

NORTH STAR

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100

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

TEACHERS

experience

SUCCESS

IN THE CLASSROOM

& inspire

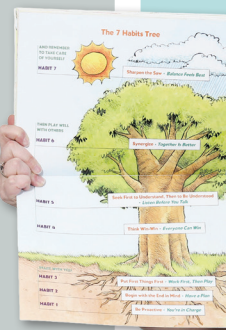
STUDENTS

plus: WHAT A
FINISH

FOR MEN'S

BASKETBALL

USCAA National Champs





from the *president's desk*

"COLLEGE" OR "UNIVERSITY"? There seems to have been a time when the two designations were rather sharply distinguished in the popular mind. A "university" was one of those larger, research-plus-teaching, graduate-plus-undergraduate, sometimes-patronizing, always-too-expensive centers for post-secondary education. A "college" was a smaller, teaching-only, undergraduate-only, more-modest, more-affordable post-secondary school.

The actual distinction, of course, was never quite that sharp. And some quite prestigious centers of higher education are still "colleges" — such as The College of William & Mary, Boston College, Dartmouth College, etc.

Over the past few years, a large and popular community college network in the Midwest and Great Lakes Region has created some confusion for us. Students would dismiss Rochester College as an option because it is "only a college." Translation: RC is a junior college, a two-year school. So we had to explain when possible — but lost some students because of the confusion.

Fully 48 percent of our current students surveyed on the issue said the "college" designation had introduced a degree of uncertainty or confusion to their minds when making plans for higher education.

What a post-secondary institution calls itself — college or university — is regulated by the various states, not the accrediting agencies. Under Michigan law, we qualify to be called either "college" or "university."

So we have been polling faculty and students, employees and alumni, friends and donors — Shall we continue to operate as Rochester College or become Rochester University? I hope you went online to give your opinion.

As this issue of the *North Star* goes to press, the decision is not final and official. But you may check for the outcome by going to www.rc.edu.

We are grateful for your faithful support as we continue to serve our students by offering challenging academics in Christian community.

Yours truly,

Rubel Shelly, President

As the **NORTHSTAR** went to press, we learned of the death of former president Milton Fletcher, who passed away Wednesday, March 20, in Fort Worth, Texas, just six days after his 88th birthday. A pillar in the history of Rochester College, Milton served as an administrator from 1961 to 1972. He returned as president in 1980 and served in that role until 1991. He was a kind and compassionate man who truly loved the college. Look for an article about Fletcher in our fall issue.

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ON THE COVER

The RC Education Department began its student teaching program in the spring of 2005 with four students. The program now boasts its 17th group of student teachers. Local schools often request RC graduates, and the program recently marked 100 teachers who serve in area schools.

Pictured are graduates and local teachers Randee Davison ('12), John Pleasant ('02), Megan Smith ('09), Stephan Henning ('12) and Elizabeth Jones ('03).

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Rochester College cultivates academic excellence, principled character, servant leadership, and global awareness through a rigorous educational experience that integrates liberal arts and professional studies within an inclusive Christian heritage.



CONTRIBUTORS

THESE TALENTED & GOOFY GALS ARE ROCHESTER COLLEGE STUDENTS AND **NORTHSTAR** CONTRIBUTORS. LET'S MEET THEM, SHALL WE?



CHELSEA HACKEL

JUNIOR ENGLISH/BIBLICAL STUDIES MAJOR FROM FENTON, MI

CHELSEA describes herself as a people-person, word-nerd, organizer, planner and memorizer of obscure facts and details. **HER CHILDHOOD AMBITION** was to have a book published, and she **CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT** her family, Bible and good pens. Chelsea's **PROUDEST MOMENT** was when an article she wrote on a Holocaust survivor during her first semester at RC was published in the *Oakland Press*. **HER FAVORITE THING ABOUT RC** is having a real friendship with the professors, but when asked who **HER FAVORITE PROFESSOR IS**, she pled the 5th because there are too many to pick just one (good answer, Chelsea!).



REBEKAH HAIGH

JUNIOR BIBLICAL STUDIES MAJOR FROM RICHMOND, MI

REBEKAH, who friends and family also call Rivkah (her name in Hebrew), enjoys coffee in the mornings (because she is American) and tea in the afternoon (because everyone with an English grandmother *knows* tea time). **HER LAST PURCHASE** was *Post Missionary Messianic Judaism* by Rabbi Mark Kinzer; however, the **LAST BOOK SHE READ** was *Dahveed* by Terri Fivash (for the ninth time in four years, actually). Not surprisingly, the **THREE THINGS SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT** are books, coffee and God. **REBEKAH LIVES BY THE WORDS** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."



KAYCE McCLURE

SENIOR MASS COMM/PUBLIC RELATIONS MAJOR FROM FLINT, MI

KAYCE HAD MANY CHILDHOOD AMBITIONS, including being a cartoonist, referee, chef, Olympian, WNBA player, author and president of the United States, but only one stuck. She wanted to be a filmmaker, and she still does. **HER PERFECT DAY** begins with having tea and reminiscing with Queen Elizabeth II. The pair would then play a friendly game of Connect Four and watch "Sister Act 2" before solving the world's problems. The **MOST UNUSUAL GIFT SHE'S EVER RECEIVED** was a computer program used to pick and identify bird calls. As if that wasn't an odd enough gift, she is afraid of birds. Alma Gatewood is **HER FAVORITE THING ABOUT RC**.



NATALIE REDMOND

FRESHMAN ENGLISH/THEATRE MAJOR FROM STERLING HEIGHTS, MI

NATALIE once had a theatre scholarship audition for which she was completely unprepared. On a whim, she decided to start dramatically miming. She got the scholarship. **LIKE A TYPICAL COLLEGE STUDENT**, Natalie says **SHE WOULD TAKE COFFEE INTRAVENOUSLY** if she could, and **A PERFECT DAY** would be one in which she gets a full eight hours of sleep. **NATALIE IS CURRENTLY READING** JK Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*. She says it's a really fascinating read, especially character-wise, and that it's much different stylistically than Harry Potter. That being said, Natalie admits that every time Rowling uses a swear word, a piece of her childhood dies.

Board Of Trustees Elects New Officers

Board Begins Search For New President; Shelly To Transition To Chancellor

At the January 2013 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Rubel Shelly requested the board initiate a presidential search that would allow him to step away from the president's role as early as Sept. 1, 2013.

Upon successful completion of the search, Shelly will assume responsibilities as chancellor of the college, to oversee the transition of leadership, and to return to his most cherished roles of teacher-author within the college community.

Shelly assumed the role of interim president in Spring 2008, and, at the board's request, has continued to serve as president during a challenging period of transition in the college's history.

"Dr. Shelly's tenure has not only witnessed a solidifying of the financial footings of Rochester College but, through his leadership, the college has achieved significant academic and enrollment milestones," said William Anderson, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Under Shelly's leadership, Rochester College has increased its enrollment from 850 students to more than 1,200 at the start of the 2012-13 academic year. During the same period, the college established a School of Nursing in collaboration with Crittenton Hospital and Medical Center. Additionally, Shelly has overseen the reorganization of academic programming into an integrated learning model and secured exceptional faculty and staff.

"These academic achievements, coupled with a disciplined financial approach, have built a strong foundation on which Rochester College will continue to serve students in the Great Lakes and Midwest Region of the United States," Anderson said. "The Board of Trustees expresses great appreciation for the contribution Dr. Shelly has made and will continue to make to Rochester College."

Anderson is overseeing the board's national search to secure a qualified, experienced and visionary president for the college. The target date for announcing the presidential selection is late Spring 2013, with his or her service to begin in Fall 2013.



William Anderson, bottom, assumed chairmanship of the Board of Trustees in late 2012. Jim Randolph, pictured top, had served as chairman since 2007 and will continue to be a board member.

After five years of dedicated service as chairman of the RC Board of Trustees, James Randolph has stepped out of that leadership role, and William Anderson has assumed chairmanship of the board. The transition was made official at the October 2012 board meeting.

Randolph took over as chair in 2007 when the college was facing dire financial circumstances and a change of administrative leadership. He prayerfully recruited Dr. Rubel Shelly to serve as interim president to assemble an executive team and oversaw the stabilization of the college's finances.

"Jim's promise to me was that he would always be available to consult and counsel," said Shelly. "And he told me that he would 'always have my back.' He made his word good in every situation we encountered during those challenging times."

