

NORTHSTAR

Spring in the air



MAJOR MILESTONE

Introducing our 50th anniversary celebration, set to begin in 2008

PACKING THEIR BAGS

Graduates prepare for life in the United Kingdom

PUTTING ON A SHOW

Theatre department continues to grow in new and exciting ways



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

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

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

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

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



FROM THE

president's desk

When our dog Dusty was alive, Sharon and I often talked about how old he was in "dog years." As we all know, dogs age faster than humans. Colleges and universities also have "college years," but colleges tend to age more slowly than human years.

In 2008-2009, Rochester College will observe its golden anniversary, 50 years! For some, 50 years seems to be a long time, but in reality 50 years for a college is relatively young. In many ways, 50 years is an important milestone in the life of a college. At 50 years, most colleges begin to see estates mature from long-time supporters and alumni. In addition, many alumni have reached a point in their careers where they can donate more significant gifts to the college.

The 50 year history of Rochester College is filled with inspirational stories, good times, tough times, and many good friends. As we enter the next 50 years, I see reason for great optimism. We continue to raise funds for the proposed athletic facility and pray God will provide the major gifts necessary to complete this project. This is a time in the history of Rochester College/Michigan Christian College/North Central Christian College where gifts are critical to secure the next 50 years. Please consider including the college in your estate plans or including the college in your monthly giving. Rochester College continues to shape lives for the Kingdom of God through service, academics, and community.

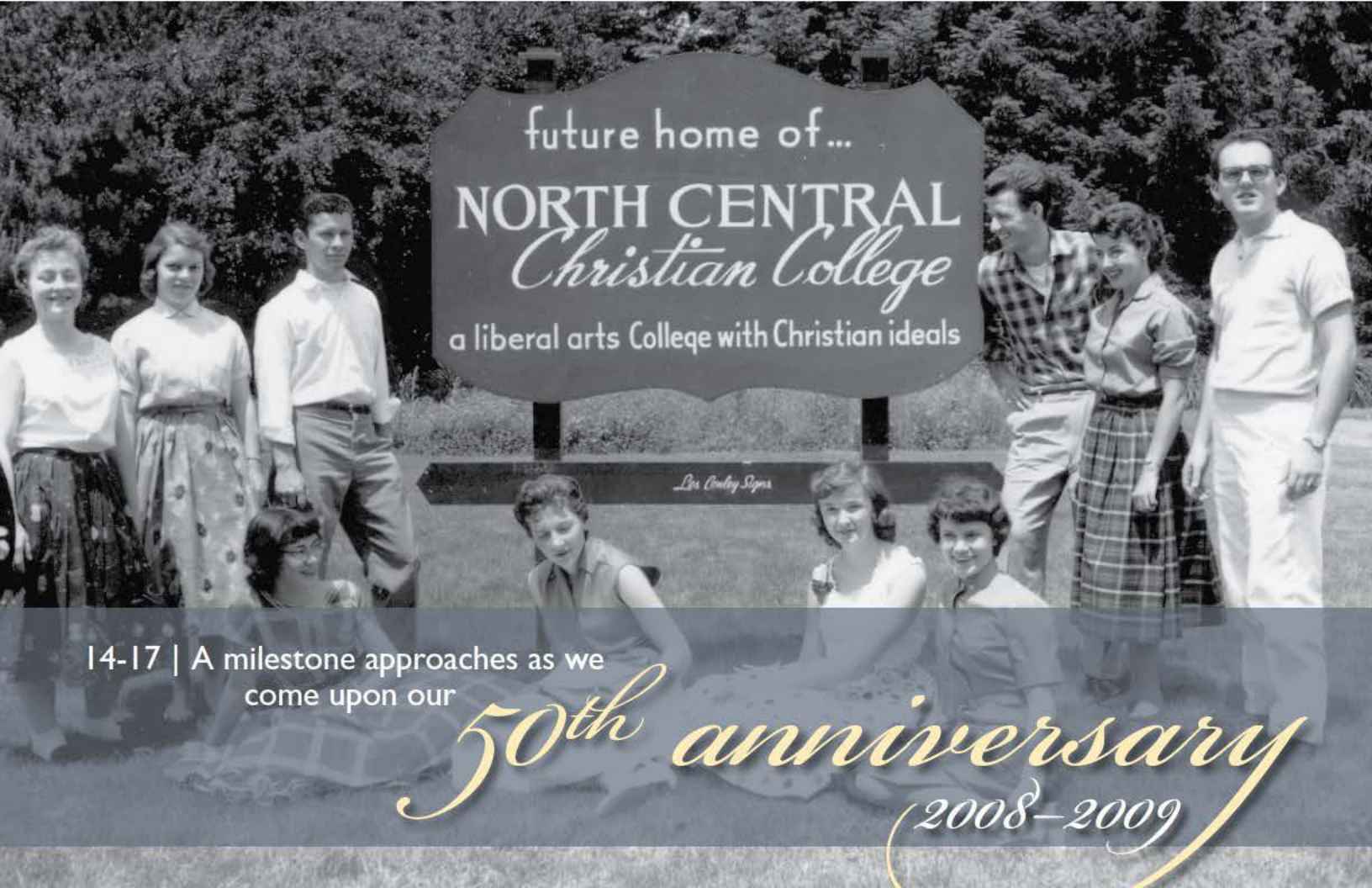
The college continues to benefit from the success of alumni. School teachers, lawyers, medical doctors, social workers, business owners, and ministers provide evidence of the outstanding graduates we are placing in the work place.

