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Rochester College News

Volume 43 Number One FALL 2001

Kresge Foundation awards largest grant in RC history

The Kresge Foundation recently awarded Rochester College a \$400,000 challenge grant to be used for construction of a new library and for renovation of the Muirhead Library into an adult education and family counseling center.

"This is the largest foundation gift in the history of Rochester College," said Dr. Ken Johnson, college president. "That a major national foundation wants to assist the advancement of the college is assurance that we have a dynamic future ahead of us."

The grant approval followed the breaking of ground for the 17,500 square foot Ennis and Nancy Ham Library, scheduled for completion by August 2002. The two-story building will feature a fully automated library, classrooms and a 30-terminal computer lab.

"The Kresge grant is an important benchmark," said Birgie Niemann, associate vice president for corporate and foundation relations. "It will open doors to other foundations and new donors."

Based in Troy, Michigan, The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation created from the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge, founder of the Kmart Corporation. At the time of the grant announcement, the foundation had awarded 129 grants in 2001 for a total of \$92.9 million. Recent grant recipients include California State University, Johns Hopkins University and Wayne State University.

Niemann said applying for the grant was no easy task.

"We submitted a proposal in March 2001 that outlined our history, our goals and our strategy for meeting those goals," said Niemann. "They asked a lot of questions about our financial status and enrollment projections. They also wanted a very detailed fundraising plan."

Niemann explained that the fundraising plan was not only important for winning Kresge's approval but will be vital to meeting the foundation's challenge



DIGGING INTO THE FUTURE. (left to right) Library benefactors Ennis and Nancy Ham of Lansing, Michigan, Pat Somerville, mayor of Rochester Hills, David Katulic, mayor of Rochester, Dr. Howard Hagerman, chairman of the Rochester College Board of Trustees and Dr. Ken Johnson, president of Rochester College, turn the first shovels of dirt on the site of the new 17,500 square foot Ennis and Nancy Ham Library. Construction began in November and is scheduled for completion in August 2002. Photo by Rebecca Touchstone.



Former British PM to address RC community

Former British Prime Minister John Major will address the Rochester College community at Partnership Dinner, May 11, 2002. The event, which raises funds for scholarships, will take place at the Cobo Center in Detroit.

"Partnership Dinner gets better every year," said Dr. Ken Johnson, college president. "We're pleased to bring outstanding world leaders such as John Major to the Rochester College community and the Midwest."

Recent Partnership Dinner

speakers include former first lady Barbara Bush, current Secretary of State Colin Powell and Elizabeth Dole, former executive director of the American Red Cross and wife of 1996 Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole.

Established in 1970 to raise funds for construction of Alma Gatewood Hall, Partnership Dinner evolved into RC's largest fundraising event, drawing attendees from the Midwest and beyond. Proceeds from the dinner pay for institutional scholarships.

According to Partnership Dinner director Elton Albright, the dinner's appeal broadens each year.

"This year we wanted to bring an international perspective," said Albright. "Mr. Major will speak on the current state of world issues, especially the war on terrorism."

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1990 to 1997, Major gave full support to the

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Together, we can...

Dear friends,

For many years, you and other faithful supporters have prayed "the prayer of Jabez", that God would "enlarge the borders" of Rochester College. God is answering your prayers.

For the first time, Rochester College seems likely to cross the 1,000 student threshold this academic year. If the new war on terrorism does not negatively impact our efforts, that goal will be achieved, according to our projections, sometime between December and April, as growth of our College of Extended Learning continues to attract new adult students at staggered dates throughout the year.

Although our campus in Rochester cannot serve a student body of 1,000 until next academic year, we are able to accomplish this goal ahead of schedule because of relationships at a number of off-site locations where we are able to deliver courses and pursue our mission.

At the same time, we are moving ahead with essential construction at our home base on Avon Road, so that the Rochester location will develop into a vibrant, premier, residential campus known widely for producing career-ready graduates who have well-developed Christian values.

For decades many trustees, employees, Associates, alumni, and friends have worked tirelessly toward a common goal in Christian higher education. In steadily increasing measures, you are experiencing the joy of goal achievement.

Thank you, alumni and friends, for fanning the flame, for pushing us onward and upward, for your sacrifices to make it all happen. Together we can . . .

Cordially,

Kenneth L. Johnson

Dr. Ken Johnson
President

Six straight years of record growth

This fall, Rochester College recorded its sixth consecutive year of unprecedented enrollment growth. As of November, the college reported 950 students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Extended Learning.

"We give credit to God for six straight years of growth," said Dr. Ken Johnson. "We're pleased with this year's numbers and we're confident that the best is yet to come."

State of the college address

In his recent 'state of the college' address before RC's faculty and staff, Dr. Ken Johnson reviewed the accomplishments of the 2000-2001 academic year. Johnson noted the addition of three new bachelor's degree programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, three new bachelor's degree programs in the College of Extended Learning, the appointment of four new trustees, 37 new administrative staff, 13 new faculty and the establishment of the Rochester Institute for Family Studies.

RC attends Celebration 2001 in Dallas, Texas

Eleven members of RC's administration and faculty traveled to Dallas in July to participate in Celebration 2001, a conference celebrating higher education in Churches of Christ.

Five RC personnel made presentations at the event: Tracey Hebert, vice president for the College of Extended Learning, Beth VanRheenen, assistant professor of English, Dr. David Fleer, professor of religion and communication, Dr. Michael Westerfield, provost and Dr. Ken Johnson, president.

News Briefs

44th Bible Lectureship makes IMPACT

Leading Christian scholars and writers appeared at IMPACT, the 44th Annual Rochester College Bible Lectureship, held October 19-21. The 2001 edition of the lectureship marked the first time the event took place on a weekend.

Several hundred people from seven states and Canada turned out to hear lectures by Tim Woodroof, Rubel Shelly and Dean Smith. Popular youth worship leader Shannon Williams, RC professor Dr. Craig Bowman and Dr. Paul Watson rounded out the program. Dr. Nick Stinnett conducted a seminar based on his book, *Fantastic Families*.

"The weekend format gave working families, young couples and non-staff church members more access to our program," said Doug Edwards, chairman of the IMPACT planning committee. "We wanted IMPACT to appeal to Christians from of all ages and from all walks of life."

Office gets new name

Reflecting RC's latest strides, the development office recently changed its name to the Office for Institutional Advancement.

"We wanted a name that would represent our special role in the progress of Rochester College," said Doug Edwards, vice president for institutional advancement. "The advancement team is charged with sharing the Rochester College vision with people and organizations of like mind."

Library joins consortium

Muirhead Library recently joined the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET), a consortium of southeast Michigan private and public libraries.

Autumn on the radio

RC's vocal ensemble, Autumn, recently made a guest appearance on the 'Doc and Dave Show' on AM 600 CKAT in North Bay, Ontario, Canada.

RC News on line

Rochester College unveiled its new on-line news site last summer at www.rc.edu/news. The news site features up-to-date stories and briefs that cover every aspect of the RC community.

"On-line news is the best place for alumni, friends, students and fans of Rochester College to get accurate information on the latest developments at RC," said Dr. Ken Johnson. "I strongly encourage people to go to the Web site and share in the exciting news that comes out of RC on an almost daily basis."

Seminar draws record crowds

The annual Jim Wood Leadership Seminar, held in June, drew its largest crowd ever. Seminar director Elton Albright said about 360 people attended the two-day meeting anchored by popular author and speaker Dr. Lynn Anderson.

A Cappella Chorus joins elite ranks

RC's showcase musical ensemble, A Cappella Chorus, recently accepted an invitation to perform in January, 2002, at the Midwestern Conference on School Vocal and Instrumental Music in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Michigan Music Educators Association chooses only one college or university each year to perform for a 'who's who' audience of music directors from all over the Midwest. Based on an audition, the MMEA selected Rochester College for that honor.

