

North Star



*Rochester College alumni:
leaders paving the way for the future*



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

The College's mission is to engage students in a vigorous liberal arts education within a Christian community for a life of study and service. Such engagement will lead to a college that values excellence, the pursuit of truth, and service.

North Star

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The mission of the *North Star* is to give glory to God by telling of His mercy, His blessings, and His continued provision for Rochester College.

North Star:
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North Star

On the cover

As we gathered to celebrate Founders Day, alumni (L to R) Stephanie Britten '02, Dean Oliver '73, Kelvin Brown '95, Betty Dunlap '67, Julie Piazza '89 (kneeling), and Chris King '97 (also kneeling) gathered at the bridge to show how enthusiastically our alumni are paving the way for the future of Rochester College.

Engraved bricks for the path near Lake Norcentra are now available as honor or memorial gifts. See page 23 for details.

Photo by Jeff Bennett.



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Founders Day

A day of celebrating and honoring those who dared to trust God with their dreams for Christian education

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A memorial to Rochester's second president, 1964-1971, the "Chief of Progress"

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The fruit of Phase II of the "Catch the Vision" capital campaign—it's beautiful!

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A Leader's Vision

The second in a two-part series.



Tree of Life

This beautiful golden tree stands inside the newly-completed Richardson Center, a fitting tribute to those who generously contribute \$1,000 or more to building our endowment. Add your leaf to the tree and watch our students grow!

Honor a loved one with an engraved leaf on the Tree of Life.

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I have told the good news of deliverance in the great congregation;
See, I have not restrained my lips, O LORD.

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation!

-Psalm 40: 9-10

From the President's Desk

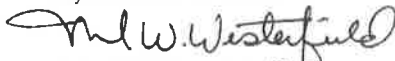
There is something in all of us that values history. We study the history of our world and our country. We research our family tree, hoping to find interesting and unique people. Some even declare old barns historic! Yet history is important because it helps us connect to a better understanding of our identity and our destination. I see history as pointing us toward the future, not as holding us back.

At Rochester College, we celebrated 45 years of history on October 2, 2004. Many gathered on the campus to talk about the past and to dream about the future. Jim Thomas, our only remaining founding board member, encouraged us all by sharing how the original vision is still intact today. Founding Associates, alumni, and present faculty and staff laughed together and dreamed together.

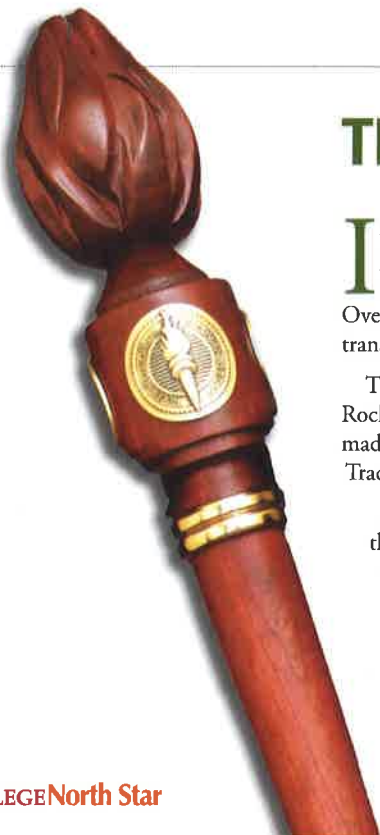
The work before us is great. When I think of the dedication and sacrifice of these founding men and women, I am deeply touched. The original property was bought for \$200,000, a mighty sum in the mid-1950s. The founding men and women decided to take a leap of faith and commit to this great work in Michigan. Today, we benefit from these brave men and women who dared to dream beyond what they could see. For some, coming back and seeing the new buildings and the fresh look of the campus was an emotional experience.

To move us forward to the next level as an institution of higher learning, we need brave men and women to step up and lead for the next generation. Who will take the risks necessary to realize the new dreams for Rochester College? I hope you will decide that God is calling you to serve in such a way. Together we can do much to promote the continued building of this college.

May God bless our efforts!



Michael W. Westerfield, Ph.D.
President, Rochester College



The College Mace

In medieval times, the mace was a weapon held ready to protect the dignity in a procession. Early in the history of the academy, the mace was borrowed from royalty and utilized to symbolize the power of the rector of the university, a power shared with the faculty. Over time, symbols of learning were incorporated into the mace demonstrating the transferring of power from a single person to the process of education.

The position of mace bearer is one of honor, and is given to a senior member of the faculty. Rochester College's mace, introduced in 2004 at the inauguration of Dr. Michael Westerfield, is made from cherry wood (which is native to Michigan) and is hand carved in the shape of a torch. Traditionally, the torch symbolizes light in darkness.

For Rochester College, this has two meanings: (1) enlightenment through education, such that one grows intellectually and is able to connect coherently the truth of God with the wisdom of humanity; and (2) a beacon of Christian hope, cast across a world that is searching for salvation. Three medallions bearing the College's seal are embedded at the top of the shaft.

The three repeated medallions symbolize the trinity, yet oneness, of God. The overall length of the mace is 42 inches; this includes a conical shaft, which, when standing, symbolizes the growth that occurs through education. For more on the inauguration and the other presidential symbol of office, see pages 8-9. ♦

Founders Day

“What a heritage our great-grandchildren will have here!”

Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004—Founders Day—started out cold and uncertain, but by noon, the sun was shining and the sky was bright blue. The day’s steadily improving weather is a fitting metaphor with which to pay tribute to our founding pioneers, who stepped out into territory as cold and uncertain as the early October morning in Michigan. These men and women, with unshakable faith in God, created a brand-new institution of higher learning committed to academic excellence and centered on Jesus Christ. Forty-five years later, thanks to their vision, hard work, and prayer, the noonday sun is shining in the bright blue sky over the vibrant, burgeoning Rochester College campus today.

Approximately 200 people attended the Founders Day celebration, which was punctuated by joyful laughter, tearful reminiscences, and excited hopes for the future.

The day’s events commenced with remarks by President Michael Westerfield, who said, “We pay tribute to the men and women who stepped out in faith to provide for the future; the men and women who walked the grounds and dreamed about what could be. Rochester College is now a mature institution of higher learning grounded in a Christian community of faith.”

Pat Kirby, chairman of the Board of Trustees, expressed the enthusiastic support of the Board for Rochester’s administrative team. He continued by reading aloud the College’s Mission Statement and Vision Statements, urging the audience to read and ponder

them, noting, “These documents don’t just sit on a shelf: they are active, working documents which guide everything that is done at the College.”

The audience was treated next to the reminiscences of Jim Thomas, an original member of the Board of Trustees. As he named the members of the original board, he said, “I wish they were all here today to see what wonderful progress the school has made.”

Following Jim Thomas, current Board of Trustees member Bob Utley spoke. He paid tribute to the founders of the College, saying, “We’ll never forget your sacrifices or the way you brought us through those hard times.” He pointed out the significant attraction Rochester College has in particular for parents searching for the ideal learning environment for their children. Remarking on the College’s “Christian guidance and environment,” he concluded with joyful anticipation, “What a heritage my great-grandchildren will have here!”

Former first lady Audrey Gardner (1971-1978) next approached the podium and immediately invited former first lady Ida Palmer (1964-1971) to join her, embracing her dear friend on stage. Mrs. Gardner’s reminiscences moved the audience to laughter as she related stories of having the entire basketball team in her English class.



Board of Trustees chairman Pat Kirby reminds those gathered of how far the College has come in the last 45 years.



First ladies Ida Palmer and Audrey Gardner enjoy a moment at the podium.



At the Scholarship Luncheon preceding the Founders Day ceremony, nearly 70 student scholarship recipients gathered to meet and thank College alumni and friends who have so generously donated to the Scholarship Fund. Pictured are Milton and Evelyn Fletcher (front), Paul Shinsky, junior Fady Jan, and Joanne Shinsky (standing).

She then moved them to tears as she talked of walking through the new buildings on campus. As she walked, she said, she thought of all those who worked and prayed so hard to create what is now Rochester College. Said Mrs. Gardner, "I told Ida, the campus is so beautiful now, I wish they could all see it. Well, Ida and I decided that they were looking down right now and smiling at Rochester College."

Former President Milton Fletcher (1980-1991) regaled the audience with several humorous memories of his years at the College. These included the story of how, one particularly snowy winter, a group of high-spirited students tiptoed out of the dorm and carried then dorm supervisor and Bible teacher Bob Waggoner's car out to the front lawn and buried it in the snow, where it remained, assumed stolen, until spring. He shared memories of "sham battles" where ammunition consisted of "paper sacks filled with flour," and, of course, memories of Lake Norcentra. These included the rumored boxcar at the bottom of the lake as well as the all-too-real enormous snapping turtle—who may still be there today.

