



north star

NEWS BULLETIN OF MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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New college name selected by board

Nearly two years of study, discussion, and prayer culminated on July 12, 1997, as the Board of Trustees of Michigan Christian College selected a new name for the college. At their quarterly meeting, the trustees chose Rochester College as the name the institution will carry into the next century.

"In reaching the decision to change the name of the college, the board has done its best to communicate the reasons for the change with all of our supporters," stated Bob Utley, chairman of the board. "The response has been gratifying, and we are con-

fident that we now have widespread support in our decision."

Last January, the board decided to open up their review of the college name for public discussion. "I am amazed that many of our supporters were keenly aware of the problems in our old name," stated Dr. Ken Johnson, president of the college.

In published documents, the board stated, "Our name carries a much different message than it carried in 1959. Today, the educational world and general public identify Christian colleges as Bible colleges. Bible colleges are not regular liberal arts colleges,

but limited-purpose institutions much like seminaries."


The study continued by noting that 70% of the institutions still using *Christian College* in their name are unaccredited or align themselves with Bible colleges. Michigan Christian College has operated as a liberal arts college since its founding and is regionally accredited.

Citing a number of colleges that have made institutional name changes for similar reasons, the board stated, "We have concluded that our name seems to be a major impactor which portrays an unacceptable public image for the college."

After gathering responses, the board voted unanimously on April 19 to change the name of the college. A month later, Dr. Johnson stated in a letter to the Associates, "The trustees and I continue to be pleased, and sometimes just plain amazed, at the great way you and other friends have responded to the emotional challenge of selecting a new name for our beloved college."

Immediately after deciding to make a change, the board narrowed a list of sixty-one names down to four. Since that time, the board sought response to the possible names. In many settings, including the Partnership Dinner, *Rochester College* began surfacing as the name of choice for the majority of people.

In addition to a positive re-



ROCHESTER COLLEGE

*Academic Excellence
in a Christian Setting*

Partnership Dinner guests viewed potential names for the college after the Board of Trustees narrowed a list of sixty-one names down to four possibilities. A byline similar to the one presented at the Partnership Dinner will be used in advertising and promotional materials. The new name fits a liberal arts college without contributing to misconceptions that the institution is a seminary. The byline helps maintain the college's important reputation as a Christian institution.

Why Rochester College?

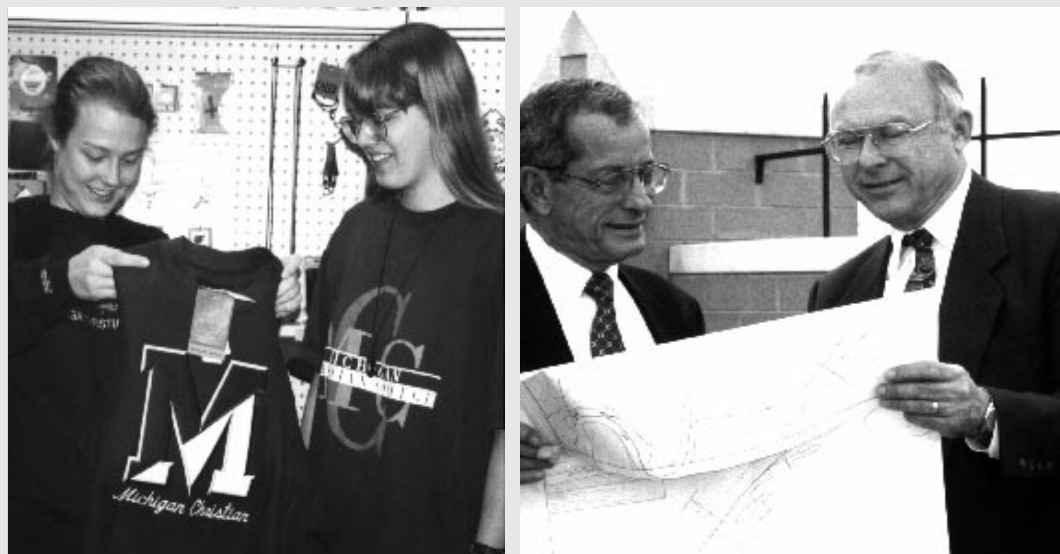
In numerous sessions reviewing possible names, participants identified significant advantages of the selected new name.

Name Association. Individuals familiar with the college already associate Rochester with Michigan Christian College, creating an automatic identity with the new name.

Brotherhood Precedent. All colleges and universities affiliated with the churches of Christ that are not named for an individual have locational names.

Michigan Precedent. Many respected colleges in Michigan with religious backgrounds are named for their cities (Adrian, Albion, Alma, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Olivet, Spring Arbor).

Community Involvement. Most private colleges enjoy a strong relationship with their home communities. The new name will enhance community ties.



Following announcement of the decision to change the college name, students immediately began purchasing souvenirs from the Bookstore and started asking about items with the new name. Board Chairman Bob Utley and Dr. Ken Johnson, pictured in front of the entrance that soon will bear the new name, provided visionary leadership as the board made their milestone decision.

sponse from the normal clientele of the college, the board sought reactions in the local area. "Initial response from the Rochester community has been overwhelmingly favorable to our new name," stated Dr. Johnson.

"Throughout this process, we have repeatedly assured everyone that our commitment to the Christ-centered ideals of the college will remain unchanged," noted Mr. Utley, reflecting upon the board's major concern with making the change. "There has never been a moment's thought of abandoning our Christian roots or our Christian commitment," stated Dr. Johnson.

"Friends of the college who may remain apprehensive about a new name will be pleased to see the many ways we shall continue our Christian emphasis," added Dr. Johnson. "Fortunately, we can do this without the problems created by having the word *Christian* in the formal name of the college."

"I appreciate the encouragement we have received from so many over the past several months as we struggled with this issue," stated Mr. Utley. "May God continue to bless our efforts to move this college to a higher plateau of achievement."

Making Headlines

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Outdoor transformation of campus grows out of residence hall project. Page 3.

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Former student blends professional opera with career at college. Page 5.

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Annual event to open with areawide worship. Page 6.

