri. Senior Rachel Sorensen, a pre-physical therapy major at RC, is involved in the project this year. Currently, they are working with a type of chromatography—laboratory techniques for the separation of mixtures.

Muhitch says the long term goal of the Miernyk research is to study as many aspects as possible of the biochemistry and genetics of soybean seed development using modern research approaches. "Where the project goes ultimately depends on what is discovered, but in the end it's about healthier crops and better food and feed products. We're seeking to improve soy seeds with respect to their growth, disease resistance and nutritional quality."

While the efforts of Muhitch's lab are a tiny part of that overall goal, the opportunity to be a part of the project has substantial benefits that students can apply in other areas of science, as well as outside the lab. "We're working on soybeans," Muhitch says. "But the approach is the same across fields. It's not at all a diversion or a waste of time for them."

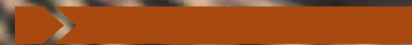


SORENSEN TALKS SOYBEANS

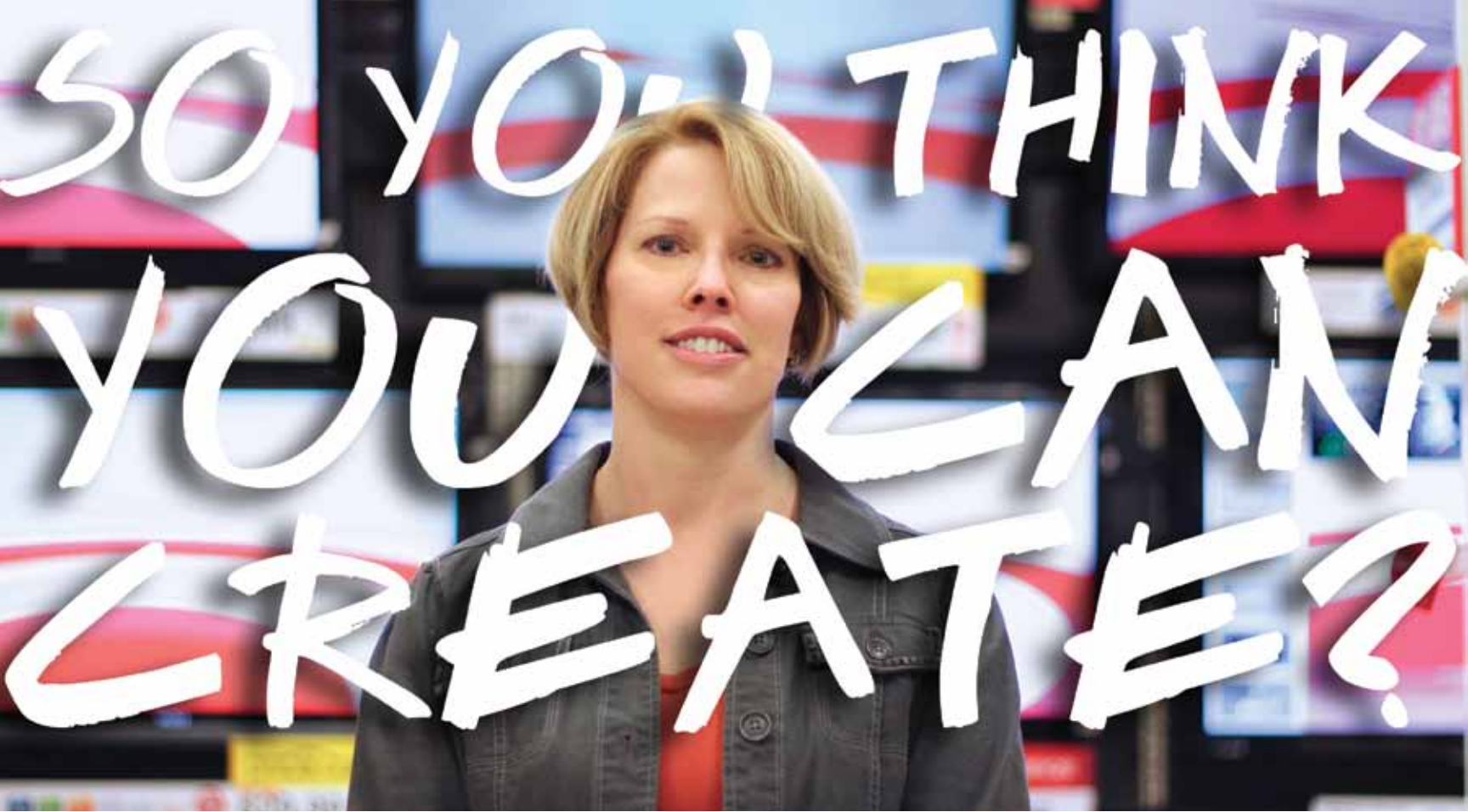
"Being able to work with Dr. Muhitch on a research project of this magnitude is an opportunity I am grateful to have. Although I don't plan on working with soybeans in the future, the experience I'm gaining in terms of the research process has been invaluable. Dr. Muhitch is always available to answer my questions, but he also allows me the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them.