A special treat which followed was a series of reminiscences by five alumni, one representing each decade of the existence of the College. Betty (Wineinger) Dunlap ('67), Dean Oliver ('73), Julie (Wilson) Piazza ('89), Chris King ('98), and Stephanie Britten ('02) each took the opportunity to share with the audience their fond memories and to point out what is unique and precious about Rochester College. A recurring theme for each was the fact that their years at North Central Christian College/Michigan Christian/Rochester College were indeed one of the happiest times of life. More important, however, to each was the extremely influential role the College played in their spiritual formation. Said Piazza, "The time here gave us the opportunity to find our own faith." Britten concurred. "I would have never imagined the kind of growth in my walk with the Lord that I had here. I was allowed and inspired to be a leader."



photos by Amy Nyeper

Finally, each commented on God's overwhelming blessings to the College evinced by its continual growth. Said King, "The leadership we have here has made such strides."

As the uncertain weather of the morning grew increasingly sunny, Founders Day concluded with the crowning of this year's Queen of the Rochester College Associates, tours of the Ham Library and newly-dedicated Richardson Center, and, finally, a reception. ✧



Original Board Member Jim Thomas (above) fondly remembers. Student scholarship recipients meet their benefactors: at left, Wilma McQueen meets students Josh Hickey and Kristen Aldersen, while at right, student Toni Washington poses with Barb Wojtas.



photos by Amy Nyeper

Associates Crown Queen: A \$21,000 Gift for the College



New Queen Sharon Whitlatch (second from left) is flanked by (L to R) Associates President Tamara Conner ('90), Queen candidate Joanne Shinsky, and the Associates' very first queen, Doris Dunn.

It's not a beauty contest, it's not a hereditary title, and by no means is it merely an honorific. Instead, the title of Queen of the Rochester College Associates is bestowed each year on the one chosen to represent the group of Associates who has worked hardest to raise the most money for the College. The Associates' largest fundraiser, the Queen contest has generated \$688,900 over the last 40 years.

This year, the crown was placed on the head of Sharon (Conner) Whitlatch ('78), former president of the Rochester College Associates and member of the Northeast Church of Christ in Eastpointe, MI. She and the other Queen candidate, Joanne Shinsky (representing the Rochester Church of Christ) and their supporters raised \$21,000, up from last year's gift of \$18,600.

The Associates have raised \$4.3 million since 1959. An outstanding 85% of every dollar raised goes directly to the College.

The Rochester College Associates continue to be the most successful fundraising organization of any at a college or university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Of the Associates, founding board member Jim Thomas said, "They're the reason Rochester College exists today. They are a terrific example of enthusiasm, effort, and accomplishment."

Rochester News

Events and activities of note from Lake Norcentra and vicinity

No Longer Strangers: Restoration Forum XXII

Rochester College joined Great Lakes Christian College of Lansing, Michigan, to host Restoration Forum XXII Oct. 15-17 on the College campus and at the Rochester Church of Christ. This annual event brought together approximately 325 people who share the common heritage of the Restoration Movement.

"The Forum is designed to promote greater understanding and dialogue among believers whose Christian ancestry can be traced through the American Restoration Movement (the Stone-Campbell Movement) which began in Kentucky around 1804. The Church of Christ, Christian Church, and Disciples of Christ are each streams of the Restoration Movement," says Dr. Mel Storm, Rochester College director of graduate studies and co-chair of the annual event.

Each year a different congregation, college, or university with roots in the Restoration Movement hosts the Forum. The theme "No Longer Strangers" (Eph. 2:19) encouraged believers to earnestly seek to follow Christ, "... our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" (Eph. 2:14).

The forum was rounded out by dinners, worship, seminars on contemporary issues in Restoration congregations, and a presentation on the history of Restoration congregations in the Great Lakes region.

Events on Sunday provided an inspiring conclusion. A combined chorus, made up of singers from Rochester College and Great Lakes Christian College, presented a resounding musical program which echoed the unity theme. A highlight for many was the a cappella congregational worship time.



The weekend was concluded by moving speeches from President Larry L. Carter of Great Lakes Christian College and Rochester College President Michael Westfield. Each leader spoke from Ephesians on "My Prayer for the Church."

Next year's Restoration Forum will be held in Lexington, KY, October 16-18, 2005. ✦

Geology students experience God's glorious creation

by David Brackney ('87)
Assistant Professor of Physical Science

In Late May through early June, Rochester College students participated in the third annual Earth Science Field Study. Students had the opportunity to study geology by visiting and experiencing some of the most amazing and breathtaking scenery in the United States.

The two-week trip took students through destinations in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. Scrambling over buttes and around hoodoos in Badlands National Park, spelunking in Jewel Cave, climbing over the mica schist of Harney Peak in the Black Hills, and hiking through snow to the Loch in Rocky Mountain National Park brought the material covered in the course to life in a dramatic and awe-inspiring way.

To help keep the cost of the course down, the group tent-camped and prepared their own meals at the campground most evenings. This just added to the richness of the experience, and included waking up to the sound of a buffalo flopping around on the ground to scratch its back—right outside the tent! The trip, including transportation, actually ended up being less expensive than paying for room and board on campus.

Katie Kirkpatrick wrote, "We all saw the wonders of God in His creation, this huge world that is beautiful. God painted a picture and made it into real life. The trip was so great because we got to learn with all of our senses about our earth in its large and small details."

Sally Madurski said, "There is so much to say about this class. It truly is a once in a lifetime trip, and I feel so blessed that I had the opportunity to take a class with the Badlands and the Rocky Mountains as the classroom. I had a blast, and made tons of wonderful memories that I will never forget."

Rochester students at 2004 World Mission Workshop

Seven Rochester College students (Tim Parker, Samantha Winterrowd, Lindy Emerson, Erin Beamer, Joe Howard, and Darren and Kara McCullough) attended the 2004 World Mission Workshop: Voyage of Discovery, hosted by York College in York, NE. Approximately 1,000 students from around the country gathered from September 30th to October 3rd to learn about a range of aspects in missions including raising funds, missions overseas, vocational mission work, inner-city work, and more. For more details, see the link at rc.edu.



New Speakers Bureau offers wide range

Offering courses ranging from Galatians to Marriage and from Narnia to Hollywood, Rochester's new Speakers Bureau is a chance for the entire Christian community to benefit from the expertise and fine speaking skills of the College faculty. Nine top Rochester professors offer their lecture services to churches, Bible study groups, and organizations for nominal fees. "These speakers have the remarkable ability to bring listeners into the transforming world imagined in scripture," says Vice President for Church Relations David Fleeer, who spearheads the program. Courses are offered in Bible study, biblical history and archaeology, faith and culture, and relationships. For more information, contact Dr. Fleeer at dfleeer@rc.edu.

A look at Biblical Tamar

Rochester College Professor of Old Testament Craig Bowman conducted a symposium titled *Archaeology of Biblical Tamar* September 11, 2004 in the new Richardson Center Theatre. Bowman traveled to the ancient Tamar fortress south of the Dead Sea earlier this year and has been commissioned to publish his findings. He is currently developing a virtual archaeology course on his journey as well. The symposium focused on Iron Age Tamar; some of the 20,000 artifacts which have been recovered were displayed.

Inauguration Galas

The Rochester College community celebrates the inauguration of the new president with pomp, and then a picnic



August 26, 2004, marked an historic day as Rochester College inaugurated its seventh president, Dr. Michael W. Westerfield. The ceremony began at 11:15 a.m. at the Rochester Church of Christ. Twenty college presidents from across the nation, two city and two state dignitaries, Rochester College faculty, staff, administrators, and students honored and welcomed Dr. Westerfield to his new presidential appointment.

At the College's first-ever presidential inauguration, senior faculty member Garth Pleasant led the procession with the new cherry wood college mace. The hand carved mace, in the shape of a torch, symbolizes Rochester's pursuit of transformational learning.

Dr. Royce Money, president of Abilene Christian University, brought opening greetings on behalf of all the dignitaries. "From the beginning of this search, I knew Dr. Westerfield



was uniquely qualified for this position. His academic background, people skills, and high esteem of the faculty and staff are all indicators to me that Dr. Westerfield is the right man for this job at this time." He challenged Dr. Westerfield to take Rochester College to an unprecedented level as a moral and spiritual light to change the world.

The chairman of Rochester's Board of Trustees, Pat Kirby, administered the presidential oath to Dr. Westerfield, followed by the presentation of the Presidential Chain of Office. The Chain of Office, representing the president's authority as head of the College, features links displaying the names of the College's past presidents and the words embodying the values of Rochester College.

Jennifer Hamilton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, introduced President Michael W. Westerfield to the podium. "Dr. Westerfield has cast the vision of Rochester College as a healthy, growing, vibrant community whose every activity directs students to a goal: lifelong learning and service to their own communities, churches, and the world around them."