Joining the board in 1998, Randolph continues to serve as a board member. In addition to this service, Randolph is the executive minister of the Rochester Church of Christ. He is retired from General Motors/Delphi Automotive Systems. He and his wife, Caye, who works at RC as coordinator of student teaching, live in Rochester Hills, Mich. They enjoy travel, golf and "interfering with raising their grandchildren."

Anderson stepped into the role of chairman at the October 2012 board meeting; he will serve a two-year term. Currently, he is overseeing the college's search for a new president. Depending on the new president's wishes in the matter, Shelly has indicated he will move to a chancellor role by Fall 2013.

Anderson is the vice president and chief human resources officer for Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System in Denver, Colo. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children and eight grandchildren.

"I respect Bill and Barbara Anderson," Shelly said. "Bill's experience as a CEO and his commitment to the Christian mission of Rochester College are a wonderful combination. I am confident our new president will be able to work with him in the same type of collaborative and supportive relationship I have enjoyed with Jim Randolph."

Also elected to an officer's position at the October board meeting was Robert Chambers, who fills the role of vice chair. He will move into the chair position after Anderson's term is completed. The new secretary for the RC Board is Connie Graham.



Hey, classes of the 1970s- IT'S REUNION TIME!

Mark your calendar for JULY 26-28 ON THE RC CAMPUS

MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION DETAILS AT:

- » www.rc.edu/70sreunion
- » www.facebook.com/groups/mcc70sreunion

RC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



What A Finish!

MEN'S BASKETBALL WINS 5TH USCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

BY *Jordan Ackerman*

Being ranked #1 in the USCAA national polls for the entire season could have put an incredible amount of pressure on the men's basketball team, but the Warriors met and exceeded expectations by clinching their fifth national championship on March 2.

The national championship game against Daeman College, held in Uniontown, Pa., came down to the wire with the Warriors coming out on top by a final score of 70-67. This was the team's first national championship since 2005, and the first under head coach Klint Pleasant. The previous four championship titles came under legendary small-college coach, Garth Pleasant.

"I have so many fond memories as a child growing up sitting next to my dad at the USCAA Basketball National Tournament," said Klint Pleasant. "To have a chance to coach a team to a title in this great association was a dream come true. I also thought this year's tournament was by far comprised of the best teams I have ever seen at the USCAA Tournament."

After the USCAA National Championship, the

Warriors went on to play as the No. 15 seed in the NAIA National Tournament in Point Lookout, Mo., eventually falling in the first round to Bellevue College.

However, during their first year in the NAIA, the Warriors made a mark. The team's efforts throughout the season eventually pushed them as high as #9 in the NAIA national polls, marking the first time any program at Rochester College was ranked in such a poll.

The experience was a great one for the first year NAIA program. "We knew it would be an uphill battle because there are so many established teams in the NAIA," said Coach Pleasant. "I think it speaks to the quality of our student-athletes and how dedicated this year's group was. Cracking the top 25 for the first time was quite a feeling, and then cracking the top 10 was something that our seniors ought to be proud of for years to come. This senior class was amazing and deserves so much credit for all the success of this year's team."

Throughout the long season, the Warriors received a solid team effort game in and game out, but the two standouts were seniors Dramell Hogan and Drew Maynard. Both players were USCAA First Team All-American selections, as well



as A.I.I. All-Conference First Team picks. Hogan was also selected as a NAIA DII Third Team All-American. He finished the season averaging 18.5 points and 6.7 rebounds per game, while Maynard averaged 16.5 points and 8 rebounds per game.

In the USCAA championship game, Hogan scored 33 points, which proved to be the difference in the Warriors winning and losing the title. For his efforts, Hogan was named the USCAA National Tournament Most Valuable Player. Maynard pulled down an incredible 21 rebounds in the national championship game and was selected to the USCAA All-Tournament team.

The Warriors also received stellar play from senior Brad Norman who haunted teams from beyond the three-point line all season, as well as junior Stavros Schizas who led the nation in steals.

The Warriors won more games this season than any other team in the history of Rochester College Athletics, finishing with a 29-5 record.

The season was highlighted by many



Photos courtesy of CIPhotography.com

key wins. On Nov. 4, the Warriors were one minute away from knocking off NCAA Division I opponent Kent State University. The Golden Flash would overcome a six-point deficit and defeat the Warriors.

Two weeks later, the Warriors found themselves in the same situation, but this time they prevailed over Eastern Illinois University on EIU's home court. The win marked RC basketball's first ever win over an NCAA D-I team. The Warriors also celebrated big NAIA victories against Bethel College (Ind.), Grace College (Ind.), and Concordia University (Mich.).

Before heading to the A.I.I. Conference Tournament, the team was on a 19-game winning streak. In addition to finishing #1 in the USCAA, the men also finished the regular season in the #1 spot of the A.I.I. Conference and #9 spot of the NAIA Division II.

The Warriors will graduate four seniors but are left with a solid group of athletes who will likely make a run in 2013-14.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MAKES IT TO NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL GAME

Head Coach Eric Sims led his Warriors to another USCAA National Tournament berth, making it to the semi-finals, where the team fell short to tournament champion Daeman College.

The Warriors finished the season with a 14-15 record with big wins over NAIA opponents Aquinas College, U of M Dearborn, Spring Arbor University, Lourdes University and NCAA D-III opponent Kalamazoo College. The Warriors also

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

- Ke'ala Ka'aikala
- Ka'imana Ka'aikala
- Sam Tomaschko
- Erika Wasson
- Lauren Pomoski

boasted five Academic All-Americans, the most in the NAIA Division II.

At the conclusion of another stellar year where she averaged 12.1 points and 9 rebounds per game, senior Sam Tomaschko will hang up her basketball shoes in exchange for her degree. Tomaschko put up huge numbers all season, including scoring 27 points in the Warriors' win over NCAA D-III Kalamazoo College. The Warriors will have big shoes to fill as Tomaschko was a three-time All-American and notched her spot on the A.I.I. All-Conference First Team.



The Warriors also boasted five Academic All-Americans, the most in the NAIA Division II.

Photos courtesy of greatlakesap.com



COOPER JOINS MASS COMMUNICATION FACULTY

In Fall 2012, RC welcomed Carol Cooper as an associate professor in the Department of Mass Communication. Cooper is finishing her dissertation on the wide role played by cell phones in American teen culture. She will earn her Ph.D. from Loughborough University in Loughborough, United Kingdom. Her master's and bachelor's degrees were both earned at the University of London. Cooper's specialties include TV directing, developing radio and TV programming, and non-linear video editing.

Prior to joining the RC faculty, Cooper served as an adjunct instructor for Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. She also has taught at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, and in London's inner city public school system.

"I was ready to develop more personal relationships with students and faculty than I could as an adjunct instructor at a large state university. I was very drawn to RC's mission," she said.

During her career, she also spent a year as a production assistant for an educational video company in Soho, London, owned by Robert Maxwell.



CAROL COOPER

Cooper says she will often watch British film credits to see if she recognizes the names of people she used to work with and she often does!

Cooper is also passionate about theatre, whether directing, onstage or behind the scenes. "While teaching school, I was assistant director for Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers.' We auditioned for the lead males, who were supposed to be twins, and the best two were not of the same skin color. News got out and the show was announced on the front page of one of the London newspapers! We sold out nightly."

Cooper's experience and eagerness to share her knowledge with others have already been an asset to RC students and will undoubtedly continue to be.

"I believe God created us in

His image and therefore our desire to communicate with one another is created by God. I feel strongly that Christian men and women who are critical thinkers, strong writers and who are excellent in the field of mass communication can help shape media today by reflecting what communication was originally intended to be."

CAIN RETURNS TO CAMPUS AS DEAN OF STUDENTS

Candace Cain returned to Rochester College in December as dean of students, having previously held the position from 1991-2007.

After leaving RC, Cain worked as the executive director for New Friends New Life, which is a non-profit organization in Dallas, Texas that helps women leave the degradation of the sex industry. In this role, she helped women create a sustainable life through financial assistance, education, counseling, life skills and job training.

In 2010, she was recruited to become executive director of Arms of Hope in Medina, Texas. Arms of Hope is a residential service facility helping single moms and children coming out of distress, homelessness and domestic violence.