BOARD GROWTH
Trustees add six individuals to their ranks. Page 7.

Today marks the dawning of a new era for the college



Dear Friends,

Today marks the dawning of a new era for the college. Not the dawning of a new mission or a new purpose or even a new focus, but the birth of a new presence.

This new presence is evidenced by the strongest faculty in our history, more than a dozen four-year degree programs, a new \$4 million facility, widespread campus renovations, and a vibrant spirit of confidence about our future. Humbly, we acknowledge that God is the reason that all of these accomplishments have been possible.

We leave behind our identity as a junior college. We abandon our seminary image. We bid farewell to questions about our accreditation. Decisively, after two years of process, we commence operation under a *name* which presents us as a traditional, four-year, liberal arts college.

Less substantive, but nevertheless significant, we also are adopting new imagery to associate with our longtime moniker, the Warriors. Forever behind us will be the imagery of Indians and totem poles. In their place will be an attractive logo of Christian armor, holding ourselves before the world as Warriors of the King.

Surely, no time in the history of this college has been more exciting than the present, unless it was the era from 1957 to 1960. Today's excitement, enthusiasm, and optimism can be ascribed to the many who sacrificed body and fortune over the last forty years. May God be praised for their vision, for their willingness, for their energy. Today we build on their foundation to lead the college into another century, humbly convicted that our best service to the Kingdom lies before us.

Thank you for your encouragement and support.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Johnson

Kenneth L. Johnson
President

Weekend College begins first session

"Planners of Weekend College envisioned a flexible program that would accommodate the needs of working adults," stated Angela Hazel, director of the College of Extended Learning. "We got an early start in putting that philosophy into action."

As applicants finalized the process to begin the first session on July 25, it became evident that several needed a literature class to complete their general education requirements. "We immediately arranged for an instructor and began offering a literature class through Weekend College," stated Mrs. Hazel.

On July 25, the first cohort group will begin their first regular session of Weekend College. Marvin North, a businessman from Dallas, Texas, and an instructor at Amber University, will be teaching a course entitled *Organizational Behavior*.

"We are very excited about the early response to Weekend College," commented Mrs. Hazel. "Our first cohort group is almost



Weekend College student Jim Case reviews plans with Angela Hazel.

full and we already have several applicants for the next cohort group, which will begin classes on October 10."

Weekend College courses meet one weekend per month on Friday evenings and during the day

on Saturday. Through the program, a working adult can complete a bachelor's degree with a major in management. Information can be obtained from the College of Extended Learning by calling (248) 218-2101.

Graduates find doors of opportunity



Graduates review a program before marching into the auditorium.

Internships and job fairs provided open doors for seniors as another class prepared to enter the job market. Based upon those avenues of entry into a career, several graduates of the class of 1997 began new jobs immediately after graduation.

"I was very hesitant at taking an internship with a domestic violence shelter," stated Heidi Stewart, who graduated with a concentration in social work. "I was not sure I was educated enough to handle all the dynamics of domestic violence."

After completing her internship at the Haven, Heidi commented, "By the time I finished, I felt very confident. I knew my teachers prepared me for the job even though I had not realized it." The Haven ended up applying for a grant that would enable them to add Heidi to their permanent staff.

Reflecting upon her initial steps for seeking employment, Andrea Shotts, a management major, stated, "I was baffled by which avenue I should explore. Then, Dr. Noah informed me about an upcoming Job Fair. I was very excited at the thought of being able to get in contact with so many different employers at one time."

"Because of that one afternoon, I've been called by five prestigious companies for an interview," stated Andrea. "I have already completed a few of them and have since been called for second and third interviews. I never dreamed I would have these kinds of opportunities waiting for me when I graduated."

"Our graduates continue to find good job opportunities," stated Dr. Ben Noah, director of career guidance and assessment. "It is rewarding to hear of their successes in the work force."

Worth Repeating

Following a recent chorus tour, an elder wrote, "I wish you could hear the warm and sincere compliments that families with whom the chorus stayed have poured out to us about the outstanding students from Michigan Christian. No one could have asked for a better advertisement for Christian education."

Spectrum performed at the New England Lectureship last spring. Afterwards, an organizer wrote, "We want you to know how much we appreciated your coming and to know the great good that it did in encouraging the struggling churches here in the Northeast."

Youth Advance recognizes Edwards

Participants in the fifteenth annual Youth Advance Seminar honored Doug Edwards, vice president for development, in Wilmington, Delaware, on March 15. The group presented Mr. Edwards with a plaque citing

him for his outstanding contributions to churches of Christ throughout the Northeast.

Mr. Edwards founded the Youth Advance concept, a leadership training workshop for Christian senior high school stu-

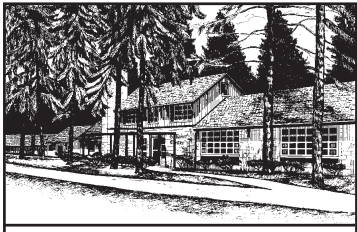
dents, while serving as director of admissions at Northeastern Christian Junior College. When Northeastern closed, a group of church leaders, including Mr. Edwards, met to find a way to resurrect Youth Advance.

"It is important that we pass along to our students the great heritage that has gone on before," stated Dave Shultz, chairman of the Advance committee. "Recognizing Doug's work at this year's seminar helped us to do just that. Plus it gave us all an opportunity to say thank you to a man who has touched the lives of thousands."

"Being a part of the 1997 Youth Advance Seminar will go down as one of my most cherished memories," noted Mr. Edwards. "Since our ministries to youth have so much in common, I am looking forward to building a bridge between the college and the Youth Advance Seminar."



Doug Edwards receives a plaque of appreciation from Roger Hladky.



Employee Highlights

Building upon research for his latest book, *Good Kids*, **Dr. Michael O'Donnell**, professor of family studies, taught an adult class at the Michigan Youth Conference, and recently spoke at retreats in the Northeast. With *Good Kids* attracting national attention, Dr. O'Donnell and co-author Nick Stinnett have begun research for another release, *Good Marriages*.