North Star

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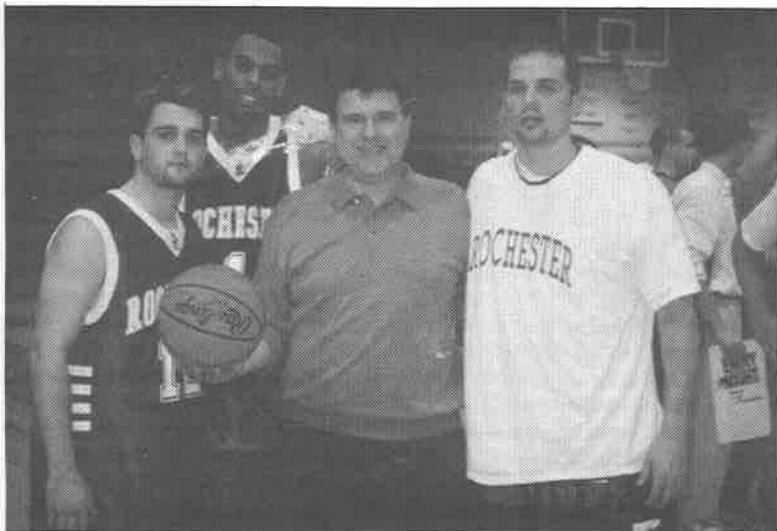
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Have love, will travel. Sophomore Erin Beamer warms up to her new Honduran friends. Thirteen students joined summer 2001 missions to places such as Honduras, Brazil and Kenya. Photo by Erin Beamer.



Chief among Warriors. Warriors captains (l to r) Johnny Pleasant, Mike Robinson and Josh Graves pose with Coach Garth Pleasant (middle) after Pleasant's 500th career win. Photo by George Evjen.

Five hundred (and counting)

Pleasant's win total third highest in Michigan history

In November, Rochester College men's basketball coach Garth Pleasant won the 500th game of his 28-year head coaching career. Only two other Michigan college basketball coaches, active or inactive, have won more games.

The Warriors secured the historic victory 96-83 over Aquinas College in Grand Valley, Michigan.

"The Rochester College community is proud of Coach Pleasant," said Dr. Ken Johnson. "What Coach has accomplished here reflects the sterling quality of his character and his ability to bring out the very best in his players."

Pleasant's 500th win represents the latest in a long line of milestones over a career that spans four decades. Since he began coaching at RC in 1978, Pleasant has led the team to one NSCAA national championship and four appearances in the NSCAA national finals. In 1986 and 1996, the NSCAA named Pleasant its National Coach of the Year.

Pleasant, an all-conference standout as a Warrior player in the late 1960's, returned to his alma mater as head coach in 1972. In 1973, he moved to Georgia to coach at Georgia Christian School. Pleasant returned as the Warriors' head coach in 1978, where he has remained ever since.

"I've coached over 750 games and I've never played a second in any of them," said Pleasant. "The credit belongs to the outstanding

young men who played for me over the last 28 years."

Despite his impressive resumé, Pleasant said he didn't set too many goals at the beginning of his head coaching career.

"Rochester College was only a two-year school when I became head coach," said Pleasant. "My goal at the time was for the college to be one of the top two-year basketball schools in the state of Michigan."

Pleasant and his Warriors exceeded that goal when they became one of the top small college basketball teams in the nation, winning the NSCAA national championship in 1989.

Coach Pleasant said that what made his 500th win special was the way the game ended. As the final seconds ticked away, Pleasant's son, Johnny, a senior point guard for the Warriors, caught a rebound and began dribbling aimlessly around the court.

"I wasn't thinking about winning number 500, I was thinking about winning *that game*," said Pleasant. "He was dribbling the ball around and I was thinking, 'What is he doing?'"

As the last four seconds ticked away, Johnny made a beeline toward his dad.

"When he started dribbling toward me I realized what he was doing," said Pleasant. As the final second ticked away, Johnny handed his dad the ball. "That's what I'll always remember about that game." ns

Coach Pleasant's career highlights

- Overall career record (RC and Georgia Christian): 500-267 (.652), 29 complete seasons.
- Third winningest college basketball coach in Michigan history
- Led Warriors to NSCAA National Championship in 1989
- Led Warriors to NSCAA National Finals in 1984, 1994 and 1996
- Named NSCAA National Coach of the Year in 1986 and 1996
- Named College Coach of the Year in 1989 by the Basketball Coaching Association of Michigan
- Coached 11 All-Americans in 24 seasons at Rochester College
- Oldest son, Klint, is an assistant men's basketball coach at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio
- Younger son, Johnny, is a senior point guard on the RC varsity team
- Minister at the Lake Orion Church of Christ for over 20 years.

New CIO: RC wired for the 21st century

Rochester College recently named Ed Miller as its first chief information officer, a position created earlier this year. Miller will manage strategic operation of the information technology services (ITS) group.

"ITS is playing an increasingly vital role at every level of the college's operations," said Mark VanRheenen, executive vice president. "Mr. Miller's wealth of management experience will enhance the ability of ITS to service the information needs of the college."

ITS maintains and supports all computer hardware and software used by the college to conduct business, manage data and educate students.

Miller worked for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for over 32 years in Missouri, Illinois and Oregon. As manager of terminal operations, he managed over 80 people and directed the complex logistical processes that kept the railroad running on time. After a three-year retirement in Searcy, Arkansas, Miller decided to get back to work.

"I'd been praying that God would lead me to a ministry," said Miller. "That's when Dr. Johnson called and invited me to work at Rochester College."

Miller said his goals as CIO revolve around meeting the technology and information needs of RC's students, faculty and administrators.

"We have to be proactive," said Miller. "We have to do our best to obtain the best technology and make sure everyone in the organization knows how to use it. Technology, when it's used properly, continuously enhances the education we offer our students. Students are the bottom line."

Several challenges Miller and his ITS team must face include

the burgeoning of RC's physical plant, increased demand for help desk service from college personnel and information tools that, for one reason or another, are underutilized.

"We've got good challenges like getting the new library set up next year and converting the president's house into offices," said Miller. "But I'm also beginning to discover a lack of software training and knowledge among some personnel. When that happens, people either use information tools improperly or not at all."

Miller is confident, however, that with end-user training and the introduction of new processes that are geared for a growing or-

We have a larger percentage of classrooms equipped with technology than many major universities.

Mark VanRheenen

ganization, RC's day-to-day business operations will begin running more and more like a well-oiled machine. The trick, he said, is delivering useful technology and user assistance in a timely and cost-effective manner.

"We've got very capable, very qualified people in the ITS group," said Miller. "And we've got the support of the administration. I'm confident that we will stay a step ahead of RC's technology needs."

Tech investment paying off

Not to be outdone by the rest of the world in the late 1990s, RC invested a great deal in promising new technology. But unlike the dot-com bonanza that went bust in 2000, RC's investment in technology is still growing.

"Technology affects every part of our operations at Rochester College," said VanRheenen. "Our ability to generate new revenue, conduct day-to-day business and educate students depends on technology that works."

RC's recognition of this fact led to an increase in the range and scope of technology use on campus in the late 1990's. One example VanRheenen pointed out is the installation of internet ports and computer projection units in almost every classroom.

"We have a larger percentage of classrooms equipped with technology than many major universities," said VanRheenen. "There are still a lot of universities out there whose classrooms aren't equipped for modern business."

VanRheenen listed three other major technology changes that took place since he came to work at the college in 1998.

"First, our ITS group has grown by an average of one new full time team member for each year I've been here," said VanRheenen. "Not only that, but the quality of our ITS personnel is improving every year."

"Second, getting all departments onto the CAMS database was very important from an operational perspective," said VanRheenen. "Prior to CAMS, departmental offices used different databases so we ended up with three or four 'islands' of information that couldn't interface."

CAMS joined the "islands" of information into one comprehensive database, allowing each office to share accurate data with other offices.

"The third major improvement is the reliability and security of our technology platform," said VanRheenen. "We now have backup servers, for example, so that if our primary server crashes we won't lose valuable data." ns



Standing room only. At the first assembly of the 2001-2002 academic year, Dr. Ken Johnson addresses the largest student body in Rochester College history. The college posted its sixth consecutive year of record enrollment. With new construction and new academic programs on the way, Johnson said RC is on target to reach 1,500 students by 2005. Photo by Brad Irwin.