This mix of working autonomously and alongside someone so knowledgeable has made the experience of putting science into practice very rewarding. Knowing that the work I'm doing is part of a much bigger project also brings satisfaction."





"I DON'T JUST WANT TO DO [RESEARCH] FOR MY SAKE. I WANT TO DO IT IF IT INVOLVES AN UNDERGRADUATE AND IS A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR THEM."



THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION AT ROCHESTER COLLEGE OFFERS STUDENTS ENTRY INTO THE FASCINATING AND FAST-PACED WORLD OF MASS MEDIA. STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WHILE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND THEM, TO INVESTIGATE, THINK, WRITE AND CREATE.

Elizabeth Flora, a 2010 graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication/broadcasting, has used the foundation she received at RC to earn a job as a junior producer at Team Detroit, an advertising agency serving brands such as Ford, Bosch and Carhartt.

Flora is integral in helping Team Detroit prepare a commercial from the idea stage to a fully executed reality, which includes planning and strategy, helping on video shoots and assisting with editing.

"Without my schooling, Team Detroit wouldn't have even glanced my way for a job," Flora said. "I received the experience and knowledge that have helped me excel in the environment that I am in now. This is what I've always wanted to do. Creating something from the beginning to end is a wonderful feeling. I wouldn't want to be doing anything else!"



» CREATE & COMMUNICATE

Creating ideas, gathering information and then communicating them effectively to audiences are some of the tasks that mass communication students like Flora learn.

In addition to broadcasting, students can specialize in graphic design or public relations. RC's affiliation with Specs Howard School of Media Arts gives students the practical, current and technical training they need, either in radio or video production, or in graphic design.

Students specializing in PR complete all of their coursework on RC's campus and are taught how to be effective communicators for organizations, sharing positive stories and working to foster mutually beneficial relationships among social entities.

» QUICK GROWTH

Though RC's mass communication degree was established less than a decade ago, it has flourished quickly. In 2010-11, about 140 students were enrolled in the program, making it the fourth largest major offered at RC.

"Many students are interested in the creative fields of writing, filming, recording and designing," said Lora Hutson, chair of the mass communication

department. "They are plugged in all the time, and they like to learn how to be involved on the professional side of this innovative industry."

Hutson, who has taught at RC for 12 years and also serves as director of communication services, brings a passion for teaching and mentoring students through their time in college. "I enjoy seeing how students mature and grow in their skills and their confidence during their college years," she said.

Before coming to RC, Hutson worked as director of public relations for SMZ Advertising; owned The Write Image, a PR and writing consulting firm; and served as a communication specialist for Macomb Community College. She also has taught at Oklahoma Christian University, Pepperdine University and Abilene Christian University.

In addition to learning writing and media strategy skills from Hutson, students in the program learn speaking, interpersonal and intercultural skills from Kent Hoggatt, assistant professor of communication, and writing skills from adjunct professor Glenn Gilbert, executive editor of the "Oakland Press." Various other adjunct professors teach media classes in their areas of expertise.



» CHRISTIAN EMPHASIS

The mass communication classes at RC emphasize developing ethical, Christian professionals who can influence culture and the media in positive ways. "One of our core strengths is our focus on a Christian perspective. We talk about ethical decision making, respecting privacy, and how to use our critical thinking skills and a Christian philosophy to make tough decisions," Hutson said.

The benefits of having a Christian perspective are twofold: Students who graduate with cutting edge media skills will be able to become involved in and influence secular forms of media, and they will also be able to use those skills for Christian organizations.

» EXPERIENCE NEEDED

To be prepared for the media industry, students must obtain hands-on, practical experience.

Amanda Passage, a 2007 graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication/PR, is a senior associate at Lambert, Edwards & Associates, a PR firm in Grand Rapids, Mich., which was named the Small Agency of the Year in 2010 by "PR Week."

"Through RC's mass communication program, I was able to expand my writing skills by working for 'The Shield' and the 'North Star,' where I became a freelance writer even beyond my years as a student," she said. "Thanks to these opportunities, I was able to

compile a portfolio from relevant class work and extracurricular obligations that most individuals can't achieve until spending years at their first job. RC also gave me an outlet to not only gain a higher education but to do so in an environment that encouraged one-on-one attention."

Like Passage, all mass communication majors earn experience while in college through internships, in workshop-type classes and by working for "The Shield," RC's student publication.