Cain has eagerly reprised her role as dean, a position where she oversees student activity outside the classroom, working in conjunction with the classroom ex-



CANDACE CAIN

perience. Her main objective is to ensure students have many opportunities to learn and grow.

Cain holds a bachelor's degree in general education with a focus in social sciences from Louisiana State University, and a master's in organizational management from the University of Phoenix. Currently, she is working on a master's in religious education in missional leadership at RC.

Cain says her college years were the most significant years of her growth into being responsible and faithful. She feels that if she can in any way shape the life of a young person, her life will have been well spent. "I believe that the 'college age' is often most open to growth...so here I am."

RELLINGER PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Tom Rellinger has been appointed vice president for development at Rochester College. Tom and his wife, Diane, certainly are not strangers to the college. Tom served on the Board of Trustees from 1993-2005 and as president of the Alumni Association from 1990-91 and 93-95. He joined the college in August of 2011, beginning his work at RC as the director of development. His role has been expanded to oversee not only Development (fundraising), but alumni relations, the Rochester College Foundation (endowment funds), and church relations.



1

Alumni Host Second Reunion

Alumni from 17 states who graduated from Michigan Christian College in the 1960s gathered for three days of reminiscing and relaxation at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, Tenn., in October.

Nancy (Strbenac-'64) Schroeder and Karen (Bennett-'65) Kenamer led the committee who organized the reunion. The alumni from the 1960s held a successful reunion in 2010, so they decided to meet again. "It was such a wonderful experience that we simply did not want to wait too long before getting together once again," Schroeder said.

The alumni had several opportunities to share memories and update everyone else on their lives. At one point, Betty (Work-'62) Watson expressed her amazement that her small class from MCC included a college president, a director of bands for a major university, and an author who has sold more than 1.3 million books. "We listened to stories of the past and where we have journeyed since," said Sue (Gentry-'62) Wasson. "As a result, we are stronger and anxious to stand with one another in the years ahead."

Among those attending the reunion were pioneer faculty members Mary Ellen Adams, Fred Alexander, Paul Downey, Maurice Hall and Bob Waggoner. "The tender, protective attention shown to Professor Hall and his obvious delight of being among us surfaced a flood of memories about the relationships students and faculty had with one another," said Dean Moore ('62).

Kenamer observed how the group's common bond came full circle. "It was delightful hearing 'Fessor Fred (Fred Alexander) and Maurice Hall tell stories of their antics when the college first opened!"

Ed Work ('65) said, "Nothing was more inspiring than observing Maurice Hall engage total strangers in discussions about God. I watched him do that several times in the hotel lobby and was awestruck every time." Leecia (Bruce-'61) Penrod delayed a trip to Spain because she was looking forward to the reunion so much. She summed up everyone's feelings about the time spent. "It was a blessing to see everyone and keep these relationships alive."



Maurice Hall shares memories at a special gathering for members of the class of 1962 during the 1960s reunion weekend.



RC Hosts Niagara Foundation's Dinner Of Abrahamic Traditions

Christians, Jews and Muslims joined together at Rochester College in February for an evening of friendship and understanding.

The Niagara Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue, hosts the Dinner of Abrahamic Traditions annually.

Dr. John Barton, provost of Rochester College, volunteered Rochester to host the event this year, and 175 people from the three religions that trace their roots back to Abraham met to explore "Stewardship of Wealth, Health and Time" to find ways to use shared beliefs for the well-being of all humanity.

"History is filled with unfortunate examples of Jews, Christians and Muslims who have failed to be faithful to their own teachings about peace and respect for others," Barton said. "But history is also filled with wonderful examples of Jews, Christians and Muslims who have embodied those teachings and successfully promoted respect and peace in our world. I am pleased that the Abrahamic dinner gave many of us from this area an opportunity to add to that wonderful history."

Clergy, academicians and civic leaders from around Michigan were invited to participate in the evening. Sali Ozdemir, director of the Niagara Foundation's Detroit chapter, helped Barton coordinate the event.

As part of the evening's program, children from each tradition recited a passage from their scripture. From the Torah, New Testament and Quran, selected portions reflected beliefs of love, reverence, and respect for God and others. The scripture readings made the Dinner of Abrahamic Traditions a forum for revealing the common ground that can be found between creeds.

Following the readings were testimonies of friendships and collaborations. Speakers from each religion were invited to discuss the powerful relationships they had built with members of different faiths and the positive impact this diversity has on their lives and worldviews.

The evening closed with a performance by the Rochester College A Cappella Chorus of Eric Whitacre's "Alleluia." The song, which centers on the message "praise God," was a perfect capstone to an evening filled with respectful interaction.

by Natalie Redmond

REALIZING THE GOOD LIFE NOW



HEAVEN ON EARTH



CHRIS SEIDMAN & JOSHUA GRAVES

RC ALUM CO-AUTHORS BOOK

Inviting you to see if Jesus' way of seeing the world might be the truest, deepest, most beautiful way of seeing

ON BEHALF OF THE NORTHSTAR, **ADAM HILL**, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF BIBLE AT RC AND PREACHING MINISTER AT ROCHESTER CHURCH OF CHRIST, CAUGHT UP WITH **JOSH GRAVES ('02)** TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE WRITING **HEAVEN ON EARTH**:

As a minister, I find that most Christian devotional literature is somewhat enjoyable and occasionally educational, but often is simply too safe and predictable—merely affirming what the reader was already thinking. This cannot be said about "Heaven on Earth," co-authored by RC alum Josh Graves along with Chris Seidman. Among the countless devotional books written about the Beatitudes, this work provides genuine challenge, depth and transformative encounter with the living word of the text.

Although the subtitle is "Realizing the good life now," this is not another tired collection of virtuous platitudes. Rather, Seidman and Graves call readers to envision Jesus' description of the powerful presence of the kingdom of God. Jesus' blessings are not a checklist of virtues so much as a call for people to adjust their eyes to the reality of God's kingdom present in the world. It just happens to be in the places most would never think to look—the kingdom's blessing is present with those who are in spiritual poverty, those who are mourning, those who are persecuted, etc.

Refusing to allow these radical words to be read comfortably, Seidman and Graves call disciples to not only understand the text, but to stand under the text: "Jesus' words in the Beatitudes are simply an invitation to believe that God's world is more real than anything else..." (p131).

Q & A

WHY DID YOU WRITE THIS BOOK? WHAT DO YOU HOPE READERS TAKE AWAY FROM THIS BOOK?

C: We wrote the book out of a conviction that all too often the Beatitudes have been treated as a prescription for a "happier" life or a "push-button" guide for incurring divine favor to get what you want. They are not prescriptions for such as much as they are descriptions of what God values, how God operates, and where or among whom He is moving.

J: We wrote this book because people need more Jesus—not less.... Practically, this is about heaven and earth coming together in the real world. It's about the real values of God crashing into our places and spaces. It's about the future invading the present and changing our imaginations.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE WRITING WITH ANOTHER AUTHOR?

J: I loved working with Chris. We complement each other well. His memory recall of scripture and how it all connects is stunning. He's bathed in Scripture for so long, it's an extension of his person and life.

C: Josh is a far better writer than I am. So I got all the benefits of being associated with him, and he got all the burden of being associated with me.

J: Also, Chris and I don't take ourselves too seriously. That helps in the creative and editing process.

WHAT CHAPTER IN THE BOOK IS YOUR FAVORITE? WHY?

C: I'll say two of them. First, I like the opening chapter, because it establishes the context for hearing what Jesus is saying in the Beatitudes. Having just demonstrated the kingdom of heaven's presence on the earth [in Matthew 4], Jesus now reflects with His disciples on the "so what" implications that he wants them to take away from the experience. The other chapter I love is actually Josh's epilogue. I think it's a compelling and tender appeal to the skeptic in regard to going the way of Jesus in light of the previous reflections in the book.

Q: WHAT PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE WORKS?

J: This is my second book and Chris's third. We still just want to talk, write and dream about Jesus. I've just finished a manuscript for a third book on Islam and Christianity in the U.S., and I have really missed Chris's voice. Sometimes I call him and pretend like he's helping with this next project. Just kidding.