STUDENTNEWS

Tamara (Tittle) Johnson, a senior marketing major from Auburn Hills, Michigan, recently completed a corporate marketing internship at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Kyle Martin, a senior marketing major from Owosso, Michigan, is a corporate marketing intern at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Amanda Stevens, a freshman English major from Ray, Michigan, won the Mary Kay Davis annual writing contest and received recognition at the 40th Annual Writers' Conference in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

STAFF NEWS

Dr. Craig Bowman, professor of Old Testament, taught last summer at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

Dr. David Fleer, professor of religion and communication, completed his third sermon seminar book, *Preaching Like Paul in Romans*, ACU Press, Abilene.

Tracey Hebert was promoted to vice president for the College of Extended Learning.

Debi Hoggatt (88), assistant professor of early childhood, was chosen by the *Early Childhood Higher Education Faculty Initiative* to represent RC at three national conferences in 2002.

Dr. Andy Kronenwetter, associate professor of communication, received the PhD from Wayne State University.

Religion faculty will publish essays in honor of Dr. Steve Eckstein in *Restoration Quarterly*.

Dr. Greg Stevenson, professor of religion and Greek, recently completed his book, *Power and Place: Temple and Identity in the Book of Revelation*, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin.

Lynne Stewart (74) was named education certification officer.

Dr. Brian Stogner (80), professor of psychology, lectured at the American Psychology Association national meeting.

Dr. Michael Westerfield, provost, was named 'Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Arts and Humanities at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

New faces: **Jeff Bennett (98)**, Webmaster. **Pamela Burr**, CEL program director. **Jim Dawson**, associate professor of education. **Tom Golden**, assistant professor of English. **Dr. Keith Huey**, registrar, associate professor of religion. **Mark Johnson (01)**, IT hardware technician. **Kristy Wells (01)**, library technical services manager.



Moving mountains. Heavy equipment levels the site of the Ennis and Nancy Ham Library. Construction began in November. Photo by Brad Irwin.



Hang time. Students and faculty 'hang out' in the Solid Rock Café, housed in the Isom Atrium. Photo by Brad Irwin.

Memory Lane. Families peruse the 'memorial bricks' on the Associates Plaza. The plaza, paid for by the Associates of Rochester College, was dedicated September 8. Photo by Brad Irwin



Call it 'collegiate'

Students agree: Campus is growing up

Fifty years ago the city of Rochester Hills didn't exist, Avon Road was a dusty country lane and the property now occupied by Rochester College was the country estate of Lou Maxon and his corn-farming neighbors, the Gieroks.

From cornfields to classrooms, Rochester College's 83 acres have changed dramatically during the past 44 years. Those changes continued in 2001 as the college spent \$500,000 to build new facilities and upgrade old ones.

During the past 12 months, RC dedicated the Isom Atrium and Associates Plaza, broke ground on a 17,500 square foot library, completely renovated Westside-Central Auditorium, constructed a new 120-space parking lot, installed new technology in residence halls and classrooms, implemented a student swipe card system and beautified campus with new landscaping and flowers.

"We are building a functional campus that meets the academic, personal and spiritual needs of our rapidly growing student body," said Dr. Ken Johnson, RC president. "We're also creating the kind of aesthetics that make our campus a very enjoyable place to be."

New construction has been powered by six straight years of record enrollment growth and the \$9 million *Catch the Vision* project. With several key academic programs in the works, including a master's program and the new education program, and projected enrollment of 1,500 by 2005, Johnson said he expects campus construction to accelerate over the next few years.

"The new library will only be the beginning," said Johnson. "We expect to build another residence hall, new athletic center, performing arts building and administration building in the next few years."

In addition to new buildings, Johnson pointed to several other forthcoming projects, including the conversion of Muirhead Library into classrooms and offices for the College of Extended Learning, installation of new soccer and softball fields, and a Lake Norcentra restoration project that will coincide with construction of a public pedestrian trail along the former Grand Trunk rail road.

"It's the snowball effect," said Johnson. "The campus transformation began slowly in 1997 but is gaining size and speed as the college grows."

Seniors like what they see

Nobody knows more about Rochester College 'then and now' than the seniors who witnessed the beginning of the renaissance in 1997, the year Ferndale Hall, Hoggatt Hall and Dearborn Commons opened their doors.

"The mood on campus really changed once the new residence halls opened," said senior English major Tina Ries, who began her RC career that year. "Students really started to believe that the leadership's vision was going to come true."

Justin Lewis attended RC before the new dorms opened.

"I attended RC from 1992 to 1994, left for a few years and returned this fall to finish my psychology degree," said Lewis. "The difference between living on campus in 1992 and living on campus in 2001 is like night and day. Ferndale and Hoggatt have made a big impact on campus life."

Senior Christy Buck, from Nashville, Tennessee, said campus has changed in more ways than just bricks and mortar.

"The best change I've seen since my freshman year is the growing sense of community and student involvement," said Buck. "But that new sense is helped along by new buildings like the residence halls and Isom Atrium."

Ries said she thinks Isom Atrium, home of the Solid Rock Café, is the best new building because students have a 'hang out' spot in a central location. During normal school days, Isom attracts crowds of students who eat, socialize and study in good company.

One aspect of the atrium that Lewis likes especially is internet ports at every table.

"Access to technology has really improved," said Lewis. "Students have access to the internet from about any spot on campus."

In addition to internet ports in Isom Atrium, the college wired most student residences and classrooms for internet access. The college also installed mini computer labs in each residence hall and built-in presentation technology in classrooms and Westside-Central Auditorium. The new Ham Library will feature a computer lab with 30 terminals.

So what do these long-timers foresee in the next five years?

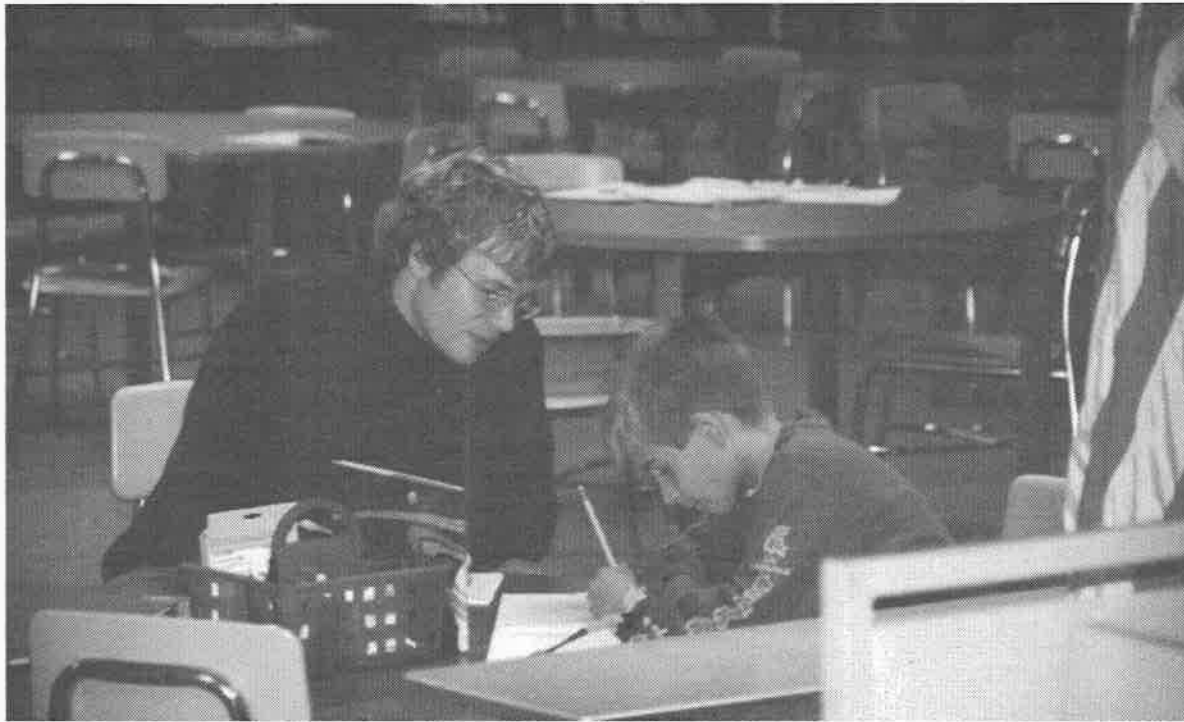
"We'll have even more advanced technology in the classrooms," said Ries. "And the student body will be a lot bigger."