Assisting with a congregational planning session, **Dr. Michael Westerfield**, vice president for academic affairs, conducted a spring workshop for the Taylor Center Church of Christ. In May, he chaired an NCA accreditation team visit at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Sharing advice with teens, **Andy Kronenwetter**, assistant professor of communication, spoke to the spring graduating class of Lucket Christian Academy in Royal Oak.

Noted for his background in Old Testament studies, **Dr. Steve Eckstein**, professor of religion and Greek, taught a class at the Blue Ridge Encampment from June 16-19. He presented a series entitled *Studies in the Pentateuch*.

Dr. Ben Noah, assistant professor of counseling and director of career guidance and assessment, has been elected as treasurer of the Michigan College Counselors Association.



Coach Pleasant receives honors from David Magee of the NSCAA.

Project spurs outdoor transformation of campus

Potholes in state roadways attracted major attention from the news media last spring. While state authorities debated on how to resolve their problem, the college began solving its problem by replacing all of its aging parking lots and roadways.

Shortly after the close of the academic year, large equipment moved onto the campus and began removing many of the old sidewalks and all of the old parking areas. "With the addition of new walkways, lighting, and parking lots on the east end of campus, it seemed like the best time to upgrade the remaining areas," stated Mark Davis, vice president for operations.

"Construction of the residence hall complex has allowed the college to transform the campus," noted Mr. Davis. "The new complex, along with the outdoor improvements, have given the college a new image. People from the community regularly comment about the amount of positive change they observe as they pass the campus."

A distinguished entryway now sits at the opening of a new roadway and parking area near the Shinsky Athletic Field. A sixteen-foot wide walkway stretches from the residence hall complex to Gatewood Hall. New walkways then lead to the Westside Central Auditorium and Associates Campus Center.

"We have a lot of finish work to complete before the students return," stated Mr. Davis. "When they do return, however, they will not believe the change!"

Looking Ahead ...



Workers completed finishing touches on the new residence hall complex and front entrance sign at the end of the academic year. At the same time, other crews began a major outdoor transformation by pulverizing the remaining parking areas and roadways in preparation for new surfaces and walkways. A full pictorial report will be included in the next issue of the *North Star*.

Coach receives honors

Garth Pleasant, athletic director and head men's basketball coach, recently received honors from the National Small College Athletic Association (NSCAA) as the association's *National Basketball Coach of the Year*.

"Not only has Garth Pleasant promoted college athletics by hosting several national championships over the years, but has always fostered goodwill, integrity, and sportsmanship among the NSCAA teams," stated Bill

Miller, commissioner of the NSCAA. "Garth was voted *National Basketball Coach of the Year* by his peers not only for his technical expertise, but also for his superb character."

In twenty-one years of coaching for the college, Coach Pleasant has amassed an impressive 435-204 win-loss record. He has taken his team to the national finals for thirteen of the past sixteen years.

Coach Pleasant's team won the national championship in 1989, and runner-up position in 1984, 1994, and 1997. The Warriors made headlines last season as they challenged several large NCAA and NAIA institutions.

In 1989, when three Michigan colleges captured championships in their respective national associations, the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan honored Coach Pleasant as *Michigan Coach of the Year*.

"For many years, Coach Pleasant has inspired his players and impressed his colleagues," stated Dr. Ken Johnson, president of the college. "Our teams consistently play way beyond their expected level of competition and that quality is directly attributable to the technical and motivational skills of Coach Pleasant."



Rochester College
Building the Infrastructure
of the Kingdom
knowledge ~ jobs
homes ~ relationships

As the college journeys into the twenty-first century under a new name, I find myself continually asking God for a special measure of wisdom. Perhaps my asking is no more frequent now than before, but it is more intense.

I am reminded of Joshua's words to the Israelites, "When you see the ark of God, and the priests carrying it, you are to follow it; then you will know which way to go, *since you have never been this way before* (Joshua 3)."

Like the Israelites, we are filled with anticipation as we listen to God and respond to His lead, but for us there is no "ark of God" borne by priests with visible direction from above. Instead, we must discern His will by prayer, meditation, analysis, evaluation, conversation, and observation. Thankfully, He continues to make His will clear to those who seek Him.

Our new name is the result of a diligent process, prayerfully carried out by more than three dozen trustees and administrators. These church leaders are wholly convinced that an academically strong Rochester College, one that prepares Christian youth to be responsible in career, in family, and in community, truly *is* the will of God. We step out confidently, yet with cautious prudence, as we accept the challenge of increased visibility and opportunity for the college. God is leading and blessing our work for the Kingdom.

Dr. J

Class Reunion Update



Members of the class of 1987 gathered on campus for a ten-year reunion on July 4-5. The classes of 1962 and 1977 finalized campus reunion plans for later in the summer, while the class of 1982 began accepting reservations for a unique fifteen-year reunion on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Members of the class of 1982 plan to set sail from Miami for the Bahamas on September 26! Now is the time for class representatives to schedule reunions for next summer. Call Larry Stewart toll-free at 1-800-521-6010 (option 4) for information about reunion scheduling.

Scholarship honors former teacher

Friends of the college recently established a piano scholarship in honor of Bernard Leshley, former assistant professor of music. Mr. Leshley died on May 18, 1997, at the age of 82.

"I first met Mr. Leshley in 1984, when my office was above his piano studio in Gallaher Center," stated Linda Case, a former college employee and initiator of the scholarship fund. "We be-

came good friends because we shared a love of not only classical music but also music from the early and mid-1900's."

"Because Mr. Leshley played the piano for almost eighty years (he started playing at age three), he knew every song I ever wanted to learn," noted Mrs. Case. "I often went to him with songs that I had heard on my mother's kitchen radio when I was young,

and he immediately played them from memory."

During the formative years of the college, Mr. Leshley, a teacher in the Rochester school system, began providing background music for the annual graduation exercises. Within a short period of time, he also began teaching piano lessons for the college on a part-time basis. Except for a period of time from 1971 to 1974, Mr. Leshley provided both services for the college from 1964 until 1993.

