

North Star

a Warrior report for alumni & friends of Rochester University



VOLUME 64
2022-2023



THE *open* TABLE

and CREATING a **beloved** COMMUNITY

from the PRESIDENT



The following is an adaptation of President Brian Stogner's Opening Meeting address to RU faculty and staff.



EXPLORE
MORE



*The Open Table:
A Fundamental of
RU's Identity*

TRANSCRIPT



*"Battle Over
'Wokeness' at
Christian Colleges..."*

ARTICLE

Biologists will tell you that a hallmark and a distinctive of human beings is our extreme adaptability. Homo sapiens can function effectively and even thrive in a broader range of situations, climates, circumstances and stresses than about any other species.

Though we might not always enjoy it, we are good at responding to novel situations and adapting to change. However, many of those same biologists would now tell you the rapid and ubiquitous changes in our current environment are taxing even our considerable adaptive capabilities. We are in what those scientists sometimes call a 'hypernovel' environment. Rochester University is no exception to that. In fact, some might suggest we are Exhibit A of it.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic, deep societal tensions, economic trials, and a bitterly polarized political and cultural environment have stressed us as a nation and have even damaged and divided our churches and families. As an institution of higher education, all of those factors have impacted Rochester University.

To add to them, we are also continuing in a process of change and challenge that often generates stress as it demands of us high energy, motivation and competency. Essentially everyone who is surveying the landscape of higher education, and Christian higher education in particular, would say that if we want to survive and thrive, we are in for more of the same head-spinning hypernovelty in the days ahead.

At our spring opening meetings last January, I spoke about the importance of Rochester University clarifying and developing its identity as a distinctive Christian university. I want to develop those thoughts a little further today.

Many of you may have seen the recent piece in the Detroit Free Press that focused attention primarily on Hillsdale College. Several people have wanted to discuss this piece with me. The article honed in on the presumed importance of private colleges adopting a particular political perspective in order to appeal to and attract students and donors from the families and constituencies most likely to attend and support private colleges today.

The headline was, "Battle over 'wokeness' at Christian colleges isn't just about politics. It's about dollars." I don't intend to rehash or debate the assertions of the article, but I do want to highlight one element of it and suggest a perspective I believe was missing from it.

One individual quoted in the article mentioned the importance of being distinctive, rather than just going along with what seems to be popular, which could be either 'woke,' or 'anti-woke,' depending upon to whom you're trying to appeal. I think that was probably the most important statement in the article, and the one most relevant to us. As we elaborate upon our nature as a distinctive Christian University, our emphasis will not be on a political perspective.

Do a little thought experiment with me. Make for yourself a mental picture of a line moving horizontally across from left to right. In your own mind, make an 'X' on that line where you think you are today in terms of your own political point of view, liberal on the left or conservative on the right.

I'm sure the RU community has folks with perspectives all over that line, and maybe in different places, depending on the issue you're considering. The Free Press article was emphasizing the importance of Christian colleges aligning themselves farther to the right on that line.

What I think was missing from the article was another issue. Now, imagine there's also a vertical line. So now we have a graph with an X and Y axis. (It's OK to do a little math—we are a university after all.) On the vertical axis, we would plot our level of hospitality and welcome for perspectives that are different than our own. Is yours low or high?

Everyone could plot coordinates on both axes: one for your political perspective, and the other for your welcome of those with different perspectives. But, it is that hospitality and welcome, not your political perspective, that is a defining characteristic of a distinctive Christian university.

Last January, we discussed the significance of the metaphor of the open table as a fundamental of our identity. Everyone is welcome at the Table of the Lord. To reiterate, that principle creates for us a foundation for our emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. It means we will be welcoming and inclusive of all believers and unbelievers, all races and ethnicities, all political persuasions, all socioeconomic statuses, all orientations, and citizens of every nation.

As we create and foster that inclusive and welcoming environment, we will strive to keep in front of us the reminder that it is because Jesus is Lord that we emulate his model of hospitality, welcome and inclusion. If we do this, we will encounter others (and already have encountered them) who embrace a life narrative that differs from our own political perspectives—and is even sometimes different from the Christian story. Those differences will produce deep variations not only in perspectives, but also in values and practices. In the spirit of the open table (which reflects the Golden Rule and the greatest commandments) as an institution, we will welcome and value these differences and the people who embody them, while continuing to speak and live the truth as we understand it. I don't know, or care, whether doing that would be called 'woke' or not, but it is who we are going to strive to be.

In addition, as we further clarify our distinctive identity, we will deepen our focus on the words and example of Jesus. We will emphasize humble and selfless service, not seeking glory or recognition for our efforts, but setting an example and teaching our students that following the call of God means carrying a cross, not accumulating possessions. That is a countercultural message, but I don't know how we can call ourselves a Christian college, and at the same time buy into the idol of materialism and the fantasy of worldly success. If we educate our students well, material success and wealth will come to some of them. As we prepare them for successful careers and the potential for material success, let's help them understand the proper value to place on those things in the Kingdom of God and how to be good stewards of them.

A distinctive Christian university not only is guided by the example and teachings of Christ but further recognizes the importance of having "Christ formed in us." This year, we'll work together to deepen our emphasis on spiritual formation in our community. We can't give to students something we don't have ourselves. As we foster an environment that helps and encourages students in the direction of the formation of Christ within them, we must be active participants in that environment ourselves.

As I draw my remarks to a close, I want to take a moment to share one of the many big things happening at Rochester University—an example of how we continue to grow in strength and health.

Over the summer, RU completed a Focused Visit on Institutional Change from the Higher Learning Commission, wherein the HLC reviewed our proposals to add graduate programs in clinical psychology and sport leadership. When it became clear the visit was going well, I couldn't help but think back on the beginnings of conversations we had in the psychology department about the possibility of offering a graduate program here. Those conversations began at least 15 years ago. At the beginning, it was just something fun to consider. Then, it evolved into an unfulfilled wish, a delayed hope or deferred dream. It took a lot of work, on the part of many people. "Thoughts and prayers," along with all of that work, were definitely a part of the equation. Now, it is becoming a reality.

The sport leadership degree had a different timetable. In terms of the history of RU, the idea for this program is a far more recent development. But, similar to the psychology program, it began with a hope and a dream that crystallized into an idea and was cultivated by the hard work and thought of a committed team of people who experienced God's blessings. These colleagues are now seeing that hope and idea come to fruition. The profoundly encouraging lesson and reminder for me is that Rochester University is a place where hopes and dreams can become a reality.

Our students are also coming to us with hopes, aspirations and dreams. We are here, with the help of God, to serve and guide them as they clarify and realize those visions and more clearly discern how they fit into the work God is doing. God is certainly working here. And as we commit to being a distinctive Christian university joining God in that work, may we be a community of truth and blessing for each other, for our students, and for the people and world around us." 🍷



ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY

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CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY

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COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

written by **ROBIN PORTER** | *photos by* **KAYCE MCCLURE ('13)**



Helen Keller
wisely stated,
"Alone we can
do so little;
together we
can do so
much more."

Collaboration is the true spirit of community—
something Rochester University strongly believes in.

Our institution is fortunate to collaborate with generous
community partners, including Chief Financial Credit Union
and Dutton Farm. Over the years, these two organizations have
worked closely with RU to help students in a variety of ways, as
well as contribute to fundraising efforts and provide employment
opportunities to graduates.

This spring, the partnerships came together in a special way.



*"Empowering
and supporting
adults with disabilities
to live a life of
purpose, inclusion
and dignity."*

That's the mission of
Dutton Farm, a nonprofit
organization located in
Rochester Hills, Michigan.
Formed in 2010 by a mother-
daughter team who saw their
family member struggle to
find support that would help
her continue to grow, Dutton
Farm seeks to educate and
inspire others to see the value
that persons with unique
abilities contribute to our
world. For more than 10 years,
the organization has been a
beacon of light for differently
abled adults and their family
members in the greater
Rochester community.

As an RU partner, Dutton Farm
has hosted nonprofit management
and mass communication students
on site and provided opportunities
for them to gain experience
working with a "real-world"
client on special projects,
such as business and public
relations plans. The organization
has also hired students and
graduates in the areas of
marketing, fundraising and job
coaching. Most recently, they
helped one RU alum find his place.

"When you do some good work and if it inspires others, then you have just created the ripple effect."

—Mohitch Agadi

Patrick Denis graduated from RU in spring 2021 with a BBA in accounting. Patrick has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Though people with Asperger's often have a difficult time relating to others socially, Patrick is high-functioning and, with support, was able to successfully obtain his degree. However, once he began his job search, finding employment was a challenge, as it often is for those who are non neurotypical.

"We had been searching for employment assistance for over a year," said Janelle Denis, Patrick's mother. "Among all the agencies we worked with, none were able to even get an interview for our son. He needed an intermediary to explain to prospective employers his symptoms from Asperger's during interviews and job placement. He just needed a little help."

That help came from Alysha Moorhead, job developer at Dutton Farm. "My work at Dutton is to secure employment in an ideal environment for adults with disabilities so they can live a life of purpose, dignity and inclusion," Moorhead said.

Alysha was able to find a loan clerk position for Patrick that allows him to use his RU degree and gain the valuable entry-level experience needed to pursue his career goals and provide for himself in the future. She achieved this by reaching out to another community partner, Chief Financial Credit Union.



Patrick Denis and fellow CFCC team members



▼
Did you know?

CFCC has two fee-free ATMs at RU—one in the café; the other a drive-up machine on the east side of the Garth Pleasant Arena.



▲
CFCC's Ashley Chambers and Jen Haberman bring fun and financial know-how to campus events, including Move-In Day and Homecoming.

Meeting more than financial needs

Chief Financial has been meeting the financial needs of its members since 1941, but the goal of the organization is to be “more than money.” Chief has placed corporate social responsibility at the core of its foundation.

In that spirit, Chief has worked with RU, as well as many other businesses and nonprofits in southeast Michigan, to make the world a better place—often one person at a time.

For instance, Chief helped an RU student get a car loan after an accident totaled her vehicle. Another time a Chief employee walked a student through the overwhelming process of debt consolidation and elimination. Another student received one-on-one financial counseling to manage medical debt.

Most recently, Chief gave Patrick an opportunity to shine.

“We were founded on the basic principle of people helping people. One of the greatest gifts you can give someone is a chance, and we are honored that we were able to give one to Patrick,” said Cheryl Boodram, executive vice president at Chief Financial Credit Union. “Patrick has already proven he is a strong contributor and has quickly become a valued member of his team. We count ourselves lucky to have him.”