MEET THE AUTHORS

Josh Graves (pictured) is the preaching and teaching minister at Otter Creek Church of Christ in the Nashville area. Chris Seidman is the senior minister at the Branch, a multi-site church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In addition to being gifted authors, both are in love with Jesus and captivated by Christ's kingdom.



scan this with your smart phone's QR code reader to purchase your copy of **Heaven on Earth**

the education equation

BY Chelsea Hackel

**100 RC Teachers Measure
Up To Classroom Success**



Megan Smith ('09) completed her student teaching at Rochester High School, where she is now employed as a 9th and 10th grade math teacher.

OUR GRADUATES ARE EVERYWHERE!

VIC BLISS

Bates Elementary in Woodhaven-Brownstown, Mich.

DAVID BRAZLE

Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

KEVIN BRISKI

Rochester Adams High School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

CORTNEE (BEEKS) CRAIN

Title 1 Intervention in Lubbock, Texas

RANDEE (ROWELL) DAVISON

Hampton Elementary in Rochester Hills, Mich.

GRAZIA DICKINSON

Keith Elementary in West Bloomfield, Mich.

LINDA ELGERT

Havel Elementary in Sterling Heights, Mich.

NICOLE (CHILES) FAIR

Copeland Elementary in Houston, Texas

KATIE FALLSCHEER

Conner Creek Academy in Roseville, Mich.

LARA GOODES

Children's Village School in Waterford, Mich.

LISA GRANDSTAFF

Indian Hills Elementary in Washington, Mich.

DAVID HEINEMANN

Madison Academy in Flint Twp., Mich.

STEPHAN HENNING

Lakeville Elementary School in Oxford, Mich.

KRISTEN HERDMAN

Glasgow Middle School in Fairfax Co., Va.

JOSHUA HICKEY

Rochester Adams High School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

MIRANDA HITER

Birmingham Public Schools Early Childhood Center in Birmingham, Mich.

JENNIFER JOHNSON

Michigan Collegiate High School in Warren, Mich.

ELIZABETH JONES

Hampton Elementary in Rochester Hills, Mich.

ROBERT KIGER

Fitzgerald School District, Mich.

MARLEY (BROWN) KNAKAL

Montcalm School in Albion, Mich.

HOLLY (ALLEN) KNUTSON

Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills, Mich.

LISA KRONENWETTER

Bright Horizons Preschool in Seattle, Wash.

MARY (HAMPTON) KRUGER

Shelby Middle School in Utica, Mich.

ON A NORMAL DAY AT ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL, secondary math teacher Megan Smith spends the hours on her feet, checking her students' work as she wanders through classroom F206, which is decorated with snowflakes made by her geometry class. The cheerful Rochester College graduate has an easy-going attitude with her students, greeting them by name with a friendly smile in the hallway between periods.

Megan's relaxed demeanor may have everything to do with the fact she completed her student teaching and received her education degree from Rochester College, through what she calls the "work you up" method. Through this process, education majors gradually learn the ropes of teaching by participating first in observation, then field placements, followed by student teaching.

Megan thinks RC's training method is unusual, but much more effective than other systems. "That's when you figure out all the things a teacher actually does," Megan said of the training process, laughing. "Then you're ready for what it's going to bring."

PROGRAM MILESTONE

Megan is just one of a growing number of RC graduates who are now teaching throughout the state and region. The RC Education Department began its own student teaching program in the spring of 2005 with four students in the first group, according to Caye Randolph, coordinator of student teaching. The program now boasts its 17th group of student teachers with a total of 100 serving in schools throughout the area over the past eight years. Of the seven 2011-2012 graduates, six are currently employed full time and one subs full time.

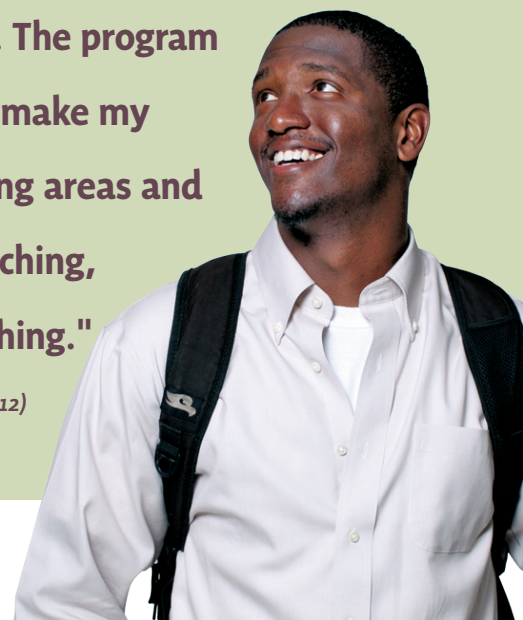
"Our student teachers are very marketable, and we are building a strong reputation, especially with districts in the area," Randolph said.

Local schools often specifically request RC graduates, said Dr. Mel Blohm, dean of the School of Education.

RC alumni also have help finding jobs after graduation because of the education faculty's strong connections with local school districts. Blohm and Randolph were long-time educators for Rochester Community Schools, serving in administrative roles and as principals and teachers.

“Placing me in diverse schools allowed me to become comfortable with teaching students from different backgrounds. The program also challenged me to make my weaker areas, my strong areas and my strong areas of teaching, my great areas of teaching.”

-Stephan Henning ('12)



CLAIRE (WEGNER) KWOLEK

Village Oaks Elementary in Novi, Mich.

RACHEL LEIPPRANDT

Brown City Elementary in Brown City, Mich.

TYLER LEIPPRANDT

Brown City Elementary in Brown City, Mich.

CASSANDRA MAINERO

Wilkinson Middle School in Madison Heights, Mich.

HEATHER MATSON

I CAN! Education Center in Sterling Heights, Mich.

SEAN MILLIGAN

Rochester College and Baker College in Michigan

JULIE MIZE

Hugger Elementary School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

JAMIE NELSON

Rochester, Utica and Warren Woods, Mich.

KATIE PEDERSON

Stoney Creek High School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

JOHN PLEASANT

Brooklands Elementary School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

KRYSTAL (GABOURY) RENTON

Rochester Adams High School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

JENNIFER SESI

Regent Park Scholars Charter School in Detroit, Mich.

AMYE (SMITH) SMERKA

Harrisburg Elementary in Harrisburg, N.C.

MEGAN (MILLER) SMITH

Rochester High School in Rochester Hills, Mich.

ABBY SPANGLER

Autism Academy of Learning & Summit Academy in Toledo, Ohio

JENNIFER STAMEVSKI

Hamadeh Education Services in Dearborn Heights, Mich.

AMY STEWART

Anson New Technology High School in Wadesboro, N.C.

CARMEN STEWART

National Heritage Academies in Holland, Mich.

CURTIS STORM

Kemper Elementary School in Cortez, Colo.

KATIE (O'CONNELL) TUZINSKY

Warren Woods Middle School in Warren, Mich.

CHAD WOHLSCHEGEL

Lapeer East High School in Lapeer, Mich.

SARA (SHAW) WRISTON

Miami Middle School in Fort Wayne, Ind.



I appreciated the numerous hours that I got to spend in the classroom observing and practicing what I was learning from my professors.

—Ranee Davison ('12)

THROWN IN THE FIRE

Another RC graduate, Josh Hickey, currently teaches English, history and philosophy at Adams High School in Rochester Hills. He is also working toward his master's degree in teacher leadership from Oakland University, which he says will prepare him to lead behind the scenes at the school. In addition to teaching, Josh also participates in extracurricular activities such as soccer, which he coaches for both boys and girls. "I love getting involved outside the classroom," he said.

Although one's first day of teaching is bound to be nerve-wracking, Josh says he felt prepared after completing the RC teacher education program. In fact, just prior to starting his student teaching, the position he was supposed to teach in fell through. This gave him only one week to prepare for a different position: Teaching 12th grade Honors English.

"It was like being thrown in the fire, especially because the usual teacher of that class didn't provide me with lesson plans, so I had to make my own," Josh said. Josh's training at RC helped him survive that experience, and he went on to land a job with that same school.

Josh said he appreciated RC's teacher education program because the placements he received were valuable. He spoke of other schools that send students to field placements or student teaching positions at great distances from the school they're attending, but was thankful that RC tried to keep students close to home.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Colleges interested in offering a teacher education program must start by having a mentoring partnership with a school that already has an established program. Thus, RC's foray into the education field began in 1996 through a partnership with Madonna University. The partnership, which was formalized in 2000, began with RC teaching students before sending them to Madonna to complete their final year of the program.