The college has taken an active role in the community. Our work with community activities, raising funds for Habitat for Humanity, and our work with local efforts to curb drug and alcohol abuse have given the college more visibility. Recently, I was asked to serve on the Rochester Hills Business Council at the request of our mayor, Bryan Barnett, whose wife is an alumna of Rochester College. I am happy to serve this community.

Your college continues to move forward. Enjoy this edition of the Northstar!

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

future home of...
NORTH CENTRAL
Christian College
 a liberal arts College with Christian ideals



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 come upon our

50th anniversary
 2008-2009



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ON THE COVER

Junior Holly Reed and sophomore Anthony Estes take time to enjoy a beautiful spring day on the Warrior Walkway brick path by Lake Norcentra. For more information about purchasing a personalized brick, please see www.rc.edu/brick.



Springtime at Rochester College

It's a beautiful place to be! For up-to-the-minute news and events, be sure to visit our website at www.rc.edu/news.

MOVING FORWARD EVENT NEWS

RECAP:

ELDERLINK FORUM '07 HELD ON CAMPUS

Contact: Dr. David Fleer, 248.218.2144 or dfleer@rc.edu

The Rochester forum held on January 27 was an opportunity for fellowship and networking among church leaders. The four plenary sessions covered topics such as: learning to listen, the wounded body, leaders living in God's presence, and hope for future church leaders. Rochester College professors Rubel Shelly, Brian Stogner, Gordon MacKinnon and John and Sara Barton were among the speakers for the event.

Addiction Seminar: Ministering to Hurting People

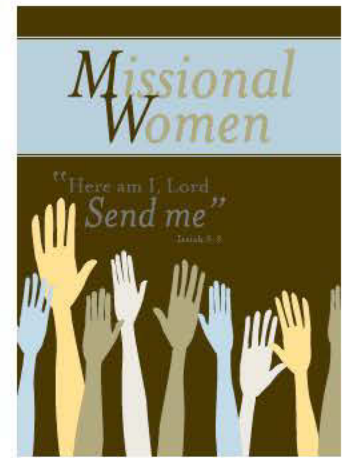


RECAP:

FIRST-EVER ADDICTION SEMINAR AIDS IN MINISTERING TO HURTING PEOPLE

Contact: Teresa Graney, 248.218.2059 or tgraney@rc.edu

A free addiction seminar was held at Rochester College on February 27 for those interested in learning more about ministering to people with addictive behaviors. Attendees involved in pastoral care, leadership, and with family or friends suffering from addiction listened to testimonies from recovering addicts in addition to presentations by Don Umphrey from Southern Methodist University, RC professor of religion Rubel Shelly, and associate vice president of development Scott Samuels.