"Mr. Leshley loved the students and his work at the college," stated Mrs. Case. "Playing for graduation was one of his favorite activities for nearly thirty years. Hopefully, this scholarship will allow others to experience the special atmosphere of the college that he enjoyed so much."

Contributions to the Bernard Leshley Scholarship Fund can be sent to the Development Office at the college address.

Remembering When ...



Students and employees alike enjoyed the musical talents of Bernard Leshley. In 1982, a group visited Meadowbrook Hall, former mansion of the widow of John Dodge, where Mr. Leshley performed on the house's elaborate organ. Randy Gill, former instructor of music, and Pam (Whitelaw) Behrenwald, a future music teacher in the public schools, observed.

Alumni News and Notes

1960

Ed Cardwell currently is serving as principal of the BCS Christian School. Ed and his wife, Marjie, live at 40349 Acacia Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544.

Phyllis (Holt) Davis is an associate professor of history at Southwestern Christian College. Phyllis and her husband, Willie, live at 6433 Autumn Woods Trail, Dallas, TX 75232.

1979

Michelle (Repchak) Bacon is working as an interior designer and salesperson for Orman's Interiors. Michelle and her husband, Dennis, a financial planner and investment broker, have two children, Nathan and Rachel. The family lives at 208 N.E. Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

David Briggs is serving in his second term as a committee chairman for the Nebraska Association of Collegiate Registrar's and Admission Officers. As registrar of York College, he also is a committee member for the Association of Veterans Education Certifying Officials, and a certifying official for the NAIA. David and his wife, **Laurie (Stark)**, have four children, Timothy, Annalisa, Jerica, and Curtis. The family lives at 927 Elmer Avenue, York, NE 68467.

Blythe (Runyan) McKenna is the lead programmer analyst for Nationwide Insurance. Blythe and her husband, Michael, have two children, Jason and Kristen, and live at 307 Hampton Park North, Westerville, OH 43081.

David and Loretta (Castle-78) Sheffield are living at 15 East Clarke Avenue, Coldwater, MI 49036. David teaches at the Manor Foundation. Loretta hand colors photographs and is the interloan reference clerk at a district library. The couple has two children, Adam and Colin.

1982

Morgan Jane joined Melissa in the home of Barry and **Paula (Beverly) Woodhouse** on November 3, 1996. Paula completed her Master of Education degree at Vanderbilt University in 1996 and is now a human resource consultant for Duke University. Barry is a real estate agent. The family lives at 103 Lake Meadow Drive, Apex, NC 27502.

1983

Marla (Miller) Berggoetz taught deaf children for five years before becoming a full-time mom for Jordan and Marlia. Her husband, Brad, is a teacher for the deaf, and Marla interprets part-time for college students. The family lives at 621 North Drexel, Indianapolis, IN 46201.

Robin Couch married Chuck Brandi on February 15. Robin is a cultural resources archaeologist, and Chuck is an underwriter for Hartford Insurance. The couple lives at 1531 Cable, San Diego, CA 92107.

Connie (Gudgel) Marchbanks and her husband, Gary, own Marchbanks Cement and Construction. Connie works at home as the company secretary and bookkeeper. The couple has three children, James, Jessica, and Jared, and lives at 2141 Morrish Street, Burton, MI 48519.

Caleb Nathaneal joined Heather and Danyelle in the home of Bruce and **Robin (Bradley) Nettles** on August 6, 1995. Robin owns a salon in Lakeville. The family lives at 3602 Dryden Road, Metamora, MI 48455.

John Super is the director of marketing and membership for the International Society of Refractive Surgery, and is also self-employed as a marketing consultant. He lives at 3903 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

1984

Eric and **Jenny (Habermel) Diehl** recently relocated to 308 East Bradford, West Union, IA 52175. Eric is the new head coach for both men's and women's soccer at Upper Iowa University. Jenny is a homemaker. The couple has two children, Danielle and Jessica.

On February 13, David Isaac joined Nathanael, Sarah, and Jared in the home of Michael and **Lisa (Price) Dryden**. Lisa is a homemaker, and Michael is the manager of concept development for Cooper Tire & Rubber. The family lives at 212 Prentiss Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840.

Winnie (Shopshear) Hauri is the assistant food service supervisor at Spring Hill Camp. She can be contacted at P.O. Box 674, Evart, MI 49631.

We want to hear from you!

Share your news! Clip and return this form to Larry Stewart, Director of Public Relations, Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

Name (maiden if appl.) _____

Years _____ Occupation _____

Spouse's Name (maiden if appl.) _____

Years _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (area code _____) _____

Please note children's names, recent births, job changes, marriages, promotions, etc. on a separate sheet of paper and send it to the college with this form.



Athletes & Cheerleaders

Did you play intercollegiate sports or lead cheers for North Central or Michigan Christian College? Do you still have your uniform? If so, the Alumni Office needs your help!

Many uniforms were passed on to the players. The Alumni Office is seeking uniforms for display on campus. If you have a uniform from any intercollegiate sport or cheerleading, please call Larry Stewart at 1-800-521-6010 (option 4).

Andy Piffer is a restaurant manager for Gourmet Enterprises. His wife, Connie, is completing a computer degree. The couple has two children, Hayden and Katlin, and lives at 252 Vine Street, Hammond, IN 46324.

Alec and Denise (Beaune) Roper are currently living at 1568 West Street, Muskegon, MI 49442. Alec is working as a technician at JB Laboratories.

1985

Jerry and **Debbie (Ebeling) Dittrich** welcomed Ashley Jean into their lives on March 5. The family lives at 23612 Little Stone Court #1206, Novi, MI 48375.

1986

Dan and Shannon (Roper) Boren have three children, Tres, Katie, and Faith. Dan recently completed his master's degree and is teaching physics in the public school system. Shannon operates her own business. The family lives at 4348 Sylvan Grove, Gladwin, MI 48624.

On February 26, 1996, Steve and **Monica (Morris) Hanes** welcomed Mikalah Breanne. Monica is a data coordinator at USA Group, Inc., and Steve is an accountant. The family lives at 402 East Delaware Street, Fortville, IN 46040.

