

NORTHSTAR

Celebrating

a half-century
of Student
Organizations

HALL OF FAME COACH

Basketball Association of Michigan
recognizes Coach Pleasant

MAX LUCADO

Lucado keynotes annual dinner

FRIENDS INSPIRE BOOK

Alumnus Julianna Blankenship pens
a book based on her friends at RC



1959

50

COMMITMENT TO
FAITH & LEARNING

2009

ROCHESTER COLLEGE



800 West Avon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
800.521.6010
www.rc.edu

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

The mission of Rochester College is to engage students in a vigorous liberal arts education within a Christian community for a life of study and service. Rochester College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

The mission of Northstar is to give glory to God by telling of his mercy, his blessings and his continued provision for Rochester College.

Northstar is published biannually by the Rochester College development office.

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Rochester College is committed to equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate in admissions, programs, or any other educational functions and services on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran status, religion, or disability to those who meet admission criteria and are willing to uphold its values as stated in the Student Handbook. Rochester College is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran status, or disability.



FROM THE

president's desk

Rochester College is doing new and exciting things for the 2009-2010 school year. Even though we are not yet to mid-term for the spring semester, we have already committed to Board-approved revisions of how we will operate in the fall. The plan makes us academically stronger, more inviting to students who are considering living on campus, and opens new worlds of possibilities.

In order to address the rising costs of attending college in the declining global economy, Rochester College is lowering the charge for room and board on our campus. Many schools are like us in that they have experienced declining numbers of students in on-campus housing. We can lower our costs, raise the total number of students in our residence halls, and still generate the same amount of revenue. Our other option is to have expensive dorm rooms sit empty. For 2009-2010, room-and-board costs are being reduced a full 20%.

We will strengthen our academic model by moving (back!) to a classic format of interdisciplinary education. Our liberal arts curriculum will feature what we are calling a Christian Integrated Learning Community. This model will introduce new vistas of vitality, flexibility, and freshness into our academic life. Stay tuned for details!

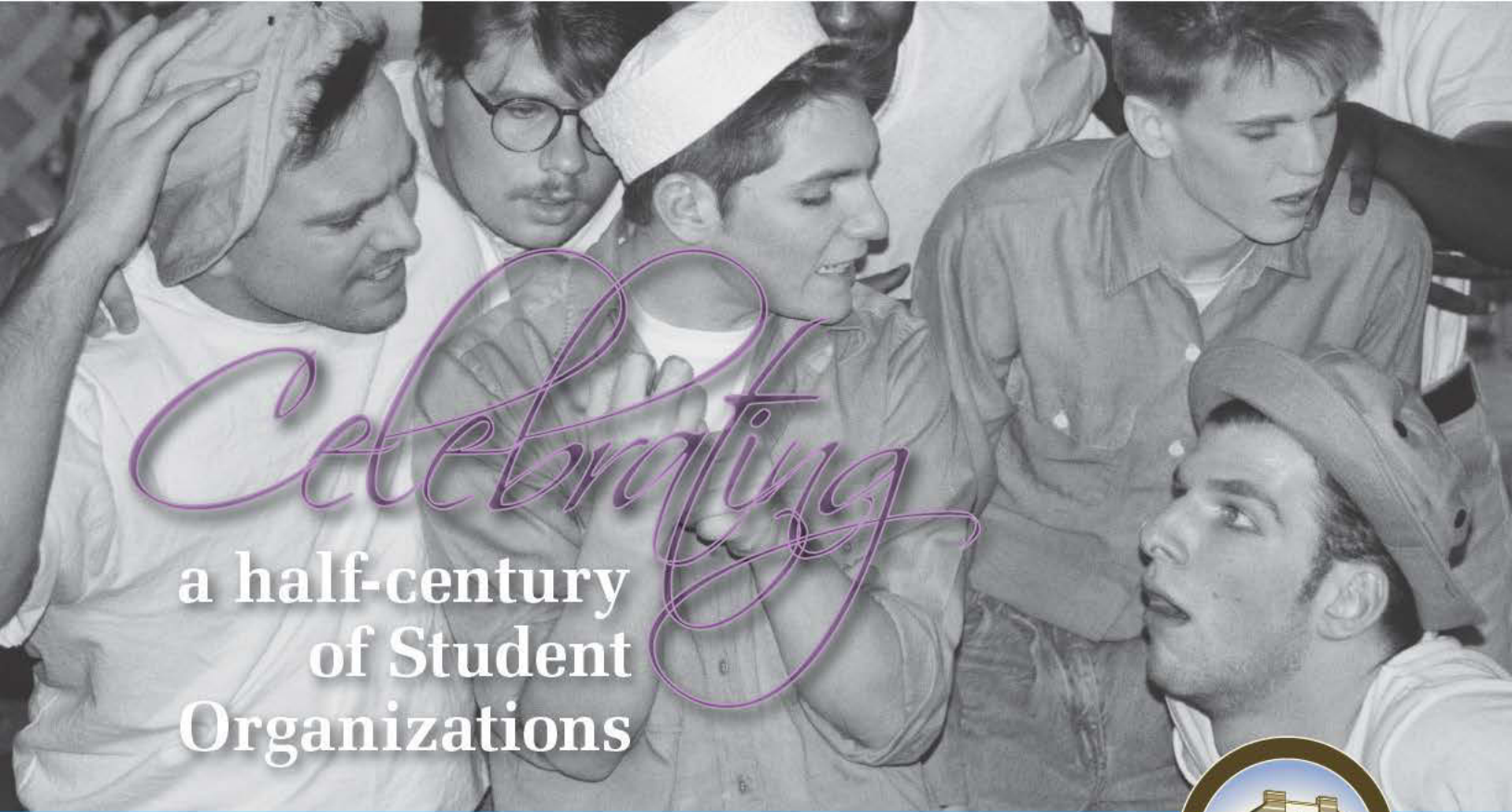
Rochester College will offer its first nursing degree in the form of an RN-to-BSN degree-completion program that combines online courses with intensive short courses on our campus. Sixty-three percent of nurses in the State of Michigan have their RN status, and many of those people want to pursue a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree for the sake of career advancement. We will begin serving those students this year. Crittenton Hospital and Medical Center will be our clinical partner for the program.

With an enhanced IT platform in place to begin our nursing program, we will also increase our online courses dramatically across the board. You may wish to consider enrolling online with us in either an undergraduate program to complete your college education or perhaps in our masters-level program (MRE) in religious studies. We will be able to give you specifics on these programs in the very near future.

We will introduce a new program for degree completion at Macomb Community College. It is an in-demand B.S. degree in Mass Communication that has potential for attracting new people into our student body.

