



ROCHESTER COLLEGE Church Connections

A Forum for the Churches of Christ in the Great Lakes region

Vol. 2, No. 1 Fall 2004

mission: Church Connections

engage the Churches of Christ in the Great Lakes region and offer a link for them to engage one another

educate the people of the Church of Christ in the Great Lakes region for lives of study and service

empower the Churches of Christ in the Great Lakes region to complete their redemptive mission

mission: ROCHESTER COLLEGE

Rochester College exists to engage students in a vigorous liberal arts education within a Christian community for a life of study and service.

Church Connections is published in the spring, fall and winter by the Rochester College church relations office, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, Mich., 48307. Rochester College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 North LaSalle, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Phone: (312) 263-0456. Rochester College does not discriminate on the basis of ethnic or national origin, religion, or skin color. The College does not discriminate on the basis of gender except for specific necessary religious principles held by the College and its governing body.

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www.rc.edu

Rochester College hosts ElderLink

Elders, former elders, spouses, ministers and church leaders are invited to attend the ElderLink Forum to be held on the Rochester College campus January 28-29, 2005.

ElderLink is a concept initiated by Charles Siburt, vice-president for church relations at Abilene Christian University. The mission of the forum is to "equip, encourage and link those who lead and serve as elders in churches of Christ."

Hosted by Rochester College and held in the theatre of the new Richardson Center, the forum will include four large group sessions. Randy Lowry, meditation expert from Pepperdine University, will address issues related to church conflict. Other speakers include Harding's Monte Cox, Greg Stevenson from Rochester College and Ken Greene. In addition, smaller, discussion-focused breakout

sessions will be organized.

Those in attendance can look forward to gaining understanding and pragmatic guides for their role in leadership. ElderLink also fosters a unique environment for leaders to share individual concerns and successes, and to learn from each other.

The ElderLink Forum is a growing ministry conference. Four forums were held throughout 2004, and three forums are already planned for 2005, expecting to draw an estimated 1,500 church leaders.

The fee for attending is \$75/person or \$100/couple. For more information contact Rochester College vice-president for church relations Dr. David Fleeer at (248) 218-2144 or visit the ElderLink website at www.rc.edu/news.

Staff & students serve on mission field



Rochester College employees Chris Shields (left) and Dr. John Barton in an Ugandan village.

For Dr. John Barton, Rochester College faculty member and one of the organizers of this year's African internship program, spending this summer in Uganda was not only purposeful for the program but it also allowed him to visit a place he and his family call home.

After living in Uganda for 8 years, John and his wife, Sara, who serves as a campus minister at Rochester College, moved back to the States about 2 1/2 years ago. Having a heart for mission work, they helped organize an internship program for Rochester College students desiring to job shadow missionaries.

"The purpose of this intense six-week internship is to expose students to a broad view of full time mission work," Barton said. Experiencing the differences that missionaries must grow accustomed to is an important factor. Some of those differences include working among people who speak different languages and who live in villages without electricity and running water.

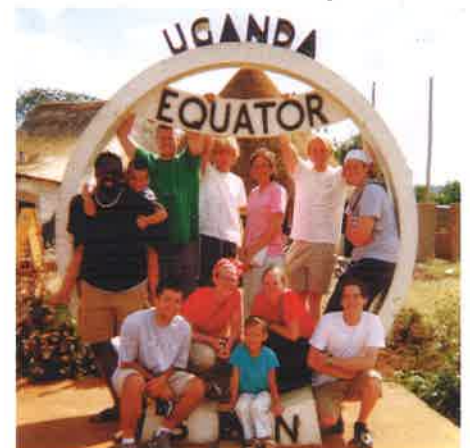
While overseas, the 14 Rochester College students encouraged churches and members by giving presentations at village meetings and teaching Bible classes for both missionary and village children. Chris Shields, Rochester College alumnus and admissions advisor, said he realized the power of God in Uganda. "I learned that relationships have nothing to do with skin color or communication, but the bond we have in Jesus Christ. This trip gave me new understand-

ing of Romans 14:11; *every knee shall bow and every tongue confess*," said Shields.

"Mission work is life transforming. It's about appreciating a world outside of our own: making a difference and being a presence for God where you are," said Barton. And of course, mission work can't be all work and no play. Some team members enjoyed white water rafting on the Nile River and a few brave souls bungee jumped.

Rochester College religion chairman Dr. Keith Huey and his 12-year-old daughter Alyson spent a fulfilling week serving in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Huey's reasons for spending a second summer serving on the mission field are two-fold. He wants his children to become more globally aware and he enjoys assisting those who are less fortunate.

Huey helped construct buildings and homes, while his daughter organized games and Bible lessons for the village children. "Going outside of our comfort zone expands our horizons," said Huey. He plans to continue this family tradition with two of his daughters next year. "It's exciting to see them so interested in serving," he said.



Chris Shields joins his team members at the Uganda equator line. Uganda straddles the equator and lies inland about 500 miles west of the Indian Ocean. This is a typical picture for a passing traveler to take.