Robert Michael joined Bethany in the home of Mike and **Dawn (Bradley) Kurschat** on March 29. Mike is a commercial appraiser in Oakland. Motherhood replaces dietetics for Dawn. The family lives at 2579 Dearborn, Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

Mark and Jamie (Clark) Starling welcomed Megan Renee on January 4. Mark is a service sales representative for Simplex Building Systems, and Jamie is a consultant for the Computer Curriculum Corporation. The family lives at 429 South Kenwood Avenue, Royal Oak, MI 48067.

1987

Lynda (Starling) Clayton is employed as a pharmacy technician at Meijer Pharmacy. Lynda and her husband, Brian, live at 4945 Bromwell Court, Sterling Heights, MI 48310.

Tina (Gosmann) Gladwell completed her bachelor's degree at Illinois State University. She is a homemaker and works part-time at Friendly's Restaurant. Tina, and her husband, Joe, live at 1846 Gondert Avenue, Dayton, OH 45403.

Toby and **Anita (Waggoner) Reeves** recently moved to 12 Patterson Road, Hanscom AFB, MA 01731. Toby is a captain in the Air Force and works at Hanscom Air Force Base as an engineer. Anita is a homemaker.

1989

Veronica Cobb is now living at 4126 Three Oaks Boulevard #1A, Troy, MI 48098. Veronica is an engineering coordinator for Ford Motor Company.

Sandi (Waltman) King recently began responsibilities as education services coordinator for the Manmouth Church of Christ. Sandi and her husband, Jason, live at 67 Mitchell Drive, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

Chris McGee graduated from Southern Evangelical Seminary on May 9. He lives at 6446 Felton Court, Charlotte, NC 28277.

Pete and **Julie (Wilson) Piazza** welcomed Caryann Luein on February 18. Julie is an executive administrative assistant for Rexair, Inc., and Pete is employed as a recruiter. The family resides at 1239 Cottonwood, Lake Orion, MI 48360.

Jim and Beth (Mason-92) Truex are now living at 48210 West Pontiac Trail #73, Wixom, MI 48393. Jim is the youth and family minister of the Walled Lake Church of Christ, and Beth is an office manager for a labor relations firm.

1991

The spring issue of the *North Star* announced the marriage of **Chris Ward** to Margie McCarty. That wedding did not take place. The alumni office apologizes for printing incorrect information.

1992

Mike and **Anne (Yoakum) Leonard** welcomed Christopher Lincoln on August 20, 1996. Anne

Alumnus blends teaching and opera

Alumnus Frank Pitts added a new dimension to his classroom teaching when he responded to a newspaper advertisement two years ago. "I saw an ad for chorus auditions with the Michigan Opera Theatre, so I decided to respond," stated Mr. Pitts. "After an audition, the theatre not only offered me a chorus part, but also an apprenticeship."

In his apprenticeship with the opera, Mr. Pitts participates in a variety of classes with major artists, studying techniques in diction, performance, and theatrical movement. "I have been able to incorporate the techniques with my students, helping them to understand performance in the real world," noted Mr. Pitts.

During his first season with the opera, Mr. Pitts performed in three productions at the newly restored Detroit Opera House. "It is an honor to perform with the Michigan Opera Theatre since it is considered one of the nation's premiere opera companies," stated Mr. Pitts.

This past season, Mr. Pitts played roles in two opera productions, *Rigoletto* and *The Mar-*



Frank Pitts as Count Ceprano poses with the countess in *Rigoletto*.

riage of Figaro. In a review of *Figaro*, the *Detroit News* commented, "For once, even the gardener Antonio (Frank Pitts) came across as a rounded person rather than a cardboard buffoon."

Currently, Mr. Pitts teaches

piano, voice, and music theory at the college. In addition, he directs Autumn and Spectrum, two musical ensembles that represent the college, and accompanies the A Cappella Chorus in their rehearsals.

This fall, Mr. Pitts will conduct a jazz band as part of the regular music program. "Based upon a positive response to the jazz band at Celebration, we decided to develop the group into a year-around student activity," stated Mr. Pitts.

After completing his work at Michigan Christian College in 1986, Mr. Pitts worked as a nurse. Eventually, he attended Harding University, where he taught before returning to Michigan.

Reflecting upon his decision to return to the college as an instructor, Mr. Pitts commented, "I love this place. I spent my best years in college here. I met my best friends and my wife, Terry (McClure-83), here. This is a wonderful place to raise a family."



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Warrior Long Distance is available to all friends and alumni of the college. It is sponsored by the college and Campus MCI.



is a member specialist representative at the Indiana University Credit Union, and Mike is a program specialist at Meadows Hospital. The family recently moved to 3209 East 10th Street #Q11, Bloomington, IN 47408.

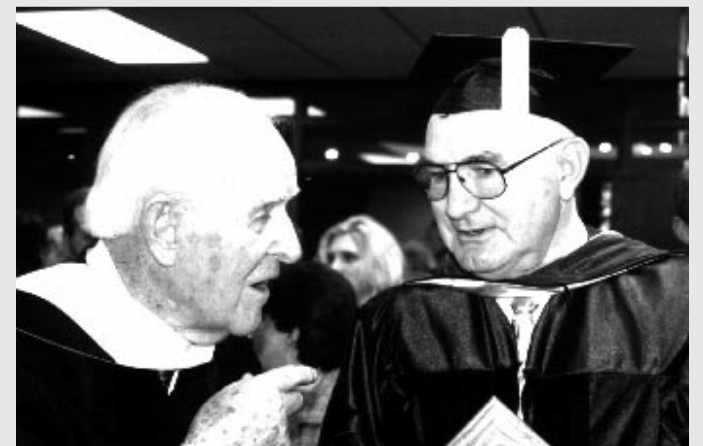
1994

Jeff and **Stacianne (Rousseau) Boling** welcomed Kayla Paige on March 5. Jeff and Stacianne both serve in the United States Air Force. The family can be reached at 1272 North Forest Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303.

1995

John Batty and **April Shepard** were married on May 24. The couple lives at 3264 Lakeside Avenue #33, Holland, MI 49424.

