



PRESENTS

55th ANNUAL
**Partnership
Dinner**

FEATURING

Sean Astin

*best known for starring in
The Goonies, Rudy,
and The Lord of the Rings*

Royal Park Hotel
Rochester, Michigan

April 11, 2026
6:30pm



Sean Astin

Rochester Christian University's 55th annual Partnership Dinner, sponsored by Chief Financial Credit Union, will feature actor Sean Astin on Saturday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester, Michigan.

Astin is best known for his roles in several iconic films. He first gained widespread recognition as Mikey Walsh in *The Goonies* (1985), capturing audiences with his adventurous spirit and heartfelt leadership. Astin later inspired viewers as the determined and loyal Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger in *Rudy* (1993) and earned global acclaim for his portrayal of Samwise Gamgee, the courageous and devoted companion in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Astin has appeared in more than 50 films throughout his career, along with over 100 acting credits across television, voice work and streaming projects. An Academy Award nominee and Screen Actors Guild Award winner, Astin has directed and produced award-recognized short films and recently made his Broadway debut as Santa in *Elf The Musical*. He was also recently elected president of the Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.



Thank you
for partnering with
Rochester Christian University

Since 1972, Partnership Dinner has been a cherished tradition that has raised funds for student scholarships. What was once held on campus, and at Cobo Hall (now Huntington Place) in Detroit, Partnership Dinner celebrates 54 years of success and is now hosted at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester, Michigan.



Previous speakers include former First Lady Barbara Bush, former United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton, New York Times best seller, Bob Goff and most recently, Detroit Lions' Kicker, Jake Bates.



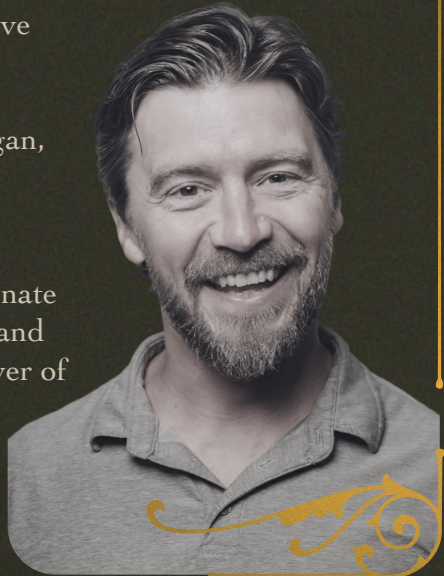
Ryan Koral

2026 Alumnus of the Year

Ryan Koral is an educator, creator, and entrepreneur whose passion for storytelling began during his time at Rochester Christian University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communications in 2002. As a student, Ryan launched several campus initiatives, including: the reflective worship event, The Offering and a concert series featuring nationally recognized Christian artists. Ryan demonstrated an early commitment to building community and creating meaningful experiences.

After graduation, Ryan discovered his calling in visual storytelling while working in enrollment, eventually founding Tell Studios in 2012. Today, he produces films that help founders and organizations articulate their purpose and impact. In addition to filmmaking, Ryan mentors entrepreneurs through coaching, courses, and his widely followed podcast, “Grow Your Video Business” for creative business owners.

Ryan lives in Clarkston, Michigan, with his wife, Andrea, (2004 alumnus) and their three children, Evan, Charlotte, and Hazel, where he remains passionate about community, storytelling, and helping others discover the power of their own story.



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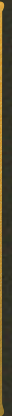
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800 W. Avon Rd. Rochester Hills, MI 48307 | 248.218.2000 | rcu.edu