We are preparing for the future with confidence in God's will for our mission and your support in helping us achieve it. New and exciting options have emerged in an economic and social climate that some had predicted would be our undoing. But God is greater than any challenge before us.

w Shelly
President, Rochester College



Celebrating a half-century of Student Organizations

8-15 | Student life has played a vital role in campus life over the last half-century, from performing groups to athletic teams to social clubs



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Coach Shinsky and the Warrior men basketball team in a huddle during a game in the early 1960's.



Spring ahead with Rochester College

Our campus is stunning in the spring when everything starts to bloom, and with so many events taking place, why not join in the fun? For up-to-the-minute news and events, be sure to visit our website at www.rc.edu/news.

MOVING FORWARD EVENT NEWS

RECAP:

DIAMOND RIO LEAD SINGER VISITS CAMPUS



Marty Roe, lead singer of the popular country band Diamond Rio, visited the Rochester College campus in September. He spoke to students during chapel encouraging them to find their gifts and follow their dreams. Roe also performed an exclusive acoustical concert for the Rochester community in the Rochester College Theatre.

RECAP:

SOCIAL CLUBS AID CITY'S TWO FOR TUZ PROJECT



Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett and his wife Corrin ('06) made a special visit to the college campus during chapel on September 12, 2008. Rochester Hills which has one of the largest Albanian populations in the country established a sister-city relationship with Tuz in Montenegro. Rochester College responded to the mayor's call for assistance with a commitment to provide a \$100,000 scholarship (tuition, room and board) to a deserving student. The student will enroll in the fall of 2009 and be required to return to Tuz after

graduating to invest his/her knowledge in the community. The campus social clubs also aided in collecting school supplies for children living in disadvantaged neighborhoods in Tuz.

RECAP:

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

Thirteen Christian college presidents and their spouses were in attendance for the Annual Presidents Conference hosted by Rochester College in early November. Representatives took part in devotionals, open discussions and dinners during the three day event. It was the first time RC has hosted the event. Colleges included York, Pepperdine, Harding, International University, Faulkner, Crowley's Ridge, Heritage Christian, Lipscomb, Nations University, Austin Graduate School, Great Lakes Christian, Western Christian and Freed-Hardeman.

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2009

WINTER PLAY: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Contact: Cathie Parker
248.218.2154 or cparker@rc.edu

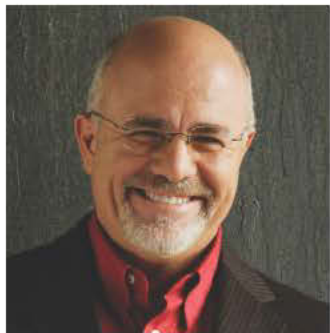
The theatre department presents *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Catherine Parker. Set in England during the late Victorian era, the play's humor derives in part from characters maintaining fictitious identities to escape unwelcome social obligations. It is full of witty dialogue and satirizes some of the foibles and hypocrisy of late Victorian society. Tickets are \$10 with discounts for students, seniors, alumni, groups and children. Please call 248.218.2149 or email theatre@rc.edu to reserve tickets.

FEBRUARY 20, 2009**MUSIC DEPARTMENT
SHOWCASE**

Contact: Joe Bentley
248.218.2141 or jbentley@rc.edu
The Rochester College Concert Band and A Cappella Chorus along with soloists from the music department will perform at 7pm in the Rochester College theatre. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To reserve seats please call 248.218.2149 or email music@rc.edu today.

MARCH 26-28, 2009**CELEBRATION 2009**

Contact: Stephanie Corp
248.650.3690 or scorp@rc.edu
Celebration 2009, the annual student-produced, student-directed song and dance extravaganza, returns with four exciting shows in the college theatre. This year marks the event's 32nd edition. Last year students celebrated with Broadway-styled performances, and this year's theme is "On the Move." Admission is \$10. For details visit www.rc.edu/celebration.

APRIL 4, 2009**PARTNERSHIP DINNER
2009: AN EVENING WITH
DAVE RAMSEY**

Contact: Development Office
248.218.2020 or
development@rc.edu

Dave Ramsey, a leading financial advisor, entrepreneur and nationally syndicated radio talk show host, is the keynote speaker for the 38th Annual Partnership Dinner at the Royal Park Hotel in

downtown Rochester. Ramsey has written over 14 books, three of which have been New York Times Best Sellers. His books and broadcast focus on life and money from a Christian perspective. His company, the Lampo Group, is based in Brentwood, Tenn. This scholarship fundraiser is an opportunity for supporters of the college to fellowship and learn about responsible financial management. Tickets are \$125. For more details and to purchase tickets online visit, www.rc.edu/ramsey.

APRIL 16-19, 2009**SPRING PLAY:
GOD'S FAVORITE**

Contact: Julayne Hughes
248.218.2149 or jhughes@rc.edu
God's Favorite is Neil Simon's modern tale loosely based on the book of Job. Joe Benjamin is a wealthy and respected businessman living with his family in suburban Long Island. God and Satan make a bet and God puts his trust in Joe to keep his faith. God's messenger, sent to test Joe's faith, is a wise-cracking guy from Queens. Will Joe remain steadfast? The play will be directed by professor David Keller. Please call 248.218.2149 or email theatre@rc.edu to reserve your tickets.

APRIL 22, 2009**2009 ACADEMIC
SYMPOSIUM**

Contact: John Barton
248.218.2026 or jbarton@rc.edu
The annual Academic Symposium is a series of presentations by graduating seniors. This year's symposium will feature a special guest lecture by Nobel Prize winner Sir Anthony J. Leggett. Leggett is a professor of physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The lecture will be held during the day in the Rochester College Theatre.

APRIL 24-25, 2009**A CAPPELLA CHORUS
REUNION AND
CONCERT**

Contact: Larry Stewart
248.218.2023 or lstewart@rc.edu
Marking the 50th anniversary of the A Cappella Chorus, all former directors and members of the college's oldest student organization have been invited to participate in a chorus reunion and concert. The

weekend will begin with a reception and devotional on Friday evening. On Saturday, participants will rehearse favorite choral music from each decade. A dramatic performance by the reunion chorus and the current A Cappella Chorus will round out the activities on Saturday. Register at www.rc.edu/chorusreunion.

MAY 11-13, 2009**ELEVATE SUMMER
YOUTH CAMP**

Contact: Enrollment office
248.218.2031 or elevate@rc.edu
Rochester College's annual Christian camp is designed for students in 7th-12th grade. Participants live on campus for one week and experience a variety of guest speakers, praise and worship, and games. This year's theme is *Upside Down*. Registration and general information are available at www.rc.edu/elevate.

AUGUST 3, 2009**FLETCHER/SHINSKY
GOLF CLASSIC**

Contact: Development Office
248.218.2020 or
development@rc.edu
The golf classic is the college's annual scholarship fundraiser and fellowship opportunity for alumni and friends. The event will be held at the Greystone Golf Club in Romeo, Mich. The cost is \$125. For details visit www.rc.edu/golfclassic.