Bradley David joined Ron in the home of **John and Margaret Ann (Hibbard) Garner** on March 30, 1996. The family lives at 4809 Willys Parkway #204, Toledo, OH 43612.



Guests from the pioneer years of the college, including former president Otis Gatewood, attended the thirty-seventh annual commencement exercises on May 10 to honor Clyde Balderson. Mr. Balderson, a pioneer faculty member, received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the college during the program.

Mr. Balderson influenced the lives of hundreds of students from 1959 until 1967, during which time he taught both history and Bible. Remembered for his wit and wisdom, he also served as director of student life during part of his tenure at the college. He now lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Lectureship to feature areawide worship hour

College officials recently released details about the fortieth annual Bible Lectureship, slated for October 5-7. "We are excited about a feature that will be introduced this year," stated Doug Edwards, program coordinator. "On opening night, we are hosting an areawide worship hour for congregations in the metropolitan Detroit area."

"The lectureship normally draws friends of the college from a fairly broad region," noted Mr. Edwards. "However, a number of individuals from the metro

area have volunteered to promote the lectureship among local congregations. The group plans to fill both the auditorium and the foyer of the Rochester Church of Christ for the opening night of the series."

Following a special program for teens, the lectureship will begin on Sunday evening with a performance by the Jesse Bishop Crusaders Chorus from the Wyoming Church of Christ in Detroit. Don McLaughlin, a popular speaker and minister who recently relocated from Anderson, Indiana, to Atlanta, Georgia, will deliver the keynote address on the lectureship theme, *Faith Triumphant*.

Robert Martin of Rochester will lead opening night participants in inspiring congregational singing. After the presentation of benedictory songs by the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus, Dr. Jerry Rushford of Malibu, California, will share stories about famous hymn writers and will introduce a new video on the hymns of Isaac Watts.

"In addition to the normal array of daytime classes, special meals, and evening programs, we also plan to continue the Northern Lights Forum that was introduced last year," stated Mr. Edwards. "During luncheons on Monday and Tuesday, ministers from this region will give reports on the status of the church in Michigan and the surrounding states. We also plan to tape all of the lectures for the first time in a number of years."

"The Bible Lectureship is a wonderful tradition," noted Mr. Edwards. "Over the years, hundreds have traveled to the campus for this event. This year's jam-packed program definitely will be a spiritual treat!"

Equipment Donations

The following college needs could be met by donations of serviceable equipment:

- automobiles (any size)
- computers (386 or above)
- computer monitors
- computer printers
- lawn mowers
- photocopiers
- fax machines
- upright piano
- 4-wheel drive pickup

To discuss donation of a particular item, please phone Doug Edwards, vice president for development, at 1-800-521-6010.

The Muirhead Library also welcomes the donation of books and periodicals. To learn if the library could use particular materials, phone Sheila Owen, director of library services, at (248) 218-2106.

Faith Triumphant!

lessons from Hebrews

40th Annual Bible Lectureship October 5-7, 1997

Featured Evening Programs

Sunday, October 5	4:30 p.m.	SONsational Sunday for Teens
	6:00 p.m.	Jesse Bishop Crusaders Chorus
	6:30 p.m.	"Faith Triumphant," Don McLaughlin
	7:30 p.m.	Benedictory songs by Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus
	8:00 p.m.	"History of Hymns," Dr. Jerry Rushford
Monday, October 6	7:15 p.m.	Autumn of Rochester College
	8:00 p.m.	"The Hope Set Before You"
Tuesday, October 7	7:15 p.m.	Rochester College A Cappella Chorus
	8:00 p.m.	"The Unshakable Kingdom," Dr. Steve Flatt

Daytime Lectures

Monday, October 6	Textual Classes with Dr. Tom Olbricht and Dr. Tom Robinson
	Practical Classes with Dr. Jerry Rushford and Dr. Ian Fair
	Ladies Class with Diane Rellinger
	Afternoon Keynote Lecture with Michael Anglin
Tuesday, October 7	Textual Classes with Dr. Paul Pollard and Dr. Ira Jolivet
	Practical Classes with Dr. James Thompson and John Smith
	Ladies Classes with Diane Rellinger
	Afternoon Keynote Lecture with Michael Anglin

Fellowship Luncheons and Dinners

Monday, October 6	12:00 p.m.	Men's Luncheon hosted by Metro Area Preachers
		Ladies' Luncheon hosted by the Associates
	5:30 p.m.	Heritage Club, Trustee's Alliance, Leadership Alliance, and President's Circle Dinner
Tuesday, October 7	12:00 p.m.	Northern Lights Forum Luncheon
	5:30 p.m.	Lectureship Fellowship Dinner

Complete schedules will be available in July. You may obtain a schedule by phoning the Development Office toll-free at 1-800-521-6010. Plan now to enjoy the fellowship of hundreds of Christians and the inspiring messages of outstanding Christian servants.

Volunteers in Action



Several Associates assisted the President's Office with preparations for major mailings over the past few months. Recruited by Mary Johnson, wife of the college president, volunteers have contributed countless hours to mailing projects, enabling campus offices to accomplish an even greater number of spring and summer tasks.

Development Council volunteers recently assisted with the assembly of furniture in Ferndale and Hoggatt Halls. A project committee from the council hosted a June 28 work day to set furniture in all seventy rooms of the new complex. Their efforts provided needed relief for college maintenance personnel, who are involved in major summer projects.



Giving sets new record

Donors continued to rally in support of the college during the 1996-97 fiscal year, which closed on May 31. "For the second consecutive year, donors set a record in the total dollar amount given to the college," stated Doug Edwards, vice president for development.

"For the first time in the history of college, gift income surpassed the million dollar mark during the 1995-96 fiscal year with a total of \$1,347,705 in gift income," stated Mr. Edwards. "Donors set another record during the past fiscal year with a total of \$1,370,006 in gifts to the college."

The college launched the *Foundation for the Future* campaign in 1994 to raise \$2.9 million in support of a \$4.2 million construction project that currently is nearing completion. Since initiation of the campaign, gift income has grown steadily.