First, all mass communication majors are required to complete a 150-hour internship with a professional organization before graduation. RC mass communication majors have interned in a variety of local media outlets, such as Channel 4 WDIV-TV, the "Oakland Press," Fresh 100.3, FM98 WJLB, 97.1 The Ticket, Troy Cablevision, Habitat for Humanity, Campus Crusade for Christ, and many more.

Second, in classes at Specs, students learn how to be on the air, shoot video, edit film and sound, use Adobe Creative Suite — all practical skills designed to provide students with experience. Senior PR students develop and implement a PR plan and portfolio for a real-world client in a public relations campaigns class.

Third, students have the opportunity to put their skills to work through "The Shield." Written and designed by students, "The Shield" began as a newspaper 12 years ago.

"The Shield" now manifests itself in three different formats: a full-color magazine published four times per year; www.rcshield.com, a website written and designed by students; and The Shield On The Air, where students interview, write, record and edit radio stories.

This trio of experience gives students the skills and portfolios they need to land their first job in the media field. "We really learn by doing," Hutson said. "That's what RC offers."

» LOVING WORK

Alumni Flora and Passage say they love their work and would not want to be doing anything else. In the mass communication program, all students are encouraged to love what they are doing. "We want students to be passionate about their work!" Hutson said.

Students are encouraged to take their creative passions and use them for the professional world, to connect their faith to their vocation, and to use the powerful "media microphone" to influence the world around them in a positive way.

"Students and faculty in the mass communication program are all committed to the craft of communication and to being ethical, Christian professionals who can influence culture and the media in positive ways," Hutson said.



CARL ARNDT

Inside Sales Account Executive | Detroit Red Wings
Radio Analyst | Oakland University Hockey

JULIANNA BLANKENSHIP

Marketing Communication Specialist
Cornerstone Community Financial | Auburn Hills, Mich.

ALEXA COURTNEY

Videographer/Editor | Kensington Church

JOVENCIO (RYAN) DANDIN

Cryptologic Linguist | U.S. Army | California

ELIZABETH FLORA

Junior Producer | Team Detroit

NICK FLORA

Copywriter | The Garage TM | Laguna Beach, Calif.

ERIN (MEEKER) FORBES

Account Executive
Clear Channel Radio (95.5, Fresh 100.3, FM98 WJLB)
Detroit

ELIZABETH FULTON

Senior Communication Specialist | Rochester College

TREVOR KEISER

Reporter | The Clarkston (Mich.) News

ELLIOTT KING

Promotions Assistant | 104.3 MyFM/103.5 KOST
Los Angeles

MICHELLE (WOODY) LEWIS

Campaign Manager | GDirect | Mesa, Ariz.

ASHLEY MACKINNON

Graphic Artist | Save on Everything | Troy, Mich.

DARREN MCCULLOUGH

Minister of Technical Support | Rochester Church of Christ

ASHLEY MCCUEN

WXYZ Channel 7 | Detroit

AMY (JANKOWSKI) MITCHELL

Ministry & Events Coordinator | Zion Christian Church
Owner | 23Eleven Events | Royal Oak, Mich.

ANDREW MOSER

Staff Writer | The Oxford (Mich.) Leader

DAWN (MORNINGSTAR) NULTY

Producer | Speedy Spots | Chelsea, Mich.

REBEKAH PARSONS

Adjunct Professor of Mass Communication | Rochester College

AMANDA PASSAGE

Senior PR Associate | Lambert, Edwards & Associates
Grand Rapids, Mich.

KRISTIN RICE

Production Artist | A La Mode | Oklahoma City

ALEXANDER VENET

Content Writer | Tribis Engineering | Shelby Twp., Mich.

EMILIE VINSON

Missionary Journalist | Campus Crusade for Christ | Orlando, Fla.

ANDREA WALKER

Owner | Walker News | Rochester Hills, Mich.

BECAUSE OF LIKE YOU... PEOPLE

GEORGE & BETTY SEIFERT

PICTURE THIS SCENE: Grandparents, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have gathered for a family get-together. Food and laughter abound. A commitment to family is evident throughout the generations represented inside the cozy quarters.

While the family has convened to enjoy each other's company, they are intentional about setting aside time for a special purpose. One by one, each family member over the age of six makes a brief presentation. The young, the old and the in-between discuss projects that are dear to them individually, while campaigning for the support of the entire family. Then together, they dive into the decision-making process.

George and Betty Seifert have set up their family foundation to ensure the younger members of the clan are trained on the importance of being philanthropic. The Proverb writer said, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). With this goal in mind, the adult Seifert children and grandchildren are trustees while younger grandchildren and great-grandchildren are junior trustees.