Stay connected with e-news!

The Rochester College development office continues to produce a monthly e-newsletter to deliver news and information about the latest campus events.

Keep connected by subscribing to the e-newsletter, where you can read about student life, alumni achievements, academic events, and campus activities such as theatrical and musical performances and workshops, seminars and keynote presentations.

If you are not receiving the newsletter, send an email to news@rc.edu and let us know that you would like to be added to the mailing list. You can visit the RC News page at www.rc.edu/news.



Coach Pleasant inducted into Michigan basketball Hall of Fame



On Friday, October 3, 2008 the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan inducted Rochester College head basketball coach and athletic director Garth Pleasant into its Hall of Fame.

The BCAM Hall of Fame inducted its first members in 1985. The purpose was to honor coaches who had been successful for many years. There are now over 100 coaches in the Hall. To qualify for the Hall of Fame a coach must have coached varsity/college head basketball for 20 years or more and/or accumulated 300 or more victories.

Pleasant graduated from Rochester College in 1969 and has served as head basketball coach since 1979. He recorded his 600th victory in 2006. He has set a record for the most college basketball national championships with four titles to his name. In addition to his coaching duties, Pleasant is a professor of physical education at the college and hosts nearly 300 students every summer during the Lake Norcentra Basketball Camp. He has also served as minister for the Lake Orion Church of Christ for the past 26 years.

During a special ceremony on the evening of Homecoming at Rochester College to recognize his achievement, Pleasant said "It's not about me, it's about Rochester College and how it changes people's lives. I'm just fortunate to be here." Pleasant acknowledged his wife, Pat, during the speech who he met while in college and at one time served as the team's utility manager. "There's a plaque in my home that says 'We interrupt this marriage for basketball season.' She's the real hall of famer," said Pleasant. •

Pictured below, from left to right: The Pleasant family at the induction ceremony, Coach addressing the audience to accept the Hall of Fame honor, and Coach with many of his former players, who





Max Lucado keynotes fall event

President's Circle of Honor donors join Friends of the College for luncheon

Hundreds of friends, supporters and community members filled the ballroom at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester for a luncheon featuring Max Lucado on November 1. The luncheon was the second significant event highlighting the 50th Anniversary of Rochester College. The first major event featured Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel in September.

The luncheon was preceded by the Annual President's Circle of Honor reception which was created to honor friends of the college who have financially supported one of the following giving societies: the Heritage Society, the President's Society, and the Endowed Scholarship Society.

Last year Rochester College established an award to honor those who serve as an example of sacrificial service and philanthropic generosity. The award is named after J. Robert and Mary Utley because of their steadfast commitment to scholarship and service. The Utleys were the first recipients of the award in 2007.

In recognition of their selfless spirit of giving, the 2008 award was presented to Harold and Helen Slater. The Slaters caught the vision that led to the founding of Rochester College and worked hand-in-hand as they invested time and energy to build a Christian institution in the Great Lakes region. The Slaters were not able to attend the event, but their sons Ken and Jim accepted the award on their behalf.

Following the reception, Klint Pleasant, vice president of development for Rochester College, conducted the welcome and introduced two special video presentations—the first featured the history of Rochester College and the second, personal messages of appreciation from several scholarship recipients.

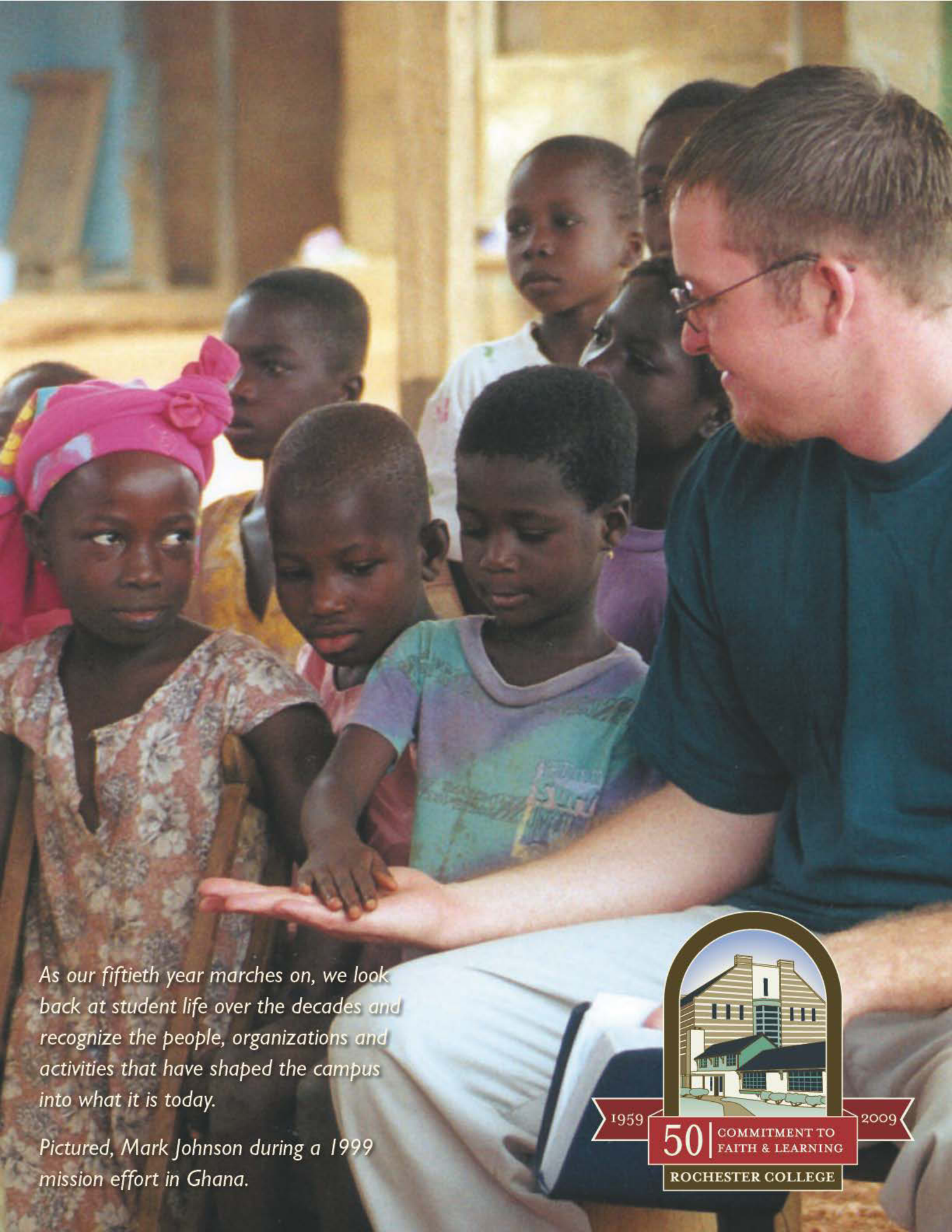
Lucado drew the context of his discussion from his upcoming book, *Fear LESS: Imagine Your Life Without Fear*. He recalled an article in *Time Magazine* in which filmmaker Woody Allen attributed his inability to sleep at night to his unbelief in God. Allen said that he made movies to stay distracted and keep his focus off the big picture. "I've had Woody Allen moments surface at church," confessed Lucado. He reflected on a specific occasion while preparing for a sermon on Easter Sunday. "I thought to myself, the resurrection is the craziest story I've ever heard ... somewhat of a UFO account. We've all had our moment in the Valley of the Shadow of Doubt."