Together we can do so much more

This story can perhaps be best summed up by Jaymes Vettraino, assistant professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Center for Social Entrepreneurship at RU: “What I find most amazing is that RU, Dutton Farm and Chief Financial Credit Union are all working relatively independently to serve our community in the best way possible—just good people doing good things. But when we come together, we can achieve even greater things—and the result is a story like this.”

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Player portraits courtesy of Detroit Historical Society



TRENT FAGAN

Moving Ahead

written by ELIZABETH FULTON ('11) & JENNIFER PORTER ('07)

The word 'run' is defined as “moving at a speed faster than a walk, never having both or all feet on the ground at the same time.”

Trent Fagan likes to be on the move. Not only is running his passion, but his overall involvement in RU's community might lead one to question whether he's ever not “in motion.”

Trent grew up in Warren and was recruited to run cross country at RU. The mass communication major will soon complete his junior year, during which he has served as cross country team captain, resident adviser, co-president of the social club Sigma Phi Delta Nu, Crimson Leader for incoming students, and member of the student-run Shield Media. Last, but certainly not least, Trent enthusiastically stepped into the role (and wings) of RU's new mascot, Crimson the Winged Warrior.

At first glance, Trent seems like a typical college student, and that he is. He can also be characterized as a fighter. Trent has been overcoming adversity since day one, beginning with a stay in the NICU due to delivery complications at birth.

During his adolescent years, Trent says he “fell down the wrong path” and quickly learned sports are a privilege that can be taken away. His passion for running ultimately helped him course-correct after a tumultuous few years of behavioral issues and struggling with sobriety. He became determined to do everything in his power to not jeopardize any opportunity to take part in the sport he so cherished, and he has made good on that goal.

However, in November 2021, Trent started experiencing acute pain that interfered with his mobility. He quickly scheduled a physical, and on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. His sense of humor ever present, Trent likes to joke that he got a great half off sale on Black Friday when he underwent surgery to remove the cancer. Four surgeries and chemotherapy later, Trent is cancer-free.

Most students in Trent's situation would probably have taken a break from their normal activities—stepping away from their studies and back from campus life. Trent did the opposite; he continued to move forward and make the most of his college experience. He showed up for classes, those around him and what he loves most—running.

Coach Andrew Bowman says getting to coach Trent has been an honor and privilege. “He shows up each day with a shining personality that is quite literally infectious, and he immediately stood out as a natural-born leader. Although he still has a lot to learn, his charisma, energy, dedication to himself and others and desire to pursue excellence lead me to believe he will find success wherever he goes.”



Right now, Trent is finding success at Rochester University. He says, “The RU community truly cares and many people have gone out of their way to support me. Faculty and staff have been in my corner since I arrived. RU means family to me.”

The familial trait of approaching tough topics with love and respect is something Trent says he has experienced at RU. “It has been a place for me to learn, expand, and have open conversations about religion and other controversial issues while still walking away as friends. It is encouraging and allows me to explore my beliefs.”

Trent doesn't consider himself to be a religious person, but he is the first to admit that since coming to RU, he has learned more good work can be accomplished through a faith in God.

The coalescence of the obstacles Trent has faced throughout his life, his RU experience and his long standing passion for running brings to mind the text of Isaiah 40:31:

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”



MARIA BANOU

Present and Accounted For: Ensuring Access for the Next Generation

written by ELIZABETH FULTON ('11)

Maria Banou says navigating life as an Iraqi-American “third-culture kid” was difficult, especially after the 9/11 terrorist attack. Among the few individuals in her K-12 school district and at RU who identified as Middle Eastern, she says, “For a long time, I was uncomfortable with my cultural identity setting me apart. I wasn’t aware of professionals within my cultural community who aligned with my career interests.” In spite of this lack of representation, or perhaps because of it, Maria decided to forge her own path—one that felt authentic to her values and aspirations.

Maria recalls four key factors in deciding to begin her journey at RU: ease of commute from her hometown of Bloomfield Hills, MI; a personable and hands-on recruitment process that allowed her to independently complete the college admission process, given the fact she was the oldest sibling in her family and a first-generation American; small class sizes that would allow for focused instruction and better participation; and enrolling in a faith-based environment that extended the comfort and familiarity of growing up in a faith-based household.

Maria found her student experience aligned with what she had experienced as a prospective student, and in 2015, she graduated from RU with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree in accounting. She believes RU’s biggest contributing factor in helping her prepare for personal and professional success was the intentionality of community and resources she received from the student body, alumni and faculty.

As a student, Maria worked as an academic services representative in the Registrar's Office and served as Student Government treasurer. These roles allowed her to gain valuable networking skills as they required collaboration with multiple student groups and faculty members. Additionally, she says the support provided by School of Business professors went far beyond the classroom. "I was privileged to have a lucrative job offer upon graduation. I attribute that success to professors who ensured my career-readiness by pouring over my resume and advising me on potential career paths." She explored two of those paths by completing internships in both the financial services and mortgage industries.

At the end of her junior year, Maria was selected as the first RU student to participate in the Talent Initiative for the Rochester Hills Mayor's Business Council. Although brief, the opportunity created a platform to present herself as a potential candidate to top employers throughout metro Detroit during a two-minute "elevator pitch."

"I got nervous and started stumbling during my speech." Again, Maria did not allow the moment to become a setback. Taking a deep breath, she continued her pitch. "It was embarrassing, but it was important for me to see it through, knowing I was worthy of being in that room. Even though I 'choked,' I stayed true to my authentic self."

Her perseverance paid off, and she was approached by top executives who offered words of encouragement and requested to meet one-on-one. Ultimately, she was invited to join the automotive manufacturer Sanyo Machine America Corporation, where she worked part time while finishing her RU degree.

After graduating from RU, Maria immediately pursued a master's degree in accounting at Wayne State University. This time, she took part-time classes while working full-time as an accountant at staffing services and leasing MSP provider, Bartech. She left Bartech to pursue her public accounting aspirations at

the Big Four firm, KPMG, where she provided audit services to a variety of industries nationwide.

In 2019, Maria accepted a job offer she felt was more complementary to her ethos of empowerment and collaboration—Senior Account Advisory Consultant at Deloitte, another Big Four public accounting firm. In addition to her main job function of helping Fortune 500 companies promote efficiency and transform the accounting and finance components of their businesses, Maria is involved with the company's new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Institute—building a Middle Eastern North Africa community and presenting potential opportunities to collaborate with external non-profit organizations.

When reflecting on her work at Deloitte and how it fits into the idea of service in God's world, Maria recognizes the importance of carrying on the generosity she experienced at RU by helping others reach their potential. "Empowering a more optimized and efficient future state for my clients can be traced back to the outpouring of encouragement and championing that occurred within the RU community for me."

In her spare time, Maria works with Hope House Detroit, a non-profit she was introduced to by RU Campus Ministry. After building a relationship with the organization's founders during her time as a student volunteer, she was offered the job of bookkeeper upon graduation. She has also continued to volunteer as a mentor for the girl's afterschool empowerment program, and in 2021, she became the youngest member of the Hope House Detroit Board of Directors. This year, the board elected her to serve as treasurer.

In addition to her work at Hope House, Maria recently joined the Arab American Foundation, a national organization dedicated to promoting Arab American heritage in the United States. She serves as co-chair Team Michigan Leader, coordinating grassroots efforts that partner with local, state and



Empowering a more optimized and efficient future state for my clients can be traced back to the outpouring of encouragement and championing that occurred within the RU community for me."

municipal governments to acknowledge and promote Arab American cultural identity and contributions. She also facilitates networking events and builds community within the greater Michigan area.

In 2022, Maria was named to the Arab American 30 Under 30 class. She says the recognition is important to her not because it celebrates her accolades, but because it shows the next generation there is a path for them.

"I think about the twelve-year-old middle eastern kid who doesn't feel like they belong or relate to their peers while struggling to understand norms outside their familiar home environment. When in that position, it can be very difficult to see opportunities to succeed and thrive. I know; I was also that kid."

She continues, "I am constantly energized by being a resource to others. I'm excited by the idea that the next generation of MENA individuals are going to have more access to opportunity thanks to the work of my generation."

GEORGE BARLOW

Why Not?

written by BRAD (BT) IRWIN, '96

George Barlow, Jr., ('87/'03) is head of global franchise development for Business Network International, which has 10,800 chapters worldwide (and is likely familiar to many readers of this magazine). This role involves working with business owners around the world, including Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Go back to the 1980s, however, and nobody—including George himself—imagined this future for him. Growing up in Indianapolis, Indiana, Barlow cared little for academics. He barely made it through high school and had zero interest in going to college until former coach Michael Light convinced him to run track for Michigan Christian College. He thought, “Why not? I have nothing to lose and everything to gain.”

George admits he didn't apply himself to classwork in college much more than he had in high school, but he did find two things at MCC that gave him fresh fire.

First, he met Tonya Meyer ('88), the MCC classmate who became his wife of 32 years and counting.

Second, he found a deeper and truer devotion to Jesus Christ through his friendships and participation in the Christian community at MCC.

George amazed even himself when he earned an associates degree in 1987. A year later, he moved back to Indianapolis, where he took a job at the local newspaper. That's where he found his gift for sales. Promotions and job offers followed. Throughout the next 15 years, his career and family blossomed, taking him to Utah, Southern California and Texas.

While living and working in Utah, George heard about the bachelor's degrees offered at his alma mater. He thought, “Why not finish what I started?”



In 2003, George walked across the stage to receive his Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Since then, he has completed a Master of Management degree from the University of Phoenix.

“Coming back to RC to complete my degree was one of the best decisions I could have made. It not only opened doors for me professionally, it also brought back many good memories of my spiritual experience,” said George.

Nineteen years later, George continues to excel in his career. Austin, Texas is the home base from which he works to bring networking and professional development to tens of thousands of small business owners around the world.

More importantly, however, is his faith and family. George preaches at local churches and serves as an elder at his home congregation. He is proud of his two adult sons and overjoyed by his first grandchild who was born in Dec. 2022.

It is not hard for him to see how his time at Rochester contributed to his life and work. “Looking back at my time at Michigan Christian College, it was life-changing and something I will cherish for the rest of my days,” says George.

WILLICIA HOBBS

Learning to Lead

written by BRAD (BT) IRWIN, '96



In the late 1970s, high school senior Willicia Payne had a plan for college, and it was neither scholarly nor spiritual. When she applied (and got accepted) to a large public university near her home in Chicago, she had two goals—to get out of her parents' house and to party.

One weekend, however, her best friend, China (Ellis) Dobbins ('81), invited her on a weekend road trip to visit Michigan Christian College. Willicia went along, never expecting the weekend to change not only where she chose to go to college, but change her life as well.