...ROCHESTER COLLEGE
IS TRAINING SOCIALLY
CONSCIOUS AND
PROFESSIONALLY
SKILLED NURSES.

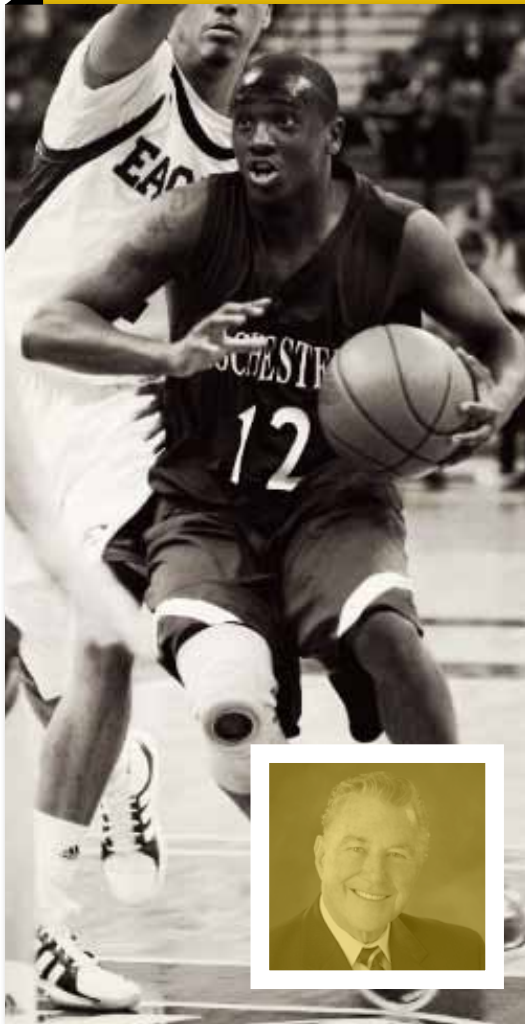
It goes without saying that the Seiferts have a passion for giving. Residents of the Rochester area, George and Betty are highly involved with several local organizations, including (in recent months) Rochester College.

After experiencing tragic deaths of two family members who were involved in the medical community, the Seiferts made a commitment to establish a memorial in their loved one's honor. Although the family had no previous ties to the college, the School of Nursing and its partnership with Crittenton Hospital piqued their interest and harmonized with their desire for the hospital to remain a private community establishment.

Upon further investigation into RC, George says he and Betty became aware of the college's Christian values and noticed the staff's commitment to those values while striving for excellence in the field of Christian education. Additionally, George noted, "Other local institutions of higher education have a more liberal and secular persuasion, which are not as closely aligned with our family's values."

As seen in the events of a traditional Seifert family gathering, the family's values are virtuous. "Our family's experience has been 'as ye sow, ye shall reap.' It does not take great wealth to make a difference, but it does require informed and involved giving. Personal joy, stories, and deep satisfaction come from our family philanthropy, which has been returned to our family tenfold," said Betty.





BILL FOX

PRACTICALLY EVERYONE IN THE GREATER DETROIT AREA KNOWS THE NAME BILL FOX. With sprawling Chevrolet, Volkswagon and Toyota dealerships throughout the state, it's hard to miss this well-known Motor City moniker. However, not everyone knows about his relationship with Rochester College that stems from personal relationships with Garth Pleasant and Dr. Rubel Shelly.

Fox's friendship with Pleasant began many years ago, with Pleasant even officiating at Fox's wedding. Not surprisingly, Rochester College has weaved itself into the bond the two share. Fox has served on the college's Athletic Advisory Committee, purchased equipment for the basketball team and supported Rochester College's annual Partnership Dinner.

In December 2011, Fox proved himself a friend of Rochester College once again by providing one of two matching gifts that launched the year-end campaign. His benevolent support led to the biggest December for unrestricted gifts in the college's history, which has proved beneficial in starting the calendar year with positive momentum.

Dr. Shelly gives Fox credit for "taking pity on the new guy" at Rochester College early in his tenure as president, and the two have developed a close relationship in recent years. "Bill Fox is a good and generous man who wants young people to have the blessing of a quality education in a Christian setting," Shelly said. "His help with the college's athletic program over the years and his generous assistance with our recent year-end campaign make him a 'special friend' to all of us at Rochester College."

In addition to his good will toward Rochester College, Fox is consistently a visible community leader, encouraging and lending a helping hand to a number of projects that have bettered his city, county and region. As the beneficiary of a faith-based, values-rich education and proud alumnus of De La Salle Collegiate High School in Warren, he recognizes the importance of a commitment to educating strong leaders for the future. From that background, he appreciates and affirms the Christian mission RC embraces when it comes to higher education.