However, Lucado said he found a way out of doubt in the Gospel of Luke chapter 24. "The disciples had their doubts when the women told them that Jesus had risen from the tomb. We weren't the first to think that the story of Christ sounded like nonsense."

Lucado then praised the college for serving as an institution where Christians could continually draw upon the faith and strength of one another. "Rochester College is all about opening minds to hope and teaching young people to engage hearts and minds."

Photos from the event are available on <http://photos.rc.edu> keyword "max lucado." •





As our fiftieth year marches on, we look back at student life over the decades and recognize the people, organizations and activities that have shaped the campus into what it is today.

Pictured, Mark Johnson during a 1999 mission effort in Ghana.



1959

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Throughout its entire 50 year history, Rochester College has provided exceptional opportunities for student involvement in extracurricular activities. Every academic year, the college has offered a variety of venues for those interested in music, theatre, religious activities, student government, publications, and intercollegiate sports.

The pioneer student body set an amazing precedent for student involvement. The first edition of the yearbook featured 10 student organizations and one athletic team. The A Cappella Chorus boasted 31 members, involving over half of the student body.

In a 1986 newsletter to prospective students, the admissions office quoted from an article in the Oakland Press stating that extracurricular activities “are not only supportive of the academic mission of schools, but are inherently educational and vital to the total development of youth.” The Oakland Press article cited surveys indicating the positive influence such participation has upon student grades.

Audiences throughout the nation have been touched by the music of the A Cappella Chorus and Autumn. Others have been moved by poignant moments on the stage and rousing performances at Celebration. Sports enthusiasts have marveled at the success of athletic teams, which have won national championships in basketball, soccer, cross country, and volleyball. The lives of the aged, the poor, and the helpless have been blessed by the servant hearts of Rochester College students.

The experiences gained through participation in extracurricular activities have served many students well. Former student leaders now serve in similar roles in their professions and communities. Athletes coach teams in schools, colleges, and community leagues. Former musicians and actors teach and share their talents in educational settings and a variety of performing venues. Former participants in Mission Emphasis and IMAGE serve local churches and mission points across the globe.

Building upon 50 years of tradition and excellence, the students of Rochester College continue to grow from the life experiences gained through student involvement and continue to make the world a better place through their efforts.



Milestones from the Sixties

Believe it or not, there was a time when like most public universities, the college had its own cheerleading squad to support the men's varsity basketball team. The cheerleaders eventually evolved into a variety of pep clubs including the Warriors, the Indians and the Warriorettes. There were also several surprising choices for intercollegiate sports that are now defunct including badminton, tennis, bowling, flag football and horseshoes!

Although many annual celebrations like Winter Banquet, Homecoming and Beautiful Day continue to be a mainstay, other major events such as February banquet, spring banquet and Valentine's banquet subsequently dissolved from the campus calendar. The theatre department of the sixties also took an interest in a plethora of musicals and dramas and even recognized the 400th birthday of Shakespeare in 1965 with a performance of Macbeth.

Milestones from the Seventies

Much like today, the Student Council, now known as Student Government or SG, was heavily involved in campus development and community outreach. In the fall of 1972 they raised over \$12,000 to purchase a new bus and a station wagon.

In the area of campus ministry, the Missions Emphasis members launched an aggressive door-knocking campaign in 1974 to spread the gospel and reportedly reached over 30,000 people. It was also in the seventies that the A Cappella Chorus, under the direction of Ed Ritchie, traveled to Europe to conduct the first of two consecutive French Campaigns for Christ.

Robert "Bob" Cucheran, '67

On playing men's basketball: "My favorite memory was meeting a cheerleader, Nola Lee ('67), who became my wife 43 years ago. As a student and member of the basketball team at RC, I encountered many people who had a positive impact on my spiritual life and educational growth."



Remembering Coach Bill Shinsky

The son of an autoworker at Ford's River Rouge plant, William Shinsky was born September 26, 1930 in Detroit. He excelled in sports from an early age and grew up to be a baseball and football star at Fordson High School in Dearborn.

North Central Christian College opened about the time Bill graduated from Abilene Christian College. In 1960, Dean Lucien Palmer hired Shinsky to coach the men's basketball team and to teach physical education.

The college had only one team, men's basketball, and that team played in a Detroit church league. In his first season, Coach Shinsky led the Warriors to a 16-5 record and introduced intercollegiate competition.

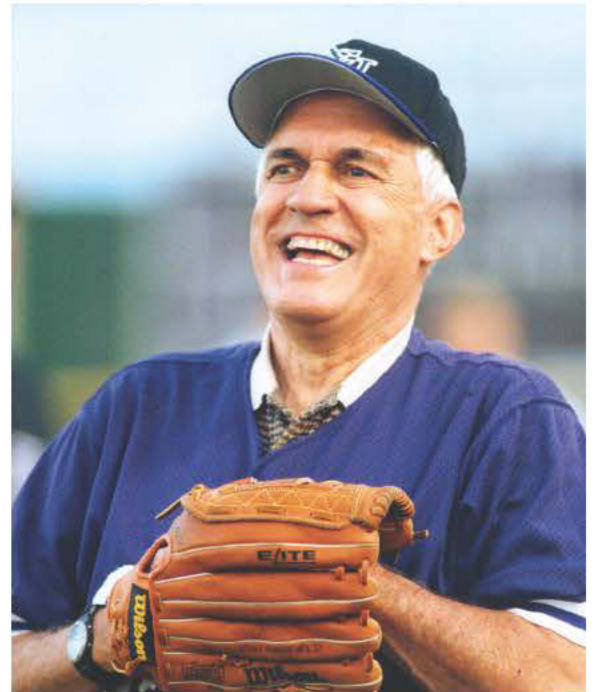
President Lucien Palmer promoted the coach to athletic director in 1967. That year, Shinsky added three sports: women's basketball, women's softball, and track. He also recruited a basketball star named Garth Pleasant, who led the Warriors to their first conference title in 1969. A year later, Shinsky returned to his first love when he formed and managed the college's first baseball team.