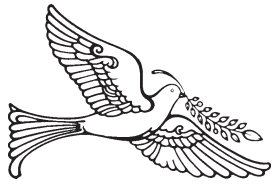
"We have received significant major gifts from a number of

individuals," noted Mr. Edwards. "In particular, major gifts from the Ferndale Church of Christ, the Hoggatt Family, and the Dearborn Church of Christ have made a major impact."

"It is particularly significant to note that the Dearborn gift is not included in the totals for last fiscal year," Mr. Edwards continued. "The Dearborn elders delivered that check on July 9, so it has already given us a jump start on next year!"

"Dramatic improvements have taken place on campus over the past two years," stated Dr. Ken Johnson, president of the college. "We could not have accomplished nearly as much without the help of many generous friends and alumni."

"Even with the tremendous progress of the past two years, we have a lot more to accomplish," noted Dr. Johnson. "With God's blessings and the ongoing support of our donors, we will continue to move forward."



Memorial Gifts

March 8, 1997
to July 15, 1997

CONNIE ALLEN

Jack Allen

EVERETTE ALEXANDER

M. Norval & Helen Young

MADLINE BUNTING

Ruth Buschmann

James & Wavil Bush

Jim & Janie Loper

ALLISON COOK

Irv & Olga Dworkin

Annette Riley

FOREST J. CROOKS

Bob & Velma Wineinger

ROYCE DICKINSON

Betty Dickinson

Fritz & Kathy Duesel

MARTIE DUNN

Don Dunn

GLENN W. DURRILL

Pansy S. Durrill

DOYLE EARWOOD

Bob & Lucy Benham

RALPH GRAHAM

Larry Graham & Family

Gerald & Florence Schaffler

DENIACIA HUDSON

Charles & Margaret Hadfield

Richard & Lorene McDonald

Joe & Mary Pace

Art & Marge Pope

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Dale & Dorothy Walls

Joe & Helen Williams

INEZ JERMYN

Mary Anne Foersterling

W.C. & EDITH JONES

Helen Jones Costello

GERALDINE LALLI

Parkside Church of Christ

BERNARD LESHLEY

Cecil & Shirley Alexander

Ray & Judith Buchanan

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Milton & Evelyn Fletcher

Mike & Ann Marie Gerhardt

Dave & Tina Kosuth

Mr. & Mrs. Robert McKenney

Dr. John Ohlsson

Ronald & Sharon Roop

James & Norma Sampier

Bill & Joanne Shinsky

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Walter & Laverne Szych

DONNA MONACELLI

Annette Riley

MARIA NEPI

Richard & Betsy Brice

Carol Camiener

Irv & Olga Dworkin

Jim Herrington

Annette Riley

MONNIE RAYNES

Rose Ellen Belman

Mariella Goff

Darlene Green

Christine Malone

Larry & Sandra Malone

Pansy Mangion

Nell Russell

Sylvia Turner

Leila Wallace

GRADY ROLLINS

Doyle & Myrtle Dickinson

ARNOLD SHEPHERD

Adrian Church of Christ

CHARLIE TUCKER

Annette Riley

GERALDINE VERMEERSCH

Irv & Olga Dworkin

Annette Riley

RUTH WRIGHT

Ed & Joan Work



Gary Davis



Cathy Englehart



Pat Kirby



Ann Luchsinger



Dick Stephens



Gordon Wright

Six selected as Trustees

Continuing to build leadership for the next century, the Board of Trustees recently added six new members to their ranks.

Gary Davis, an attorney of law from LaPorte, Indiana, has served as a congregational chairman for Partnership Dinner West since its inception. A former student of the college, Mr. Davis is an active participant in both the youth and educational programs of the Donmoyer Avenue Church of Christ in South Bend,

Indiana, where he and his wife, Dana are members.

"My service as a member of the Board of Trustees is simply part of my service as a Christian and my deep concern for quality Christian higher education," stated Mr. Davis. "It is also an acknowledgment of the positive direction in which the college is headed."

Cathy Englehart, an active member of the Associates from Rochester Hills, is a speech pathologist for the Macomb Intermediate School District. She also teaches Bible classes on a regular basis for the Rochester Church of Christ, and works with her husband, Ron, in benevolence programs.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve on the board," noted Mrs. Englehart. "I am excited to be a part of the future growth and development of the college as it continues to have an even stronger Christian influence in this region of the country."

Pat Kirby, president and founder of Megatech Engineering, Inc., currently serves as chairman of the Development Council. Under Mr. Kirby's leadership, Megatech, an international automotive product design and engineering company, conducts over \$80 million in business per year.

Mr. Kirby and his wife, Jane, are members of the Rochester Church of Christ, and have had two children attend Michigan Christian College. Mr. Kirby noted, "I believe my dedication and commitment to the church, community, and automotive industry will be beneficial in the advancement of young people's futures."

Ann Luchsinger, a retired accounting manager of the Parke-Davis Division of Warner-Lambert, is an active leader in the Associates. Currently, she serves as assistant treasurer of the entire organization, chairperson of the Script Plus project, a member of the Fall Festival commit-

Interns

Most bachelor's degree programs offered by the college include a required internship. Through such experiences, students receive practical on-the-job training along with their classroom learning.

Do you own a business? Does your employer hire interns on a regular basis? Would your church like an energetic individual to work with your youth group? If so, you should consider a student intern. Phone the following internship coordinators for further information.

Business

Gail Strickler
(248) 218-2129

Counseling/Psychology

Dr. Ben Noah
(248) 218-2099

Ministry

Dr. David Fleer
(248) 218-2144

Social Work

Sarah Reddick
(248) 218-2111

tee, and cookie coordinator for the Rochester chapter.

"When we decided to move back to Michigan, we chose Rochester mainly because of the college," stated Mrs. Luchsinger. "I wanted to be more involved with the Associates." She added, "It is a great responsibility as well as an honor to serve on the Board of Trustees."

Dick Stephens, the director of preliminary design for Williams International, serves as a member of the Development Council and as a congregational co-chairman for Partnership Dinner. He is an elder of the Brighton Church of Christ, where he and his wife, Chloe, attend.