"Bill sees opportunities and makes them work," said Pleasant. Rochester College is grateful that he has seen an opportunity to shape the lives of young men and woman who attend the institution.

...ROCHESTER COLLEGE
ATHLETES HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO EXCEL
BOTH ON AND OFF
THE COURT.

RANDY WOLCOTT

INTENTIONAL PEOPLE TYPICALLY MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT IN THIS WORLD. "My first donation was to encourage Rubel and the Board," says Randy Wolcott. This gift in the spring of 2008 came at a tumultuous time for Rochester College. Though the storm at RC has subsided, the encouragement from the Wolcott's has not.

As a resident of Tennessee, Randy's connection with RC began when President Shelly asked him and his wife to host a fundraiser for the college in Nashville. "I knew if Rubel, a longtime friend, was willing to invest his life into RC, I would partner with him on the adventure," says Wolcott.

Wolcott and his wife's desire to impact the work at RC did not stop there. In the fall of 2012, they offered a challenge gift, resulting in a year-end campaign that yielded \$278,000.

When asked what insights he would offer to someone who was thinking about supporting Rochester College, Wolcott said, "Ray Boltz sang the song 'Thank You.' It is about a person going to heaven and being greeted by a line of people who wanted to say 'thank you' for the impact the new arrival had on their lives. By giving to RC, you don't know how far the gift can spread. Although you may never know its far-reaching implications, lives will be permanently changed because of your actions."

Wolcott is also the newest member of the Rochester College Board of Trustees. Chairman Jim Randolph speaks for many by saying, "We look forward to the Wolcott's visits to campus, increased involvement and creative input into the future of Rochester College."

...ROCHESTER COLLEGE
IS ABLE TO FULFILL ITS
MISSION OF EQUIPPING
STUDENTS TO BE
SALT AND LIGHT.



GIVE [more than] Change

I met Byron years ago when I was a young man. I wanted to learn how to tune pianos. Byron was well along in years and had been tuning pianos for much of his life. When he learned of my desire, he invited me over to his house. He gave me a set of tools for the trade so I could learn how to fine-tune an instrument for its intended use. My lessons were cut short when he was diagnosed with cancer. He passed away shortly after his diagnosis.

I remember sitting on his back porch when he broke the news to me. "Tom, I'm going to die." He said it with a sense of peace I had never seen in anyone prior to this time. He put his arm on my shoulder and said, "I'm prepared to die. I know the Lord, and I know the home that He's prepared for me." I remember looking at him to see if there was any doubt behind his eyes. There was none. His confidence overwhelmed me. He gave me much in that final lesson; it changed my perspective on life. His gift to me was more than learning how to change a few strings on a piano. I learned the importance of faith—faith for living and for dying.

I'm often asked if it is uncomfortable to ask others to give monetarily to Rochester College. I tell them, "Not a bit!" It is really quite remarkable, but very simple. We are in the faith-building business. We provide a set of tools to help fine-tune students for their God-given purpose. Give and change can occur. We see it day in and day out on this campus.

Someone gave and student Tom Ngobi's life was changed. A native of Uganda, he will graduate in May and likely go back to East Africa to start working with various ministries of the region with which Rochester College has ties.

Someone gave and David Rotberg came to Rochester College after a stay in prison. He's married now with a young child and another on the way. He graduated two years ago, and he and his young family are one of several RC graduates who have formed a mission team that will begin a long-term stay in Tanzania next year.

Someone gave and Alyse Shields came to Rochester College. She graduated and is now completing her master's degree at the University of Chicago for international social work. This summer, she will travel to India to study the poverty and marginalization of the region during a competitive internship at Mumbai's first social science institute.

Someone gave and Zef Deda is now a student at Rochester. After three years of being out of school and working, he wanted to follow his dream of getting a degree and playing college basketball. Coach Clint Pleasant was introduced to him through a mutual friend. This is Zef's first year at Rochester College as an "older" sophomore. He is married with a little girl. He is on a faith journey and is growing. He and Coach Pleasant talk about their families and about God. His perspective on life is changing because someone gave.

Launching May 1, Give [more than] Change highlights alumni from every decade of the college's history, as well as current students. By visiting www.rc.edu/givechange, you'll hear first-hand from those who have been changed because Rochester College has remained faithful to its mission of training young people to be salt and light within their chosen fields of study. Come join us in our mission. Give [more than] change.

INTRODUCTION BY *Tom Rellinger*



“

**I HAVE NEVER LAUGHED
SO MUCH, SHARED SO MUCH
AND LEARNED SO MUCH
AS I HAVE IN BARBIER HALL.**

Cole McClure





STORIES & PHOTOS BY *Kayce McClure*

COLE McCLURE

CURRENT ROCHESTER COLLEGE STUDENT

For Cole McClure, the decision to come to Rochester College was an easy one. Both of his parents are alumni, as well as several of his aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings. "Rochester College has become a family tradition," he said.