"For certain we'll have the new library and an athletic center," said Buck. "And I think there will be a ton of people on campus."

"We really need an athletic center to attract more athletes and build the athletic program," said Lewis. "It would also be good for student health and fitness."

All three agreed that the recent changes point to an amazing future.

"We're going to keep on growing because we've got good leadership with good vision," said Lewis. "Our leaders look to the Lord before making decisions. The sky's the limit!" ns



Perpetual education. Rochester College senior education major Ryan Peasley tutors Steven Pasque, a fifth grader at Wattles Elementary School in Troy, Michigan. Photo by Brad Irwin.

RC to be alma mater of top teachers

State grants preliminary approval for teacher certification program

Like the proud parents of any five-year-old, RC's leadership must wonder how the education department grew up so fast.

In May, the Michigan Board of Education granted Rochester College preliminary approval to develop a teacher certification program, putting RC much closer to becoming a credential-granting institution in its own right.

"The conceptual framework for our education program will be completed by the end of 2001," said Dr. Michael Westerfield, RC provost. "The conceptual framework includes the program's mission statement, personnel requirements, student requirements, technology standards, diversity training standards and the Christian component."

Since its birth in 1996, education has become the fastest-growing program at Rochester College despite what some education students might consider the cumbersome experience of attending two colleges at once: RC for major subject areas and education curriculum, and Madonna University for actual certification.

That will change once the state grants probationary approval.

"When our conceptual framework is finished the state will visit us sometime in 2002," said Westerfield. "Once that visit is made, we anticipate the state will grant probationary approval. That means Rochester College may begin recommending candidates for certification. We expect that to occur sometime in late 2002 or early 2003."

Building a 'grade A' program

According to Westerfield, RC's education program will be on the cutting edge of teacher training.

"Because we're a new program, we'll be able to apply a lot of new research to the construction of

our conceptual framework," said Westerfield. "For example, RC education students will benefit from the latest research on how a child's brain functions and how children learn."

Linda Park, assistant professor of education, added that research shows education students get better training and perform better when they attend a small liberal arts college.

"We're small enough that we can make changes and adapt to the latest developments in the

Teacher education will be one of the most significant positive changes that will ever occur at RC.

Dr. Ken Johnson

education field," said Park.

One of the biggest innovations used by the education department will be the inclusion of 'front line' personnel such as full-time teachers and administrators.

"We're developing a teacher advisory board that will include people from our local elementary and secondary schools," said Lynne Stewart, RC's new education certification officer. "We also want to include local school administrators who will help us better understand what they're looking for in teachers."

Several local principals expressed excitement as soon as RC approached them about serving on the advisory board.

"Local administrators are eager to have a hand in helping train future teachers that will eventually come to their schools

and teach," said Westerfield.

Vikki Bentley, associate professor of education added, "The population and diversity of the Detroit metro area gives RC a great adjunct faculty pool."

Not only will the education department bring some of the best and brightest practitioners to Rochester College, but education students will have ample opportunities to visit the places those practitioners work.

"Classroom management, for example, will probably be taught at a school where RC students can see the application rather than sitting in a classroom back at RC and just talking about classroom management," said Westerfield. "Our program will also provide students with classroom experience before they ever make a decision to be teachers," said Westerfield. "That will eliminate situations where a student invests three or four years of his or her time in an education major only to find that he or she doesn't like working in a classroom."

Reflecting the growing diversity in American classrooms, including its own, Rochester College will emphasize the importance of learning to teach in many cultural contexts.

"Our students will have opportunities to work in culturally diverse settings," said Jim Dawson, associate professor of education. "RC's education program design will provide some very unique classroom environments."

One final, but important, element of the program will be its emphasis on content.

"When an RC student chooses to teach history, that student is going to be a history expert by the time he or she graduates," said Westerfield. "We believe our students will be better teachers because they're going to be grounded in a discipline." ns

Westerfield added that in many education programs, students receive very little concentrated training in a particular discipline such as English, history or music. The RC program will train "experts" that will be prepared to teach a discipline with full confidence that they know what they're talking about.

Big changes in store

Westerfield emphasized that state approval will change more than the education department.

"Teacher education will be one of the most significant positive changes that will ever occur at RC," said Dr. Ken Johnson, president. "Students, teachers, children, the community, churches and the college will grow because of our education program."

Westerfield shared three ways that the new education program will significantly affect the Rochester College community:

First, the education major—already RC's most popular—will affect the allocation of resources.

"As education grows, more human and capital resources will be dedicated to building that program," said Westerfield.

Second, the education program will 'rub off' on any liberal arts major that could be credentialed for teaching—currently English, general science, history, communication and music. Since RC's education program will be content-driven, education students will major in a liberal arts area, thus raising enrollment in each of those respective departments. Westerfield said that new faculty hires over the next few years will be directly related to the growth of liberal arts majors connected to the education program.

"A liberal arts major is more attractive to a student when he or she can also certify to teach that discipline," said Westerfield.

Third, the quality of RC's liberal arts programs will increase significantly to meet state certification requirements.

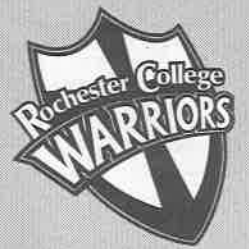
"Every department that relates to education will be required to write objectives for every course they teach," said Westerfield. "This will affect the focus and results of each program."

Greater Rochester and surrounding communities such as Pontiac and Detroit will benefit as well, said Westerfield.

"This is going to bring more students and more education graduates to southeast Michigan," said Westerfield. "Those are people who live, work and spend money here. Not to mention they will meet this community's need for teachers."

"We hope this will help keep Christian teachers in this part of the country," added Dawson. "This will benefit the growth of the local church."

"We're going to train teachers who see the world through Christian eyes," said Westerfield. "Whether they're in a private or public school, they won't be ashamed to let their Christianity affect the way they teach." ns



Shinsky inducted to Sports Hall of Fame

On November 12, Rochester College inducted legendary Coach Bill Shinsky into its new Sports Hall of Fame. Coach Shinsky served as men's basketball coach, baseball coach and athletic director during his 32 year career (1960-1992).

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Coach Garth Pleasant recently won his 500th career coaching victory, making him the second winningest active college basketball coach in the state of Michigan. The Warriors started the 2001-2002 season 5-0.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

First year head coach Jeff Debandt inherits only two veterans from the 2000 squad. Former Lady Warrior All-American Kristan Tuori will join Debandt as assistant coach.

MEN'S SOCCER

Led by freshman All-American Kevin Garner, the Warriors won six of their last seven games to finish 8-7-2.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Led by first year coach Julie Coss, the Lady Warriors underwent a 'youth movement' in 2001. An intense defensive front was undermined by youthful inexperience, resulting in a record of 3-31. Six starters will return next season, led by freshman standout Krystal Lambert and sophomore Inga Vandermark.

CROSS COUNTRY

Junior running sensation Jim Primeau led the Warriors and Lady Warriors into the NCCAA National Meet in November.

GEO RC's international studies program takes off



Last summer, students and faculty completed the first term of GEO, RC's international studies program. Nine students and three professors studied in Aberdeen, Scotland, and three students and one professor studied in Vienna, Austria.

The Summer 2001 GEO expedition served as a 'trial run' of the permanent, semester-long program the college hopes to put in place by 2003.

"I think one of the most important things our students realized about people from other countries is that they're not wrong, they're not weird, they don't drive on the 'wrong side of the road'—they're just different," said Dr. Andy Kronenwetter, one of three professors in the Scotland group. "For the students, being there just made it plainer than I could have made it in the classroom."

Three students shared their reflections on their summer abroad:

Alex Waites (GEO Vienna) is a junior double major (Bible and music) from Hebron, Kentucky. **Casey Arnett** (GEO Scotland) is a junior English major from Livonia, Michigan. **Natalie Burcham** (GEO Vienna) is a junior English major from Romeo, Michigan. Here's what Alex, Casey and Natalie had to say about GEO:

North Star: What GEO experience made the biggest impression on you?

Alex: I attended a concert where I couldn't understand a word the violinist said between songs, but when he played, the audience and I were suddenly speaking the same language. Music transcends nationality.