The beauty and tranquility of Michigan Christian's campus—vastly different from the crowds and noise back in Chicago—captivated Willicia. She decided not to go to the public university and enrolled at MCC instead.

Willicia soon forgot about her plan to make college into one big party. The personal attention she received from professors and the small student body gave her a chance to quickly discover her own gift for leadership. She became a resident adviser and student government officer as people on campus recognized her gifts and put their trust in her.

She also drank deeply from the Christian community and culture at MCC. More than 40 years after her time at Rochester, she says she still hums old MCC "chapel songs" to herself almost every day.

The young woman who graduated with the Michigan Christian Associates degree in 1981 was a great deal more motivated and mature than the girl who arrived on campus two years prior.

Willicia's MCC degree started her on a journey of education that led to a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees and, lastly, a doctoral degree. She became a third grade teacher in Illinois before deciding to switch to the corporate world. Her leadership skills were noticed at the large insurance company she joined, and Willicia was promoted to a senior position at the company's world headquarters. During this time of career growth, Willicia also married Dorian Hobbs and started a family.

The birth of her son and the family's move to St. Louis motivated Willicia to go back to teaching so her calendar and schedule would match up to her son's. It didn't take long for school officials to see Willicia would make a great principal. Thus began a phase of her career that saw her rise to assistant superintendent of her school district.

She earned every promotion by doing what nobody else thought was possible. For example, she took over as principal at a middle school that had the highest disciplinary rate and lowest test scores in the district. Within six years, the school had the lowest disciplinary rate and highest test scores.

After a lifetime of hard work in business and education, Dr. Hobbs retired, but she kept her flair for working hard on challenges—she is now a competitive powerlifter.

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ACADEMICS

RU Adds Seven Majors in High Growth Fields

Rochester University is now offering seven new degree programs to meet changes in workforce demand caused by rapid advancements in technology and a shifting job market.

While digital marketing, esports and gaming, and even health care management are relatively new careers, financial planning, human resources and neuroscience have been around a long time. Yet, these positions are now in high demand.

In fact, the State of Michigan anticipates job growth of 11 percent for financial managers through 2028. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of human resource managers and specialists, as well as public administrative jobs, are projected to grow 9 percent through 2030.

In some cases, traditional roles in these job categories are changing along with technology, which requires new skill sets. In others, there is simply a shortage of graduates with these degrees.

The programs are offered in a trending higher education format known as “collaborative majors.” Provided in partnership with the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges Consortium, each major combines academia from both RU and other major universities, with curricula built by industry experts, such as:

- Google
- Unity (software developers)
- Forever Labs (stem cell research)
- Igda (International Game Developers Association)
- PlayEveryWare (game platform developers)

Collaborative majors bring together the best of both worlds—students have the unique opportunity to take part in the traditional RU experience, while learning online with peers from other universities, in programs co-designed by leading professionals in their respective fields.

➔ RochesterU.edu/degrees



ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Rerouting the River and Preserving Palmer

After a rainy summer that resulted in eight feet of land eroding behind Palmer Hall, RU partnered with Oakland County executives, the Clinton River Watershed Council and the City of Rochester Hills on a multi-phase restoration project that rerouted the Clinton River and saved the campus housing facility.

NEW ADDITION

Gresham-Todd Amphitheatre

Construction of the Gresham-Todd Amphitheatre wrapped this fall, and RU now has a multi-purpose gathering space overlooking Lake Norcentra. The area is being used for outdoor classes, social gatherings, and more. A new and improved stairway leading from the patio of Gallaher Center to the amphitheatre was also completed as part of the park's redevelopment plan. Greshams Seasonal Services oversaw design and construction of the amphitheatre, and we'd be remiss not to mention they rocked it!



45,000

SQUARE FEET

THAT WILL SERVE RU IN THE FORM OF:

AUDITORIUM to host chapel and other large gatherings

8 CLASSROOMS able to seat 240 students

14 OFFICES for full-time faculty and staff

2 CONFERENCE ROOMS & 1 COMPUTER LAB

1 ADJUNCT ROOM providing workspace to four professors

Plus: Individual, coworking & lounge spaces and increased campus parking

TO GROW & GATHER RU Purchases Church Property

In April, Rochester University finalized its purchase of the church building and eight-acre parcel that adjoins campus and was previously owned by the Rochester Church of Christ. The facility is under a 15-year shared-use agreement wherein the church will retain offices and have access to the auditorium and classrooms on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Modifications, repairs and upgrades to the facility began immediately, and the building is slated to be used for educational purposes by summer.

The church purchased the land from the university in 1987 and opened the building in 1990.

PROGRAMMING

RISE Initiative Expands

Launched in fall 2020 with a pilot program for juniors and seniors in RU's School of Business and Professional Studies, RISE added a freshmen and sophomore component this fall. The program aids students in their transition to college, persistence to graduation and success in their professional life. The relationships established throughout the program are central to RU's mission of assisting students in discerning what God has called them to be and do.



Year 1 | Relationship

Admissions recruiters and athletic coaches build on relationships established during the recruitment process to assist students with their transition to college.



Year 2 | Inspiration

Provides space for students to engage in meaningful conversation and community in an honest, friendly and open environment that complements their classroom experiences.



Years 3 & 4 | Support & Engagement

Students and professionals are connected through a one-on-one mentorship program that promotes personal and vocational success.



RochesterU.edu/rise



MENTEE

Lauren Hope ('22)

"RU prepared me in terms of content, but Josh showed me what my job will look like mentally and socially. He was one of the references I used to get my current teaching job, and I know he's someone I will continuously learn from."



MENTOR

Josh Beukema ('20)

"Lauren and I collaborated on challenges, giving me a deeper understanding of and appreciation for why I do what I do. I enjoyed the opportunity to give back to a place that gave so much to me and was surprised to find I learned a great deal myself."

WARRIOR RECAP

NOTE:

Numbers reflect fall and winter sport totals. Spring sports will be highlighted in the next issue.



2

**CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS:
ESPORTS ROCKET LEAGUE & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**



▲ Christopher Nirode, WHAC Esports Rocket League Player of the Year, practices in RU's new on-campus eSports lounge.



HONOR ROLL

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference

- 28** All-Academic athletes
- 6** First Team All-Conference athletes
- 7** Second Team All-Conference athletes
- 3** All-Freshman Team athletes
- 2** All-Newcomer Team athletes
- 2** All-Defensive Team athletes
- 1** Player of the Year award
- 2** Newcomer of the Year awards
- 6** Champion of Character athletes

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

- 39** Scholar-Athletes
 - 14** Scholar Teams
- To qualify, the team's combined GPA for the previous academic year must be a minimum of 3.0.*

2 INAUGURAL SEASONS:
ESPORTS & WOMEN'S WRESTLING

5 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

- Dewayne Tubbs** Men's Basketball
- William Sayles** Men's Basketball
- Samantha Tomaschko Putman** Women's Basketball
- Jimmy Stewart** Baseball
- Eric Vaughn** Men's Basketball (not pictured)



▲ There's no place like home... except maybe the Hall of Fame. Inductees pictured with Klint and Garth Pleasant during the 2022 Homecoming halftime.

◀ **On a high**
Senior Andre Daniels finishes 7th in the high jump at the 2022-23 Indoor Track & Field NAIA National Championship.



WITH OPEN ARMS

Welcome Crimson The Winged Warrior

A warm welcome goes out to Crimson the Winged Warrior! Crimson joined the RU community in the fall and was recently given an official moniker after more than 100 people submitted name ideas and triple that number voted for their favorite. The winning submission was first made by current RU student, Chelsea Cox.

A nod to the institution's long-standing brand colors, Crimson also represents the spirit, strength, boldness and achievement of RU athletics.



AND COUNTING

Pleasant Secures 300th Career Win

Dr. Klint Pleasant, men's basketball head coach, earned his 300th career win on Saturday, Feb. 11, when the Warriors defeated Lawrence Tech University 78-68.

Pleasant started his head coaching career at NCAA Division II Abilene Christian University in Texas where he was the youngest NCAA Division II college coach in the country. After coming to RU, he served as an assistant coach for four seasons for his father, Garth, who was head coach. Klint succeeded his father as head coach in the 2011-12 season.



CONGRATULATIONS

Bissett Named Athletic Director



Clayton Bissett has been promoted to the role of Athletic Director at Rochester University. Bissett, who has spent almost his entire professional career in college athletics, started at RU in 2007 when hired as assistant athletic director. He was also tasked with starting the men's and women's golf programs, which he led for nine years. During his time as golf coach, Bissett was promoted to associate athletic director. Bissett and Dr. Klint Pleasant have added 15 teams to RU's athletic department for a total of 25 offerings and increased student-athlete numbers from 140 to more than 400.



NEW & IMPROVED

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LIVE SCORES
SOCIAL MEDIA INTEGRATION
STATS, SNAPSHOTS + MORE

ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Make the big time
where you're at

COACH



TELL STUDIOS AND ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY PRESENT COACH DIRECTED BY GRANT MCCLURE PRODUCED BY RYAN KORAL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TOM RELLINGER

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MIKE MULLINIKS CAMERA OPERATOR ZAC ROGERS ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ELLIOT JONES AND JEN PORTER

ARCHIVAL MANAGER LARRY STEWART EDITED BY GRANT MCCLURE GRAPHIC EDITOR ZACK HAMPEL

 ROCHESTER
UNIVERSITY

 Tell
STUDIOS | made
with
soul

PREMIERE PARTY

SPONSORED BY

EMAGINE
THE MAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE

APRIL 21, 2023 | Emagine Rochester Hills

Crimson Carpet & VIP Reception // 6-7 p.m.

Film Premiere and Q&A Panel // 7 p.m.

Cocktail attire requested

TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP INFO

RochesterU.edu/coach

PEPPERDINE LECTURES VIEWING PARTY

May 4, 2023 | 5-6:30 p.m. | Faculty Dining Hall

FREE TO ATTEND

Dinner may be purchased
from on-site vendor
and brought to viewing party

Hosted by Dr. Clint Pleasant

NASHVILLE VIEWING PARTY

May 21, 2023 | Otter Creek-West End

Reception // 4 p.m.

Appetizers provided by Jim & Caye Randolph

Film and Q&A Panel // 5-6 p.m.

Hosted by

Dr. Brian Stogner

Dr. Joshua Graves

Coach Garth Pleasant

LOCAL SUMMER EVENTS TBA

RochesterU.edu/coach





Rise together. Stand apart.