Shinsky was a busy man on campus in the early 1970s. He served as director of student life, athletic director, coach for several intercollegiate sports, and professor of physical education. In 1971, Shinsky made the most important hire of his career when he brought his protégé, Garth Pleasant, back to Michigan Christian as men's basketball coach.

Over the next eighteen years, Shinsky established several more intercollegiate sports at Michigan Christian, including women's basketball and men's soccer. He continued to coach the baseball team until he suffered a stroke in 1990. Shinsky retired as athletic director two years later and handed off the athletic department to Pleasant.

On March 3, 2004 Coach Shinsky finally rested. Three days later, the Warriors won the national championship. In his 44 years as a Warrior, Bill Shinsky did more than establish seven men's and women's intercollegiate sports programs - coaching every one of them at one time or another; more than transform a ping pong table in a tool shed into the college's department of physical education; and more than mentor one of America's all-time great college basketball coaches.

Bill Shinsky is Rochester College's coach - then, now, and forever. His muscular faith, hope, and love built up the sinews of Rochester College. His spirit lives on in generations of Warriors who learn how to win with grace, honor, integrity, sacrifice, and love. Full story available in the Season's of Rochester College memorial book.

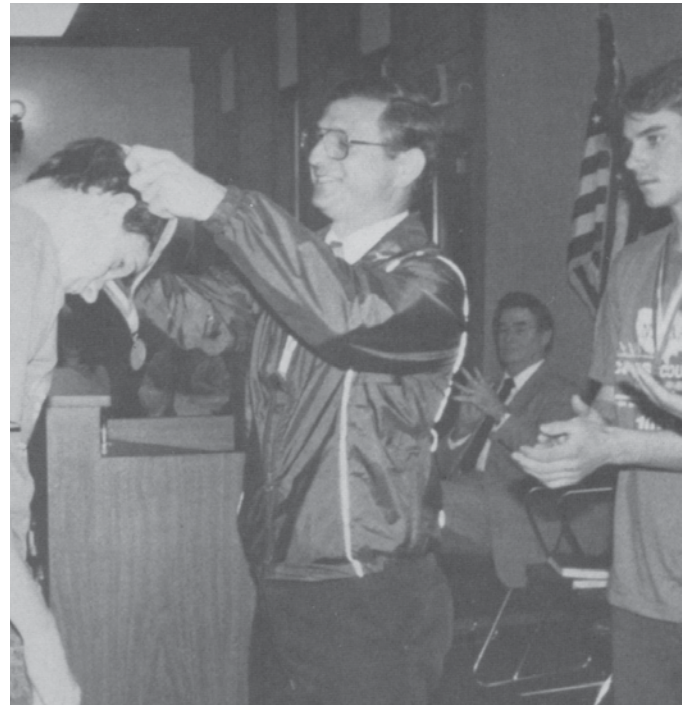


Adapted from
The Seasons of Rochester College

Milestones from the Eighties

Company formed in 1984 to represent the college at various youth functions. Initially, the group offered a series of humorous one-act plays including "That Was No Lady, That Was a Private Eye." The group began producing spiritually-oriented skits in 1995. In 1981 about 100 guests joined members of the W Club as the organization hosted its first of many lectureships for women. Throughout the 1980s, the club featured employees, spouses of employees, student and off-campus guest speakers at the annual event.

The late eighties proved to be a season for accomplishment among the college's athletic department. The volleyball team won the first trophy for a women's sport in 1988 after placing second in the Cincinnati Bible Tournament, the cross country team won their first national championship in 1989 and in the same year the men's basketball team commemorated their first national title with championship rings.



Anita Reeves, '87

On performing with Company: "Company was like my second family. We had a great mom, Gale Edwards, and brothers and sisters who played hard, stood up for each other, leaned on each other, shared good and bad times and yes, even got on each other's nerves, but we'll always be family."



Milestones from the Nineties

Traditional activities and student organizations continued to draw talented leaders, musicians, drama enthusiasts and athletes during the 1990s. Pied Pipers, a children's theatre troupe, debuted in 1991 with a performance for a graduating class at Oakland University. Three years later, the A Cappella Chorus received an invitation to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at a four-day series which drew an estimated 7,500 individuals.

IMAGE formed in the fall of 1997 to promote interest in international mission efforts. The group actively participated in local service projects and international mission trips. Near the end of the decade, members of Autumn participated in a 25th anniversary reunion with former members of the ensemble. Nearly two-thirds of the group's former members performed for a large crowd of supporters in 1999.



Nicole Chiles, '08

On music, theatre and sports: "I was able to do everything I love while still getting a worthwhile degree. I could do all the fun things but still balance them with school. It prepared me to balance life as a full-time teacher!"

Milestone excerpts were taken from *The Seasons of Rochester College*, the college's 50th anniversary memorial book written by college historian Larry Stewart. The book is available in the campus bookstore or by calling 800.521.6010 (Option 5). Visit www.rc.edu/anniversary for more details.

Milestones from the New Millenium

In 2001, crimson and white were selected as the new college colors in order to provide a more practical color combination than the original gold and white. It was also in the new millennium that the music department replaced the Jazz Band withw a full Concert Band with a wide variety of wind and string instrumentalists. Moreover, the athletic department celebrated the college's third national championship in 2004 after an overtime win in Tulsa, Okla. The Warriors returned to the USCAA nationals the following year to win their first back-to-back championship.





Associates commemorate college history with special quilt

The Associates of Rochester College have played a vital role in the development of the institution since it was founded in 1959. Nearly every building on campus, as well as some of the equipment, athletic fields and parking areas, exist in part as a result of major fundraising contributions of the Associates.

Over a dozen chapters make up and support the college through various events and projects. The South Lyon chapter recently initiated the assembly of a 71"x85" memorial quilt in honor of Rochester College's 50th anniversary. Wanda Moon of Northville and her mother, Louise Murray of South Lyon, were instrumental in designing and sewing the quilt. Wanda and Louise selected the "Snapshots" pattern from the book *Happy Hour* by Atkinson Designs, while fellow Associates helped choose the colors and fabric. Wanda and Louise sewed the quilt. They enlisted their friend, Rebecca Pelletier-Doyle to do the machine quilting.

Both Wanda and Louise have sewn countless quilts over the past 40 years for family and friends, but Wanda admits that the 50th Anniversary quilt held special meaning. "This quilt was so much fun. It reminded me of the exuberance of young people and that's why we selected the swirly pattern," she says. "We also chose a nontraditional pattern to give the design a sense of looking forward and building excitement about the future." The main colors include crimson, to represent the college colors, gold for the golden anniversary, and blue, green and brown for the natural beauty of the campus grounds surrounded by trees and lakes.