RECAP:

MISSIONAL WOMEN SERVES AS SECOND ANNUAL LADIES' DAY SEMINAR

Contact: Elton Albright, 248.218.2022 or ealbright@rc.edu

Held on March 17, this annual event served as an inspirational day of fellowship for ladies from churches across southern Michigan and northern Ohio. The event, entitled "Missional Women," was planned by a committee of women from the Rochester College community and featured several keynote speakers including Sara Barton, RC campus minister, Glenda Thomas of the Rochester Church of Christ, alumnus Lindy Emerson with the Bronx Fellowship of Christ, Stephanie Kline and Nadine Taylor, both former Honduran missionaries, Cass Weber of the Howell Church of Christ, and Jan Meyer, director of student leadership development at Abilene Christian University.

RECAP:

SECOND ANNUAL DIVERSITY LUNCHEON FOCUSES ON BRIDGING THE GENDER DIVIDE

Contact: J.C. Thomas, Jr., 248.218.2047 or jthomas@rc.edu

This year's luncheon was held on Saturday, April 7 under the theme "Bridging the Gender Divide." Keynote speakers Glenda Thomas of the Roch-

ester Church of Christ and Candace Cain, vice president of student services at Rochester College, led a dialogue for attendees to discuss the need for women to have greater inclusion in church ministry.



MAY 12, 2007

PARTNERSHIP DINNER XXXVI FAST APPROACHING

Contact: Elton Albright,
248.218.2022 or ealbright@rc.edu

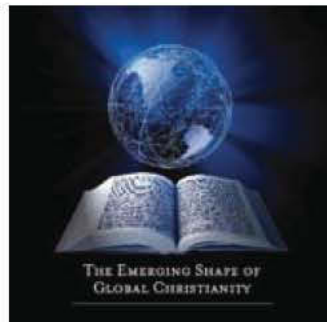
This fellowship dinner for alumni, donors, constituents and friends is the largest single-day annual fundraising activity to provide scholarships for Rochester College students. Previously hosted at the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit for 33 of its 35 years in existence, the event has now moved to the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester. This year's featured speaker is retired United States general Tommy Franks. Franks' remarkable career in the military covered a time span from the Vietnam war through the recent moves into both Afghanistan and Iraq. Numerous sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. General tickets are \$125 for adults and \$75 for students. For details, visit www.rc.edu/advance.

MAY 21-23, 2007

SERMON SEMINAR '07, "PREACHING AND THE WORLD IMAGINED IN JOHN'S GOSPEL"

Contact: David Fleer,
248.218.2144 or dfleer@rc.edu

Ministers, professors and students will engage in a discussion under the theme "Preaching and the World Imagined in John's Gospel." Presenters include Richard Hays, professor at Duke Divinity School and Gail O' Day, professor of preaching and New Testament at Candler Seminary, Emory University. Registration including boarding and meals is \$180. For details, visit www.rc.edu/sermonseminar.



JUNE 21-23, 2007

CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS CONFERENCE COMING THIS SPRING

Contact: David Fleer,
248.218.2144 or dfleer@rc.edu

The conference theme will encourage participating scholars to reflect upon the emerging shape of global Christianity. Presentations revolving around this theme will be made by Philip Jenkins, professor of religion and history at Penn State University, and others who will participate in panel discussions and breakout sessions. Conference planners are accepting submissions of abstracts, papers and proposals from all academic disciplines. Full registration including housing is \$150. Scholarships for Christian scholars of color are also available. For details, visit www.rc.edu/csc.



JUNE 24-30, 2007

ELEVATE 2007: HELLO MY NAME IS...