Casey: I've always wanted to go to Rome. Half the time [we were in Rome] we didn't even talk. We just looked at each other with our mouths open. It was overwhelming to think that the apostle Paul walked those streets 2,000 years ago.

Natalie: The Mauthausen concentration camp was a strange experience. It was a fascinating place to visit but also very sad because of what happened there. It's hard to believe what people can do to other people.

North Star: What is the most important lesson you learned from your GEO experience?

Alex: People are connected to each other just by the fact that they're people. The sky is blue here just like the sky is blue in Vienna. People here enjoy the blue sky just like people in Vienna enjoy the blue sky. I also learned that America is a great place to be. It's great to live in a country where I can travel freely, drive my own car, vote or go for a burger at 11 p.m.

Casey: It was amazing to see people from so many cultures and to think that God made them all. We went to churches in every country we visited and it was amazing that no matter what language the people spoke, their worship all went to the same God. God seems much bigger to me after GEO.

Natalie: In America we think there's a 'right way to do things'—but GEO helped me realize that that's only the right way to do things in *our* culture. Other cultures do things different. I'll keep that in mind from now on when I meet people from other countries.

I also learned a lot from Rome. The Roman Empire was the most powerful nation in the world but it still fell because it collapsed from within.

North Star: How will your GEO experience help you in your career?

Alex: GEO will help me as a minister because ministers need to have a diverse background. They need to know what's going on in the world and have lots of experience at living in the world.

Natalie: You could plop me down in any city in the world and I could find a place to stay, get food to eat and navigate my way out. I'm more confident now. I learned how to communicate with people from a different culture and, thanks to the markets in Florence [Italy], how to negotiate with people from a different culture.

North Star: How will your GEO experience help you in life?

Alex: I appreciate life a lot more. I saw so much beauty: art, history and mountains, etc.

Casey: I have a better understanding of my place in the world. It was humbling to be outside the United States and to get the perspective of other countries.

Natalie: GEO gave me a wider view of the world. I learned a lot about myself by learning about other parts of the human race.

North Star: Would you recommend GEO to your classmates?

Alex: If you enjoy learning and are not afraid to try new things.

Casey: Yes. I think everybody should leave the country for a while. I loved being in the UK. Even though it's an English-speaking country it's still so different from here.

Natalie: Absolutely. As a student, GEO will expand your worldview. You find out how small you really are and that what you know about life is not all there is to it. ns



PHOTO BY RYAN KORAL



PHOTO BY RYAN KORAL



Enduring Freedom

"Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans..." President John F. Kennedy



No generation presently living in the United States will be tested more by the War on Terrorism than the generation of Americans that is now attending high school and college. These are the young men and women who will fight our battles. These are the young men and women who will grow into preachers, businesspeople, teachers and presidents. The destiny of the United States and the entire world will hinge on their choices and actions. The students of Rochester College are no exception. How will this current generation of Rochester College students respond to the world that erupted on September 11?

LEFT: More powerful than a bomb. Students, staff and faculty gathered several times to pray in the wake of the September 11 attacks. On Thursday, September 13, campus shut down briefly at noon so the RC community could pray at Associates Plaza. The prayers of these students will change the world. Photo by Brian Faust.

A STUDENT'S RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 11

During his freshman year of college, my roommate, Scott, suddenly lost his mind to a brain tumor. The first time Scott described that experience, I expected to hear tones of resentment or questioning in his voice. If anyone had a right to be angry with God, didn't he? But instead of doubt, he expressed faith.

Most of us don't know what lies within us until hardship comes. One author wrote, "Adversity has a curious way of introducing a man to himself."

Then personal tragedies take a back seat to national ones. September 11: A day that forced the strongest believer to utter thoughts of despair and contemplation. Where was God, and why didn't he intervene?

Most people hope for a world where the innocent don't suffer or die tragically. Unbelieving humanity, after September 11, may have given up on such a place. But believers hold on to the hope that such a life exists beyond "this present suffering."

This new life is what we teach. It's our selling point to those who haven't bought into the gospel, and it is the compass of our daily lives. But until events like September 11, we sometimes forget that this new life is not of this world. We mistakenly believe that because God is just and He created the world, the world is just. Events like September 11 jolt us from our spiritual stalemate and make us aware that we live in anticipation of another world.

If you are anything like me, you struggle to understand personal and national tragedy on three levels: as an American, as a human and as a Christian.

As Americans, our pride and nationalism are rattled. One heartbeat pounds with hate,

fear and shock. The next pulses a desire for peace, boldness and a spiritual fervor. As humans, our hearts shatter when we learn of the girl who lost her father, a New York City firefighter.

And as Christians, we want to have solid and powerful answers for our neighbors and co-workers who question God in times like these.

Our understanding of life, however, must be filtered in this order: Christians first, humans second and Americans last. Even though our first impulse is to flip these around, our faith demands that we see through heavenly eyes.

Most people believe the book of Job is about pain and suffering. While these are prominent themes, I believe Job is really about faith--Senseless, absurd, reckless and wild faith from a man who Satan wagered would abandon God. Job's family, wealth and health were all removed and still, Job remained faithful.

On days like September 11, I question God for allowing innocent dads, moms and children to die.

But I live with a young man who lost his father, yet clung to his Father even more. So where was God when we needed Him most?

He was right where we needed Him to be. But the day we most needed God wasn't September 11, 2001. It was the day He walked up Calvary Hill.

A roommate, a new life, a man from the Old Testament and a world tragedy: I'm amazed by how these four seemingly unrelated things blend into a glimpse of agape love. Only God could do that. ns

Josh Graves is a senior history major from Chesterfield, Mich.

Students speak:

How has your perspective on life changed since September 11?



I had to renew my faith in God and learn to lean more on Him and not on myself. Maria Robinson, senior, Clarkston, Michigan.



America may not be as strong as I always thought. All people need to stand together with God to get rid of evil in the world. Joe Howard, junior, Marion, Ohio.



When I was younger, I used to pray for the protection of the United States but I never thought anything would ever happen. Now I'm praying again. Jessyka Smith, freshman, Indianapolis, Indiana.



September 11 helped me realize that life is short and that I can't count on tomorrow to take care of things that need to be done today. Terrill Hall, junior, St. Louis, Missouri.



September 11 showed me how important my family, friends and God are to my life. Kristan Tuori, senior, Dafer, Michigan.



I'm more grateful for everything, especially my family. On the day of the attacks I just wanted to be with them. Sandy Dallas, freshman, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.



Planned Giving Matters

Doug Edwards
Vice President for
Institutional
Advancement

Terrorist attacks remind us of life's priorities

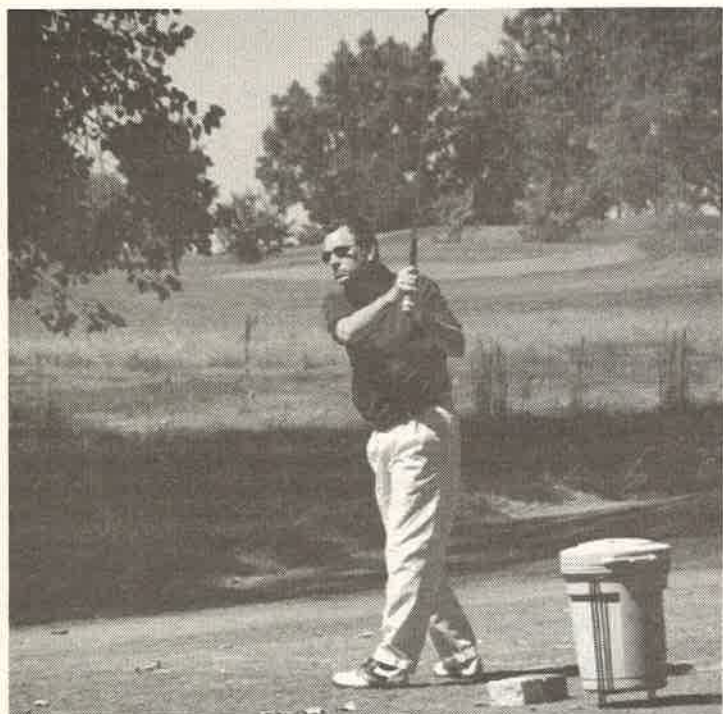
A lawyer friend, working in the Air Force Reserve, recently commented to me that many in the reserves are looking at planning their estates at this time because of the state of war with the terrorists. Emergencies like this tend to bring us all back to the fact that life on this earth is not permanent and we are just sojourners. It sometimes takes a major life tragedy, such as that of September 11, to make us stop and look at these things.