The quilt was completed in about six weeks and is currently on display in the Rochester College executive offices. It will be auctioned off during the Partnership Dinner on Saturday, April 4, 2009. To learn more about the Associates visit <http://associates.rc.edu>. To inquire about the quilt contact the Development Office at development@rc.edu.



A match made in musical heaven

In each anniversary issue of Northstar, we profile an outstanding alumnus from one decade. Last issue, we featured Marvin Mathis from the 1980s. Representing the '90s are Dion and Kristy Frasier.

The 1990s brought a wave of pivotal physical and academic changes to Rochester College. Among those changes were the opening of the preschool in 1990, renovation of the music center by alumni volunteers in 1992, the approval of the bachelor of business administration degree in 1993, the bachelor of science program in 1996, and connection to the internet in 1995.

The most significant changes came in 1997 when the institutional name officially changed to Rochester College and construction was completed to Ferndale Hall, Hoggatt Hall and Dearborn Commons. The college also opened its doors to working adults via a night and weekend program now known as the Center for Extended Learning. The campus transformation in 1997 helped launch the college into an era of growth and expansion and extended its reach to an influx of bright and enterprising Christian students.

Kristy Petrich ('97) became one of the many students who took advantage of the college's new degree offerings when she arrived on campus in 1993. A native of Flint, Mich., Kristy's sister Karen Christian preceded her as a graduate in 1990. Their father, Fritz Petrich, was a former A Cappella chorus director.

"The decision to attend Rochester College was made for me," admits Kristy. However, that choice turned out to be a life-changing experience to which she has no regrets. "Rochester College was definitely a different experience. I grew up in church but didn't really understand what it meant to have a relationship with Christ until I came here."

An active member of chorus, Tau and Autumn, Kristy recounts the worship experience with the performing groups among her fondest memories. It was in the latter part of her time as a member of the A Cappella Chorus that she became friends with Dion Frasier ('00), a native of Buffalo, NY.

Dion learned about the college through several close friends who attended in previous years. He enrolled in 1996 with sights on a Christian ministry major. He also

was involved with performing groups and experienced the same spiritual awakening as Kristy.

"I was a Christian when I came to college, but I think I found Christ at Rochester," Dion explains. "It has had a prolonged impact on my ministry and my growth. I knew the Bible and the arguments and all the talk, but the college is where I found Christ for the first time."

Dion and Kristy married in 1999 and served ministries in Flint and Lansing before moving to Reynoldsburg, Ohio in 2002. Kristy is currently employed at TS Tech USA, a division of Honda. She also sings on the praise team at the Reynoldsburg Church of Christ where Dion serves full-time as the senior minister. The couple has two daughters—Kaitlynd, 8 and Kyra, 4.

Dion's ministry focuses on diversity and reconciliation as a result of his life experience in Buffalo, Rochester Hills and now Reynoldsburg. "I'm trying to strive for unity across racial lines, cultural lines, and religious divides. That's been a great passion and mission of mine," Dion says. "I gained a great appreciation for that at Rochester. Promoting unity is something that I've been engaged in and I feel like we've made strides."

Even though Kristy and Dion have grown personally and spiritually as individuals and parents, they haven't lost sight of what is really important. Despite the current economic and political climate they both agree that life's circumstances shouldn't carry more weight on today's college students than faith in God.

"I would tell students that no matter what, always depend on God because he's going to see you through everything," says Kristy.

Dion echoes her sentiment. "Fear is something that grips us on many levels. I was quite amazed at the fears raised during the election of Barack Obama. I heard stories about an antichrist and other things. Fear shouldn't be in our vocabulary because we know who is truly in power. In light of everything that's going on we should understand that we have a God bigger than our 401k issues and political issues. Our hope and trust is in the one true God."

Both Dion and Kristy stay connected to Rochester College and share their faith with the younger generation through ELEVATE, the college's annual summer camp. •

"I was a Christian when I came to college, but I think I found Christ at Rochester."

—Dion Frasier



1979

ROBERTA "ROBBIE" REYNOLDS of St. Augustine, Florida recently relocated to a new independent living home. Anyone wishing to send her greetings may reach her via email at robbiereynoldssmt@live.com.

1985

GREG CAMPBELL and his wife Karen welcomed the addition of AnnaFaye Ludmilla on February 29, 2008. AnnaFaye was born in Arkhangelsk, Russia. The family lives in Commerce Township, Michigan.

1991

MARTY KINDALL married Jeremy Chester on August 10, 2008. The couple lives in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

1992

DONNA (OLDEN) YOUNG and her husband **JEREMY ('01)** recently moved from Abilene, Texas to Marquette, Michigan. Jeremy is working as youth and family minister for the Marquette Church of Christ and Donna is a teacher. They have three children, Justin (16), Chloe (13), and McKenna (6).

1994

JIM THEISEN and his wife Jennifer welcomed Joy Marie on February 8, 2008. She joins big brother Jacob (age 8). The family lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

TAMMY (RIGSBY) HUBBARD welcomed MaKayleigh Marie on December 18, 2007. She joins her big brother Jonathon. Tammy lives in Perrysburg, Ohio. “



Pictured from left to right: Andy, Suzy, and Chelsea Peper, and LoAnn and Bob Kirks. The Kirks-Peper family is the first in the history of Rochester College to attain the three-generation milestone!

The Kirks-Peper family saga began with an ink stain on a white blazer. Bob Kirks, a native of Dearborn, MI, enrolled at Michigan Christian College in 1963. As a teenage booster at the Allen Park Church of Christ, Bob heard that a Church of Christ college was in the works in Rochester Hills. He along with other youth from Allen Park took an immediate interest and invested their time and energy into pulling weeds and shoveling dirt during

campus construction. “I was excited there was a Christian college being built in the area,” says Bob. “I even worked in the kitchen at the college to pay for half of my tuition.”

Bob cites the evening devotionals as significantly impacting him as a young Christian, as well as former coach and dorm manager Bill Shinsky. “He always made himself available for students to talk to. He acquainted himself with students and was an all around good guy,” recalls Bob. However, the highlight of Bob’s academic

1996

JENNIFER (GARRITY) MOODY, her husband Mike and daughter Emalee (age 3) welcomed Aidan Leon on December 20, 2007. Jennifer graduated from Harding University in June and the family resides in Geneseo, Illinois.

1998

EDWIN CAHILL was elected chair of the NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Region XII Southern District. He will serve as chair for 2008-09 and past-chair from 2009-10. Edwin lives in Camarillo, California. To learn more visit www.region12south.nafsa.org/.