Church Connections

Restoration Forum at Rochester

No Longer Strangers

October 15-17, 2004



Featuring:

- Ministers/Elders Opening Dinner
- Special musical programs
- Praise and Worship
- Outstanding Keynote Speakers
- Textual studies from Ephesians
- Practical Issues Classes
- Restoration History in the Great Lakes Region
- Panel Discussions/Forums
- Area-wide Worship Service on Sunday Afternoon

What is the RESTORATION FORUM?

Restoration Forum helps answer our Lord's prayer for Christian unity and world evangelism: that they all may be one... that the world may believe. "The lectures are designed to bring unity and fellowship to church leaders and interested Christians by promoting understanding of our differences and commonalities. This event reaffirms our fundamental value: our oneness in Christ," said Dr. Mel Storm, director of graduate studies at Rochester College and co-director of Restoration Forum.

Restoration Forum brings together believers whose Christian ancestry can be traced through the American Restoration Movement (a.k.a. Stone-Campbell Movement) that started in Kentucky around 1804. The Disciples of Christ, Christian Church, and Churches of Christ are three streams of the movement.

Restoration Forum XXII is historic as two colleges, Rochester College affiliated with Churches of Christ and Great Lakes Christian College (Lansing, MI) affiliated with the Christian Churches, collaborate to host this year's event, October 15-17. This year's theme is *No Longer Strangers* (Ephesians 2:19 - KJV).

The program opens with a Friday dinner for all conference guests to honor ministers and elders. Dr. Michael Westerfield, president of Rochester College, will share the *Vision of Rochester College within the Restoration Ideal*, followed by Richard Alexander's (Clovernook Christian Church) keynote address, *No Longer Strangers*.

Presenters from Churches of Christ include historian C. Leonard Allen, who will speak on *The Future of the Restoration Movement*, and leadership expert Lynn Anderson, who will deliver Saturday night's keynote address, *Unity Through Ministry*.

All restoration churches in the Great Lakes Region are invited to join in an area wide worship service at the Rochester Church of Christ building on Sunday, October 17 at 4:00 p.m. for the conclusion of the forum. Attendees will hear Rochester College President Westerfield and Great Lakes Christian College President Larry Carter share a message from Ephesians, *My Prayer for the Church*. As a symbolic affirmation of unity, a communion service will highlight the three-day event.

The forum will feature acappella worship, fellowship dinners, textual studies from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, seminars on contemporary issues in Restoration congregations, a presentation on the history of Restoration congregations in the Great Lakes region and entertainment programs. Storm added that people should participate in this year's Restoration Forum for three reasons: (1) to celebrate our heritage, (2) to affirm the best of who we are, and (3) to renew our historic commitment to the unity of all believers.

For more information about Restoration Forum, please contact:

Melvin Storm Doug Edwards
(248) 218-2115 (248) 218-2020
mstorm@rc.edu dedwards@rc.edu

The cost for the entire weekend is: \$30/person, \$45/couple or \$10/student. Registration includes the cost of meals from Friday evening through Saturday evening and the Sunday evening President's reception. Checks should be made payable to Rochester College and forwarded to:

Tammy Balk
Rochester College - Advancement
800 West Avon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

events:

OCTOBER

- 2 Founders' Day
Rochester College
Rochester Hills, MI
(248) 218-2011
www.rc.edu
- 2 Concerned Brethren Breakfast
Elmwood Park Church of Christ
Detroit, MI
(313) 567-4027
- 15-17 Restoration Forum XXII
Rochester College
Rochester Hills, MI
(248) 218-2013
www.rc.edu
- 22-23 REACH
Rochester College
Rochester Hills, MI
(248) 218-2038
www.rc.edu

NOVEMBER

- 6 2nd Annual Tri-State Singing
Camp Indogan
Angola, Indiana
(260) 833-6278
- 6 Concerned Brethren Breakfast
Vinewood Church of Christ
Detroit, MI
(313) 554-3698

DECEMBER

- 4 Concerned Brethren Breakfast
Linwood Church of Christ
Detroit, MI
(313) 868-7795

JANUARY

- 28-29 ElderLink
Rochester College
Rochester Hills, MI
(248) 218-2013
www.acu.edu

Submit events for this listing to Dr. David Fleer, vice president for church relations at Rochester College at dfleer@rc.edu.

fyi:

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Rochester College religion faculty - Ph. D. credentials

- Dr. John Barton, Makerere University (Uganda)
- Dr. Craig Bowman, Princeton Theological Seminary (NJ)
- Ron Cox, University of Notre Dame (IN) - candidate
- Dr. David Fleer, University of Washington (WA)
- Rex Hamilton, University of Aberdeen (Scotland) - candidate
- Dr. Keith Huey, Marquette University, (WI)
- Dr. Greg Stevenson, Emory University (GA)
- Dr. Mel Storm, Baylor University (TX)

Speakers Bureau features Dr. Bowman



Church Relations at Rochester College serves local congregations and highlights the college's academic and spiritual ethos by offering the best resources available. The Speakers Bureau offers over 40 classes from eight faculty members, each teaching on various interests for the Christian community.