As a young boy whose aunt and uncle were dorm parents at the time, Cole not only knew of the RC campus, but it became his playground during holiday breaks. "I'll never forget the hours spent with my siblings and cousins running around Barbier, hiding under beds and in wardrobes," Cole reminisced.

Now, in his junior year of studying youth and family ministry at Rochester College, Barbier Hall has become a place that is even more dear to Cole's heart. He serves as the hall's resident adviser, in addition to being a member of the A Cappella Chorus, president of Delta Nu, a referee for the intramural program and an active volunteer for Campus Ministry. "I have never laughed so much, shared so much, and learned so much as I have in Barbier," he said with a smile.

Cole says the greatest part of living on campus is the opportunity to "just share life with a group that starts off as strangers, becomes roommates, and leaves college as a family of sorts."

Although Cole and the other Barbierians (a fitting title the men of Barbier Hall have bestowed upon themselves) have a little too much fun at times, when asked how RC is preparing him for life beyond the walls of Barbier, Cole does not hesitate to answer. "Rochester College has equipped me with the tools I need to succeed as a youth and family minister. It has opened doors for future opportunities and has driven my passion for the field I have chosen to pursue."

JANET RICHARDS & TERRY PITTS

CLASS OF 1983

You have heard the expression, "Don't judge a book by its cover." For longtime friends Janet Richards and Terry (McClure) Pitts, this lesson could not be more true. Having met at a youth rally before coming to Rochester College in the mid-80s, the duo recalls that their friendship wasn't instantaneous. Terry remembers scoping out her friend's new girlfriend, looking to see if she was good enough for him. The new girlfriend (Janet) did not get Terry's approval, and the feelings were mutual. "First impressions aren't always the best impressions," says Terry.

However, upon becoming students at RC some time later, the women found themselves reunited. As members of the traveling performance group Autumn, the two were forced to spend time together. Eventually, they bonded in the late hours of the night over greasy pizza and pop. "We could talk with one another about anything and everything," said Janet. With morning came the beginning of a new friendship and a late night tradition that sealed their companionship for life.

Although people often lose touch with college friends, Janet and Terry have only grown closer over time. The women now have college-aged children of their own, and four of their combined six children have attended RC.

In the midst of all the fun they had at RC, both say they found a spiritual experience that challenged and molded them. "The campus was an environment where questions could be asked and answers could be sought. I was encouraged to seek a relationship with God," said Terry.

KAREN KENAMER

CLASS OF 1965

Most of us can recall pivotal moments in our lives that define who we are. When thinking of moments like this, Karen (Bennett) Kennamer looks back on the two short years she spent at Rochester College. "It was a time to grow from a child to a young adult...a time to have fun and develop long-lasting friendships, and a time to be enlightened." Karen does not hesitate to label these years as the best two of her life.

One memory she has recalled several times, even using the same lesson on her own students throughout her teaching career, is her experience of facing a music "jury." Karen had spent a semester taking piano lessons from Professor Paul Downey, and in order to pass the class, she had to perform a piece of music by memory in front of a panel of professors.

Karen sat down and started playing, but halfway through the piece, her mind suddenly went blank. They asked her to start again. "I got to the same part and I was still blank. My only reaction was to grab the music that I couldn't use and run out," she recalled.

Professor Downey followed her out of the building and told her she had to go back and try if she wanted to pass the class. More importantly, however, he imparted his wisdom on a young Karen saying, "If you don't go back and try, I promise you will not only fail the class, you'll fail in life too. If you go back in, you will pass the class and a life test. *The shame is not in failing, but in failing to try again.*" Karen tried again that day, and many days after when the lesson she learned as a young adult at Rochester College rang true.





SPRING



BREAK



A LOOK AT ALL THAT KEEPS OUR CALENDAR FULL

1

SPRING BREAK

RC students traveled near and far for service, study and sightseeing during this year's spring break. Taking part in Campus Ministry's annual "Urban Plunge," students immersed themselves in the Motor City by working with several non-profit organizations and taking in some of the city's unique locations. Other members of the RC community, including several faculty, journeyed to Turkey for an educational adventure in which they experienced the culture and sites of the land. For a full recap on this trip, be sure to check out the fall issue of the **NORTHSTAR**.

2

A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT'S DREAM

Rochester College Theatre department will present Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" April 13 at 7:30 p.m. and April 14 at 2 p.m. in the RC Theatre, located inside Richardson Center. Tickets are \$10 for students, seniors, RC alumni, faculty and staff and \$12 for adults. To reserve your tickets, call 248.218.2149 or email jhughes1@rc.edu.