Greeted by a standing ovation, Dr. Westerfield painted a picture of Rochester College's future based on the eight links of the chain: faith, scholarship, community, truth, virtue, excellence, service and stewardship. As he spoke about faith, he said:

Our heritage and our worldview are Christian and lead us as an institution to value one another, respect one another, honor one another, and hold one another accountable. We believe faith rises above our own particular opinions and calls us to a life shaped by personal faith. I see this manifested in our students and our employees as they feed the hungry of the inner city, build homes for the homeless, and take the message of Christ to every populated continent. Faith is the driving force behind our College and we embrace faith as the foundation of all we do.

Westerfield concluded, "Together we are achieving far more than we ever thought possible. I am hopeful about the future and looking forward to Rochester College serving generations to come," Westerfield said.

Rochester Hills Mayor Pat Somerville said, "Dr. Westerfield has been involved with Rochester College for a very long time. He is extremely capable of being appointed to this position at this time." State Representative John Garfield added, "Dr. Westerfield is a forward thinker with lots of insight. He recognizes the importance of faith-based education, and I'm excited to see him take over as the seventh president." ✧

Ebullient Pageantry



Dr. Jennifer Hamilton (above), Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, presents to the Rochester College community its seventh president, Dr. Michael Westerfield.

(Left) Pat Kirby, chairman of the Board of Trustees, presents Dr. Westerfield with the Presidential Chain of Office.



Presidential Chain of Office

The Rochester College Presidential Chain of Office is derived from traditions that date as far back as the sixteenth century, and represents the president's authority as head of the college.

The chain features a medal of the college seal; the medal and all links of the chain are made of light oxidized bronze. The links display the names of past presidents along with words that embody the values of the institution: faith, scholarship, community, truth, virtue, excellence, service, and stewardship.

The Medallion Art Company, Ltd. of Dayton, NV, produced the mace (see story, page 4) and chain of office for Rochester College.

When not in use, they are kept on display in the executive offices.

Elegant Party

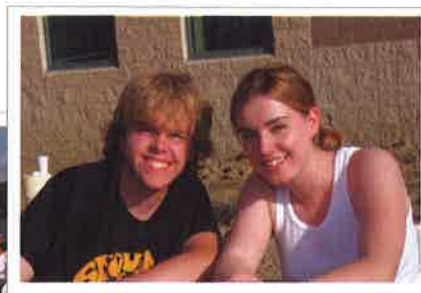


President Michael Westerfield and First Lady Sharon Westerfield



The Hon. Karen Lewis, Mayor of the City of Rochester (left) celebrates with the Hon. Pat Somerville, Mayor of Rochester Hills

Exuberant Picnic



Students Adam Gailbreath and Lori Handyside (left) enjoy the evening's entertainment. (Far left) Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community basked together in the summer evening as inaugural celebrations drew to a close.

The evening's inaugural events concluded with a community barbecue dinner and outdoor concert at the campus Riverside Park. A spirit of celebration imbued the Rochester campus as students, staff, faculty and distinguished guests mingled. A true sense of community was evident everywhere, echoing Dr. Westerfield's earlier remarks, "We all recognize our responsibilities reach far beyond the campus and reach out into the world in which we live." He added, "Community captures the spirit of our journey."

E. Lucien Palmer

1921 - 2004

by Bradley Travis Irwin ('96)

Edward Lucien Palmer, perhaps the most influential figure in Rochester College's early history, died in Nashville, TN, on July 8. He was 82 years old.

Many people regard Lucien Palmer as the College's father figure for it was he who personally laid the academic, operational, and social foundations on which future generations built the Rochester of today. He led the College through its childhood and into the first years of adolescence, lending his own warm personality to the campus culture and creating a place where, even today, strangers feel welcome. The Rochester College that thousands of people know and love is built on Palmer's blueprints and Palmer's foundation, making this school an extension of his personality and a monument to his legacy.

Born Aug. 12, 1921, in Ludowici, GA, Palmer was the eleventh of twelve siblings. He grew up in the Deep South, where he graduated from high school and went to work on the railroad from 1940-1944. He married Ida Coates in 1941.



(L to R) Ida Palmer, Lucien Palmer, Alma Gatewood, Otis Gatewood. Lucien Palmer is shaking hands with Hazel Smith Cox, '64.

The Palmers moved to Nashville in 1944, where Lucien attended David Lipscomb Junior College, a school affiliated with Churches of Christ. Later, he earned the Bachelor of Arts from George Peabody College. Palmer developed a keen desire to become an evangelist, and in 1947, he became the first minister employed by the Una Church of Christ in Nashville. In the meantime, he and Ida gave birth to a son, Eddie, and daughter, Patsy.

Palmer ministered to Church of Christ congregations in Garrett and Waterloo, Indiana, between 1950 and 1954, but heard a divine call to preach the Christian message in Africa. He moved to Ikot Usen, Nigeria, where he preached and established a Bible training college to prepare Nigerians to preach the Christian message to their own people.

In 1958, Palmer and four others established the Nigerian Christian Schools Foundation (now African Christian Schools Foundation), an American-based Church of Christ organization dedicated to building Bible colleges in West Africa. The Foundation became the most important work of Palmer's life and he remained active in its operation until his death, at times serving as trustee, president, and chancellor, and making over 100 trips to Nigeria over 40 years. Palmer also helped establish a hospital in Ikot Usen, which the

village elected to name Palmer Memorial Hospital in his honor. Beloved by the people of Nigeria, Palmer was named chief over 230 villages in 1985 and given the title Obong Nkorió: "Chief of Progress."

The segregated South provided the stage for one of Palmer's greatest contributions to the Church of Christ. In 1957, he returned to Nashville to complete the Master of Education Administration at Peabody. Marshall Keeble, the renowned African American preacher, announced he would retire from the presidency of Nashville Christian Institute, one of only three Church of Christ schools for African Americans. Created in 1940 because no Church of Christ schools admitted African Americans, NCI grew to become one of the finest private schools in the South, producing such famous graduates as civil rights activist Fred Gray, the attorney who represented Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Palmer served as president of NCI from 1957 until 1958. During that time, he developed a famous friendship with Keeble, becoming one of the few white leaders in the Church of Christ to openly and intimately fellowship with African Americans as equals.

North Central Christian College appointed Palmer its first dean in 1958, several months before the school opened. Otis Gatewood, the College's world-famous president (Gatewood was the first Christian missionary to enter Germany after World War II), and Palmer formed a dynamic duo that quickly established North Central Christian's reputation. Gatewood used his influence to make public appearances, raising support for the College all over the country; and Palmer used his education and experience to create the academic programs, operational systems, and social values that would shape the College for generations to come.

The Board of Trustees acknowledged Dean Palmer's work when it made him vice president in 1963. A few months later, Gatewood resigned and Palmer moved into the president's office. Soon after he took office, Palmer participated in one of the most important events in the College's history. On Nov. 10, 1964, Palmer and board chairman Wheeler Utley signed the deed on 54 acres adjacent to the College, doubling the size of the campus with one stroke of the pen. Over the next 40 years, the College built Shinsky Field and the Rochester Church of Christ built its meeting facilities on the property. The College recently drafted a master plan for the land that includes a field house and additional residence halls.

On May 25, 1966, President Palmer stepped to the podium during daily chapel and announced, "It's a beautiful day." Thus began one of the College's most loved traditions, Beautiful Day, when the president chose one day each school year to cancel classes so students and employees could picnic and play at a local park. The tradition ended in the 1990s, but old timers and quite a few students hope for its return.



made their former chief executive a fellow trustee and the College's first chancellor. In his new role, Chancellor Palmer would concentrate on public relations and strategic vision.

The chancellor, however, once again heard the music of his first love in ministry, the Nigerian Christian Schools Foundation. Since 1963, he presided over both Michigan Christian and NCSF at the same time. Now, in 1973, he heard the call once again to give his full attention to the work in West Africa. He decided to take a leave of absence at the end of the 1973-1974 school year. Just days after he left Michigan Christian, the NCA granted the College accreditation. Palmer's work in Rochester was done.

The "Chief of Progress" spent the last 30 years of his life traveling back and forth between Nashville and Nigeria as senior ambassador for the African Christian Schools Foundation. He also returned to congregational ministry at the Una Church of Christ, where he served as associate minister and elder until Parkinson's Disease disabled him from further full-time work. Palmer slowed down in his last years, but the staff at ACSF kept his office intact because they never knew when the old chief would show up to do whatever work he could for a few hours.

It's been 30 years since Palmer said goodbye to the College on Lake Norcentra, but his presence will never leave this place. Many men will be called founding fathers, but only Palmer will be remembered as Rochester's enduring father figure. The people who built Michigan's Christian college over the last 45 years built on Palmer's foundation, according to Palmer's blueprint. No one in Rochester's history ever played so crucial a role as Palmer did in the College's first years. He alone built the new school's academic program, engineered its internal systems, and wove its social fabric. He breathed life into the mechanics of the organization, lending the College his own gracious spirit. Today's Rochester College culture, a kind of family where friends and strangers alike feel at home, is an extension of Palmer's personality.