"I believe the college is at the threshold of new growth," noted Mr. Stephens. "I would like to help keep the emphasis on excellence in education in a Christian environment. This will allow us to keep our students in the North, which will benefit the churches in this area more than we can even imagine."

Dr. Gordon Wright, a recent retiree from Ford Motor Company, plans to serve as an adjunct professor of engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the coming year. Dr. Wright and his wife, Carole, spent the last year in England, where he completed responsibilities for Ford as the manager of advanced in-line gasoline and diesel engines.

Having served as an elder for the Cedarloo Church of Christ in Iowa and the Livonia Church of Christ in Michigan, Dr. Wright stated, "Christian education is a top priority for me and my service to the kingdom."

Honor Gifts

AL & VIRGINIA WAINEO

Mary Moore

Jim & Elsie Tennison

LAURA WORK

Ed & Joan Work

Every year, many individuals send special gifts to the college as a tribute to the memory of friends and relatives, or in honor of special individuals. Memorial gifts and honor gifts may be sent to the Office of the President, Rochester College, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307. Be sure to include 1) your name and full address, 2) the name of the person being honored by the gift, and 3) the name and address of the person to receive an acknowledgment card.

Thank you Associates!

Each year, the Associates fund a number of special projects. The current issue of the *North Star* was funded by the Associates.



Planned Giving Matters

Doug Edwards
Vice President
for Development

Consider leaving a legacy!

Christian organizations that serve Michigan are joining together in a public relations campaign to encourage friends to consider charitable giving as a part of their overall estate planning strategy. This effort will piggyback with a community *Leaving a Legacy* campaign to be launched in the metro Detroit area in 1998. The local program grows out of a larger national media campaign to raise public awareness of charitable giving as a part of estate planning.

Christians often are not aware of the opportunities they have to save taxes, be provided an income, retain use of property, and at the same time make a generous charitable gift. It is important for people, even before retirement age, to begin looking at choices and establishing strategies for their estates while still in good health.

Our campaign will be a process to educate Christians, as we look at stewardship of God's blessings, on how we can provide for family needs while providing perhaps our greatest charitable gift after death.

The college has informational resources to help those who are planning estates. A simple booklet, entitled *Financial and Estate Planning with Charitable Giving*, is available upon request. Please call the Development Office at 1-800-521-6010 or write to the office at the college address to request a booklet or other financial planning resources.



Dearborn church donates major gift



Dearborn Elders Don McKenzie, Jack Allen, and Lawrence Watson present a check for \$250,000 to Dr. Ken Johnson near the commons.

Anticipating dedication of the new residence hall complex on August 2, college officials recently announced naming of the third major facility in the new construction project. Upon dedication, the commons area will be known as the Dearborn Commons.

On February 2, the Dearborn Church of Christ announced plans to cease operations. "After long deliberations, the elders made the decision that assets would be divided between works in the Midwest where Dearborn's influence would continue to bear fruit," stated Glenn Martin in a memory book recalling the congregation's rich history. The church allocated \$250,000 and a portion of a trust fund to the college.

"Our gift was made to continue the Dearborn legacy of teaching and training young people in the North with the principles of New Testament Christianity," stated Lawrence Watson, an elder of the congregation and a member of the college Board of Trustees.

"For several years, Dearborn experienced a gradual drop in membership," stated Mr. Martin. "Also, a gradual change in demographics intensified dramatically in the last five years. A shift to a primarily Muslim population in the area surrounding the church building greatly affected our potential for growth."

"In so many ways, the Dearborn church has been one of the college's strongest allies," stated Dr. Ken Johnson, president of the college.

"They have provided countless students and an endless stream of financial support. In fact, over the past forty years, more than one million dollars has been given to the college by members of the Dearborn church."

Formed in 1929, primarily by former members of the Hamilton Avenue Church of Christ in Detroit, the congregation began meeting in a school building on Chase Road. Within a year, the congregation purchased land across the street and erected a temporary building. They constructed a permanent structure in phases from 1937 to 1954.

A self-supporting congregation from the start, the Dearborn church assisted in the development of a number of Michigan congregations. They often rallied

to the support of mission efforts, evangelistic campaigns, benevolence projects, and various church-related works.

In the late 50's, Arnold Watson and Ernie Stewart, ministers of the Dearborn congregation, accepted leading roles in raising funds for the college as it prepared to open. Hubert Nave, Jack Hoover, Al Oz, and Lawrence Watson all served on the Board of Trustees. The Dearborn Associates served faithfully as one of the most active chapters.

Over the years, a number of college instructors preached for the Dearborn church on a regular basis, including Clyde Balderson, Don Bone, Larry Journey, and Kent Hoggatt. The church assisted in the support of Mike Weimer and Coy Roper, two of the college's Bible instructors. Former students and interns worked with the congregation, including Gordon MacKinnon, Jim Powell, and Jay Tyler.

"We are saddened by the closure of the Dearborn church," stated Dr. Johnson. "However, we praise God for their steadfast friendship across the years and look forward to their influence continuing to make an impact on the lives of our students."

Residence Hall Complex

Three major facilities in the new residence hall complex have been named, Ferndale Hall, Hoggatt Hall, and the Dearborn Commons. The entrance road is yet to be named as project funding is completed. Name plates on rooms also provide opportunities to honor families or individuals. For more information, contact Dr. Ken Johnson, president of the college, or Doug Edwards, vice president for development, at 1-800-521-6010.

inside the north star

Trustees select new name



ROCHESTER COLLEGE

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The North Star is the official news bulletin of Michigan Christian College. Comments should be addressed to Larry Stewart, director of public relations. Michigan Christian College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin in the execution of its educational program, activities, employment, or admissions policies except where necessitated by specific religious tenets held by the institution and its controlling body.

Fall Events on the Campus of Rochester College

September 13, 1997

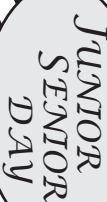
Associates Fall Festival

crafts and gifts ~ food ~ fellowship



September 13, 1997

admission information
financial aid information
academic information ~ campus tours



October 5-7, 1997

Annual Bible Lectureship

"Faith Triumphant!" Lessons from Hebrews



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