Currently RC operates under probationary approval from the Michigan Department of Education. On May 13, a committee of scholars will be coming to campus to review progress, and the School of Education hopes to receive final approval for the teacher education program at that time.

While RC prepares for the scholars' committee visit in May, more opportunities are available for the future. Blohm says the college now has the opportunity to offer an early childhood education endorsement (ZS) as part of the elementary education program.

Students interested in teaching in preschool and the early elementary grades will be able to earn the early childhood (ZS) endorsement while earning their bachelor's degree in elementary education. The ZS endorsement will qualify candidates to teach birth through grade 5.

Blohm is positive about the continuing success of RC's education program and the ability of future graduates to do well in their positions.

"I think we have a strong teacher education program and the future looks bright," he said.



INSIDE THE ACADEMIC MIND

ARTICLE BY *Rebekah Haigh*

PHOTOS BY *Kayce McClure*



PROFESSOR GREG STEVENSON TALKS TELEVISION, NEW TESTAMENT AND TEACHING AT RC

It is often said that you can truly be good at only one thing. If that is true, Dr. Greg Stevenson is a walking contradiction. Last semester, he taught a class on fantasy, myth and horror, despite the fact that his specialty is Revelation.

Stevenson, a professor of religion who started teaching at Rochester College in 1999, is a respected biblical scholar and author.

"Not only is he a first-rate scholar, he's also an excellent teacher," said Dr. Mark Love, dean of the School of Theology and Ministry. "Those two things don't always come in the same package. His varied interests also make him a valuable contributor to our department. He can speak with equal authority on ancient Ephesus, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, or the music of U2. While I usually have grave suspicions of die-hard Pittsburgh Steelers fans, Greg is one of the most humble and unassuming guys you would ever want to know. This makes him an ideal colleague."

Dr. John Barton, RC provost, spoke about Stevenson's contributions to the college. "Greg Stevenson combines world-class scholarship, personal integrity and humility, and popular and accessible teaching. He is such a valuable asset

to Rochester College and epitomizes what we strive to be."

While an undergrad at Harding University, Stevenson discovered a passion for teaching, going on to earn his master's degree at Harding School of Theology and his Ph.D in New Testament and Christian Origins at Emory University.

"I have always had strong interests in literature and in history and I really liked the way those two disciplines intersect in NT studies," Stevenson said. "Although I love the literature of the Old Testament, there's just an artistic power to the story of Jesus as related in the New Testament that intrigues me, and the cultural worlds of the Greco-Roman and Jewish societies of the first century were captivating to me."

After completing his doctorate, the time came to look for a job, and Stevenson set his sights north.

"After spending 15 years in the south, I really missed the snow. So when the opportunity at Rochester opened up, I came up to visit and really felt a strong sense of community at RC that made me want to stay," he said.

Stevenson's main areas of focus are New Testament backgrounds, Revelation, and religion and popular culture. This intriguing combination

makes his classes especially interesting.

"He is a fantastic professor because he is able to relate many concepts, Biblical and otherwise, back to popular culture such as movies and music. He's also interesting, funny, and knows a ton about a lot of topics," said Sarah Roper, a junior English major from Warren, Mich.

When Stevenson is not in the classroom, he has been spending a lot of time "getting up close and personal with the book of Revelation."

Stevenson is putting the finishing touches on an essay on the theme of apocalyptic warfare in several recent television shows that will be published this year in a book titled "Small Screen Revelations: Apocalyptic and Prophecy in Contemporary Television." He also is completing the final revisions of his newest book on Revelation, which should be released in April, called "A Slaughtered Lamb: Revelation and the Apocalyptic Response to Evil and Suffering."

Stevenson is also working on several articles for publication. One article is on "inviolability and asylum at ancient Ephesus," which will appear in the book "Ephesus as a Religious Center Under the Principate."

Another article about Greek altar asylum and the fifth seal of Revelation is under review for the "Harvard Theological Review." Stevenson has also been asked to write an article on the theology of creation in Revelation for the journal "Leaven."

Despite the significant output of research and writing, Stevenson is already contemplating ideas for future projects. "My mind has been consumed by all of these projects, but I would like eventually to write a book on what it means to live the Christian faith in tension," he said.

Stevenson weighed in on the tension that sometimes arises between

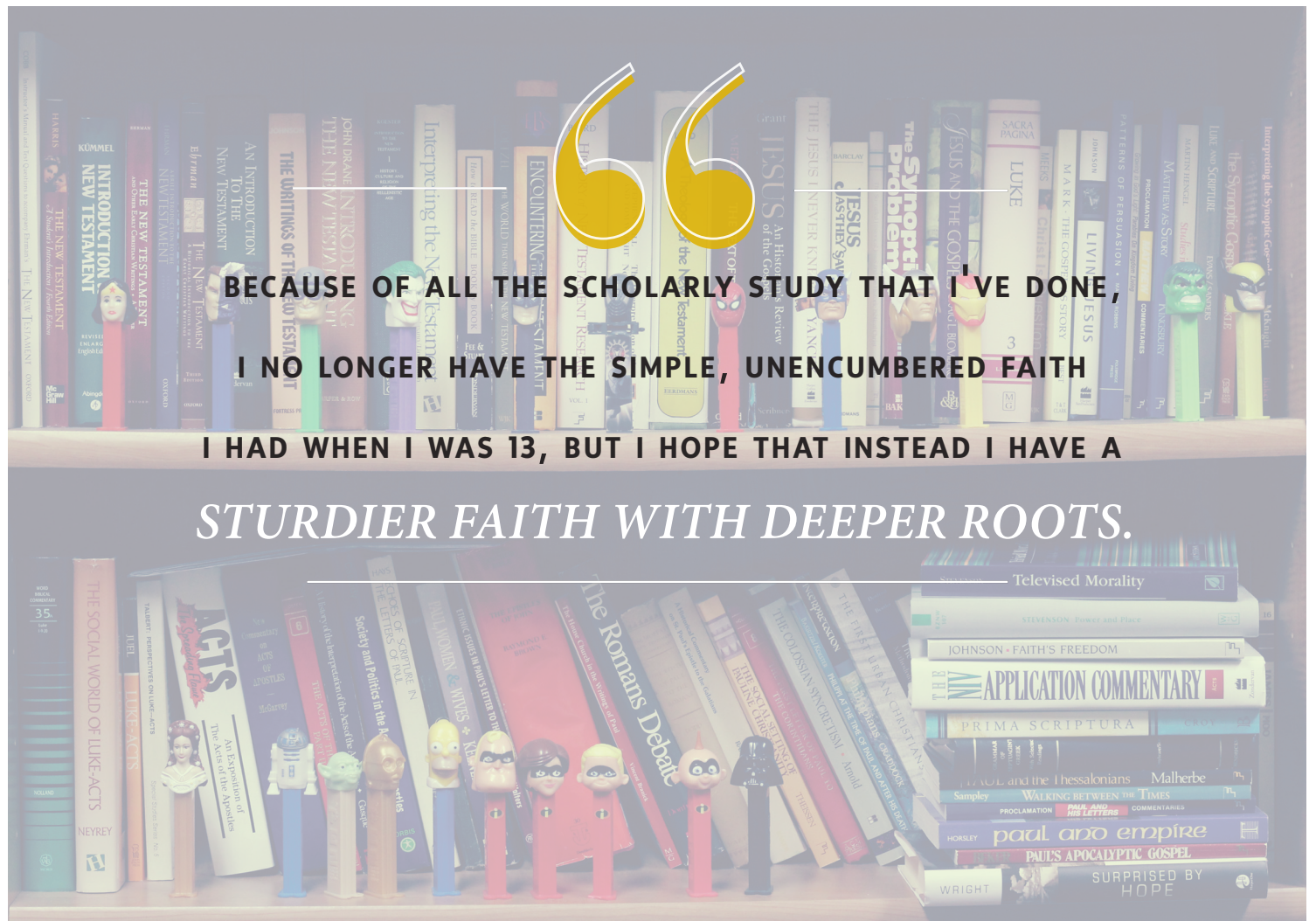
spirituality and scholarship: "Integrating scholarship and spirituality can at times be difficult because scholars tend to live in their heads whereas spirituality more actively engages the heart. I have a friend who used to refer to all the time I'd spend in the library during graduate school as 'monk work,' which it basically was — just without the cool outfits or spiritual focus. It is a constant battle."