In 1962, the *Totem Pole*, Michigan Christian's yearbook, published these words in honor of Dean Lucien Palmer:

A personality which typifies the ideals of Michigan Christian Junior College may be found in one man in particular on our campus. Dean Lucien Palmer manifests the traits of a well-educated man who is so dedicated that he lives his vocation: faculty, staff, and the student body are dependent upon him for major decisions relating to their organization and operations. Campus life revolves around this man. He is a living example of the adage that education should include knowledge of what to do with it.

To the man at the center of campus life—yesterday, today and tomorrow—we say thank you and pray the blessings of God on your family, biological and spiritual, all over the world. "Your mem'ry will live in our hearts."

Lucien Palmer is survived by Ida, his wife of 62 years; Jeff (brother) and Norma Jean (sister-in-law); Ed (son) and Joan (daughter-in-law); Garth (son-in-law) and Pat (daughter) Pleasant; Randy and Kim Speck (granddaughter); Palmer Speck (great grandson); Klint (grandson) and Rachel Pleasant; and John (grandson) and Erin Pleasant.

The College embarked on its biggest capital project to date when, in 1967, President Palmer broke ground for a \$700,000 residence hall that would house 144 women. Three years later, he presided at a dedication ceremony for Alma Gatewood Hall, the landmark building on campus for the next 32 years.


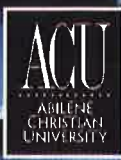
Palmer's greatest accomplishment at Michigan Christian began the day he moved into the dean's office in 1959. He knew the College's survival and success depended on regional accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. From day one, Palmer charted a course to gain membership in the NCA and establish the College's credibility. In 1968, the association made its first visit to Rochester and, one year later, granted the College candidate status.

The administrative duties became too much for Palmer to handle by himself. Students observed that they rarely saw him on campus and he never seemed to leave his office. He had little time for public relations. Palmer decided to make a change; he resigned the presidency early in 1971. The board hired former Ohio Valley College president Don Gardner to succeed Palmer and

Rochester College & ACU Present

ElderLink

a conference for church elders
@ Rochester College,
in the new Richardson Center
January 28-29, 2005

www.acu.edu/ministry/elderlink/ contact: Dr. David Fleer 248.218.2144

Richardson Center

With the ribbon cutting, Rochester College celebrates the successful completion of Phase II of the Catch the Vision Capital Campaign, raising over \$8 million

Story by Kara Nulty, senior
Photos by Jeff Bennett ('98)



Looking Ahead

We can't wait to show you the brand-new science labs, student center, theatre, and state-of-the-art classrooms in the Richardson Center. To do them justice would take more space than we have available here. Please watch the next few issues of the *North Star* for an inside look at the Richardson Center, or better yet, visit us on campus and experience it for yourself! We'd love to see you.

*He has shown you, O people, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*
-Micah 6:8

A mosaic of Rochester College, her administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, community members, and supporters celebrated the opening of the Richardson Center October 1, 2004. The chosen theme to act justly and mercifully (Micah 6:8) requires the pursuit of truth, the core of Rochester College's mission.

Dr. Jennifer Hamilton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, welcomed guests and thanked the construction company Rewold and Sons, Inc. for completion of the facility ahead of schedule and TMP Associates, Architects, for their design.

President Michael Westerfield said, "As we did two years ago when we dedicated the Ham Library, we dedicate this facility to God and to His glory." Westerfield thanked Bob and Mary Utley, consistent and generous donors, for providing needed student social space. The Utley-McCauley Student Center is named in memory of their late daughter Loree ('78). The Don and Audrey Gardner Science Center honors the work and accomplishments of Rochester College's third president and first lady. As Westerfield introduced the Richardsons he said, "To build a college, there must be people who are willing to dream beyond what is. Their dream for the future is wonderful."

Dave Richardson ('67) shared the story of how he found a true Christian family in Rochester College, which enhanced his ability to be successful in his career and impact people around him. The naming pledge by Dave and his wife, Trish, demonstrates their passion for Christian education. Mr. Richardson concluded, "What better way to love and serve God than to get a Christian education?"

The ceremony was followed by a ribbon-cutting at the front doors of the Richardson Center, tours of the new facilities, and refreshments.

Ground was broken for the Richardson Center in November 2003 and the \$5 million building was completed in September 2004, four months ahead of schedule. The 25,000-square foot Richardson Center is home to a 200-seat fine arts theatre, the Utley-McCauley Student Center, classrooms, science labs, the ACE lab, and faculty and executive offices. With the completion of the Richardson Center, Phase II of the Catch the Vision capital campaign is complete. Since 1997, Rochester College's growth has gained momentum with three back-to-back building projects, surpassing campaign goals by raising over \$8 million in gifts and pledges.

"With God's blessing we have raised enough money to build these three facilities, significantly improving the Rochester College campus," Vice President for Institutional Advancement/Campaign Strategies Don Robinson said. "Rochester College has proven that this Vision is not merely a plan on a drawing board, but an unfolding reality." Finishing in record time and surpassing all financial goals, Robinson projects success in future campaigns. Rochester College is currently completing plans to roll out Phase III of the Catch the Vision capital campaign, with a new athletic facility as the focal point. Stay tuned!



Dave and Trish Richardson cut the ribbon, held by President Westerfield and Board of Trustees Chair Pat Kirby, as Shawn Ciavattone of Congressman Joe Knollenberg's office looks on.

Rochester's partnership with Global Christian University continues

Rochester's first two presidents, Otis Gatewood and Lucien Palmer, envisioned a college that would train missionaries to carry the good news of Jesus Christ to every part of the world. The College, in cooperation with Global Christian University, continues to fulfill that dream in a way that Presidents Gatewood and Palmer probably never would have imagined: through the Internet. GCU offers Rochester's accredited programs to anyone with Internet access. Says President Westerfield, "We can do more than send American missionaries to foreign countries—we can train indigenous missionaries and ministers in their homelands." Westerfield and GCU President Charles Myer, Jr., will present the Rochester/GCU program to attendees at the Missionary/Military Retreat in Rothenburg, Germany, in late November.

Fall semester sees enrollment increase

A modest increase in enrollment over last fall bears witness to the continuing trend of annual record enrollment figures at the College. This year's students number 1,014, representing 23 states and 15 countries.

Rochester meets Munich

The ancient castles and cathedrals of Bavaria are ringing with familiar voices even now as seven Rochester College students revel in southern Germany's culture during this year's semester abroad program known as GEO (Global Educational Opportunities). GEO Bavaria, a 14-week semester program, provides students with 15 credit hours toward their Rochester degree as well as a home in Munich and travel in Bavaria and Italy. While in Munich, students study German language, religion, humanities, cross-cultural experiential learning, and western civilization. They live and worship with fellow Christians from local churches. They visit museums and cities, practice their German, and experience God's creation in a completely new way as they come face-to-face with the Alps.

"... we climbed to the top of a mountain to see a beautiful castle, where we yodeled around for the day and enjoyed sights such as Mozart's birthplace. I was so inspired that I'm writing a symphony of my own!" reports Jessica Traylor, a junior education major.



Rochester College
Global Educational Opportunities



Learning and practicing their German has proved to be challenging and fun, as well, says Julianna Blankenship, a junior in business communication. "I finally know what I am ordering to eat in a restaurant and I know what the ads in the subway say. It is very exciting to go into a bakery and order what you want and talk to the person entirely in German. Now, my understanding of what they say back is rather limited, but one thing at a time, right?"

She adds, "If you are thinking about doing GEO Bavaria next year, do it. You will never regret it and it will change your view of the world."

Popular College of Extended Learning continues to expand

With additions to the CEL program, a commitment to strong faculty and curriculum, and a staff dedicated to meeting the needs of adult learners, the Rochester College-College of Extended Learning (CEL) continues to be a leader in adult learner-focused programs in Southeast Michigan.

The CEL program began in the summer of 1997 and has grown to offer nine majors on four campuses: Rochester College main campus, Macomb Community College, Mott Community College, and, most recently, Specs-Howard School of Broadcast Arts in Southfield. The College's cooperative relationships with these educational institutions paved the way for program expansion and enrollment growth.

Expansion at the Specs-Howard site provides another viable degree option for adult learners. "We added the Bachelor of Business Administration in Management degree at this site. Now students have a choice of three degree programs at this site," said Kirsten Larsson, CEL enrollment advisor.

"Previously we leased classroom and office space from the Specs Howard School, but we have much greater flexibility now that we have our own dedicated space. The classroom outfitted with state-of-the-art technology aids professors in the way they present material as well as helps students in the way they learn," Larsson explained.