PHASE II



PHASE II

**BILL SHINKSY
ATHLETIC FIELDS**

**Finishing our
Sports Complex
in Phase II of the
"Rise Together,
Stand Apart"
campaign will:**

ADVANCE
our deep and enduring
history in athletic
performance



PHASE I GARTH PLEASANT ARENA

CHAMPION

the high level of hard work and sportsmanship displayed by countless Warrior athletes

IMPACT

our student experience, financial health, mission and community ties

...and reinforce our strong belief that incredible RU

**VICTORIES
LIE AHEAD.**

GAME CHANGER

FOR OUR COMMUNITY



STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

Currently, nearly 200 student-athletes, half of RU's student-athlete population, both practice and compete in off-campus facilities that are not our own. This limits the opportunity to expose family, friends and visitors from other institutions to RU's campus. The excitement and pride of hosting on our own turf, coupled with the ability student-athletes would have to easily transition from academic pursuits to athletic objectives is what we call a win-win.



COLLEGIATE SPIRIT

Rooting for your university's athletic teams is a classic part of the collegiate experience. Rooting for each other—that's classic RU. This addition to campus will allow the Warrior community to do both. We'll be able to launch an intramural program for both residential and commuter students, and student life will be enhanced by new weeknight and weekend event options. We can't help but light up at the thought of hosting outdoor evening games for the first time in school history.



GROWTH & REVENUE

At least 50 full-time student-athletes will be added to the Warrior ranks with the addition of this facility. Increased enrollment and net tuition revenue will be driven by the complex, paving the way for an additional club sport and more robust rosters on existing teams. We are hopeful the improved amenities and value they add to the RU student experience will also aid in retention efforts of both athletes and non-athletes. Retention has proven to be our most successful means of increasing revenue.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A turf field in the heart of Rochester Hills will help our oftentimes "hidden gem" receive significant exposure and traffic. Spaces like this are in high demand as rental facilities for youth sports and camps, and we're looking forward to strengthening our ties to local residents and businesses with each contest. Whether you're a family member, fan from the community or with the rival team, you'll be a welcomed visitor. These interactions and partnerships will be a valuable marketing tool for Warrior athletics and the university as a whole.



MISSION-MINDED

RU's mission to prepare students for personal and professional success as they serve in God's world is realized in environments like this one, and athletes make up 54 percent of our student population. What they learn on the field translates to how they live and lead once the clock runs out.



“

This will not just be a place where student athletes will run around and throw or kick a ball. It's a classroom. It's a place where mentoring happens—a place lives will be changed and transformed forever. When I look at this facility, I see more young people who will take the skills they learn at Rochester University and use them to change the world.

—DR. KLINT PLEASANT, Senior Vice President

”

ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD for men's and women's soccer, baseball, softball, women's lacrosse and club football

LIGHTING SYSTEM to allow evening competition

WALKWAYS that increase transportability throughout our expanding campus

SPECTATOR SEATING including soccer grandstand

PRESS BOX with pro shop

MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING with locker rooms, athletic training room, umpire office and roof decks

GUEST AMENITIES Concession stand and restrooms

Cost \$8M



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LET'S RISE
TOGETHER.**

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Partner with us by scanning the QR code or visiting:

RochesterU.edu/gamechanger



Kenneth Lester Johnson

APRIL 2, 1944—MAY 24, 2022

President | Michigan Christian College & Rochester College | 1991-2003

Between 1990 and 2010, about 150 private Christian colleges and universities closed forever. Rochester was not one of them.

That fact was influenced greatly by Dr. Ken Johnson, Rochester's sixth president, who served the longest time—just over 12 years—of any man to hold that office. He led an era of fantastic growth that turned a struggling two-year school into a four-year college on its way to becoming a university.

On May 24, 2022, Johnson, 78, died at his home in Brentwood, Tennessee. He left behind Mary, his wife of 57 years, two daughters and their husbands, and five grandchildren. And he left a legacy that will last longer than Rochester University itself.

A PREACHER'S KID FROM IOWA

Kenneth Lester Johnson was born in Menlo, Iowa, on April 2, 1944. He grew up in small towns, where his father preached for even smaller Church of Christ congregations. After high school, Johnson enrolled at Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas, where he made his home for most of the next three decades. In Searcy, he raised his family, earned multiple degrees, taught at Harding and volunteered at church. He also built one of the largest public accounting firms in Arkansas. By his early 40s, Johnson felt busy, but not full. He asked God for a ministry that would bring his passions and skills together in one place for one purpose. God answered his prayer.

On May 4, 1991, Johnson became the new president of Michigan Christian College. ▶



LITTLE SCHOOL, BIG PROBLEMS

Johnson found Michigan Christian College in danger of dying from two causes. First, MCC received most of its support from members of Churches of Christ, the fellowship that founded and continues to support the institution. By the time Johnson arrived, however, Church of Christ membership was trending down in the Great Lakes region. Simply put—the “pool” of donors and students from the Church of Christ could neither grow nor sustain the college. Second, students and their parents no longer wanted to pay a premium to attend a two-year college. They wanted four-year degrees in fields such as business, education, nursing and psychology. And they wanted a broader college experience. MCC needed to change.

On his first day, Johnson got a screwdriver and took down the sign that reserved a parking spot for the president. Then he got to work on a five-part transformation plan:

- 1 MCC had to become a four-year college.
- 2 MCC had to meet the marketplace of the coming 21st century. That meant serving a growing number of adults who wanted to earn college degrees while they worked.
- 3 Employers and students had to believe the college conferred credible, high-quality degrees.
- 4 Campus had to meet the needs and wishes of 21st century students, meaning resources must be added, facilities must be built and modern technologies must be implemented.
- 5 Above all, the college needed a larger view of its Christian commitments and culture. In his first published remarks, Johnson said he imagined the college excelling in its work to “encourage Christian youth to develop a personal commitment to lifelong learning, to responsible citizenship and to evangelical, undenominational Christianity.”

BREAKING EGGS

Johnson did not even have his business cards yet when he showed he would “break a few eggs to make an omelet.” He shifted funds from other parts of the budget to pay for immediate campus repairs and upgrades. It was a big bet, but it turned out to be a good one; the face-lift helped the recruiting office get more students to choose MCC. Enrollment, on a downtrend when Johnson arrived, leveled, then slowly grew by the mid 1990s. The growth didn’t solve the college’s problems, but it gave Johnson all he needed—a bit more money and time.

Johnson used those resources to secure a few key hires—perhaps the most important move he made during his tenure. As an accountant, he had an eye for numbers. But Johnson had an even better eye for talent. Not only that, he had an amazing ability to get people to give up pay, perks and prestige elsewhere to come to work at MCC. Other times, he cut his own salary to free up funds for a person he really wanted. Over the years, he built an extraordinary network of administrators, professors and friends

of the college. They became the architects and builders of the university MCC became 20 years later. Three of them eventually became Rochester presidents—Dr. Michael Westerfield, Dr. Rubel Shelly and Dr. Brian Stogner.

In 1995, Johnson surprised many when he announced construction of a new residence hall. To some, this seemed like wishful thinking since enrollment did not even fill all of the available dorm rooms on campus. Why spend scarce money on something the college didn’t currently need? Because Johnson believed in his vision for transformation at MCC and predicted a housing need was on the horizon given the progress the college had already made.

One year earlier, MCC conferred its first four-year Bachelor of Business Administration degrees, the payoff of a process Johnson pushed forward when he arrived in 1991. These new graduates were the first to receive non-Bible, four-year degrees from the college. Just two years later, in 1996, Johnson and his team earned approval to confer the Bachelor of Science. Students could now go to MCC for four-year degrees in various in-demand fields. Johnson believed the academic programs he built throughout his first five years would quickly fill the new residence hall to capacity.

Unfortunately, one more factor seemed to hinder his progress. A market study showed high school students thought the college was an unaccredited “Bible school” for preachers. The name “Michigan Christian” kept students from even looking at the new academic programs the college was offering.

So, Johnson broke the biggest egg he could. In 1997, he staked his credibility and goodwill on changing Michigan Christian College to Rochester College. The move risked the support of many longtime donors and friends. Some feared Johnson wanted to make the college “secular.” He endured a storm of criticism from some but remained steadfast in believing the decision would be best for the stability and growth of the institution.

ROCHESTER REVIVAL

Once again, he was right. The new academic programs and name caused a surge in enrollment that filled the new residence hall. And just as he’d always believed, the new name did not change the college’s Christian commitments and culture. In 1999, Johnson wrote: “A revival of spirit is taking place on the Rochester College campus as God blesses our teaching. This academic year, more than 60 students have recommitted their lives to Christ, or have been immersed in response to the Good News.”

Adding to the Christian culture on campus, Johnson prioritized investing in new Bible faculty and campus ministry resources. What he called a revival was kindled by the rise in Christian faculty, staff and students, and still radiates today where alumni of that generation live and work.

In 1997, the name change and new degrees, majors and residence hall made headlines, but Johnson snuck in one more experiment that would soon make as big an impact—a weekend program for working adults.

In just five years, those small weekend classes grew to become a new division of the college that offered four-year degrees to working adults at four locations in southeast Michigan. Adult education soon drove total enrollment to more than 1,000 students for the first time in school history. By the time Johnson left in 2003, enrollment was three times what it was when he started in 1991.

Good investor that he was, Johnson leveraged this momentum to make more campus upgrades and start more degree programs. In 2002, the college opened Ham Library, the first new academic building on campus in 24 years. The additional classrooms, library and technology gave Johnson what he needed to start building Rochester's first graduate program. A year later, he announced the start of construction on an even bigger academic building that would support a future nursing program.

LEADERSHIP TAX

On May 4, 2003, Johnson marked the start of his 12th year at Rochester. By then, everyone knew he applied his accountant's mind to each challenge and opportunity he was presented with. Once he prayed, studied and thought a matter through to a decision, he acted with resolve.

Johnson's strong, thoughtful leadership served Rochester well. It was plain for almost everyone to see that so much of the college's growth came from his decision-making and follow-through.

One of the costs of decisive and visionary leadership, however, is the toll it takes on the leader himself. The college president's office levies a "leadership tax" on the person who occupies it. This is why most college presidents in the United States stay in the role for an average of six-and-a-half years.

Neither decisions made or their execution are ever perfect. Choosing to go one way always means choosing not to go another. Choosing a course some favor always means choosing a course others don't. With as many changes he brought and decisions he made, it is remarkable Johnson managed to pay the "leadership tax" for almost twice as long as most of his equals in higher education.

After 12 years, however, Johnson admitted it was time for change and rest. On Aug. 4, 2003, Johnson stepped down as president. Soon after, the college's Board of Trustees appointed him chancellor—an honorary title he held even as he moved to Missouri to be close to his grandkids.