He continued, "It's very easy to allow oneself to become so consumed with arguments over the rhetorical structure of Paul's letter to the Philippians that you completely forget the power that Paul's rhetoric possesses to shape and challenge you to conform to the image of Christ."

However, Stevenson points out that he is constantly reminded that scholarship serves the cause of spirituality. "Serious theological examination and scholarship not only provides a deeper understanding of Scripture, but also provides a deeper foundation for engaging the adversities and unexpected turns in life," he said. "Because of all the scholarly study that I've done, I no longer have the simple, unencumbered faith I had when I was 13, but I hope that instead I have a sturdier faith with deeper roots."

Outside of his work, Stevenson enjoys spending time with his wife, Sally, and three children: Nicholas, Alexandra and Isabella.

Stevenson has made a name for himself throughout the nation as a respected scholar. He is pleased with his research, but he is also engaged by his work in the classroom. "I am proud of those moments when I run into former students who share with me what their time in my classes meant to them or how something they learned in my classes helped them at some point in their life or with their spiritual growth. Those moments remind me why I wanted to do all of this in the first place."



IT ISN'T NEUROSCIENCE

Matchynski discusses her experience as an RC student and why the decision to return as faculty was an easy one



In January 2012, Jessica Matchynski walked into a familiar classroom in the Richardson Center, carrying everything she needed for class. The setting was all too familiar, yet it wasn't quite déjà vu for the soft-spoken scholar. Perhaps that was because Matchynski didn't take a seat preparing to listen to a lecture. Instead, she stood behind the podium and began teaching her first psychology course at RC. Oh, yes—her title was now Dr. Jessica Matchynski, assistant professor of psychology, as well.

Matchynski graduated from RC with a Bachelor of Science in psychology in 2006, before going on to complete a master's and Ph.D. in neuroscience from Central Michigan University. During her graduate studies, Matchynski's primary focus was leading three projects on rodent models and treatments for Alzheimer's disease. She also had the opportunity to assist with projects on Huntington's disease and aging. As a faculty member at RC, Matchynski will head collaboration between RC and Henry Ford Hospital. She also continues to conduct research in the post-doctorate program at Wayne State University and consult on neuroscience at Henry Ford Hospital.

"After watching my grandmother suffer from dementia, I decided it would be more beneficial if I devoted my career to the prevention and alleviation of dementias, rather than clinical psychology," she said. This change meant she needed to obtain the necessary pre-requisites for neuroscience programs. "RC's focus on the individual student and the small class sizes were very helpful. I ended up being able to graduate a semester early because of these qualities and the teaching methods of the science faculty," she said.

Not only was she able to graduate early, Matchynski credits her time at RC to success in the master's and doctorate degrees she pursued. It was just a short time ago that her now colleagues were the ones encouraging her to move forward with her research and ambitions.

"In Dr. Siegel-Hinson's class, rather than tell me that I might be biting off more than I can chew, she encouraged me to conduct a full study on memory using mice for a course project—the fact that I had done the study on my own was one of the major points brought up in my interview at CMU," said Matchynski.

Matchynski goes on to say, "Almost every science and psychology course had both a presentation and a paper. I am not a natural presenter—that was learned through practice at RC. I went from getting hives at the thought of speaking in front of a small group to speaking in front of hundreds at a major conference."

Not only did Matchynski gain from the psychology program at RC, the program gained from her time as a student. With the help of Dr. Gordon MacKinnon, chair of the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Matchynski tuned her leadership skills by starting RC's chapter of Psi Chi, the national psychological honors society. She served as the first president and arranged events on campus such as "The Shrink Is In."

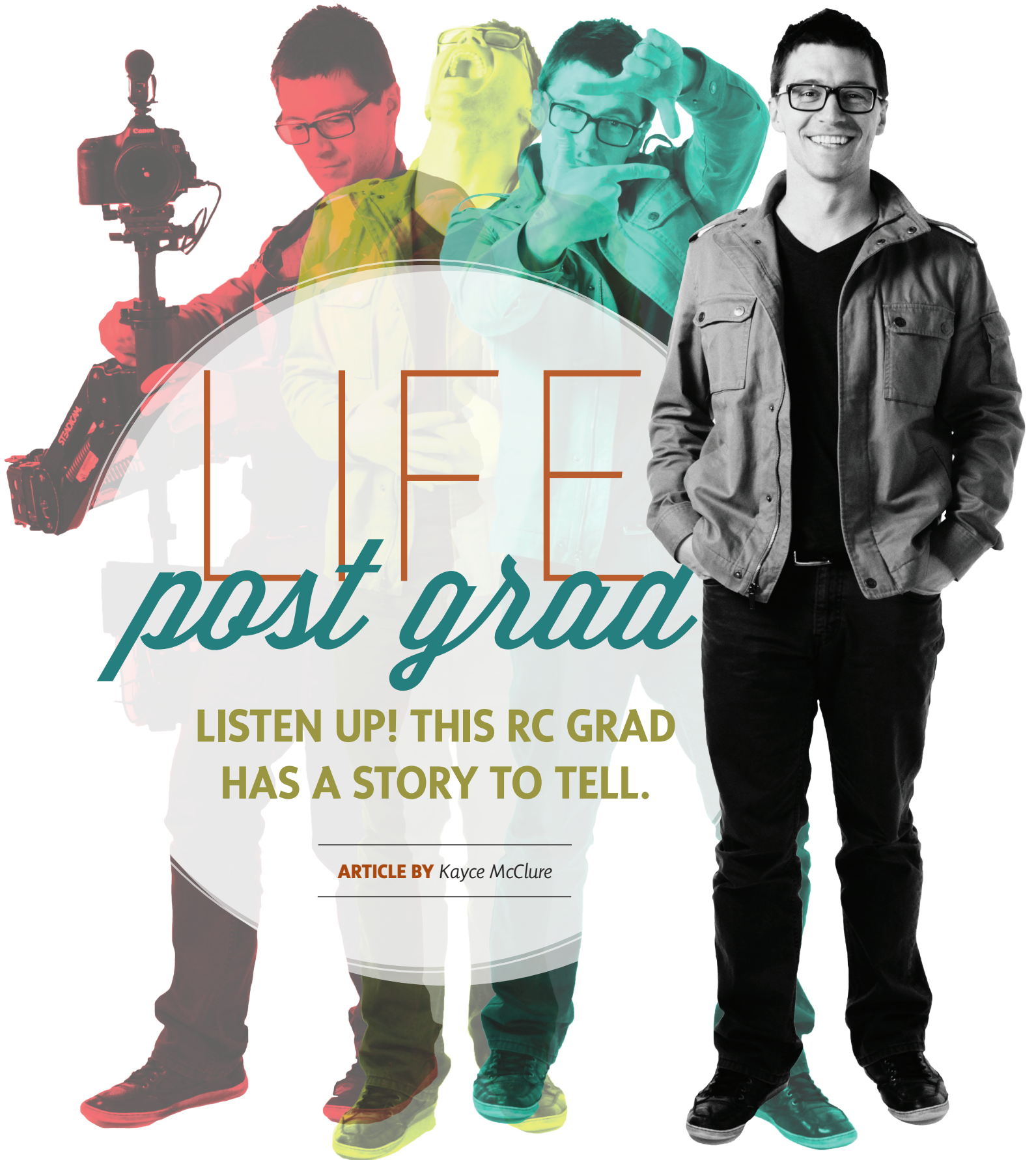
Matchynski is thrilled to be part of a faculty that had such a great influence on her. As she settles into her professor position, she reflects on the greatest lesson RC provided her—one she hopes to share with her students.

"My time at RC allowed me to define myself as both a Christian and a scientist," she said. "The combination is often thought taboo, but the professors of RC demonstrated this combination as living examples. Learning about the scientific workings of the world allows one to appreciate the beauty and design in its infinite complexity."

“

My time at RC allowed me to define myself as both a Christian and a scientist.





LIFE
post grad

**LISTEN UP! THIS RC GRAD
HAS A STORY TO TELL.**

ARTICLE BY *Kayce McClure*

ETCH-A-SKETCH

introduced “The Animator” for advanced sketching in 1986, and every 4th grader dreamed of having this fascinating new toy. A young, wide-eyed Ryan Koral was among them. Sure, he wasn’t very good at drawing on such advanced technology, but that toy jumpstarted his lifelong passion for creativity.