Students at the Mott branch have four degree options, as the Bachelor of Science in Counseling Psychology program was added this fall. Tracey Hebert, vice president of CEL, actively pursues additional CEL programs at all sites because he recognizes the value of CEL to adult students. "According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 72 percent of all undergraduate students in the United States have non-traditional characteristics and over 40 percent of all undergraduate students are age 25 or above. You can understand why these programs are so popular with people who have life circumstances that don't allow them to attend classes with a 'traditional' schedule," said Hebert.

"I believe strongly in the traditional model of higher education as well," stated Hebert. "It is still the most comprehensive education experience available. But since so many older students are unable to access that type of education model due to their life circumstances, it is imperative that we offer the best adult learner-focused program we can. I believe that we have one of the best programs in Southeast Michigan."

To enroll in the CEL program, a student must be 23 years old or older and have at least three years of full-time work experience. The average age of a Rochester CEL student is 36 years old. Hebert said, "It is especially gratifying to see those who earned their associates degree at MCC several years ago return to campus and earn the long-awaited bachelor's degree."



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women Warriors, in third season, continue to show promise

Freshman Gisela Pinto came all the way from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada to play for the Women Warriors. "I love to play soccer and it has been great to play for Rochester," she says, effortlessly dribbling a soccer ball with her right foot as she talks. She exemplifies the enthusiasm of the entire 2004 Women's Soccer Team as they continue to work hard, run hard, and kick hard to forge a solid soccer team where there was none three years ago.

Of Pinto, Head Coach Eric Diehl says, "She's an excellent goalkeeper with great athletic ability; she'll just keep getting better."

Diehl is pleased with each member of his team this year, despite a 2-6-1 season. "This is the first year we've had a full team of recruits and returnees show up pre-season ready to play. Each year, this team improves." He adds, "Our schedule has been challenging from the start, but these players are digging deep."

Rochester College is currently part of the USCAA (US Collegiate Athletic Association), and each year the goal is to win enough games to make it to the national championship. Says Diehl, "We play a very competitive schedule of mostly NAIA teams. The competitive level of the top teams in the NAIA can be just as good as that of any NCAA Division 1 Team." Diehl concludes, "The quality of the team is not always related to the size of the school."

Quality keeps improving as the Women Warriors develop into a cohesive team. Team captains Michelle Woody (junior, West Lafayette, IN), Beth Eaves (junior, Casco, MI), and Sally Madurski (junior, Grand Blanc, MI) and top defensive player Katina Scott (freshman, Shelby Twp., MI) are honing leadership skills as they steer the rest of the team. ♦



Goalkeeper Gisela Pinto and her teammates have been working hard all season.



MEN'S SOCCER

Men's Soccer Team to compete in USCAA National Tournament

"We'll be up against some strong teams, but we have a good chance to win if we play as well as we have all season," says Head Coach Eric Diehl of his Warriors' invitation to compete in the USCAA National Tournament later this month. A 7-5-1 season proved captains Josh Porter (junior, W. Lafayette, IN) and Henry Oyier (junior, Kenya) to be strong leaders of the team. Diehl adds, "We have a nice spread of talent across the team, with very versatile players able to play different positions." Please visit www.rc.edu/athletics for full results of the tournament.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Great post-tournament prospects, says Coach Pleasant

After last year's USCAA National Championship title, the Warriors are poised for another year of great basketball, says Head Coach Garth Pleasant. "Three of our starters from last year's championship team have graduated; however, we do have players who can step in and really make a contribution." The men's 32-game basketball season began October 23 and continues until tournament time in March. Visit www.rc.edu/athletics for a complete team roster and game schedule; the next issue of the *North Star* will carry more basketball highlights.

Faculty and Staff

Rochester welcomes Lindsey Dunfee

Lindsey Dunfee joins the staff as the new human resources manager. She comes to us from the corporate offices of Kelly Services. Says Executive Vice President Alan Waites, "We are so pleased to have someone of Lindsey's caliber join our staff."

Rochester in Nashville

Campus Minister Sara Barton spoke at the Zoe Worship Conference at the Woodmont Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, TN, in October. There were 1,200 people in attendance.

Rochester in Malibu

Dr. David Fleer, vice president for church relations, was chosen to deliver the William Green Lecture in October at Pepperdine University. In its 25th year, the program is named in honor of Green, an early scholar in the Restoration Movement, and is part of Pepperdine's Distinguished Christian Scholar Lectures Series. Fleer spoke to a "packed house" of about 250, according to Kym Dildine of Pepperdine.

Gary Carson, vice president for human resources and special projects, has retired. After a career in the automotive industry, Carson joined the College in 2002 and was instrumental in several new construction projects. Says President Westerfield, "Gary Carson is the one who led in raising the standards in our buildings at Rochester College.

I am convinced that without Gary, we would not have the outstanding level of beauty and architecture in the Ham Library and the Richardson Center. He has left a legacy of excellence!"



Lucille Green celebrated her retirement with a luncheon held on Tuesday, September 28th. Mrs. Green, 87, was honored for her 25 years of service to the Rochester College Bookstore.

In the past two and a half decades, Lucille helped in every aspect of the bookstore as well as befriended many students, staff, and faculty. She used her managing skills to develop the bookstore's sportswear section from a small side selection to one of the most successful sales units of the store. Lucille has always easily connected with the students of Rochester College. She has even had 23 reside with her. Larry Stewart, bookstore manager, describes Lucille as a bundle of energy. "She began working for the college at a time when most people her age were retiring. She is an amazing woman."



Kelvin Brown, '95, new dean of admissions

Rochester College is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelvin Brown to associate vice president for enrollment services/dean of admissions.

"Mr. Brown comes to us with nine years of business development and customer relations experience," says President Westerfield. "We look forward to working with him to help the College realize its potential and fulfill its mission."

Brown has been one of Rochester's brightest stars since he came to Michigan Christian College in 1991 to play basketball. The Romulus, MI, native impressed his classmates and teammates so much that the Warriors made him team captain and the student body crowned him Homecoming King. In 1995, Brown received the Bachelor of Business Administration from Michigan Christian and went on to a career as a customer relations/business development expert for Comerica Bank. He and his wife, Amy (King) Brown, '97, are the parents of two boys, Justus and Avis. Brown is a member of the Trenton, MI, Church of Christ, where he volunteers in the youth ministry program. The family resides in Brownstown, MI.

Brown replaces Toby Osburn, who recently left the College to assume the role of dean of students at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA.

A Leader's Vision

from an interview with Dr. Michael Westerfield
by Amanda Johns ('04)

This is part two of a two-part feature about Rochester College's new president. The previous segment (North Star, Summer '04) introduced Dr. Michael Westerfield and his qualifications for the office; this segment reports Westerfield's vision and plans for the College's next ten years.

Rochester College's new president, Dr. Michael Westerfield, has seen a lot of change since 1995, when he climbed on board to help Dr. Ken Johnson transform the small, relatively unknown college of 300 students into the comprehensive regional liberal arts college of today. Having explored the best and worst of American higher education as a consultant and evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission, Westerfield developed a good sense of what a small private college like Rochester must accomplish to succeed.

Academic vision

Several years before becoming president of the College, Dr. Westerfield worked with a strong faculty committee to shape and approve the Academic Vision Statement. This statement has been instrumental in the design of the strategic plan to take Rochester College to its next level of development as a liberal arts institution. The vision of the College is important as a guide, keeping the focus on goals that stimulate the College's growth as an institution of higher learning.

Seeking those who love learning

Rochester College is an institution that continues to transform. As the College coordinates facility expansion to appropriately support academic program offerings and community building, Westerfield aspires to hire the best, well-credentialed faculty and staff who fit the College's vision for the future. Rochester College is as good as those who make up its body; therefore, Westerfield seeks those who love learning, not only for career preparation, but also for broadening an understanding of the world in which we live. This academic community must demand a deeper level of professional behavior and scholarship. Westerfield observes that we live in a world increasingly geared toward task preparation, leading to domineering individualism and viewing others as insignificant. However, a foundation in the study of liberal arts as is offered at Rochester College leads students and staff to respect others, search for truth, and seek ways in which to serve.

Performance evaluation

Westerfield believes a new program of performance evaluation will help current and future employees of the College hold one another accountable and encourage improvement. He acknowledges that a community that values people should assume everyone is acting in good faith; only when such a spirit exists can the College move forward. This belief in people demands a greater involvement and accountability within the Rochester College body—and to the greater community. Westerfield envisions a College population that prays, struggles, and rejoices together.

Socratic interaction

Westerfield's vision stresses a call to faculty to create environments where teaching moves beyond a simple memorization of facts and leads toward a Socratic approach where students participate in the learning process. An advantage of being a small liberal arts college is the opportunity for this kind of quality interaction between faculty and students.