Johnson was only 58 years old when he left RC. He went on to fill leadership and teaching roles at other universities. He resumed his accounting practice. He took on more volunteer work at church. He made money as a day trader. He even dabbled in writing children's books.

Nobody has to wonder what Johnson's legacy means to the university now and for all time. It is not too much to say he built the foundation, drew up the plans, gathered the people, set the standards and started in motion the process that made Rochester College, Rochester University.



My aspiration for the college is that we may, for generations to come, continue to be among the relevant Christians through whom God chooses to work."

DR. KEN JOHNSON



That is not as important as why he did it.

"My aspiration for the college," wrote Johnson, "is that we may, for generations to come, continue to be among the relevant Christians through whom God chooses to work."

Throughout the 31 years since he became president, Johnson's aspiration has come true—thousands of men and women have received their Christian education and formation at Rochester before going on to do faithful, hopeful, loving work in the world.

If God chose to work through them, it may be because he first worked through the college's sixth president. Rochester University, and the people and places its community impacts around the world, will forever be thankful for Dr. Ken Johnson.



written by

BRAD (BT) IRWIN, '96

Larry, Lynne



AND A

LESSON ON

After a collective 92 years of service, Larry and Lynne Stewart have retired.* Here, their daughter, Beth Bowers ('02, '10), discusses her parents' vocation and its lasting impact on both the institution and the Stewart family narrative.

**Retired is a relative term for Larry—he continues to work on campus most days as a volunteer, maintaining the alumni database, stewarding Lake Norcentra Park, hosting campus tours and alumni visits, and serving as resident historian and archive manager.*

Legacy



Years ago, I read a New York Times article that suggested developing a strong family narrative is a primary marker of family resilience and long-term flourishing. This tracks with my own research and assumptions around the primacy of narrative in the life of faith. When I think about my family of origin, particularly the narrative my parents live and pass along, I know this to be true.

Rather than focus on what many would define as the 'American Dream' of upward mobility, larger opportunities for personal achievement and financial security, Larry and Lynne crafted our family narrative around a place—a small, faith-based, financially vulnerable institute (at times) of higher learning in the north. Rochester University has been the location of their vocation and our family narrative for more than 50 years.

The stories and experiences of their collective 92 years of service at RU could fill volumes. Friend and colleague, Garth Pleasant, says, "Their dedication to and love for the university is unmatched."

Larry began his journey at Rochester University as a student in the fall of 1968. At the time, Michigan Christian College was a two-year school granting associate degrees. Larry's only plan was MCC, and he found a close-knit, life-giving community that embraced him and fueled his passion and dedication to the college. He went on to complete a bachelor's degree in Bible from Harding University. Before graduating from Harding, the current president of MCC, Don Gardner, recruited Larry to work in MCC's Office of Admissions.

Three days after his graduation in May 1972, Larry started as a recruiter. His compensation package included housing (a dorm room) and a meal ticket. Within two months, in addition to his recruiting role, he became the dorm supervisor in Campus Center and worked with a group of students to design and edit the yearbook. This publication was the first of hundreds of projects Larry worked on in addition to his other tasks—he would be the creator and editor of all admissions print material and the college's academic catalog from 1972-1999.

Lynne Yoakum showed up on campus that fall. She originally planned to attend Harding, but on a campus visit during her senior year of high school, she stayed with two former MCC students. They convinced her to attend MCC, then finish her degree at Harding. She took their advice and completed two years at MCC, where she and Larry were good friends but never dated. Afterwards, she moved on to Harding as planned.

However, she decided to return to Michigan after her first semester in the sweltering Searcy heat. She finished her degree at Siena Heights University in her hometown of Adrian. By then, Larry was the director of admissions (at the mature age of 23).

Larry and Lynne married in 1976 after a short engagement. I asked my dad if he always knew Rochester University was his calling. He thoughtfully paused, looked over to my mother and asked if she remembered whether or not he talked about the college when he proposed to her...sort of a 'will you marry me and the college' proposition. She giggled and said she did not remember specifically. He looked at me and said, 'There's never been anything else I would rather do.'

"Their dedication to and love for the university is unmatched."

GARTH PLEASANT





After tying the knot, Lynne began teaching home economics courses at MCC, and in 1977, began her first full-time position as assistant in the school's business office. Together, the newlyweds supervised Campus Center dorm during the same academic year. Lynne then moved into Academic Services until I was born in 1980. She took a break from everything except teaching until my brother, Kevin, began kindergarten in 1988. Kevin and I grew up on the campus of Rochester University. The gardens, lake, trees and river were our playground, and a deep sense of my own rootedness and calling is centered there.

When Lynne returned to full-time work at the college, she did so in Student Services. She became registrar in 1990 and held that position until 2001 when she accepted the role of teacher certification officer. She retired from this role in 2020 after 42 years of service to the institution.

Aside from focusing on managing the campus bookstore between '77 and '79, Larry continued as Director of Admissions until 1990. In 1986, he began overseeing the store again, this time in addition to his admissions role and teaching a bible class each semester. He worked with the store in some capacity until 2012.

In 1990, he stepped out of the enrollment office and became director of public relations, a role he fulfilled until 2001 when he moved full-time to alumni relations and the bookstore. Additionally, from 1972-2007, Larry (and oftentimes Lynne) traveled with and/or planned 51 chorus tours, representing the college throughout the United States and Canada.



Larry began conducting alumni relations responsibilities in 1989 while he was still admissions director, and this work followed him until retirement this spring. His most recent role involved a mixture of alumni relations and institutional research, in addition to stewardship and organization of Lake Norcentra Park.

Both my brother and I graduated from Rochester College—I in 2002 and Kevin in 2005. In 2010, I returned to the university to complete a Master of Religious Education degree. My first two degrees paved the way for me to earn a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Lipscomb University in 2021. I now teach in RU's Department of Theology and Ministry and coordinate RU's church relations part time. Kevin owns a real estate brokerage in downtown Rochester and has supported the university through sponsorships and serving on various RU boards.

My parents crafted a beautiful family narrative—a story that has shaped my journey and the journeys of many other travelers along the way. Words are inadequate to describe the deep swell of pride and gratitude I hold for this gift. For, *"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Black & white snapshots throughout
Larry & Lynne living out their vocation.

Page 31 *The Stewarts stroll campus during Homecoming 2022 with longtime friend and colleague, Garth Pleasant.*

Above top *The Stewart Family: Brian ('08, Beth ('02/'10), Sophie & Sawyer Bowers Larry & Lynne Stewart Kevin ('05), Sara (Bodine, '08), Jesse & Lily Stewart*

Larry and Lynne celebrate their joint retirement with friends, family, and coworkers past and present.

LARRY HAS WRITTEN,
DESIGNED and/or EDITED...

162+ admissions publications

28 editions of course catalogs

56 editions of news publications
(including the North Star and MCC Bulletin)

39+ public relations pieces

His talent, unparalleled attention to detail and vast knowledge of all things related to the institution helps recruit students, share news and information, and connect audiences around the world to a small, liberal arts school in southeast Michigan.

“We would have to look far more than 50 years to find anyone who possesses more love for the college than Larry and Lynne.”

—KENT HOGGATT ('72)

LARRY SPENT A TOTAL OF

372 days

ON THE ROAD, OVER THE COURSE OF

51 tours
with the A Cappella Chorus

Lynne traveled with the group on more than a third of the trips.

“I know my life would have been completely different if Larry Stewart had not encouraged me to come to MCC. On a lighter note, Larry had the best collection of ties. I remember they were a little behind on the fashion curve, but he would always wear them with style and pride.”

—HAROLD GENTRY ('83)

Larry has given
HUNDREDS
of
CAMPUS TOURS
throughout
the years.

Would you like to take one?
Schedule it by contacting Larry at
lstewart@rochesteru.edu
or 248.218.2023

“If there was something happening or work to be done at the college, Larry and Lynne were always there.”

—BRENDA PHILLIPS ('77)

PRIOR TO THE AVAILABILITY OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY, LARRY TOOK AT LEAST

16,338 photographs

(and he still has the negatives to prove it!)

“Larry was a perfect tour director for the A Cappella Chorus, and Lynne was a great influence on the group when she joined him on our trips.

Larry always knew exactly where to go and did his best to coordinate interesting stops and attractions along the way. One time, he even saved our entire group from colliding with traffic that was at a standstill on I-65. Our bus driver may have been a bit road weary—as we were cruising along at the posted speed limit, Larry was the only passenger to notice what was ahead. He ran to the front of the bus and alerted the driver, who took evasive action to avoid a collision with a semi-trailer. We went into the median, but somehow avoided flipping over! God was with us! Then there was the time we were halfway to a choral festival at Oklahoma Christian University when the event was canceled due to impending snow and ice. We were advised to turn around and go home, but Larry found churches that would take us in. My sister arranged for us to stay in southern Indiana the first night; otherwise Larry single-handedly remade the rest of the tour on the fly. He knew enough people that he could ask at a moment's notice to completely reshape the trip. In the end, we all had a great time being together, singing as we went.”

—JOE BENTLEY

As an academic adviser,
Lynne assisted more than

700 students

with their
class schedules

Dr. John Todd



Dr. John Todd and his wife, Joyce ('67), moved back to their home state of Michigan in 1979. By this point in his life, John had fought in the Vietnam War; survived a shot through the left side of his face while piloting a UH-1 gunship; wrote and passed a bill in Congress that provided benefits for widows and orphans of disabled veterans; graduated from Georgetown law school; and passed the Michigan Bar exam.

John thought his next step would be to put up his shingle and practice law. However, that is not what God intended him to do.

Although he never considered a career in education, John fell in love with the students, faculty, staff and mission of Michigan Christian College. He accepted an assistant professor position at MCC 43 years ago, and as they say, “the rest is history!”

John served as a full-time professor of political science at the university until 2009 when budgetary cutbacks required a shift

to three-fourths time. He officially retired in July 2020, but continued to work as an adjunct professor until December 2021. In addition to his classroom duties, John successfully defended the university in court on two occasions (free of charge, of course).

John says he should have died on his last mission in Vietnam. “Not only my life, but my brain, such as it is, was saved on that day 52 years ago.”