God has entrusted us with many physical blessings in this great land. As a result, we want to be stewards of those blessings in a good way as He has taught us. Financial and estate planning provides opportunities to do that. Most of us need professional advice and expertise in that process.

Our objectives might include providing for our loved ones, providing for charities, providing for organizations that carry on God's work and even providing for our local congregations. An important element of financial planning is to make sure that strategies are in place that might reduce our taxes and also reduce probate costs at death to maximize the value of our estates.

As you think about your estate plan, please remember Rochester College and consider how your estate can be a source of endowment to train strong ethical and moral leaders for the church and community. Perhaps your family lawyer or financial advisor can provide the professional services you need and that is often a good place to begin. However, be sure to find out if your professional is trained or disposed to help with the charitable side of estate planning.

Rochester College wants to be of help. I will be pleased to send you a brochure that provides a summary of some of the major planning strategies, information regarding the new tax laws or perhaps point you to someone to answer questions. Please call Doug Edwards at 248.218.2020.



Good time for a good cause. Pat Eveland tees off at the Fletcher-Shinsky Golf Classic, held last August at Greystone Golf Club in Romeo, Michigan. The Golf Classic drew 84 players and raised \$3,000 for the scholarship endowment. Photo by Brad Irwin.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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Parkside Church of Christ

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Rick and Shirley Wood

Send memorial and honor gifts to Rochester College, c/o Office of the President, 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307. Please include 1) your name and full address, 2) the name of the person you wish to honor and 3) the name and address of the person you wish to receive an acknowledgment card.

KRESGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and receiving the funds.

"To actually receive the grant we must meet our fundraising goal of \$4.43 million by December, 2002," said Niemann. "As of the end of November, \$3.6 million has been raised."

In June, the college hired Don Robinson (72) to add muscle to the fundraising team and to direct the fundraising campaign.

"Don is leading a committee of volunteers from several constituencies," said Niemann. "It will take a lot of people working together to raise the challenge balance."

Niemann explained that the Kresge challenge will benefit RC's fundraising organization far beyond 2002.

"The effort we put into fine tuning our fundraising organization for the Kresge challenge will also pay off as we approach other foundations," said Niemann. "When one foundation assists Rochester

College, it can create a snowball effect that attracts other foundations."

Niemann said a good example of the "snowball effect" is the \$246,000 Teagle Foundation grant the college received earlier this year. Part of the grant funded the new campaign director position, a key factor in securing the \$400,000 Kresge grant.

The bottom line for Rochester College, however, is not the grant itself—it's what comes from the grant.

"It's exciting to see God's hand at work," said Niemann. "I'm excited to dream about how God is going to use our students and alumni to make a difference in the world. And looking at what's going on in our world today, we need God-fearing people who have principles of integrity, courage and faith."

For additional information about the Kresge Grant, the Ennis and Nancy Ham Library and other institutional advancement projects, visit www.rc.edu and click on 'Campus Offices', then 'Institutional Advancement'. ns

MAJOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

United States during and after the Gulf War in 1991. British commitment to Desert Storm was second only to the United States. While supporting the United States in war, Major fought to bring peace to his own nation, initiating the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Upon leaving office in 1997, Major passed on to Tony Blair the strongest economy in Great Britain's history.

Mr. Major serves on the boards of several major corporations.

Partnership Dinner tickets may be purchased from Rochester College or several churches in southeast Michigan. Adult tickets are \$100 each and student tickets are \$50 each. Individuals or organizations may purchase sponsorships, which entitle them to a pre-dinner reception, special seating and a picture with Mr. Major. For additional information or to order tickets call 800.521.6010, extension 5. ns

CATCH the VISION



- \$4.43 million
Goal
- \$3.60 million
Nov 2001

The Vision is Catching On

The arrival of construction equipment on campus this month signalled the beginning of the transition from 'vision' to 'reality' for our campus master plan. If God wills, we will dedicate a new library and adult education center next year. On the horizon, we can see another residence hall, new athletic fields and building renovations.

We want you to share in Rochester College's remarkable growth. Each year, we graduate more men and women who carry the Spirit of Christ to schools, offices, homes and churches in every corner of the world. We strive to continuously improve the quality of education we provide so that the world will know that Christian graduates are the best graduates.

As we enter the home stretch of the first phase of our *Catch the Vision* project, please consider how your gift could be an investment in young men and women and the communities and churches where they will someday live and work. Your gift will apply toward construction of the new Ennis and Nancy Ham Library and renovation of the Muirhead Library.



Moving on up. The Institutional Advancement team moved its offices to the house formerly occupied by the president. Five new hires in the last year more than doubled the size of Advancement. Photo by Brad Irwin.

Bigger and better

Advancement team hires four; moves to new offices

A major component of RC's recent growth, the Institutional Advancement team (formerly Development) hired four new members in 2001 and moved into a new office suite in November.

"The advancement team is responsible for communicating the Rochester College vision to people who share the same passion for excellent Christian education," said Doug Edwards, vice president for institutional advancement. "The more effective we are at communicating that vision, the more resources the college has to educate leaders for community and church."

In 2000, the college hired **Birgie Niemann** as its full-time grant proposal writer. In just one year, Niemann made her mark, securing nearly \$700,000 in grants.

The grant money Niemann attracted funded the hiring of **Don Robinson (72)** in June. Robinson took the helm of the *Catch the Vision* project. Since Robinson's arrival, *Vision* is on target to make its \$4.43 million

goal by December 2002.

Grant money also helped the college hire **Brad Irwin (96)** to assume full-time responsibility for public relations. Irwin will focus on obtaining news media coverage of Rochester College and look for more effective ways to get RC's message to its target markets.

This fall, advancement added **Amanda Ohler** and **Gayle Mitchell** to its administrative support staff. Ohler and Mitchell will provide valuable assistance for database management and major fundraising mailings.

With four new people aboard, a growing database and more frequent mailings, the advancement team made the move this month into the president's former house. Dubbed 'the White House' by campus personnel, the new offices will give the advancement team room to spread out.

"More space means we can work more effectively together to manage the resources that will make this college grow," said Edwards. "We're on a roll!" ns

Five named to boards

Rochester College recently appointed four people to its Board of Trustees. The college also announced the formation of a new community-based board and named an acting chairman.

The Board of Trustees selected Jack Dempsey, David Litzkow, Gary Carson and Mark Kirk. The Board of Trustees also named Bill Potere as acting chairman of the newly-established Board of Regents.

Dr. Jack Dempsey of Plymouth, Michigan, is an attorney at the Dickinson-Wright Law Firm in Lansing, Michigan. He earned the BA from Michigan State University and the JD from George Washington University. Dr. Dempsey serves as an elder at the Plymouth Church of Christ where he and his wife, Suzanne, have been members for 14 years.

David Litzkow of Carmel, Indiana, retired from the St. Paul Insurance Company where he served as vice president of the Chicago region. Mr. Litzkow received the BA in 1970 from Harding University. Mr. Litzkow is an active member of the North Central Church of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Gary Carson of Clarkston, Michigan, is executive vice president of Rapid Design. He received the BSME from Tri State University and the MBA from Wright State University. An elder for the Rochester Church of Christ, Mr. Carson serves on the missions committee and is chairman of the facilities expansion committee.

Mark Kirk of Hudson, Ohio, is senior partner at Linsilata Capital, an investment banking firm in Cleveland, Ohio. He received the BBA from Harding University and attended graduate courses at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Kirk serves on committees or councils of Abilene Christian University, Harding University and Baldwin-Wallace University, and serves on the boards of several private companies. He and his wife, Robin, belong to the Cuyahoga Falls Church of Christ.