Endowments critical to the future

Westerfield recognizes that Rochester College is at a critical juncture in its history. The next decade will determine whether the College can continue on its present path of substantial growth and development.

Endowment must grow significantly if Rochester College's future is to be secure. Presently, the College's endowment represents a good number of endowed scholarships, crucial as Westerfield strives to maintain access for all students who desire a Christian education. Yet in order to take the risks necessary to grow Rochester College to the next level, endowment must be built to include money for teaching chairs, capital projects, annual program support, and new initiatives.

Annual funds, covering the gap between tuition income and yearly expenses, continue to be critical to the success of Rochester College. Westerfield hopes to unveil ways to help faculty find annual money to benefit their departments and also encourages employees and friends of the College to make annual or monthly donations. In addition, Westerfield plans to increase new funding sources by building relationships with corporate, foundation, and government groups.

Targeting aggressive enrollment growth

While gifts are an important source of funds, tuition is another, directly impacting the College's operations. Enrollment is critical to the success of Rochester College. Westerfield is committed to attracting and retaining outstanding students who esteem learning, participate in the community, and value service. Title III government grant efforts, a positive atmosphere on campus, and other improvements in student services programming have led to strong retention. The Board-approved strategic plan authorizes Westerfield's vision of aggressive enrollment growth, both for the traditional program and the College of Extended Learning. The target goal is 2,000 students by the year 2010, doubling current enrollment.

As the College continues to build the infrastructure needed to achieve the goals of the strategic plan, plans soon will be rolled out for the construction of a new athletic center. Additional capital projects will include instructional facilities and student apartment-style housing.

continued on the next page

Through the faculty's willingness to work together and better their positions, a strong spirit of collegiality on campus, and additional facility construction, Rochester College desires to establish a learning community where scholarship is valued and excellence is the expectation.

Westerfield stresses the need to weigh the College's facility needs against the need for improved salaries and additional support and faculty positions. The future of Rochester College is more than buildings. Westerfield desires to establish a community where scholarship is valued by continuing to support such programs as the Academic Symposium and GEO, building outstanding graduate programs, and continuing to make appropriate use of cutting-edge technology in teaching and daily business.

A strong conviction to Jesus Christ

Westerfield's vision is for Rochester College to be recognized as an institution that seeks to serve its community and the greater world, motivated by a strong conviction in Jesus Christ. The College will continue to serve its church constituency and strive to become a resource for churches desiring a partnership for the greater glory of the universal kingdom of God. On campus, the College seeks to build Christian community through daily assembly, the constant integration of faith and scholarship in the classroom, and academic and social events encouraging the interaction of faculty, staff, and students.

Westerfield is pleased to see Rochester College's students and staff involved in local congregations, feeding the hungry in Detroit, building houses for the less fortunate, and participating in mission trips to every populated continent. He says, "Jesus calls us to care for the disenfranchised of the world, to take His message to the world around us, to recognize His work is not about earthly kingdoms and governments, but about an eternal Kingdom that reaches beyond our time spent on this earth."

Through the faculty and staff's willingness to work together and better their positions, a strong spirit of collegiality on campus, and additional facility construction, Rochester College desires to establish a learning community where scholarship is valued and excellence is the expectation. Westerfield adds, "May God bless our efforts to serve Rochester College. I am pleased to serve with you and I solicit your prayers as I try to lead in such a way that reflects the spirit of Christ."

Transformations such as these take time, but are well worth the effort. Rochester College is on its way to such a success, following the vision and experience of its seventh president, Dr. Michael Westerfield. ✧

A Shining Star

Katie Kirkpatrick



Photo: Niki (Schafnitz) Kirkpatrick ('72)

By now, just about everyone around Rochester has heard about Katie Kirkpatrick: our 21-year-old student, former high school valedictorian and homecoming queen, basketball player, cancer survivor. Katie conquered a cancerous brain tumor in 2002 and is now fighting a second tumor, this one wrapped around her pulmonary artery. Determined and optimistic, Katie draws her strength, she says, from knowing that her life is in God's hands.

The latest news about Katie is exciting: Dr. Craig Bowman of the Bible faculty headed a campus and area-wide effort that raised \$28,000, making one of Katie's dreams come true: riding with six-time Tour de France winner and fellow cancer survivor Lance Armstrong in his Ride for the Roses cancer fundraiser.

"It is only by God's grace that we were able to go to Austin for Katie to ride with Lance Armstrong," says Bowman. He continues, "We were among an elite group of 75 who raised a total of \$1.75 million, receiving VIP treatment as guests of the Armstrong Foundation."

Kirkpatrick and her family traveled to Austin for the October 15-17 event accompanied by many from her Rochester College family, including Bowman, his daughter, Julia, Dr. Gordon MacKinnon, and Katie's fiancé, Nick Godwin. Katie's dad, David ('72), was unable to make the trip because he was recovering from serious injuries sustained when he was hit by a car in September while training for this ride.

The group from Rochester rode twice, first a 12-mile route with Armstrong and the other 75 who had raised \$20,000 or more, and second with 6,500 cyclists from all over the world riding distances from six to 100 miles. Though she struggled, Katie was able to complete the six miles. Nearly everyone who pedaled rode in honor or memory of cancer patients.

Of the trip, Katie said, "It was such an encouraging time for me. I was treated like a celebrity." She continues, "The best part of the weekend was an Appreciation Dinner Friday evening, where I got to hear Sheryl Crowe sing. I also met Robin Williams, (2000 Olympic silver medalist) Mari Holden—and, of course, Lance Armstrong!"

Nearly 200 generous donations were made to send Katie to Austin. She has been the subject of writeups in the *Detroit News*, *Michigan Sports and Fitness Magazine*, and the *Flint Journal*. She's also been featured on Detroit's WXYZ-TV Channel 7 news.

"We are already signed up for next year's event and hope to raise \$100,000," says Bowman. He continues, "Katie and her family want to express their deepest gratitude to those who contributed so generously to the Lance Armstrong Foundation in her honor. The Ride for the Roses was a wonderfully inspiring weekend of celebration and community for those afflicted by cancer, reminding us all to 'live strong,' the motto of the Foundation." ✧

Student Leaders



Student writers publish creative work

by Sarah Grabowski, freshman

Ex Libris, Latin for “from the library of,” is the fitting name for a group of Rochester College writers. Formed in April 2004, the group is composed of students, staff, and faculty and is steadily increasing in size. Cassie Dewitt, a junior English major from Utica, MI, commented, “Our group of close-knit writers collaboratively works toward the goal of improving. Since I’ve been in the group, my writing has improved and I’ve explored different genres I’ve never experimented with.” Amanda Johns (’04) shared a common feeling in the group. “*Ex Libris* is a place to sit down and write; we aren’t usually able to set time aside for ourselves.”

Ex Libris is open to anyone. Meetings are similar to a conversation in a coffee shop with a group of friends. Transfer student David Rotberg who, until attending *Ex Libris* was convinced he wasn’t a writer, said, “It makes me appreciate writing on a new level. Plus, you get the chance to see a different side of teachers.”

Though informal in setting, the main focus of this writing group is to develop each member’s individual talents and encourage confidence in their identity as writers.

Last year, the group invited its own members and other Rochester College writers to submit their work for publication. The final product was a collection of poems, stories, and prose called *Blackberry Winter* (see excerpt, right). The group plans another publication during this academic year. As with *Blackberry Winter*, campus-wide participation will be encouraged.

The Intended You

give up the idea that it’s yours
put an end to saying mine
quit possession and collection
stealing credit not yours

look beyond today, tomorrow,
a lifetime
bigger picture, eternity, forever
every breath becomes grace
undeserved yet given

when
you get lost in blue sky
with depth beyond
comprehension
you forget yourself under
a night heaven of
stars

uncountable
joy is no longer product of
material

when
it is no longer you
when it is all His
you will be you
as He intended
you to be

N.N. Hornbaker

from *Blackberry Winter*, Volume 1
Reprinted with permission.

Tara-Kai Hunt

Since I’ve been at Rochester,” says College of Extended Learning student Tara-Kai Hunt, “I’m motivated to manage my time and stay focused on my goals. I receive constant encouragement in these important leadership qualities from the staff.”

A human resources analyst with an accounting firm, Hunt has a daughter, Taylor-Kai, a fourth-grader who dances competitively. Hunt is involved in PTA and makes costumes for her daughter’s dance company. All this while completing her bachelor’s degree in Business Management at Rochester College!

Says Hunt, “The staff is so inspiring and supportive. I’m especially inspired by those with families, too, who know what I’m going through. They provide continual support and understanding, as well as being excellent examples to me.” Hunt cites Debi Rutledge, Julie Harper, and George Kolibar as being exceptionally strong encouragements to her.

Hunt concludes, “Because of Rochester College, I have completely changed the way I learn. The wonderful and inspiring teachers and staff have made all the difference in my ability to take the lead in my family and in my career.”