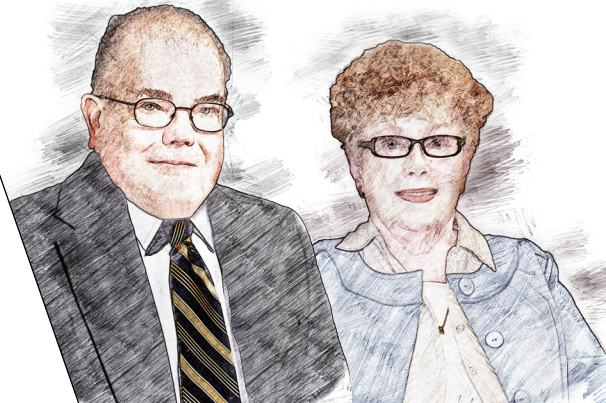
However, after a period of feeling sorry for himself, he not only accepted Jesus Christ, but also realized God had a purpose for him. “I worked for a U.S. president as the national coordinator of a Vietnam veteran’s group, and I lobbied Congress. I am proud of those activities, but in 1979, I found my life’s work on 800 West Avon Road.”

Indeed, countless RU students have been impacted by Professor Todd. Ryan Porter, a 2018 social studies education graduate who teaches advanced placement

U.S. history as well as literature and composition at Rochester Adams High School, said, “Dr. Todd was a highly unique and knowledgeable instructor, but more importantly, he provided a great example of Christian leadership. As an educator, the experience of watching him lead a classroom from a place of humility was incredibly valuable.”

Dr. David Greer, professor of history, said, “It was my privilege and pleasure to be a faculty colleague of John’s for over two decades. Through those years, he was unfailingly kind, thoughtful and generous—whether as my department chair, co-teacher for honors courses, or a lunch partner talking through matters of school, state, history or faith. Indeed, this man of an extraordinary personal story is perhaps best known at RU for showing interest in others. He has blessed the lives of many students and colleagues alike, and I am grateful to have been among them.”

Dr. Joe & Sarah Reddick



Dr. Joe Reddick, professor of business, and Sarah Reddick, associate professor of social work and sociology, recently retired after serving the Rochester University community for three decades.

The couple says RU was a crucial part of their lives. “We enjoyed the interaction with our students and enjoyed watching them go into the world and make an impact wherever they went,” they said. “We made friends within the university that we will take with us the rest of our lives even though we do not live in Michigan any longer. We both feel like we made a difference with our lives and instruction.”

Reflecting on a highlight of his 30 years at RU, Joe said in 2017, according to the State of Michigan CPA’s office, RU had the highest percentage of candidates taking the CPA exam, surpassing any institution in Michigan. “That information really made me feel my time here was very worthwhile,” he said.

Rebekah Pinchback, director of RU’s School of Business, said, “To students, he was known as ‘Dr. Joe.’ Many of them frequently commented on two things—how he made them feel and the short ribs and brisket he and Sarah served at their annual student barbeque. The School of Business will work

hard to continue Joe’s legacy of hospitality, generosity and student care.”

Jaymes Vettraino, assistant professor of business said, “The students Joe has taught, mentored and influenced are now managing, auditing, financing and leading this generation of companies. This is his legacy—those students, the organizations they work for and the communities they serve are better because of Joe Reddick’s work.”

Before working in higher education, Joe spent 23 years in corporate America as a CPA and financial vice president. Previously, he served 10 years in the U.S. Navy Submarine Forces on the USS Daniel Boone, a nuclear-powered missile submarine, and as an instructor on Ford Island Pearl Harbor.

Sarah worked at RU for 27 years and developed the university’s social work program. Sarah shared two of her highlights from her time at RU—receiving the Faculty of the Year Award and the interaction she had with students in and out of the classroom. “I loved the continued contact with many of my graduated students with the feeling that I helped them in their chosen careers,” she said.

Dr. Gordon MacKinnon, Sarah’s longtime coworker and professor of psychology, said, “Sarah was always concerned about her students and their performance, often giving extra time and effort to help them be successful. She has impacted countless numbers of students who have gone on to become accomplished social workers in their own right.”

Sarah earned a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Hawaii and a Bachelor of Science degree in political science at Southwest Missouri State University. She also worked for Queen Liliuokalani’s Children’s Center in Honolulu.

Joe and Sarah were high school sweethearts who married after graduation. They recently celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary and have four children and five grandchildren.

“All of our children have bachelor’s degrees. The three married children’s spouses have bachelor’s degrees. In total, we have 15 [people] in our family, 12 bachelor’s degrees, 11 master’s degrees and two doctorates. We are very high on education,” Joe said.

AT THE *table*

If Rochester University seeks to be an 'open table' community, it's the seven members of the senior leadership team who are carefully (and prayerfully) crafting the menu.

Read on for a taste of their contributions and credentials.



DR. REMYLIN BRUDER

Provost

DR. REMY BRUDER has been an active registered nurse for more than 28 years and has worked in higher education for more than 21 years. Her primary role as the chief academic officer at RU is to oversee the development and implementation of educational programs and policies to support students in their pursuit of academic achievements. She supervises all areas that touch the academic vision of the institution, such as faculty and academic support service departments.

Remy has served the National Council of State Boards of Nursing as a medical/surgical nursing content expert and item writer and as a member of the standard-setting panel of judges for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. She also contributes her expertise to the Higher Learning Commission, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, and American Council on Education as a peer reviewer, training facilitator, site evaluator, and faculty evaluator, respectively. She currently chairs the chief academic officer work group at Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities.

Her dedication to developing practices that promote opportunities for traditionally underserved populations is evident in her membership of the Diversity Team for the Michigan Action Coalition and Peer Corps Committee on Diversity with the Higher Learning Commission. Remy has also represented the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc. as the Nurse in Washington Scholar and a Leadership Scholar. She was selected as a fellow to the American Nurses Advocacy Institute by the American Nurses Association and is in her second term with the legislative committee of the American Nurses Association-Michigan chapter.

Remy has presented locally, regionally and nationally on the topic of servant leadership; was nominated for the Nightingale Awards for Nursing® in the Distinguished Oakland University Alumni category; and was recognized in Pulse Magazine as a transformational leader. She was the recipient of the Auburn Hills Chamber of Commerce's Beaumont Health-Excellence in Healthcare Award and belongs to the Sigma International Honor Society chapters of Theta-Psi-at Large and Omicron Delta.

“

As a clinician and educator, I am energized by supporting Rochester University students in their efforts to overcome barriers to their growth, success and perceptions of self-efficacy.”



LUKE FLEER

Vice President of Development & Alumni Relations

LUKE FLEER leads development efforts as RU raises funds for capital projects and student scholarships; deepens relationships with alumni, friends, community members and other partners from around the region; and increases awareness about the institution's mission and future.

Luke came to RU after serving at Michigan Medicine in Ann Arbor for more than five years. While at Michigan Medicine, he led strategy and fundraising efforts for the Department of Medicine, the system's largest and oldest office.

Before that, Luke worked for almost 10 years in various development roles for Oakland University in Rochester Hills, including major gifts, the William Beaumont School of Medicine and OU's Division I athletic department.

After his graduation from RU in 2004, he worked for three years at the university as an admissions adviser, alumni officer and assistant basketball coach. In 2015, Luke was named to the Oakland County Elite 40 Under 40 class, placing second in the overall selection.



CHARITY DAVIDSON

Vice President of Human Resources | Chief People Officer

CHARITY DAVIDSON has been a champion for equity in education for more than 20 years. She is devoted to developing leadership and talent in those who create and accelerate meaningful change in our world. This passion fuels her work at RU, where she is responsible for recruiting and hiring RU employees, managing the policies and systems that allow employees to thrive, and leading diversity work as co-chair of RU's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Committee.

Before coming to RU, Charity was an executive director for New Paradigm for Education in Detroit. Her professional experience also

includes the role of senior managing director of the program continuum at Teach for America—Detroit and middle school principal at University YES Academy.

Charity received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in political science with a minor in Afro-American and African Studies. She completed a master's in education at National Louis University and finished a prestigious two-year fellowship with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network in 2021. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Vanderbilt University.

“

Last fall, I returned to my roots with excitement to serve a place that shaped my life in so many positive ways. I want to share the RU story to better engage our community, alumni and other friends of the university in meaningful ways.”

“

My passion is all about people. There is value in everyone, and all they need are the right conditions surrounding them. I am excited to lead the work that is reimagining how we co-create an environment where everyone can thrive.”

“

My family's legacy is here in this vibrant, important educational community. Most of all, our commitment is to each student who walks through our doors. We want them to flourish as they go forth and serve in God's world."

“

The opportunity to get to know our students and support them in their life journeys excites me and keeps me going in this work. It is one of the greatest blessings I have been given."



DR. KLINT PLEASANT

Senior Vice President | Head Men's Basketball Coach

DR. KLINT PLEASANT'S roots are deeply planted in the soil of RU. His grandfather, Lucien Palmer, was a founder and former president, and his father, Garth Pleasant, served as head men's basketball coach for nearly 40 years. Klint took the reins in 2011.

Klint is senior vice president and special assistant to the president, where he is involved in strategic planning, enrollment, fundraising, athletics, public relations, retention, and policies and procedures.

While overseeing the athletic department, Klint has increased the number of teams to 25, comprised of more than 400 student athletes. He also transitioned the university from a small college conference to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics as a member of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Under his coaching, the RU men's basketball team scored 30 victories—the most wins in a season in the school's history—and earned two small college national championships. He also led the team to its first NAIA top 25 national ranking, a national tournament appearance, and first conference championship in 2020-21. He has been recognized as a National Coach of the Year, Conference Coach of the Year and Conference Coach of Character.

Klint earned a doctorate degree in learning organizations and strategic change from Lipscomb University, a master's degree in education from the University of Tennessee Martin and a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Lipscomb.

He is a published author, frequent keynote speaker and guest preacher.



SCOTT SAMUELS

Vice President of Admissions | Marketing | Student Life
Interim Dean of Students

SCOTT SAMUELS is no stranger to Rochester University, having grown up in a family who has supported the institution since its early years.

In 2002, Scott began working at Rochester College after spending 14 years in banking, investment and financial advising for professional athletes. As a faculty member in the School of Business and Professional Studies, Scott shared his wealth of knowledge and experience.

His success in leading an employee fundraising campaign for the Athletic Center and desire to work with prospective students led him out of the classroom and into administration in 2005.

Now, Scott oversees three campus departments—admissions, marketing and communication, and student life. Although each office has a different function, they are all aimed at successful student recruitment and retention.

In addition to his senior leadership roles, Samuels has served as an assistant coach for RU's varsity men's basketball program since 2004—the first year the Warriors brought home back-to-back national championship titles.

Samuels graduated from Oklahoma Christian University in 1986 and went on to complete a Masters of Finance from Walsh College in 1996.