The Board of Trustees also appointed **Bill Potere**, a longtime resident and community leader in the Greater Rochester area, acting chairman of the Board of Regents. Potere also belongs to the Rochester College athletic advisory committee. The Board of Regents will be comprised of leaders from the Greater Rochester, Oakland County and Detroit metropolitan communities who share Rochester College's desire for a premier, Christian liberal arts college in southeast Michigan. The new board will concentrate on long-range development of the Rochester College campus facilities and master plan. The Board of Regents will also serve as an advisory group to the Rochester College community. ns

Ministers raise funds for religion library

Earlier this fall, 24 ministers and elders from Churches of Christ in Michigan and the Midwest set out to raise funds for RC's proposed religion library.

The new religion library, to be named for longtime RC religion professor Dr. Steve Eckstein, will serve the needs of the new master's program in religion.

The volunteers set a goal to raise most of the estimated \$250,000 cost of purchasing the thousands of volumes necessary to gain accreditation from the North Central Association.

"Our goal is to raise \$100,000 by January 1," said Dr. Russ Bone, minister at the Parkside Church of Christ in Dearborn, Michigan. "Thus far, about eight churches

have pledged support."

"RC's new religion library could be very beneficial to churches in this part of the country," said Bone. "Supporting the new library allows churches to take part in the education of students, future ministers and current ministers."

The religion library will be housed inside RC's new Ham Library, scheduled for completion next summer. Pending NCA accreditation, the college plans to launch the religion master's program late in 2002.

Bone said the volunteers would appreciate prayers and financial support. To help, call Russ Bone at 313.278.8210 or e-mail him at parkside@mich.com. ns

Yes! I/We 'caught the vision'!

I/we pledge \$ _____ to help build the new library. I/we will send our gift as follows:

\$ _____ each month for _____ months, beginning _____, or

\$ _____ each year, for _____ years, beginning _____, or

a one-time gift of \$ _____.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Alumni News and Notes

1966

Linda (Robbins) Dickerson recently reenrolled in college after her retirement. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 1933, Dolan Springs, AZ 86441.

1979

Robbie (Durocher) Reynolds, and her husband, Donald, can be contacted at 189 San Marco Boulevard, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Mark and Fenice Taylor welcomed Marie in August of 2000. Mark is an assistant professor at Berry College. The family can be contacted at P.O. Box 350, Mt. Berry, GA 30149.

1981

Terri (Howe) Hull recently completed her training as a pilot-first officer for Mesaba Airlines/Northwest Airlinck. Her husband, **Robert Hull (82)**, is the manager of Hull Brothers, Inc. The family lives at 1547 Union City Road, Fort Recovery, OH 45846.

Natalie joined Julia in the home of Kevin and **Lori (Reinholt) Shaffer** on March 2. Lori is a speech pathologist, and Kevin is a design sculptor for Ford Motor. The family resides at 1454 Mason Street, Dearborn, MI 48124.

1982

The Wachovia Corporation recently named **David Rogers** as enterprise technical architect for the Commercial Bank. His wife, Saule, is an IT specialist for IBM. The couple lives at 1701 Bonnie Lane, Charlotte, NC 28213.

Moving from Michigan, Joe and **Jill (Jezierski) Vincent** recently relocated at 647 Charles Drive, Gilbertsville, PA 19525. Joe is employed by Merck & Com-

pany, and Jill is a homemaker.

1984

Justin Lee joined Caleb and Lindsay in the home of Tim and **Laurie (Phillips) Howard** on November 3 of last year. Tim is employed by Nucor Steel, and Laurie is a homemaker. The family lives at 5453 Holiday Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Don Tate and his wife, Michele, finalized their adoption of Lillian on January 10. They also have two other children, Benjamin and Kendra. Don is the executive director of Christian Homes for Children, and Michele is a benefits coordinator. The family lives at 7710 West 20th Avenue #A, Hialeah, FL 33016.

1986

On December 22, 2000, James and **Candace (Washburn) Chapman** welcomed their first child, Grace Elizabeth. The family lives at 4000 Woodcreek Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

1988

Mike and Tina (Cloutier-87) Breeland are living at 2432 Collins Port Cove, Suwanne, GA 30024. Mike is employed by J.B. Hunt Transport, and Tina is a homemaker. The couple has three children, Jessika, Jaime, and Corey.

1990

Chad Brock is serving as minister for a new congregation in Garrett, Indiana. Chad and his wife, **Leslie (Hoggatt-83)**, also own and manage a rental company. The couple has two children, Adam and Ashley. The family resides at 910 West Niblick Court, Angola, IN 46703.

Brad and Julie (Vaughn-89) Hartz are living at 1127 West Ludwig Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Brad is employed by Omni Source, and Julie is a homemaker. The couple has two children, Madison and Zachary.

1991

Sherry (Allen) Bailey welcomed Gabrielle Michelle on June 10. Sherri lives at 3737 N.W. 26th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107.

Kaelyn Elaine joined Brandon in the home of Edwin and **Debbie (White) Kowalski** on May 14. Debbie is a technician for Michigan Veterinary Specialists, and Edwin is employed by Ford Motor. The family lives at 16935 Mayfield, Roseville, MI 48066.

1992

Andy and Denise (McArthur) Cameron recently relocated to 982 Winesap Road, Clarksville, TN 37040. Andy is the youth minister for the Madison Street Church of Christ, and Denise is a homemaker. The couple has a one-year-old daughter, Cara.

1993

On June 8, Scott and **Stephanie (Perry) Barry** welcomed Emma Judianne. Stephanie is an attorney with Mulcahy, Casey, and Mulcahy, P.C., and Scott is a firefighter. The family currently resides at 1871 Mill, Lincoln Park, MI 48146.

1995

John and April (Shepard) Batty have moved to 16258 West Woodland Avenue, Goodyear, AZ 85338. The couple have a son, Micah.

On August 4, **Olivia Burtch** married Gianfranco Cucco. Olivia

Join over 710 alumni!

Do you have e-mail? If so, join over 710 RC alumni who have posted their e-mail addresses at www.rc.edu. Our on-line alumni directory is a great way to keep in contact with old friends.

Have you changed your address since posting it on RC's Web site? If so, it's easy to update your records on the on-line alumni directory. Don't frustrate your friends with the wrong address!

In addition to the e-mail directory, the RC alumni Web pages feature several useful tools for keeping you and your fellow alumni informed:

- Alumni Guestbook
- Address Change Form
- Missing Alumni Listing
- North Star Information Form
- Transcript Request Information
- Reunions and Special Events

www.rc.edu/alumni

You Are Here: Home » Alumni

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is a graduate student at Oakland University, and Gian is the service manager for Fidia. The couple lives at 215 Helen, Rochester, MI 48307.

Eden Elaine joined Emma in the home of Lee and **Stephanie (Coe) Higginbottom** on April 16. Lee is employed by Federal Express, and Stephanie is a homemaker. The family lives at 529 Kimberly #101, Lake Orion, MI 48362.

Benny Lumpkins currently is living at 1023 West 49th Street #312, Norfolk, VA 23508.

Luke David joined Steven in the home of Jason and **Jill (Harris) Riker** on April 28. Jill is a horse trainer and riding instructor, and Jason is a supervisor. The family resides at 11991 Lansing Avenue, Rives Junction, MI 49277.

1997

Natasha Sansom currently is employed as a family service worker for Hartford Head Start. She is living at 7182 Nevada, Detroit, MI 48234.

Heidi Stewart just finished her first year as a case manager for The Guidance Center, a Community Access Center organization. She lives at 14965 Brookview Drive #101, Riverview, MI 48192.

Lucas and Serenity (Raper) Summers welcomed Matthew

Christian on May 19. Luke is employed as a nurse for Maxim Home Healthcare, and Serenity by Hope and Home as a social worker. The family currently resides at 1460 Michelle Court #D, Colorado Springs, CO 80916.

1998

Chris and Tannon (Ashlock) Davis welcomed Graden Christopher on July 4. The couple has been living in Alaska, where Chris has been employed by the Anchorage Police Department and Tannon by the State of Alaska. They are in the process of relocating closer to family.

Jeremy Deming is vice president for finance and administration for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lansing. His wife, Kristi, is a manager for Flagstar Bank. The couple has one child, Isak. The family lives at 525 Seymour #201, Lansing, MI 48933.

We want to hear from you!

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

Your name (maiden if appl.) _____

Years at RC _____

Occupation _____

Spouse's Name (maiden if appl.) _____

Years at RC _____

Occupation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Attach children's names, recent births, job changes, marriages, promotions, etc.