The serious, scholarly, all-work-and-no-play members of *Ex Libris*.

We are so proud of our students here at Rochester College, and we know you are, too. We love to talk about our students and tell the world about the wonderful things God is doing to transform their lives.

Each day, we continue to be impressed with the talent, diversity, energy, and faith of our students. They are a constant source of encouragement to us, and we would like to share that encouragement with you.

With that in mind, we're pleased to introduce this new student-focused feature in the North Star where, in each issue, you can get to know a little about the people who are the future: the students of Rochester College.

David Brazle

There are a lot of things that you can get involved in at RC. Don't feel like you should do them all, because you'll get burned out. Instead, see where your passions lie, and let God use you wherever that takes you." Sounds like David Mark Brazle (son of Jill (Drummond) Brazle ('73)) listened to his own advice.

Brazle, a senior from Tallmadge, OH, who will graduate in December 2005 with a secondary math degree, has been involved in IMAGE, the A Cappella chorus, the Chamber Chorale, and, for a semester, in Autumn. Brazle has carefully chosen areas in which to become involved, and consequently can say, "Being at Rochester has given me so many opportunities to actually lead. It's wonderful because Rochester is small, and so it allows for a larger percentage of students to step into leadership roles, and expect results from them."

His mentor is Dr. John Barton, of whom he says, "He is an amazing leader because he takes on so much and looks so cool, calm, and collected about it. He listens thoroughly when someone is talking to him, and takes note of their concerns."

Upon graduation, Brazle would like to find a teaching job in the Rochester area. He and fellow Rochester senior Lara Shaw, plan to be married shortly.



Lindy Emerson

For Lindy Emerson, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Mt. Vernon, MO, it's impossible to name a mentor at Rochester College. She has to list several. "Those I look to most are Sara Barton spiritually, Debi Rutledge in the dorms, and Ron Cox in the classroom. Each of these people showed me my potential and made me strive to be better than I am now."

It's evident that Lindy has taken the encouragement of her mentors to heart as she has thrown herself wholeheartedly into life at Rochester: she's active in IMAGE, the missions organization, and in student government; she tutors in the ACE lab and is a resident assistant in Ferndale Hall.

She says, "I have learned that although others have a Christian walk that doesn't look exactly like mine, we have a common bond in Christ. I have learned and grown so much from each person I have met. I am leaving Rochester realizing that I didn't know as much as I thought I did coming in, and that there is a lot left for me to learn."

Emerson continues, "I've also learned a lot about leadership, especially about how leadership is lived and passed on to others through one-on-one relationships. I've discovered that I can be a most effective leader when I use the gifts God gave me to work one-on-one with people."

As she enters her final year at Rochester, Emerson has good advice for new students: "You make the experience! Don't be afraid to get involved. Don't wait for others to plan something you want to do, you make it happen."

She just has to add, "I have loved every part of my experience at Rochester, and it has totally altered my view and direction of my life and spiritual walk with God. I will be leaving here with an increased thirst for Christ, education, and community."

Your funds at work in the lives of students

by Elton Albright

On occasion someone inquires about my role at Rochester College. My official title reads director of institutional advancement/annual giving.

What is annual giving? This definition has been suggested. **Annual giving, comprised of gifts given on a yearly basis by friends and alumni, form the backbone of support for Rochester College.**

During the current academic year, the College has allocated approximately \$1.5 million for student scholarship aid. Your annual fund gifts provide needed scholarship funds.

Annual fund gifts take several forms. Some donors contribute to the College monthly; others give at the end of the year. Supporting student scholarships through Partnership Dinner is a three-decade tradition for many. Some will choose to make a gift using the business reply envelope included with this issue of the *North Star*.

Because of your generosity, care, and sacrifice in support of scholarships, students participate in the Rochester College experience. "Academic Excellence in a Christian Setting" is more than a catchy phrase. It's what we are all about.

Here is what one student says about her experience



at Rochester, impossible without annual giving from generous donors: "I always knew I wanted to come to Rochester College," says Jen Fulton, a sophomore majoring in pre-med from Columbia City, IN. "I wanted to attend a school where I would not only get a quality education, but would also be in a comfortable setting with

people who share the same values as I do. RC was the perfect choice from that standpoint.

"Coming from a middle class family and living out of state, however, I also had to consider the cost factor. Fortunately, the financial aid package I received to come to RC made it possible to live my dream!" Jen is the daughter of Linda (Brown) Fulton ('80) and John Fulton ('91).

Visit the campus! Sit down and spend some time with our students! Share their enthusiasm! Catch their vision! Your gifts to the annual fund make a difference. We treasure your partnership as we work together to provide students the opportunity to experience Christian education.

Rochester Rising

Updates from the Office of Institutional Advancement

Everyone Needs a Will

by Doug Edwards, Vice President for Institutional Advancement/Planned Giving, Endowments, and Major Gifts



Following a recent estate planning seminar, a participant was so struck by the importance of having a will that she suddenly possessed a missionary zeal to remind her friends that they needed to write a will—now! A will is truly an important need for every person and it would be a good thing if more people were motivated to action.

Though wills are fairly simple to create and they help to insure that a person's wishes are carried out in death, about half of Americans die without a will (or intestate). For some reason, many just do not get around to this important task. They often see it as something you do when you get very old (but by then it could be too late). While there are many more sophisticated instruments that one might consider in estate planning, the will is perhaps the most basic and essential document every person should possess to insure that their last wishes are carried out.

As a part of putting together a will, you likely will name an executor to oversee the distribution of your assets named in your will. You need to clearly designate those beneficiaries to whom you want to make distributions of your assets. Be sure to provide accurate and detailed information and instructions. You should keep your will in a place that is easily accessible or found by the appropriate friends or relatives. Be sure to use a professional, such as a knowledgeable attorney, to properly put together your will. Otherwise, it may be rendered ineffective to carry out your desires.

You should update your will at regular intervals in your life to be sure it continues to serve your needs or wishes. Sometimes people make simple additions or changes to their wills through the means of a codicil. In all cases, please use a professional to make those additions or changes.

A will is the most basic need. You need to have one. But you may find that there are other tools available to help you reach financial goals, or to protect your estate from excessive taxation. You may want to use the equity in your home, bank savings, or other blessings God has given you to pass along to family. You may want to use some of these blessings to advance a special ministry. You may also want to give an asset to a charity in exchange for a lifetime of payments through a Charitable Gift Annuity. Rochester College students have benefited from people like you who helped through an estate gift.

In any case, you will likely need some professional advice as you make decisions. Please let me know if I may be of help to point you in the right direction. I have access to several professionals who advise me through the Estate Planning Advisory Board of Rochester College.

Ask for the free brochure, "How to Make a Will That Works." Please call 248-218-2020, or e-mail me at dedwards@rc.edu. You may view other estate planning information and ideas on our website at www.rc.edu.

Alumni Notes



In each issue of the *North Star*, check out the alumni profile corner to see how God is using Rochester College graduates for a life of service and accomplishment. Kingdom service is evident in the lives of our alumni!

Nominations for alumni profiles should be sent to rmiller1@rc.edu.

Let's celebrate each other's successes!

Please send your alumni news briefs to:

Rochester College
Alumni Office
c/o Larry Stewart
800 West Avon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
lstewart@rc.edu

You may also submit news on line by clicking "News for North Star" at www.rc.edu/alumni.

Please remember to include your address and contact information along with the years you attended North Central Christian/Michigan Christian/Rochester College.

Alumnus Climbs Mt. McKinley

by Kara Nulty, senior

Keith Hinson ('92) began his trek up Mount McKinley on May 17, 2003. Thirty days later, after battling temperatures 30 degrees below freezing and losing two team members, Hinson reached the top, boasting a victory few can dream to claim.

Towering above Anchorage, AK, Mount McKinley is the tallest mountain in North America at 20,320 feet and is covered with glaciers and iced falls, creating a beautiful spectacle, but a treacherous climb.

Hinson began preparing six months before the climb with Rainier Mountaineering Incorporated, based in Seattle, WA. The team included nine climbers, and seven of those climbers made it to the peak of Mount McKinley: one climber broke a hip and had to be lifted off the mountain via helicopter, while another climber faced some obstacles leading to his evacuation.

Having conquered McKinley, Hinson is preparing to climb Mount Cho-oyu, part of the Himalayas on the border of Tibet and Nepal. At over 27,000 feet, Mount Cho-oyu is the seventh tallest mountain in the world.

When he is not tackling dangerous mountains, Hinson resides in Franklin, TN, and works in Nashville with Index Brokerage Services, a business he owns and operates with a partner.

In what ways was North Central Christian/Michigan Christian/Rochester College most like home for you?