3

PARTNERSHIP DINNER

The 41st annual Partnership Dinner will be held at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester on Saturday, April 28, 2012. Judge Kenneth Starr, president of Baylor University, will be the keynote speaker. A former solicitor general of the United States, Starr has argued 36 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Additionally, he has authored more than 25 publications, including a book, *First Among Equals*. For more information and to purchase tickets or sponsorships, contact Cathy Ries at 248.218.2021 or cries@rc.edu, or visit www.rc.edu/partnershipdinner.

4

STREAMING 2012




"Go and learn what this means," Jesus urges. "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Christian communities of hospitality — missional churches — take this admonition, and the learning that goes with it, seriously. This year's Streaming conference invites participants deeper into the missional life of "mercy, not sacrifice." Taking place on the campus of Rochester College June 18-20, the Streaming 2012 schedule offers presentations by the acclaimed biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann, psychologist Richard Beck, and several other noteworthy writers, speakers and artists. To register for Streaming 2012, visit www.rc.edu/streaming.

5

FLETCHER SHINSKY GOLF CLASSIC

Rochester College will hold the annual Fletcher Shinsky Golf Classic on Monday, July 30, at the Greystone Golf Club in Romeo, Mich. A shotgun start begins at 9:30 a.m. The cost of the event is \$125 for individual golfers. Sponsorships are also available. Do not miss this opportunity to support RC while spending a day on the green with your friends and colleagues. Reserve your tickets and sponsorships by visiting www.rc.edu/golfclassic or by contacting Cathy Ries at 248.218.2021 or cries@rc.edu.

HOW DO I STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL RC EVENTS, YOU ASK?
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

 facebook.com/RochesterCollege
 twitter.com/RCWarriors
 photos.rc.edu

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Oct. 1, 2011—Feb. 22, 2012

Blodwyn Beals

Charles Beals

Larry Bouman

Martha Bouman

George & Kathleen Brackney

Jerry & Rita Brackney

Mark & Christine Brackney

Frances Bucy

Martha Bouman

John McCartney Campbell

John & Harriet Campbell

Norman Christman

Marge Christman

Ralph & Lorraine Church

David & Janice Church

Genevieve P. Cole

Jerry & Virginia Ebeling

Richard S. Corney

Art & Marge Pope

Mary Ann Padgett Cross

Joan Williams

Camille Elizabeth Dacus

Zearl & Betty Watson

Knox VanRheenen Dacus

Zearl & Betty Watson

Benjamin L. Davison

William & Helen Putty

Rose Driver

Red Hatters

Jacob Dubaere

Jerry & Virginia Ebeling

Bob Forrester

Dean & Mary Moore

Zearl & Betty Watson

Oscar Glover

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Leo Hindsley

Paula Bonbrisco

Bob & Jennie Cross

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Tad & Nancy Schroeder

Joanne Shinsky

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Robert Jackson

Vernon & Alice Boyd

James Jahn

Art & Marge Pope

Ann Luchsinger

Elton & Rita Albright

Roger & Kathy Anspach

John & Barbara Bryant

Aaron & Rose Ellis

Robert & Elaine Ernst

Robert & Barbara Ervin

Todd & Connie Graham

Clay & Perri Harper

Steve & Julie Harper

Rick & Karen Hart

Leroy & Doris Ledsworth

Mr. & Mrs. Donald MacDonald

Meadowbrook Women's Club

Donna Mosley

Paul & Donna Muller

Robert & Gina Perry

Art & Marge Pope

Cathy Ries

Catherine Sadurski

Doug & Shelia Selke

Joanne Shinsky

Shirley Smith

Dick & Chloe Stephens

Mary Stevick

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Mel & Diane Storm

Mary Utley

Nancy Wallace

Sarah Yoakum

Fred E. Marcum

Dale & Phyllis Phillips

Hugh Mingle

David & Beth Phillips

Gene & Mary Monroe

Ed & Geraldine Monroe

Rachel Ring

Jerry & Virginia Ebeling

Harold Slater

James & Helen Costello

Ruby Strbenac

Tad & Nancy Schroeder

James & Lucille Shelly

John & Joyce Shelly

Katherine "Winkie" Thornton

Steve & Carolyn Thornton

ALUMNI NEWS

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

1969

Bruce Kilmer was recently elected to his second term as mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Mich. A lawyer by profession, he also serves as regional court administrator for the Michigan Supreme Court. Bruce can be contacted at bkilmer101@aol.com.

1980

Based upon a journal kept during her recent illness, *Cathy (Miller) Allen* has published "Held with Both Hands," describing the spiritual struggle one often encounters with a severe illness, loss or grief. Cathy and her husband, *Doug Allen* ('81), live in Warren, Mich. Doug preaches for the Roseville Church of Christ. Cathy can be contacted at rdcallen@yahoo.com.