Today, Ryan has moved far beyond the Etch-A-Sketch. A 2002 graduate of Rochester College, Ryan owns Epic Motion, a cinema-style videography studio specializing in weddings and events, and Tell, which produces videos and enhances brands for businesses and non-profits.

JUST A HOBBY

In middle school, Ryan spent his time filming “dumb things” on a family video camera with his best friend. “We lived in the boonies so there wasn’t much to do,” Ryan said as he remembered his first taste of filmmaking. “We would work on the videos on a PC and put some cool sound effects behind it. The videos were so dumb, but I loved it.”

Throughout high school and college, Ryan saw film as merely a hobby. “It was just something fun to do,” he said. “I never imagined it would become a career.” Though it seems like just yesterday he was making silly videos in the boondocks of Oxford, Mich., the transition from film hobby to film career didn’t happen overnight.

ALL PART OF THE PLAN

Ryan started filming events while he was a student at Rochester College, which in and of itself was a circumstance that came about in a unique way. Through helping out with his church youth group and hosting a Bible study, Ryan came to know John Pleasant, son of legendary RC coach, Garth Pleasant. “Ryan’s personality was so contagious, everyone gravitated towards him, and he used his influence in such a positive manner,” John said.

Garth soon started encouraging Ryan to transfer to RC. “Over the course of the year, I started having spiritual conversations with Ryan, and then started visiting with him about attending the college,” he said. “He went from no interest to having some interest during the course of our talks. I went to Dr. (Ken) Johnson about Ryan. I wanted him to know what a positive spiritual influence he would have on the student body.”

Merely a week before new-student orientation, Johnson met with Ryan, encouraged him to attend RC and arranged for him to receive a leadership scholarship. “I wanted an opportunity to go to a Christian school. I had a lot of friends that were able to go to Christian colleges and I felt that I was missing out on that, but I didn’t know how to afford it—until then,” he said.

That leadership scholarship went to good use. Ryan initiated the effort to create a worship night on campus, which he named “The Offering.” The gathering is still an essential part of spiritual life on campus (and even begins at the time Ryan appointed, 9:09 p.m.)

“I am grateful that Dr. Johnson saw the potential in Ryan and what he could mean to the spiritual life of the campus,” Garth said. “I will always appreciate Ryan for the spiritual influence he had on my son, while in high school, and for what he meant to the spiritual life of the RC community.”

Like many RC graduates, Ryan’s time at the college didn’t end after graduating with a bachelor’s degree in communication. The college hired him to work in admissions, which led to the idea of doing promotional videos. Once he talked his then supervisor, Larry Norman, into purchasing a MacBook and camera, he was ready to roll.

“Ryan was truly a leader among leaders,” Norman remembers. “He was never afraid to take on a challenge. And he was one of the best at telling the RC story and getting prospective students excited to know more about RC.”

In addition to his work at RC, Ryan began filming youth events for Kensington Church in Troy, Mich. “The youth minister there was pretty picky with how he wanted the videos to be. He sort of forced me into doing more than just putting together random footage,” he said. “It was constructive feedback that helped me hone my skills.”



THE LIGHT-BULB MOMENT

While working on these smaller film projects, Ryan realized he had found his niche. "I was driving home from work thinking that this was what I wanted to do, and I thought, 'maybe I could start a company!' The opportunities I was given at RC were huge. The encouragement and support gave me the confidence to start things."

Ryan and his wife, Andrea, who also graduated from RC, decided to give it a six-month trial, and Ryan began freelancing for RC and for Kensington. Shortly thereafter, a friend who was a wedding photographer persuaded Ryan to film a wedding.

"I loved it," he said.

FIRST BIG SHOT

Thus in 2005, Ryan started creating the idea of Epic Motion. He consulted with photographers and reached out to several people within the video business. His idea to create a wedding videography company that was relevant and could stand the test of time proved successful, even

"THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT THAT WE GET IS WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, 'I WATCHED ALL YOUR VIDEOS AND I'M CRYING AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE.' EPIC IS DERIVED FROM THE CONCEPT THAT *God's story and the story He invites us to is full of life and adventure.* OUR FILMS INVITE PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE THAT."

though he only booked 12 weddings (two of which he filmed for free) during that first summer.

"One of those brides was very important to jumpstarting the company. "She talked us up and we ended up getting, like, 10 weddings from word of mouth alone," he said. A prime example that hard work and building strong relationships do pay off, Epic Motion is now one of Detroit's leading event cinema and videography studios. In 2012 the company created 50 wedding films.

SUCCESS FROM STORYTELLING

"One of the greatest compliments we get is when someone says, 'I watched all your videos and I'm crying and I don't even know these people.' " How do you move people to tears by showing footage of strangers for just a few minutes? Ryan and the Epic Motion team do it by focusing on telling a story. "Epic is derived from the concept that God's story and the story He invites us to is full of life and adventure. Our films invite people to experience that," said Ryan.

Neither Garth nor John Pleasant is surprised that Ryan has done well professionally. "I know Ryan is one of the best video guys around, but he would have been incredibly successful in whatever field he went in because he cares about people and he invests in people," John said. "That shows in his work."

tell

WWW.GOTOTELL.COM



SCAN THESE QR CODES WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO

Check out Ryan's video work here!



epic motion

WWW.EPICMOTION.COM

TELL

In February 2012, Ryan translated the idea of telling a story to the corporate world when he launched Tell, a video production agency for businesses and non-profit organizations.

"We had a guy look over our finances and he said we looked good from May to October, which are prime wedding months, but we had November through April where we weren't filming anything new."

However, after just one year, Ryan and his team seem to be finding plenty to do during the wedding off-season. Tell has already landed video gigs with a diverse list of clients worldwide, including University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, Plante Moran, and The Boys and Girls Clubs.

And while capturing others' stories, he has even been able to create a few of his own along the way. There was that one time when a groomsman fainted and another time when a bridesmaid threw up during the wedding ceremony; filming in Spain, the Virgin Islands and Mexico; the memory and privilege of telling the stories of members of the Ford family and LaMarr Woodley, native of Michigan and outside linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers; the day last summer when his cameraman and half of the bridal party, groom included, got stuck in an elevator shortly before the ceremony; and getting the opportunity to film Kenny Loggins performing some of his hits such as "Footloose" and "Danger Zone" at a wedding.

The list could go on and on. However, those stories are for a different day—and are probably better told by someone with a gift for storytelling. Now where can we find someone like that?



A LOOK AT ALL THAT KEEPS OUR CALENDARS FULL

RC THEATRE DEPARTMENT 2012-13 SEASON

1

The RC Theatre Department kicked off its 2012-13 season with performances of *Seussical*, the fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza that brings to life everyone's favorite Dr. Seuss characters. In honor of Black History month, the department produced a two-play special, which included Alice Childress' *Florence* and Peter Manos' *Walk, Don't Ride!* The season will wrap up with a spring production of Arthur Miller's wildly acclaimed play, *The Crucible*, as well as a select touring of *Twelfth Night or What You Will* by William Shakespeare. To see more snapshots of theatre productions from this year, visit photos.rc.edu.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

2

Partnering with Huntington Ford of Rochester Hills, Mich., RC held a Ford Drive 4 UR Community event this fall in which every test drive of a new Ford vehicle generated \$20. The event raised \$4,780 for two Huntington Ford scholarships, which will be awarded during the 2013-14 school year.

On Feb. 11, the School of Nursing hosted "Nurses, The Heart of Healthcare," which raised more than \$5,000 for nursing scholarships through a silent auction and naming of the four mannequins that reside in the nursing lab.

CELEBRATION

3

The annual song, dance and skit extravaganza, Celebration, was held March 15 and 16. This year's theme, Celebrate the Decades, took the audience through memorable music and pop culture moments from the last century.

SPEAKING OF GOD CONFERENCE

4

Rochester College and The Niagara Foundation explored the role of religion in public life at the Speaking of God Conference on March 19. John Seigenthaler, American writer and political figure, and Mustafa Akyol, Turkish journalist and author, addressed the important topic with sensitivity, real-world experience and a global perspective. The two noted journalists discussed their cultures' approach to freedom of religious expression in secular cultures, relating case studies with first-hand experience.