TOM RELLINGER

Executive Vice President | CFO

TOM RELLINGER'S connection to RU dates back to when he was a student in the 1970s. He and his wife Diane ('80) have always remained loyal supporters of their alma mater. Tom officially returned to RU in 2011 as director of development and alumni relations. In 2013, he was promoted to vice president, and in 2017, Tom was appointed to his current role.

Some of his key accomplishments during his time at RU have been assisting the university in the creation and implementation of an overall five-year strategic plan and a strategic financial plan for accreditation (leading to the first passing evaluation on finances since the early 2000s); securing the largest financial gift in school history; doubling the number of annual donors and annual fund revenue; and

implementing process improvements, resulting in streamlined workflow in the departments he oversees— Operations (Maintenance, Grounds and Information Technology), Student Financial Services, Human Resources and the Business Office. Tom was instrumental in implementing the RU Foundation and now serves as one of its board members. He also is a member of the Board of Trustee Audit Committee.

Prior to returning to RU, Tom was in the Marketing/Sales division of IBM, a world-class information service leader. He also served as senior minister at the Petoskey Church of Christ for 15 years, while holding positions on several local and regional nonprofit, education and healthcare advisory boards.

DR. BRIAN STOGNER

President | Professor of Psychology

DR. BRIAN STOGNER has served RU for a total of 25 years and led the institution as president since 2017. During this tenure, he has set a strong and unique path for RU to be recognized as a "distinctive Christian university." Brian supervises strategic planning efforts, connects with governmental and community leaders, leads the senior leadership team, and works closely with the Board of Trustees to accomplish this objective.

Despite his presidential responsibilities, Brian continues his first academic pursuit—teaching in the classroom as a professor of psychology.

Prior to becoming president, Brian served in various roles, including provost, executive vice

president, director of the Health and Behavioral Sciences Institute, and chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

Brian has been a practicing clinical psychologist for more than 20 years, and he has won national awards and recognition for his psychological research and teaching. He has served as a consultant-evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission and also serves on the National Missionary Care Task Force of the Missions Resource Network.

Brian earned his doctorate and master's degrees in clinical psychology from Wayne State University and his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan-Flint.



“

I get excited to wake up each day with a passion to make RU a better place to serve our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends in an effort to provide a life-changing experience toward our Lord and Savior.”

“

Our students are coming to us with hopes, aspirations and dreams. We are here, with the help of God, to serve and guide them as they clarify and realize those visions and more clearly discern how they fit into the work God is doing.”

DONOR DIGEST

NEWS Philanthropist of the Year

FEATURES Donor Testimonials Offer a Guide to Giving

CLASSIFIEDS Recurring Gifts

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Foulks Honored as Philanthropists of the Year

In recognition of their philanthropic spirit and commitment to Christian education, Bruce and Judy Foulk were given this academic year's J. Robert and Mary Utley Philanthropist of the Year award.



Bruce and Judy Foulk

The Foulks have supported the institution since 1960 through various means, including a personal and a company-funded endowed scholarship; capital campaign gifts (rooms in the Ham Library and Garth Pleasant Arena honor their generosity); and sponsorship of the university's annual Partnership Dinner. Additionally, the Foulks give of their time—Bruce was a member of RU's Board of Trustees from 2004-2015, and Judy is a lifetime member of the Associates.

The Foulks said, "We believe Rochester University's student-centered, Christian-principled education experience, as demonstrated by faculty and staff, combined with the smaller enrollment, is a significant benefit to those searching for a personalized alternative to big-box universities."

IF YOUR GOAL IS TO:

MEMORIALIZE OR HONOR SOMEONE

Kelly Garrett enrolled at Rochester University in 2003 after hearing about RU's accelerated learning program from an employee. Shortly after doing so, her position was eliminated from the company she had worked at for more than a decade. However, she no longer worried about being unqualified because she lacked a degree, and Kelly says her degree has continued to give her options as her career has progressed throughout the years.

Fast forward to 2021, and Kelly's son, Chandler, was preparing to begin college. His options seemed limited due to his lifelong illness, sickle cell anemia. Chandler decided he would attend a community college, but Kelly knew the large class sizes would be bigger than what he was used to and might be challenging.

Just as her employee had done nearly 20 years prior, Kelly told Chandler about her RU experience. She encouraged him to live on campus and enjoy his freedom, while also receiving more focused attention and not being too far from home. He applied, was accepted and eagerly awaited move-in weekend.

Chandler was a student at RU for just over a month before he passed away on Oct. 8, 2021. Kelly and other family members planned to start a foundation for sickle cell anemia in his honor. Their plans shifted to honoring Chandler through an endowed scholarship after attending a memorial service put on by the RU community.

"I was completely floored. The kind words, friendships and impact I felt my son made in such a short time changed my mind about where his memorial funds should go. RU took care of my son, and I wanted to show my appreciation for that," said Kelly.



Kelly and Chandler

THEN YOU CAN:

support RU's mission and students by establishing an endowed scholarship tailored to your award specifications

AND YOUR BENEFITS ARE:

advancing someone's legacy while receiving a current tax deduction. Endowments can be made through cash or planned giving methods (ex. gift of stock or IRA rollover) offering additional financial benefits.

IF YOUR GOAL IS TO:

**AVOID TWO-FOLD
TAXATION
on IRA or other
employee benefit plans**

Doug and Sheila Selke came to know Rochester University and its mission as a young married couple who attended a Partnership Dinner in the late '70s. In the decades since, the Selkes have been advocates for and financial contributors to RU.

"We immediately recognized the important value and impact the school was providing to so many young people...building a foundation of faith for what God's design is for each student as they pursue a higher education."

Now retired, the Selkes make donations from IRA investments through a Qualified Charitable Donation. This provision in the IRS tax code allows individual donors to contribute up to \$100K a year to eligible organizations.

A QCD is an excellent way for people to share financial blessings with the university, while simultaneously benefitting from current IRS rules that designate QCD donations are not to be included in reported taxable income for the year.

"We encourage others, for whom this approach may be appropriate, to do the same. We thank God for our blessings and the Kingdom mission work of Rochester University," said Doug.



Sheila & Doug Selke

THEN YOU CAN:

name RU as the beneficiary of the assets after your lifetime

AND YOUR BENEFITS ARE:

the ability to leave your family other assets that carry tax liability.

IF YOUR GOAL IS TO:

**DEFER A GIFT
while using your assets
during your life**

Brenda Phillips' time at Michigan Christian College tremendously impacted her life.

"The interactions I had with faculty and staff and the friendships I made with students were very special and helped me grow and mature emotionally and spiritually. Many of those relationships have lasted more than 40 years," said Brenda.

Brenda is unable to make significant monetary contributions during her lifetime, but her goal of financially supporting RU will be realized because she has included the university in her estate plan. "I want RU to continue providing quality education in a Christian environment to future generations. I love knowing I can continue to support and positively impact the university even after I'm gone."



Brenda Phillips

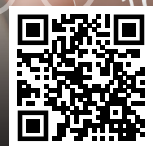
THEN YOU CAN:

Make a bequest in your will or revocable trust

AND YOUR BENEFITS ARE:

Donations that are fully exempt from federal estate tax and preserving your assets at present.

**MAKE IT
MONTHLY**



Take two minutes to set up your gift now!

RochesterU.edu/donate

Giving can seem overwhelming when it's usually only large donations that make the headlines. But those donors probably got started supporting their cause with small gifts. Setting up a recurring gift adds up over time, providing consistent support to areas of need.

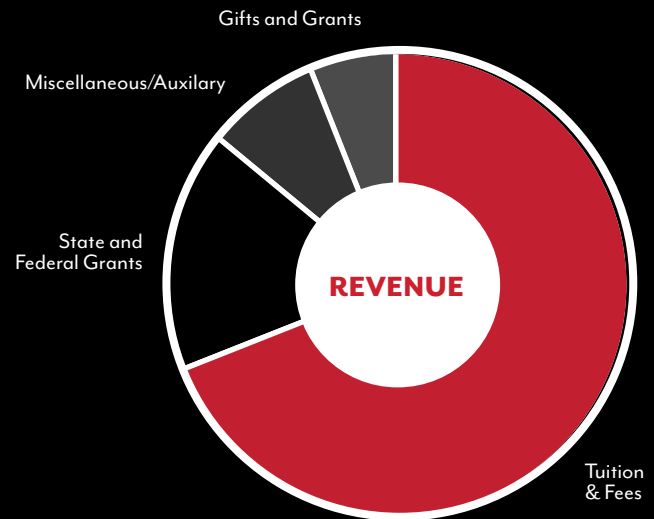
Starting small can make a big difference.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Rochester University Budget Summary | June 1, 2021-May 31, 2022

REVENUE

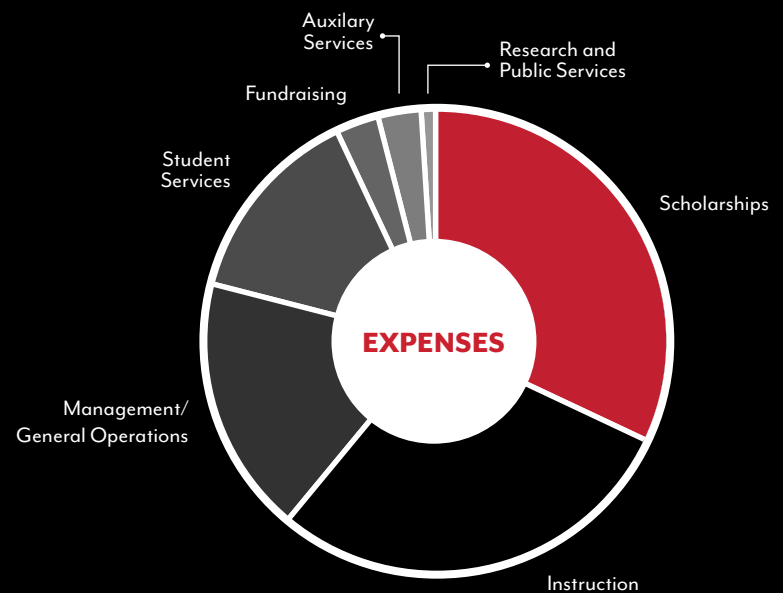
Tuition and Fees	\$17,493,365	69%
State and Federal Grants	\$4,417,849	17%
Miscellaneous/Auxiliary	\$1,991,691	8%
Gifts and Grants	\$1,600,965	6%



TOTAL \$25,503,870 100%

EXPENSES

Scholarships	\$7,278,229	32%
Instruction	\$6,614,851	29%
Management/General Operations	\$4,230,969	18%
Student Services	\$3,253,739	14%
Fundraising	\$747,239	3%
Auxiliary Services	\$593,519	3%
Research and Public Services	\$178,563	1%