CARRIE (PIER) ELLERBROCK and her husband Brian welcomed Elizabeth Adeline on October 2, 2008. She joins her four brothers Donald (8), Josiah (8), Samuel (5) and Philip (3) and sisters Abigail (6) and Miriam (1). The family lives in Leipsic, Ohio.

1999

Daniel and **TIFFANY (NICKOLS-SCHMIDT) REECE** welcomed a baby boy on January 30, 2008. Daniel is working in Ann Arbor at Gudel as a project engineer. Tiffany is a fourth grade teacher at Chapman Elementary in Gibraltar Public Schools. The family lives in Woodhaven, Michigan.

career was meeting his wife of 43 years, LoAnn Sausser, who arrived on campus in 1964. Even though the two had major differences—he was a resident, she was a commuter; he was a Christian, she wasn't—they somehow came together and found instant chemistry. "We met in a marriage and family sociology class." Bob says. "I accidentally stained my white blazer and I asked if she could help me clean it. We began dating shortly after that."

LoAnn was baptized and joined the church a few months later, and on November 20, 1965 the couple married. LoAnn says Bob played an instrumental role in guiding her as a new Christian, but it was her cousin, Jim Casey ('62) that introduced her to Rochester College. LoAnn grew up in Oxford, Mich. and following graduation she moved to California with her brother, where she enrolled in a local community college. "Even though I wasn't raised as a Christian, I started visiting a lot of churches when I arrived in California. Jim knew I was looking for a spiritual foundation and told me about MCC," she says. "When I decided to get baptized, it was winter and the pipes at the college were frozen so we had to go to what was then the Perry Street Church of Christ in Pontiac."

The Kirks have three children—Jill, who attended MCC for one semester, and twins Sandra ('87) and Suzanne ('87). Both Sandy and Suzy met their husbands at MCC. Sandy married Jeffrey Westerby ('89) and Suzy married Andrew Peper ('88). Suzy completed her associate's degree in 1987 and later returned to the Center for Extended Learning to obtain her bachelor's degree in counseling psychology in 2003. Suzy says MCC was her number one pick post-high school. "It was such a part of our family. We never thought about going anywhere else. Even before we were students we came to many of the campus events as a family."

Suzy was an active participant in the social

club Alpha Beta, A Cappella Chorus and Student Government. She began dating Andy during her first year at MCC after hearing positive praise from fellow classmate and current RC music faculty member Frank Pitts ('86). They married in 1987. Born and bred in the Green Bay area of Wisconsin, Andy was convinced to enroll in MCC at the persistence of chorus recruiters, whom he met following a local tour performance. He finished his B.R.E. on what has been referred to as the "Andy Peper Plan" by beginning in 1981 and finishing in 1988. He also spent the year in 1986 working as a recruiter for the college.

Andy says he has many humorous and fond memories from his stint at MCC. In addition to getting caught kissing his future bride behind the Gallaher Center by security guard Vernon Wallace, he counts eating roasted corn-on-the-cob and using butter to put out a fire with fellow social club members among many highlights. Now the father of four has the privilege of watching his oldest child, Chelsea, who arrived on campus as a freshman this fall, walk through the same halls as he and Suzy as a third generation alumna. Chelsea is pursuing a major in elementary education and, like both her parents, is a also member of the A Cappella Chorus.

"Her education is so much further advanced by the internet, residential halls, the new theatre, classrooms and library than when we were here," says Andy.

Chelsea's grandparents say they are elated to see her carry on the family tradition. "I'm very proud that my children and now their children are at Rochester College, especially because it's a Christian college," says Bob. "I think the Christian influence from professors and the curriculum prepares kids to handle different things that life throws at them."

The Kirks-Peper family attends the Gateway Church of Christ in Southgate, Mich. •

2000

Rebekah Ann joined Sarah in the home of James and **LAURA (EVANS) HEIDELL** on September 2, 2008. The family lives in Amanda, Ohio.

2001

DANNY AND AMY (PANGBORN) GALLAHAR announce the additions of their daughters, Hannah Marie (born February 3, 2006) and Kylie Elizabeth (born January 12, 2008). Danny is a police officer in Dallas, Texas and Amy stays at home while homeschooling Hannah.

LUKE AND AMANDA (BROWNLEE, '03) ROWE welcomed Jack Emerson on June 27, 2008. Luke recently graduated from law school and passed the bar exam, and Amanda is an accountant. The family lives in Neapolis, Ohio.

2002

BETH (STEWART) AND BRIAN BOWERS ('08) welcomed Sophie Brynn on March 28, 2008. RC employees Larry and Lynne Stewart are proud grandparents. The Bowers live in Shelby Township, MI. Brian works for Rochester College as an admissions counselor and graduated with his master's degree in Christian ministry in December. Beth works part-time from home for the Rochester Church of Christ and is in graduate school full-time.

MICHAEL VAN HOOSER, son of biology professor Carol Van Hooser, was promoted from accountant to senior accountant by The Rehmann Group. Michael lives in Rochester Hills, MI with his wife Amy and their young son.

2003

MARIANNE MATCHYNSKI married Kevin Potter in December 2006. The couple lives in Northville, Michigan.

2004

BRIAN PHIPPS earned his master's degree in organizational management from Spring Arbor University in February 2008. Brian lives in Clarkston, Michigan.

ERIKA (WATSON) PIQUANT recently launched Eco-Posh Events, a Troy-based wedding and social event planning firm that specializes in eco-friendly events. For more information visit www.ecoposhevents.com.

The lighted path

Verna Dority finds fulfillment in leading Christian women

by Elizabeth Fulton



The familiar chapter 119, verse 105 in the book of Psalms reads, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” For alumna Verna Dority, the path leading to the person she is today was formed by an assortment of life experiences, including several she still cherishes from her time at Michigan Christian College.

Growing up in the towns of Mishawaka and LaGrange, Ind., Dority found it hard to enjoy herself at the high school she attended. Kent Hoggatt, now a communication professor at Rochester College, and Dority were members of the same church and a singing group. Hoggatt suggested an alternative route of education that included MCC. Dority jumped at the opportunity to apply to the college’s program which would allow her to skip her senior year of high school and complete general course requirements through the college. After being accepted, Dority began attending MCC in September 1974 when she was only 16 years old.

For three semesters Dority participated in one of her favorite activities, A Cappella Chorus. “Some of my best memories are of my time in chorus. We traveled and sang in very unique places, and we all sang so beautifully together. I loved it!” she says. After her time at MCC ended in December of 1978, Dority joined the National Guard and later went on to serve in the United States Army. Following her release from the Army in 1980, she used the long-standing GI Bill to complete her master’s degree in social work. Dority then spent the next five years working at the University of Alaska in Anchorage as an adjunct and assistant professor. During this time she was also able to accomplish her goal of becoming a licensed clinical social worker.