1983

Carl Tielking recently opened OneDay Industries, a company designed to assist homeless and unemployed veterans. Currently, One-Day is selling used household items and newly crafted goods to the public, while utilizing proceeds to assist individuals in his hometown. After its first two months of operation, the company had to expand into nearly four times the floor space. Carl lives in Lansing, Mich., and can be reached at thehealthalternative@gmail.com.

1986

Honoring *Brian Hoggatt* for service, the Sturgis Exchange Club recently named Brian the Exchangite of the Year. In addition to his service work in the community, Brian coordinates an annual Vacation Bible School and serves as treasurer for the Goshen Church of Christ. He is the chief financial officer of Sturgis Bank & Trust. Brian, his wife Julie, and daughter Ireland live in Middlebury, Ind. Brian can be contacted at brian@hoggattfamily.com.

1997

Lainey Scott joined Sarah, Sydney and Landen in the home of *Philip* and April *Brackney* on Aug. 2, 2011. Philip is the youth and family minister for the Trenton Church of Christ. The family lives in Woodhaven, Mich. Philip can be reached at pbrackney@tcoc.org.

2000

Eric Taylor recently released "A Day for Every Poem and a Poem for Every Day." The book draws on lessons Eric learned while a student at Rochester College and can be purchased through www.trentsprints.com. Eric is the founder of Truth-Spin, Inc., a company designed to provide college guidance counseling for high school athletes. Eric and his wife, Felicia, live in Albuquerque, N.M. He can be reached at mrtaylor@gmail.com.

2003

Miranda Dixon recently published her first children's book, "God is Enormous!" Miranda was the first of her siblings to complete a college education. She lives in West Bloomfield, Mich., and can be contacted at mirandado6@yahoo.com.

2004

Caleb and *Suzy (Goffin) Plettner* welcomed Elam Andrew on Apr. 3, 2011. The family lives in Lincoln, Neb. Suzy can be contacted at suzy.plettner@gmail.com.

Jason and Gretchen (DeLuca) Hine (08) welcomed Luca Julius Hine on March 5, 2012. The family lives in Arlington, Va. Jason can be reached at jhine90@gmail.com.

2006

Phil (07) and Katy (Dzwigalski) Travis welcomed Joel Edmund on Feb. 18, 2012. The family resides in Lafayette, Ind. Phil is the campus minister for the Elmwood Church of Christ and Katy is a prevention educator for the Drug Free Coalition of Tippecanoe County. Katy can be reached at katy.travis@gmail.com.

2008

Sara Kirm recently graduated from Palmer Chiropractic College and has opened a new practice, Dynamic Chiropractic, in Rochester Hills. Sarah lives in Davisburg, Mich., and can be reached at sbkirm@hotmail.com.

MEMORIAL GIFTS CONT.

Frances E. Toben

Arthur, Dorothy & Virginia Buck
James and Sharron Jasnowski
Dolores Ponder

Robert & Rosalie Turner

Theresa Turner

Carolin Sue Wallace

Leecia Penrod

James Westerby

Jerry & Virginia Ebeling

Rory Wheeler

Jeff & Mollie Debandt

Larry Witzeling

Sandi Witzeling

Beth Yuhas

Margaret Smith

HONOR GIFTS

Oct. 1, 2011—Feb. 22, 2012

John and Sara Barton

Mark & Marnie Moore

Jerry and Virginia Ebeling

Mike & Dawn Kurschat

Bruce & Robin Nettles

Darlene Hindsley

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Mary Motsinger

Martha Bouman

Alan Mulally

James & Helen Costello

Olivia Price

Vivian Ortiz

Tom Rellinger

Doug & Janet Edwards

Rubel Shelly

Richard Van Meter

Randal & Adele Wilcher

Rubel & Myra Shelly

Richard & Jeanie Jones

Jerry & Celia Masterson

rochester in RETROSPECT



1966

WARRIOR *Athletics*

Coach Bill Shinsky built the intercollegiate basketball program during the 1960s. The 1965-66 Warriors placed second in both league and tournament play. The Warriors won their first conference title in 1969.

There is no denying how far the intercollegiate athletic program has come. Rochester College now fields teams in basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball and golf. As a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the United States Collegiate Athletics Association, the Warriors often compete against larger universities and have earned several national championships.

However, the program faces the same challenge it did on day one — teams still compete without the advantage of a home court. National and institutional economic conditions necessitated a delay in fundraising for a new Health and Life Science Center, but those plans are being revived.

The Warriors have developed a reputation for outstanding athletic programs. Imagine what could be done if we had adequate training and athletic facilities!



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