REUNIONS

40 year Class of 1962
July 26-27, 2002

30 year Class of 1972
July 5-6, 2002

20 year Class of 1982
July 26-27, 2002

10 year Class of 1992
July 5-6, 2002

RC honors alumni

Rochester College recently recognized four alumni for their outstanding contributions to the college, Christian education, business and the community.

"The character of Rochester College is judged on the success of its alumni in the community and the church," said Dr. Ken Johnson.

Alumnus of the Year: Mark Stowe, Class of '74

Mark Stowe spent most of his career in marketing management roles for the auto industry. Mr. Stowe is currently the general manager of Seltrex, Inc. in St. Marys, Ohio. In every place he's lived, Mr. Stowe has been active in the local church. He served as an elder in Baltimore, Maryland, and as a deacon in Lincoln Park, Michigan, Decatur, Georgia, and Torrance, California. Mr. Stowe is also a member of RC's National Advancement Board. He and his wife, Leslie, had two children attend Rochester College: Jenny and Jamie. Jamie was one of three students who lost their lives in a tragic automobile accident in March, 2000.

Outstanding Alumna in Christian Education: Ginny May, Class of '78

Ginny May came to work for Rochester College in 1980 as secretary for the dean of students. She later became the president's secretary, a post she filled until the birth of her daughter in 1989. During the 1990's, Ms. May was president of the Associates of Rochester College and co-chairwoman of the Silverdome Project. After a brief return to RC in 1995, Ms. May went to work for Oakland Christian School, where she is presently the office manager. Ms. May's husband, Ernie, is a member of the class of 1977.

Outstanding Alumnus in Business: Amos Rice, Class of '75

Amos Rice has held a top management role at Chick-Fil-A since 1989. As a good citizen, Mr. Rice has volunteered for many church and community roles, including youth leader, chorus sponsor for a Christian school, camp counselor and youth league coach. *Outstanding Young Men in America* honored Mr. Rice three times.

Outstanding Alumna in Volunteer Service: Sharon Whitlatch, Class of '78

Following her graduation from Rochester College, Sharon Whitlatch went to work for the American Motor Corporation. She was hired by the Chrysler Corporation, now DaimlerChrysler, in 1989. Since 1980, Ms. Whitlatch has played a key role in the Associates of Rochester College, serving three terms as president, nine years as a trustee and as chairwoman of the spring luncheon and fashion show. Ms. Whitlatch also volunteered with the Cub Scouts and taught church Bible classes for several years. Her husband, Ken, graduated from Rochester College in 1976.



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

Providing spiritual and educational leadership for the Kingdom is the duty of every church-related college. Given the close relationship between Rochester College and the Churches of Christ, we have a duty to provide relevant published materials.

For interested readers, the Rochester College Web site (www.rc.edu) recently added a section entitled 'Our Convictions' that includes the following four articles:

- 1 *The Churches of Christ: Who They Are and What They Believe*
- 2 *Summary of Primary Theological Understandings at Rochester College*
- 3 *Water Baptism in the Christian Community*
- 4 *Rochester College, Churches of Christ, and Nondenominational Christianity*

You may access the articles by going to www.rc.edu/aboutrc

Ken Johnson

A little help for his friends

Alumnus doesn't let cerebral palsy stop him from helping RC students succeed

With the help of his mother, Troy Butler (98), a social work graduate who lives with cerebral palsy, recently established a \$10,000 endowment to provide scholarships for social work majors at Rochester College.

"I hope this scholarship inspires someone who's worked very hard but maybe doesn't meet the usual high grade requirements," said Butler. "I hope they will say, 'Troy did this and with the help of God so will I.'"

Butler has been defying odds and broadcasting hope since the day of his premature birth.

"The doctor told my mom before she had me, 'If the baby is born...you might as well plan his funeral because he's not going to make it,'" said Butler. "That was 34 years ago and praise God I'm still going strong."

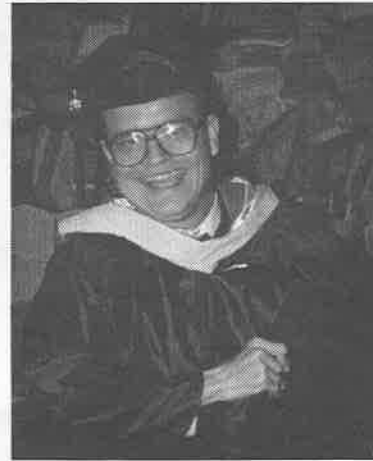
Butler defied the odds again when he set out to earn a college degree. He said many people along the way told him he would 'never make it' and to 'know his place.'

Three major motivators kept him going, however: Rochester College, his father and his faith in the God who made him.

"If it weren't for [RC professors] like Mark Brackney and Mildred Eckstein I would not be here today," said Butler. "They're the ones who said, 'We believe in you.'"

An even greater source of Troy's inspiration came in the form of his father, a plumber by trade. Both of Troy's older brothers followed in their father's footsteps, joining the family business. Perhaps it was Troy's inability to become a plumber that led his father to have a different dream for his youngest boy.

"It was my father's dream for



Troy Butler

me to graduate from college," said Butler. "So far I am the only one of my brothers to accomplish that."

Unfortunately, Troy's father never got to see his son accept his diploma.

"Dad suffered for 11 years from kidney failure," said Butler. "He could not even attend my graduation because he was on dialysis that morning."

Troy's dad died shortly after his son graduated from Rochester College.

"He looked at me from his hospital bed and said: 'When I'm gone, just be all that you can be and you'll be all right,'" said Butler.

Troy took the advice to heart. After his graduation, he went to work for the Meadowbrook Nursing Center where he cared for Alzheimers patients. He recently left that position so that he could concentrate on graduate school. He still volunteers at a hospice.

"The challenges of going through school are very hard because of my disability," said

Butler. "I get perturbed when someone says, 'I don't feel like writing this paper because my hands are sore.' What I wouldn't give to be able to write and have sore hands!"

Butler said the challenge of graduate school will be well worth the work, however. Enrolled at Siena Heights University in the graduate counseling program, Troy said he plans to use his education and experience to help people in situations similar to his own.

"I want to start my own business," said Butler. "I want to counsel other disabled people and help them succeed as I have succeeded."

According to Butler, the third major motivator--and the reason for his success--is his steadfast faith in God.

"With the challenge of cerebral palsy I have learned to lean on the Lord a lot more," said Butler. "I'd rather have a disability with the Lord than be completely normal without Him."

That strong belief in the certainty of God's blessings led Troy to establish the Troy A. Butler Endowed Scholarship. An unexpected windfall from an old investment provided the means to set up the fund.

"Mom and I wanted to do something that would be a 'living thing,'" said Troy. "We wanted to help other people because God provides for us every day."

"Disability does not mean inability. Just because someone has a disability does not mean they have an excuse not to try anything. I want to be able to pave the way for other people who have challenges just like mine to say, 'It may not be easy but it can be done with the help of God.'" ns



Fall royalty. The Associates of Rochester College crown Bonita Ward of Eastpointe, Michigan, queen of Fall Festival 2001. The annual fundraising event, a Rochester College tradition, drew hundreds of RC supporters from all over southeast Michigan. Photo by Brad Irwin.

north star

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PHOTO BY BRIAN FAUST

**RC wins
Kresge Grant**
page 1

**John Major
to speak May 11**
page 1

**Coach Pleasant
wins 500th
career victory**
page 3

RC News on-line

Now alumni, students and friends can get up-to-date Rochester College news at www.rc.edu/news. The on-line news page carries construction updates, event schedules, Warriors team news, colorful photographs and more! Plus, the on-line news archives contains news stories from as far back as June 2001.

Spring events



Celebration in SONG

JANUARY

- 1-14 Wintersession
- 15 Spring Semester begins
- 25 College Life Preview Day

FEBRUARY

- 22 College Life Preview Day

MARCH

- 4-8 Spring Break

22-23 Celebration in Song

APRIL

- 8 Fall pre-enrollment
- 12 College Life Preview Day
- 25-27 One Act Play

MAY

- 4 Graduate Brunch
- 11 Graduation
- 11 Partnership Dinner

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