Contact: Steve Corp,
248.218.2180 or scorp@rc.edu

All students entering grades 7-12 this fall are encouraged to attend ELEVATE, Rochester College's annual summer camp. This year's theme, "Hello my name is," focuses on unveiling our individual identities in Christ. The featured speakers will focus on the life of Peter, illustrating how God can mold us and change us into powerful servants for His Kingdom. Former campus minister Shannon Williams will lead praise and worship for the week, and director of youth ministry resources Chris Wise will be the emcee. There will also be a performance by Christian band Salient. It's sure to be an unforgettable experience! For more information about ELEVATE and to register, see www.rc.edu/elevate. Early bird registration ends May 15.

AUGUST 3-5, 2007

CHURCH LEADERSHIP RETREAT PLANNED FOR LATE SUMMER

Contact: Teresa Graney,
248.218.2046 or tgraney@rc.edu

This retreat is an opportunity for metro Detroit and metro Chicago church leaders, staff members, elders and their spouses to fellowship, network and experience spiritual renewal. The retreat will take place in western Michigan (location to be determined). For more details, check with the development office this summer.

AUGUST 6, 2007

26TH ANNUAL FLETCHER-SHINSKY GOLF CLASSIC

Contact: Teresa Graney,
248.218.2046 or tgraney@rc.edu

The golf classic was initiated by former president Milton Fletcher and long time coach and faculty member Bill Shinsky to provide a fellowship opportunity for golfing friends and RC alumni. Hole sponsorships go to the Fletcher/Shinsky Scholarship Endowment. This year's event will be at the premier Greystone Golf Course near Romeo, Mich. For details, visit www.rc.edu/advance.

NOW AVAILABLE

HERITAGE SERIES CD

Contact: Bookstore, 800.521.6010
or www.rc.edu/bookstore

You may now order copies of any recordings produced since 1962 by the A Cappella Chorus, Autumn, and Spectrum. Reproduced on compact discs, this series allows you to replace old recordings or to purchase recordings that were originally produced on vinyl records, 8 track tapes, cassette tapes, and compact discs. View the full listing of 57 recordings on-line at www.rc.edu/bookstore.



NOW AVAILABLE

AUTUMN 2006-2007

Contact: Bookstore, 800.521.6010
or www.rc.edu/bookstore

Autumn's new release, *I Choose You*, is now available for purchase from the bookstore. The album has 10 great tracks, including "I've Got the Spirit" and "Day By Day."