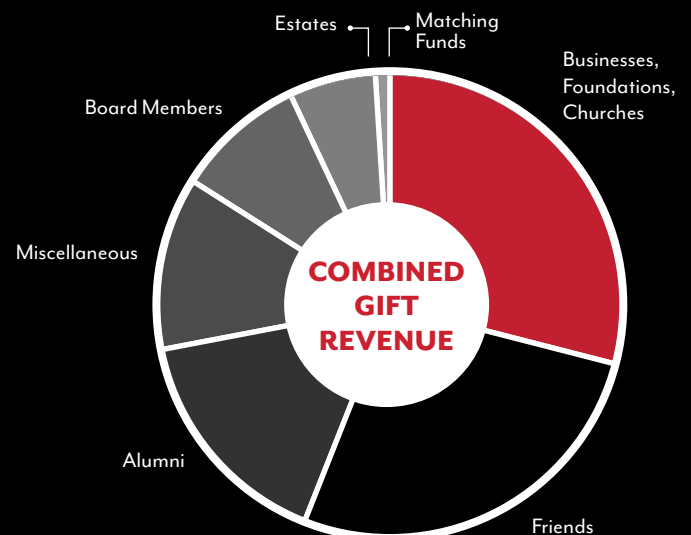
TOTAL \$22,897,109 100%

NET REVENUE BALANCE \$2,606,761

COMBINED GIFT REVENUE (both restricted and unrestricted)

Businesses, Foundations, Churches	\$468,389	29%
Friends	\$432,407	27%
Alumni	\$255,571	16%
Miscellaneous	\$201,784	12%
Board Members	\$146,102	9%
Estates	\$94,412	6%
Corporations (Matching Funds)	\$2,300	1%

TOTAL \$1,600,965 100%



Rochester University is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

The University's Form 990 is available upon request through the Business Office.

Most people would probably agree the best parts of gathering around a table are the food and the community.

The former would be quite the undertaking, but RU knows a thing or two about the latter.

Allow us to introduce you to some of the students in our community.

We hope you'll enjoy getting to know them through the conversation starters below.

Besides graduating, what is **one goal** you have for your time in college?

"I want to excel in college basketball by being a leader, earning All-American honors and contributing to a national championship title."

Shawn Jones
Digital marketing major from Pontiac, MI



"I want to finish writing my first full-length play and maybe even get it staged."

Nathan Freundl
Theatre performance major from Grand Haven, MI

What is an **imaginary course** you wish Rochester University offered?

"How to speak Gibberish!"

Kamila Marin
Psychology major from Davie, FL



"How to read minds!"

Nilla Kanjoma
Pre-med major from Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa

What are **three values** you want to exemplify in your life?

"Authenticity; hard work; determination."

Jayline DeJesus
Psychology major from Orlando, FL



"Love is always the answer; speak with kindness; pray first."

Audrey Soares
Elementary education major from West Branch, MI

AT A GLANCE

MISSION Rochester University prepares students for professional and personal success as they serve in God's world.

VISION Rochester University will cultivate a diverse and welcoming community of learners among students, faculty and staff for the sake of participating in God's mission in the world. Learning together the way of Christ, we will serve in neighborhoods, businesses, and organizations with justice and mercy. Sharing life in the spirit of God, RU graduates will contribute creativity, knowledge and integrity to our rapidly changing world.

VALUE STATEMENT Rochester University calls students to discover and develop their unique gifts and abilities to participate in the redemptive work of God. Rochester University welcomes students into a supportive community with personalized attention. RU engages students in a rigorous and holistic education for professional and personal success.

ACCREDITATION Rochester University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In addition, RU is authorized by the Michigan Department of Education to recommend teacher candidates to the state for certification. The Teacher Education Program has applied for national accreditation through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and currently is at candidacy phase in the process.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES include service learning, Greek life, Chapel, study abroad, Student Leadership Program, Theatre, Shield Student Media, Student Programming Board, Mission Trips, student organizations, Campus Ministry events, Black Student Union, First Year Experience and more.

ALUMNI Rochester University has graduated a diverse group of alumni. This vast network of professionals live in 49 states and 35 nations, working and leading in Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, human service organizations, health systems, the education sector and more.

by the numbers

96%
OF RU GRADS

are employed
or continuing
their education
within a year
of graduation

CNN's Money Magazine
recognized Rochester as one of
the top places to live and the very
BEST IN all
of MICHIGAN!

1,170
students
from 25 states
& 19 nations

average
CLASS
SIZE of
14

OUR CAMPUS IS 76 PRISTINE ACRES
LOCATED A SHORT WALK FROM DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

and no more than 30 miles from...
MUSEUMS • MARKETS • MALLS • CONCERTS
PRO SPORTS • THE AUTOMOTIVE SCENE • OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
FOOD TRUCKS + FINE DINING • WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT
natural beauty, and all kinds of other fun to discover

**Rochester Hills has been named one of the
100 SAFEST CITIES IN THE US**

ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY



EXPLORING

Broaden your understanding of the world in its beauty, diversity and complexity.

PREPARING

Acquire knowledge and develop skills to serve in neighborhoods, organizations and businesses.

INTEGRATING

Connect and apply knowledge and skills in your personal and professional life.

CALLING

Discern what God has called you to be and do.



RochesterU.edu/epic

TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

English

Theatre Tracks available in:

Acting, Musical Theatre,
Stage Management, Theatre
Management, Design and Directing

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA)

Accounting

Financial Planning

Human Resource Management Management

Nonprofit Management

Sports Management

Sports Management:

Esports & Gaming Administration

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS)

Behavioral Science

Track available in: Social Work

Biology

Tracks available in:

Cellular/Molecular Biology
and Environmental Biology

Christian Ministry

Digital Marketing

Education, Elementary

Majors available in:

Lower Elementary,
Upper Elementary
and Learning Disabilities

Education, Secondary

Majors available in:

English Education,
Integrated Science Education,
Learning Disabilities
and Social Studies Education

Health Care Management

Health Sciences

Tracks available in: Pre-Pharmacy,
Pre-Physical Therapy and Research Methods

Information Systems—Programming

Interdisciplinary Studies

This program allows students to combine
two academic disciplines in innovative ways
to meet market demands

Mass Communication

Track available in: Integrated Media

Neuroscience

Psychology

Public Administration

Theatre

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN)

Nursing

ACCELERATED PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA)

Computer Information Systems

Financial Planning

Human Resource Management

Management

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Digital Marketing

Early Childhood Studies

Health Care Management

Mass Communication

Psychology

Strategic Leadership

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

RN to BSN

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA)

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

MASTER OF ARTS

Clinical Psychology

Sport Leadership

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Missional Leadership



INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

Baseball (men's)*

Basketball (men's* & women's)

Bowling (men's & women's)

Competitive Cheer (co-ed)

Cross Country (men's & women's)

Esports (co-ed)

Golf (men's & women's)

Lacrosse (women's)

Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field
(men's & women's)

Soccer (men's & women's)

Softball (women's)

Volleyball (women's*)

Wrestling (men's & women's)

*varsity & junior varsity

CLUB SPORT

ACHA DI Hockey (men's)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN:

Men's & Women's Basketball • Women's Volleyball

Men's Cross Country • Men's Golf

Men's Soccer • Softball



Scan for more info or visit:
rochesteruwarrriors.com



Creating a beloved community

This academic year, the RU Center for Student Life team decided to choose a theme we could focus on during student leader training, then carry into campus ministry and chapel programming throughout the year. In an effort to pick a theme that would tie in well with the university's ethos and encourage both students and employees to mindfully participate in the campus community (and beyond), we chose "Creating a Beloved Community."

Throughout history, several well known leaders have used the term, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He believed when individuals collaborated to pursue equality, equity and justice, (or, perhaps put more simply, displaying the love of God) society would become stronger and beloved communities could flourish. After all, bringing human flourishing to all people is part of the work of God in the world.

Within our theme, we also chose a scripture to focus on as we seek to be shaped by God, through His written word. Our selection reads:

JESUS ANSWERED, "THE FIRST (COMMANDMENT) IS...

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." **MARK 12:29-31**

This brief statement, likely familiar to many, is foundational to who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. And while these two commandments—to love God and love others as you love yourself—may seem simple, I would argue they require great intentionality. This is not only because loving others can be difficult, but loving ourselves can be, too. Yet, no matter the ups or downs we may encounter while in relationship with others, this is what we are called to—loving God, others and ourselves—welcoming all to the table.

We are also called to do this with our whole selves—our heart, soul, mind and strength. We are called to not only learn about this work, but take the knowledge and turn it into practice. This call has been a focus for our campus community. It will continue to be as we look at examples, hear stories, reflect and learn alongside one another about what it means to create and embody beloved community in an active, participatory and inclusive way...in a way that includes our whole selves, seeking to love God through loving others and ourselves.



We believe this vision for beloved community and holistic approaches to creating and embodying it overlap with RU's mission and vision to cultivate a diverse and welcoming community of learners—learners who seek to honor and value each other, serve their communities with justice and mercy, and partner with the work of God in the world.

Creating a beloved community and participating in that good work is not something we can do on our own, nor do we want to. I invite you, North Star reader, to join us in creating a beloved community—wherever you are, by loving God, loving others and loving yourselves as beings uniquely created in the image of Him.



contributed by

KATELYN HARGRAVE ('13/'18)
Spiritual Life Coordinator

C R E A T O R G O D :

We are grateful to be a part of your beloved community, bound by the love in which you created and invite us to embody to the world around us.

As we begin each new day—
whether with great hope and energy,
sorrow or grief, anxiety at the work yet to be done,
or anywhere in between—may we accept your invitation
into a life with you and our neighbors.
May we fulfill the commandment you gave us
to love you, love others and love ourselves.

May we see each person we encounter
in their uniqueness, as a sign of the unity in diversity
found in your very being. May it serve as a reminder
of your presence and the image of you in each person.

May we be radically hospitable in the
countless spaces we inhabit.
May this hospitality show our community
that each person is valued and loved.

May we remember loving others
can only truly be done when we have love of self.
In the moments we fall short, fall behind or fall down,
may we give ourselves the love, compassion and kindness
we seek to extend to others. May we remember we have
a community around us who will lift us up.

Even as we teach, guide and lead, may we always
take on the posture of a learner,
gaining more understanding about who you are
and thus who we are called to be.

In the name of the Christ, by the power of the Spirit
and in the love of the Creator we say:

A M E N .



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Monday, June 12, 2023

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- 18 holes with cart
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch on the turn patio
- Buffet dinner
- Contest Holes
- RU Swag



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