The Rochester College faculty possess a strong devotion to communities of God's people in the Detroit area accompanied by their own exceptional training and teaching skills. This remarkable combination has the potential to deeply enrich local churches and enhance their spiritual nurture. Coupling educational needs of local congregations with faculty strengths is at the heart of the Speakers Bureau.

Dr. Craig Bowman a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, with a Master of Divinity and Ph. D. in Old Testament is one of the lead scholars working with archaeologists at Biblical Tamar in Israel. He is getting ready to publish excavation reports making known the significance of the Iron Age and Roman fortresses located there. Dr. Bowman loves to engage people exegetically with the text and the world it opens.

Dr. Bowman's classes vary from 4-8 weeks depending on the topic. Topics include: *Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*, *Daily Life in Biblical Times* and *Exodus Theology*.

For more information or to schedule a speaker to come to your location, please contact Dr. David Fleer at (248) 218-2144.

Church Connections College names former Michigan Christian student alumni relations chief



Rochester College recently hired its first full-time director of alumni relations to act as a liaison between the College and 6,000 people who call Rochester their alma mater.

Dick Miller, a student at Michigan Christian College from 1976 to 1978, is

the man whose only job will be to make sure the College and its alumni get the most out of each other. The 48-year old native of Barre, Vt., and father of three accepted the job after 20 years of ministry at Kemp Church of Christ in Arcola, Ill.

"The idea here is to find ways for the College to continue to be a benefit to its alumni," says Miller. "At the same time, we want to encourage alumni to give back to the College so new generations of students can enjoy the same experience that was so beneficial to alumni."

Over the next months, Miller will meet one-on-one with alumni and host a series of alumni gatherings across the Great Lakes region. He urges alumni to connect, commit and celebrate the distinctive opportunities as an engaged alumnus.

Miller wants to connect with churches, using his extensive preaching and teaching experience to service area congregations. If you would like to invite Dick to speak at your location, please contact him at (248) 218-2196.

faith of our fathers by Dr. Vernon Boyd



The first Church of Christ among Afro-Americans in Detroit. During World War I, the first black members of Churches of Christ moved to Detroit looking for jobs to escape the poverty and discrimination they had known in the South. The first members attended worship in the Warren Avenue (white) church and heard Claud F. Witty preach as they sat on the back row. Witty was warm and encouraging to these members but not everyone was. The black members then began meeting in the home of Blanche Yowell on Superior Street. As the numbers grew, they rented a storefront at St. Antoine and Alexandrine, the location now swallowed up by Harper Hospital and Detroit Receiving Hospital.

G. P. Bowser likely took this picture as his young daughter, Thelma, is in the photograph. He was known for taking many pictures in his extensive travels in preaching. Bowser first came to preach in Detroit in 1920 and held eight gospel meetings during the next 10 years.

If you have any historic photos of the early church or Rochester College and would like to donate them to the College, please contact Dr. Vernon Boyd at (248) 358-4139.



DIVINE RUSSIAN OPPORTUNITY

Thousands of Russian public schools are asking for the Bible. God imagined it. And right now, He has given us an opportunity that is truly divine. Trenton Church of Christ is working together to help raise funds for "The \$1,000,000 Sunday," sponsored by the Eastern European Mission. To contribute financially or to learn more information about putting Bibles in Russian public schools, please contact Don Bone, (734) 673-3273 or check out www.milliondollarsunday.org. All donations are tax deductible.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE UPDATES

Rochester College represents a wealth of resources for your congregation, from a complete college education based on the doctrine of Jesus Christ to events and services designed to educate, equip and empower the church. Stay informed about the opportunities at Rochester. Visit www.rc.edu or e-mail your subscription requests to news@rc.edu to receive Rochester's free news periodicals.

CHRISTIAN ENTERTAINMENT

Give your congregation and community another reason to fellowship: Invite one of Rochester's traveling entertainment groups to entertain your senses and encourage your hearts. Call (800) 521-6010, ext. 3, to book one of these groups:

- A Cappella Chorus (large choir)
- Autumn (vocal ensemble)
- Company (Christian drama troupe)
- Focus (summer drama and vocal group)
- Pied Pipers (children's improv theatre)

RESEARCH

Access sources for Biblical and topical research and explore the Michigan Church History Collection at Rochester College's Ennis and Nancy Ham Library. To access the library on-line, go to www.rc.edu/lib.

CONTACTS

- Alumni: (248) 218-2196
- Bookstore: (248) 218-2076
- Church Relations: (248) 218-2144
- Donate: (248) 218-2012
- Enrollment (adult): (248) 218-2222
- Enrollment (high school): (248) 218-2030
- Public Relations: (248) 218-2024

Rochester College Bookstore Presents:

Books by our Professors

Televised Morality: The Case of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Dr. Greg Stevenson, professor of religion and Greek at Rochester College, recently published this book, which explores morals as presented on popular television shows.



Have the book sent to your home from the Bookstore by calling 800.521.6010 (option 6).

contact: Dr. David Fleer 248.218.2144

www.acu.edu/ministry/elderlink/



January 28-29, 2005

a conference for church elders
@ Rochester College,
in the new Richardson Center

ElderLink

Rochester College & ACU Present

ROCHESTER COLLEGE
**Church
Connections**



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