The next issue of the *North Star* will be entitled, "Rochester College: Celebrating Our Home." With this in mind, we'd like to hear from you about the above question. Please take a few moments to jot down your thoughts and send them or email them to us. We'll publish your memories in this space.

We'd love to hear from you!

1968

Darrel and Joy (Pippin) Emerson have retired to 109 Turnberry Drive, Franklin, TN 37064. They are now living near their children and grandchildren. They attended the Livonia Church of Christ for 24 years, during which time Joy served as secretary and Darrel as an elder.

Terry and Carla (Cunningham) Parvin recently relocated to 6020 Ash Flat Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131. Terry is the new minister of the Haltom City Church of Christ. The couple has two children, Joshua and Sarah.

1990

Mark Mantych married Yvonne Yakey on May 29. Mark recently moved back to Michigan after living in Memphis, Tennessee, for several years. Mark and Yvonne's wedding can be viewed on-line at www.mantych.com. The couple lives at 23067 Saxony, Eastpointe, MI 48021.

1991

Dawn Dickey was married to Greg Mannon on February 28, 2004. Dawn is the clinical nurse coordinator for Phoenix Children's Hospital, and Greg is a manager for Xerox. The couple lives at 18617 North 20th Way, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

1994

Kenyon Cleghorn has donated one of his kidneys to his mother, Sally Cleghorn. Said a friend of the family, "Kenyon's mother gave birth to him, and he is now returning a part of himself to her to give her a better quality of life."

1995

David and Dawn (Sturdavant) Heacock are living at 2500 Mann Road #195, Clarkston, MI 48346. Dawn is employed as a student-lending representative for Comerica Bank. The couple has one child, Mercedes.

2002

Michael Cushnier won 3 silver medals and a bronze in cycling at the Michigan Senior Olympics, Lansing, MI, this past August. He is now qualified to represent Michigan in the National Senior Olympics, Philadelphia, PA, in June 2005.

North Star "Home" Issue
Rochester College
800 West Avon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
awolfe@rc.edu
Subject: Home

Memorial Gifts



Your name can pave the way for the future!

The pathway near Lake Norcentra is in the process of being paved with very special bricks—they can be engraved with your name or the name of someone you wish to honor or remember. A donation of \$30 includes the brick and two lines (14 characters per line). You may add one additional line for \$10. This is a great way to create a lasting memory in one of the most picturesque spots on campus. To purchase engraved bricks, please contact Elton Albright at 248-218-2022, or calbright@rc.edu.

FYI

68 employees of Rochester College are alumni who have given
432 cumulative years of service

Honor Gifts

Michael W. Westerfield, Ph.D.
Donald and Shane Carter, Jr.

Ron and Rena Jones
Kelvin and Amy Brown

Memorial Gifts

May Crutchfield
Bruce and Carol Anne Willis
Bobbie and Frances Smith
Ed and Norma Roos
Sheila Ockerman
Josie Starnes
Bill Lucius
Gladys Castle
Chuck and Jeanette McCoy
Wesley and Shirley Rhoads
Jim and Linda Butterfield
Paul and Nina Van Gilder
Terry and Lynette Parker
Dale and Maxine Keene
Walter and Jo Ellen Forster
Barbara Weatherhead

Coach Bill Shinsky
Don and Rudith Diennan
Art Cox
Anna Carter

John Fisher
Leonard and Janie Huff
Carletta Miller
Brentwood Hills Church of Christ
Glen and Judy Shipman
Ken and Gayle Mitchell
Doug and Janet Edwards
The Nelson Eddy Family

Wilma McKeel
Ann Luchsinger
Ed and Joan Palmer
Anna Carter
Michael and Donna Dow

Lucien Palmer
Joe and Sarah Reddick
David and Niki Kirkpatrick
Nick and Geneva Schafsnitz
Ed and Joan Palmer
Anna Carter
Ken and Gayle Mitchell
Doug and Janet Edwards
Larry and Lynne Stewart

Don Dunn
Joe and Carol Heiskell
Marjan Savkovich
Paul Mitchell
Jean Grebe
Thomas Albin
Barbara Bangs
Martha Bangs
David and Christine Theuerkorn

Barbara Smith
Sarah (Frankie) Yoakum
Doug and Janet Edwards

Cheryl Ann and Annette Riley
Milodene Wat

Polly Ponds and Ron Lee
Bob and Nola Cucheran

Loree (Utley) McCauley
Jacquie and Stephanie Santellan

Erdie E. Pugh
Donald and Virginia Worten
Lanse Creuse Middle School East

Mary Monroe
Ed and Geraldine Monroe

Mildred Case
David and Niki Kirkpatrick

Richard Mough
Hellen Wood

Lea Ann Meixner
Clovis and Jo Meixner

Linda Alderson-Metz
Sarah Yoakum
Anne Leonard
Mike Leonard
Christopher Leonard
Andrew Leonard
Larry and Lynne Stewart

Lyle A. Bean
Joe and Sarah Reddick

Donald Garrett
Doug and Janet Edwards

Bill Wood
Doug and Janet Edwards

Oris Gatewood
Bob and Jan Chaffin

Peggy Matthews
Bruce and Beth Smith

Rosalie Turner
Robert Turner

Don Gardner
Audrey Gardner

The Rochester College Opera Workshop proudly presents

Amahl and the Night Visitors



A Christmas opera in one act by Gian Carlo Menotti

Friday - Sunday, December 3-5, 2004

8pm Friday and Saturday; 3pm Sunday

In the new Richardson Center Theatre

Tickets

\$8.00

\$5.00 with student ID

This opera is a touching story that is enjoyed by young and old alike. It is a great family production—a perfect beginning to the Christmas season.

North Star

*Save the Date!
Partnership Dinner
with Paul Harvey!
Saturday, May 7, 2005*



November 13, 2004
Homecoming
248-218-2041

December 11, 2004
Bookstore
Christmas Open House
248-218-2023

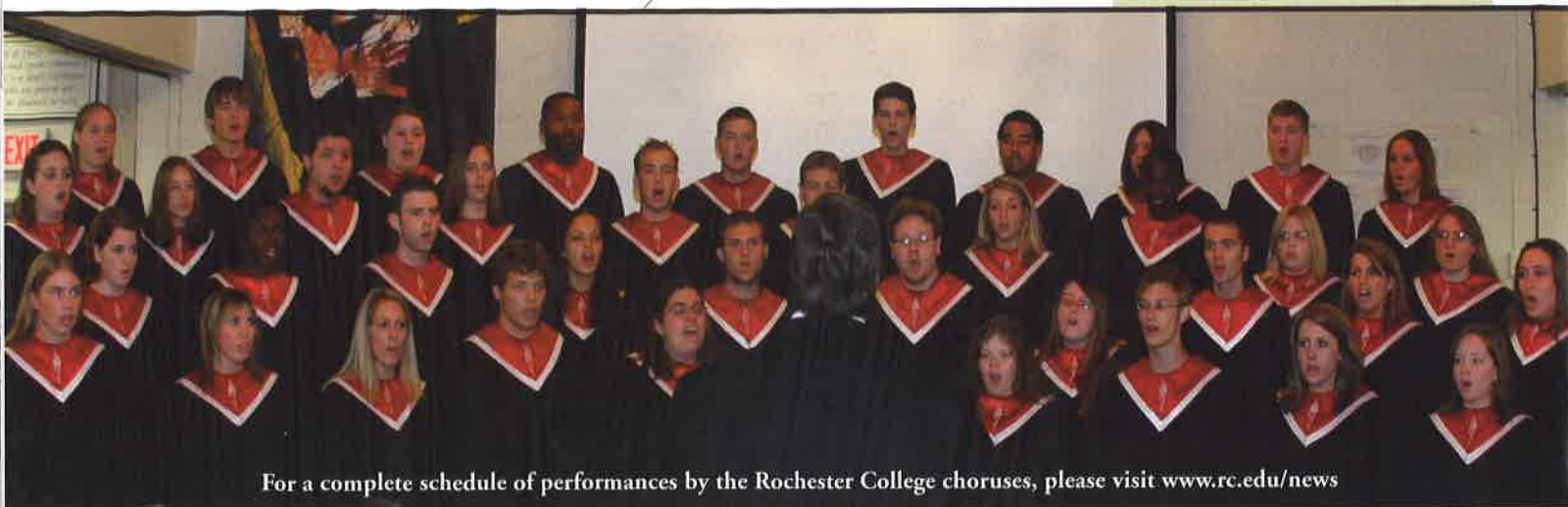
December 18, 2004
Winter Commencement
248-218-2000

January 28-29, 2005
ElderLink
248-218-2144

April 1-2, 2005
Celebration in Song
248-218-2160

May 7, 2005
Partnership Dinner
with Paul Harvey
248-218-2022

May 23-25, 2005
Sermon Seminar
248-218-2144



For a complete schedule of performances by the Rochester College choruses, please visit www.rc.edu/news

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