PARTNERSHIP DINNER

5

The 42nd annual Partnership Dinner was held at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester on Saturday, April 13. Scott Hamilton, the most recognized male figure skating star in the world, headlined the event with a presentation entitled, "God and the Human Spirit." In addition to winning the gold medal at the 1984 Olympics, Hamilton won four consecutive U.S. championships, four consecutive World Championships, and 70 other figure skating titles.

STREAMING CONFERENCE

6

For those who understand the church as a community of participation in the mission of God, the topic of faith and discerning the work of God in the world is important. Church leaders often speak of discerning the leading of God, but sometimes with little clarity about what they mean by that or how a congregation might go about discovering what God's leading might be. This year's Streaming Conference will take place on campus May 22-24 and will feature Luke Timothy Johnson, whose work in this area helps us realize what is at stake in this "drama of discernment." Patrick Keifert, Rubel Shelly, Kim Seidman and Jerry Taylor will also speak on the topic of "The Living God and the Drama of Discernment." For more information and to register, visit www.rc.edu/streaming.

WARRIOR ADVENTURES

7

Do you ever miss the adventures you had during your college years? Wouldn't it be great to reconnect with old friends while enjoying some of metro Detroit's greatest attractions? A pilot Warrior Adventures program is being launched this summer, and it includes a family day at the Detroit Zoo, a night at Comerica Park to see the Detroit Tigers take on the Boston Red Sox, and a day at the Detroit Cultural Center. Similar activities will be planned in other areas where sufficient numbers of alumni are located. To get in on the adventures, visit www.rc.edu/adventures.

FLETCHER-SHINSKY GOLF CLASSIC

8

Join us for friendly golf competition and support Rochester College at the same time. The Fletcher-Shinsky Golf Classic takes place on Monday, Aug. 5, and we're thrilled to golf at a new location: Twin Lakes Golf Club in Rochester Hills. This four-star golf course, as named by "Golf Digest Places to Play," is a Jerry Matthews-designed course featuring wide-sweeping fairways and huge, contouring putting surfaces. Check out the revamped schedule of events and sign up to golf and sponsor the event at www.rc.edu/golfclassic.

Come on and
CONNECT with us!



/RCWarriors



/RCWarriors



/RochesterCollege



www.photos.rc.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

To submit alumni news, see rc.edu/alumni or send information to Larry Stewart at 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

1990

Jeff and Wendy (Barnett) Denny are living in Brownsburg, IN. After working for St. Vincent Health System for over 15 years, Wendy has accepted a position as a benefits specialist for Badger Daylight Corporation. Jeff was recently named varsity soccer coach for Tri-West High School. In his first season as a head coach this past year, his junior varsity team finished its season 13-0. Jeff can be contacted at denny.jeffrey@yahoo.com and Wendy at denny.wendy41@gmail.com.

1998

Soren James joined Jonathan, Eliana, Rowan and Kellen in the home of *David* and Anna *Handley* on Nov. 17, 2012. The family lives in Waverly, Neb. David is an attorney at Dyer Law and can be contacted at david@dyerlaw.com.

2001

Kristy Wells married Nick Eklund on Oct. 6, 2012. Kristy is employed by the Detroit Area Library Network, and Chris by CareTech Solutions. The couple resides in Dearborn, Mich. Kristy can be contacted at keklund12@gmail.com.

2002

Madelynn Heather joined Gracelynn and Shealynn in the home of *Ryan and Misty (Ringle) Hoggatt* on Nov. 19, 2012. The family lives in Delaware, Ohio. Ryan and Misty can be reached at thehoggatts@yahoo.com.

2007

MolliePup Press recently released "The Stars Fell Sideways," a young adult novel by *Cassandra Brown*. Cassandra works as a freelance book writer/editor and penned the book under the name Cassandra Marshall. She lives in Emmett, Mich., and can be contacted at writercassandra@gmail.com.

2011

Lavita Modest recently completed training as a public service chaplain through the Macomb County Criminal Justice Training Center and the 21st Century Chaplain Network. She was chosen by her class to deliver the cadet response during graduation. Lavita is employed as a program release manager for Hewlett-Packard and is enrolled in a master's program at Spring Arbor University. Lavita lives in Detroit, Mich., and can be contacted at lavita.modest@hp.com.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Sept. 9, 2012—
Feb. 26, 2013

Justin Avey

Jesse & Andrea Clayton

Olive Marie Balk

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Larry Barton

Pam Barton

Larry Bouman

Martha Bouman

E. R. Bruce

Leecia Penrod

John McCartney Campbell

John & Harriet Campbell

Ralph & Lorraine Church

Dave and Janice Church

Anne Louise Crawford

Jerry & Virginia Ebeling

Nancy Dawson

Jeff Williams

R. J. & Margaret Henderson

Don & Doe Whetstone

Evelyn Fletcher

Dieter & Marlyn Balzat

Brent & Kay Magner

Cathy Ries

Joanne Shinsky

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Marie Hall

Leroy & Doris Ledsworth

Dean Hoggatt

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Mike & Jeanette Weimer

Robert & Jane Jackson

Robert & Kim Martin

Dr. Joseph F. Jones

Ben & Peggy White

Penny Judd

D.C. & Gay Carlson

Bob Kirks

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Virgil Lawyer

Zearl & Betty Watson

Jim Lewis

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Larry & Lynne Stewart

Gerald & Ollie Montgomery

Jerry & Judy Montgomery

Helen Plummer

Jesse & Andrea Clayton

Ronald Price

John & Nancy Speck

Kenneth Eugene Pyle

John & Jeanne Leyhan

Natalie Randall

Karl Randall

Bob & Kimberly Redner

Ila Rousseau

Annette Riley

Joan Costello

Cheryl Riley

Joan Costello

Vivian Scott

Jim & Pam Flannery

Bill Shinsky

Joanne Shinsky

Brandon Slater

Martha Bouman

Ross William Trinklein

Wes Hendrick

Erlon and May Dell Turner

Jim & Bertha O'Rourke

Robert & Rosalie Turner

Jim & Bertha O'Rourke

Theresa Turner

Larry Witzeling

Sandi Witzeling

Jim & Hellen Wood

Steve & Sandee Holloway

HONOR GIFTS

Sept. 9, 2012—

Feb. 26, 2013

Paula Dawson

Dan & Anne Bateman

Olivia Delgado-Price

John & Nancy Speck

Virginia Ebeling

Mike & Dawn Kurschat

Bruce & Judy Foulk

Dave & Cindy Schofield

Terrill Hall

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Mary Ann Jones

Art & Marge Pope

Holly Lemons

Jeff Lemons

Marty Morrice

Joe & Sarah Reddick

Mary Motsinger's 107th birthday

Martha Bouman

Alan Mulally

James & Helen Costello

Ida Palmer

James & Helen Costello

Garth Pleasant

Don & Carmen Meyer

Helen Slater

James & Helen Costello

Lorene Temple

Bob & Linda Jones

Nancy Manley

rochester in RETROSPECT



1995

THE BUSINESS OF *Higher Education*

Natalie Atkinson completed a marketing internship with General Motors in 1995, a year before earning her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Rochester College. Natalie was one of the college's first graduates in the business program. She began full-time employment with General Motors upon graduation and now works as Cadillac's manager of aftersales for the entire northeast region of the United States.

Since approval of the business degree in 1993, 932 students have earned the BBA from Rochester College. The addition of this degree launched a decade of program development, including numerous bachelor's degree majors and transition to full senior-college status.

The college added its first master's degree in 2005, which has developed into the missional leadership program. As college leaders look to the future, they have identified the addition of master's degree programs in business, psychology and education as institutional priorities. Stay tuned for further developments!



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Fletcher Shinsky GOLF CLASSIC

NEW TIME & LOCATION

Monday, August 5th • 11 a.m.

Founded in 1981 by former President Milton Fletcher, the Fletcher-Shinsky Golf Classic provides a fellowship opportunity for golfing friends and RC alumni. In addition to honoring Fletcher, the golf outing remembers Bill Shinsky, long-time RC coach and faculty member. Sponsorship donations from the event go toward student scholarships.

Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club

455 Twin Lakes Drive | Oakland, Michigan
www.mytwinlakesgc.com

\$150 per golfer*

Includes range balls, 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, buffet dinner and soft drinks. Registrations must be received by Monday, July 19. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

www.rc.edu/golfclassic