Today, Dority owns a private practice called Carolina Counseling Services located near Ft. Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. The practice works primarily with military families in the area. She also launched a motivational and informational website for ladies of the churches of Christ. The idea for a ministry website, which was later named *Lighted Path*, came to Dority in the summer of 2007 when she realized a considerable need for this type of site existed. Since its official launch in November of the same year, women around the country have shared been encouraged by other sisters through the contributions made to the website. “If we have encouraged even one sister to stay on the path who might otherwise have veered off... that would be an awesome reward!” said Dority.

When Dority is not working with her business and the ministry of *Lighted Path*, she and her husband, Michael Lumpkins, enjoy taking morning walks with their dog and 12-year-old iguana! She also writes and records music and spends time helping coordinate the ladies’ activities for the Helen St. Church of Christ in Fayetteville. Dority is the proud mother of Amber (27) and Shane (23). *Lighted Path* is available online at www.lighted-path.net. •

Upcoming Alumni Events

APRIL 24-25, 2009

A Cappella Chorus Reunion

Contact: Larry Stewart
248.218.2023 or lstewart@rc.edu

JUNE 26-28, 2009

Class of 1979 Reunion

Contact: Julie Harper
248.218.2096 or jharper@rc.edu

For more information about these and other alumni events visit www.rc.edu/alumni.

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Note children’s names, recent births, job changes, marriages, promotions, etc. on a separate sheet of paper and remit with this form.



Children's book connects college friends

Julianna Blankenship uses illness as time to pen book

by Andrea Walker, *Suburban Lifestyles*, and Andrena Terrell, *The Shield*

After college, it's common for friends to fall out of touch, losing contact as busy lives take people across the country and out of reach. For Troy resident Julianna Blankenship ('06) this was one loss she didn't want to see happen. So, in addition to planning yearly get-togethers and promising to write one another, Blankenship wrote a children's book to keep her college friends connected for years to come.

Blankenship's book, titled *Sally Lumpkin's Party*, captures the fun and anticipation of six friends as they attend a party for one of their own. College friends and roommates served as character inspirations, even lending their names to the characters themselves.

"Allison [(Cox) Milligan, '06], Rebekah [Parsons, '06], Michelle [(Woody) Lewis, '04], Sally [(Madurski) Derrough, '06] and Amy [(Jankowski) Mitchell, '06] were all my roommates in college at one time or another,"

said Blankenship, "The book is what I thought it would be like had we all grown up together in the same neighborhood.

Blankenship majored in business communication and was convinced she was uncreative as a writer. However, she was encouraged to continue, especially by assistant professor of communication Lora Hutson. "She kept encouraging me to stick with it and to push the limits of what I thought I could do," Blankenship said. "My advice to others would be to listen to and learn from those whose work you admire."

Blankenship, 24, originally wrote *Sally Lumpkin's Party* in 2003 as a poem for her friend Sally, never intending to publish it. "I came down with a bad case of mono in September of 2007 and could do little more than lay in bed for several months," said Blankenship, "I decided to use that time to turn the poem into a children's book mostly to give me something to focus on, a project, until I recovered."

Armed with her laptop and a poem, Blankenship set out to find an illustrator to bring her story to life. A mutual contact connected her to local artist Deanna Dionne of Shelby Township. Blankenship said, "Deanna was a perfect fit for this book. Her illustrations gave my characters such personality and she captured the nuances of my friends that I had included in the book like Allison's freckles, Sally's love of daisies and Rebekah's boisterous personality."

Sally Lumpkin's Party is for ages 3-7 and teaches the importance of friendship and keeping loved ones near. The book is available at amazon.com, barnesandnobles.com, authorhouse.com or by emailing sallylumpkinsparty@inbox.com.

Blankenship currently lives in Troy and writes freelance for various publications, in addition to being employed fulltime as a marketing and graphics specialist for Cornerstone Community Financial. •

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) to benefit RC

Another giving opportunity you may want to consider to benefit Rochester College students has recently been announced, as congressional action extended certain provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 for both 2008 and 2009.

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 provides that, in each of the years 2008 and 2009, an owner of a traditional or Roth IRA may instruct the trustee to distribute directly to a public charity up to \$100,000 without the distribution being included in taxable income, and that distribution will count toward the IRA owner's mandatory withdrawal amount.

To qualify for IRA rollover treatment, the donor must direct the IRA manager to transfer funds directly to a charity. The donor must be at least age 70½ and the donee must be a tax-exempt organization to which deductible contributions can be made.

The gift must be outright; rollovers to a planned gift, such as a gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust, do not qualify. Similarly, outright distributions to a charity from employer-sponsored retirement plans, such as Simple IRAs, 401(k)s, and 403(b)s, do not qualify. Also, note that IRA rollovers may be included in a donor's income for state and local tax purposes and may not earn an offsetting charitable deduction, depending on state and local law.

Donors should consult with their tax advisor regarding specific circumstances. This provides donors an opportunity to make a larger gift than might otherwise be made out of your fixed assets. Stock gifts may be made using the following information:

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Chicagoland Reception raises \$30k for scholarships

Chicago area endowed scholarship announced at annual event

The annual Chicagoland Reception was held on December 2, 2008 at the Lisle Hilton Hotel in Lisle, Ill. The reception welcomed friends and alumni of the college for the purpose of raising money to fund the Greater Chicago Endowed Scholarship. The goal for the scholarship is \$50,000 with proceeds to benefit deserving high school seniors from the Chicago area.

Klint Pleasant, vice president of development, Scott Samuels, associate vice president of development and interim president Rubel Shelly were in attendance on behalf of Rochester College. Chris Shields ('04), outreach minister for the Naperville Church, conducted the opening prayer. Shields, a former RC admissions officer, was in attendance with his wife Kristan (Tuori, '02). Several area preachers were present including Leonardo Gilbert ('79) from the Sheldon Heights Church, Patrick Odom from the Northwest Church, Chuck Miller from the Greater Chicago Church, and Rich Little from Naperville.

The reception was keynoted by Shelly with closing remarks and prayer by Little. Rochester College highlighted the 50th Anniversary Celebration with a video presentation. Gilbert brought several prospective students from the Sheldon Heights Church to take part in the reception. The students were treated to an RC men's varsity basketball game the following Friday against Purdue Calumet.

"The event was very successful and I'm glad we changed the format from a formal dinner to an informal reception," said Pleasant. "It's a blessing to have Christian leaders in the Chicago area as Rochester College supporters. This event will continue to solidify relationships we have with the Chicago area and hopefully bring more students from Illinois to our campus."

Special thanks goes to Lance Johnston, father of current student Lydia Johnston, who provided audio visual support and to Betsy Addams and Vivian Avey who made significant contributions towards the scholarship.



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June

August

July

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