national champions

Men's soccer team wins the trophy on their home turf

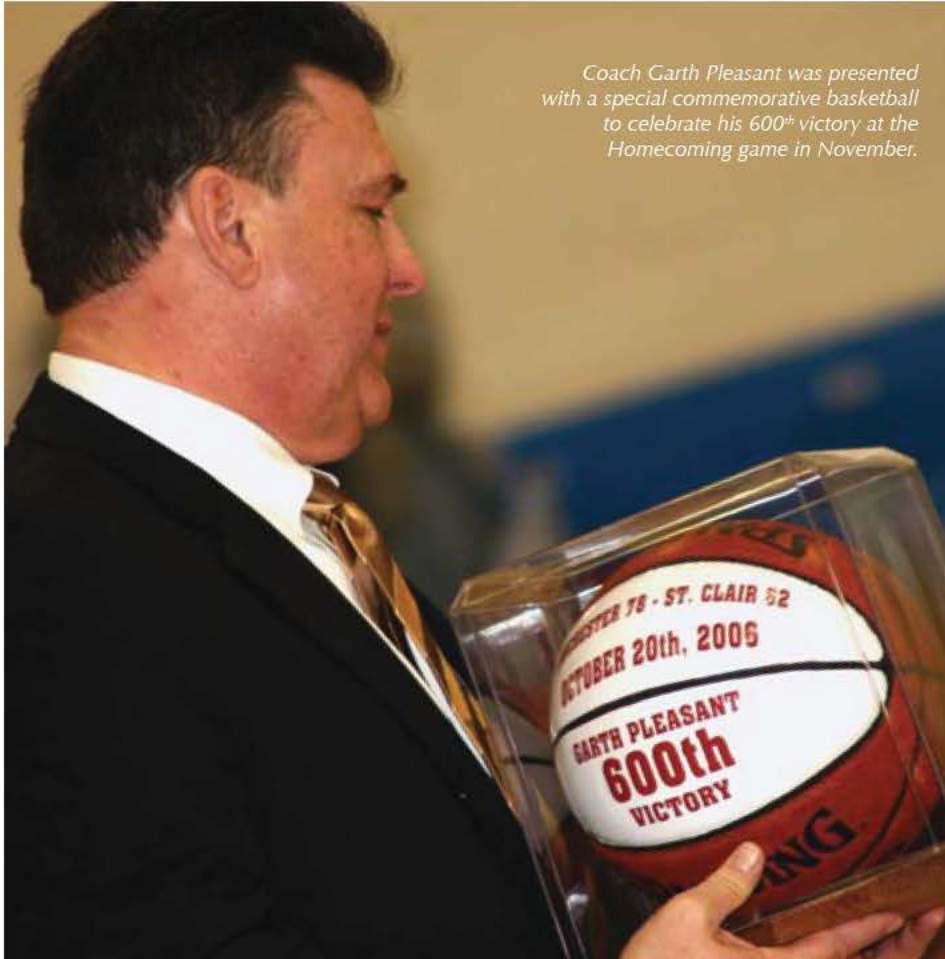


The number four-seed Warriors of Rochester College defeated the number one-seed Unity College of Maine 2-0, and number two-seed Robert Morris-Lake County of Illinois 1-0 in a shootout to win the 2006 USCAA (United States Collegiate Athletic Association) National Invitational Men's Soccer Tournament hosted by Rochester College in late November.

The final game was a match worthy of being called a championship, with two scoreless halves, two ten-minute scoreless overtimes, and finally a no-holds-barred shootout. Warrior goalkeeper David Ristich came through in the clutch, holding the Robert Morris players to just two goals in the shootout, while teammates Adrian Gonzalez, Ben Nelson, Nick Swantek, and Calvin Marshall all scored to give Rochester College its final victory. Both teams fought hard, but in the end, the title went to the mighty Warriors. •

Junior Captain Calvin Marshall takes a shot on the Robert Morris goalie during regulation play. After a scoreless game and two overtime periods, Marshall made the final game-winning goal in a shootout.

Coach Garth Pleasant was presented with a special commemorative basketball to celebrate his 600th victory at the Homecoming game in November.



Coach Pleasant wins 600th game

Head Coach Garth Pleasant reached a coaching milestone as he captured his 600th victory in a 78-62 win over St. Clair College this past October. The victory also marked the beginning of Coach Pleasant's 31st year as Rochester College head coach. Six hundred wins is a major milestone for any coach to reach, and is one that all coaches who accomplish feel fortunate to attain. "What does 600 wins mean to me? It means that I have been coaching for a long time! It also means that I've been blessed to have had outstanding young men playing for me over the years. I will always be indebted to these young men and to Rochester College."

Volleyball team has strong showing at national tournament

The 2006 Rochester College Lady Warriors Volleyball team took third place at the national tournament held in Ft. Wayne, Ind. in October. The Warriors took on Florida College in their eighth match in two days with only six hours of sleep, but eventually fell to the national champions 0-3 to finish third in the nation. Bringing home honors for the Warriors were Kirstin Fish (All-Tournament) and Rachel Marquardt and Tiffany Durham (Honorable Mention All-American). Rachel Marquardt was named to the Academic All-American team.



Rochester College adding four teams to athletic program

Rochester College vice president of enrollment services Kelvin Brown has announced that the college will be adding golf and cross country for both men and women beginning in the fall of 2007.

Brown said of the decision, "We've been considering adding programs for several years, specifically golf with all the beautiful courses in Michigan. As we pondered which programs to add, considering our current facilities and logistics, these made the most sense."

Clayton Bissett has been hired as the golf coach for both men and women. Director of athletics Garth Pleasant says, "We are excited that Clayton is going to be part of our program. I have known Clayton for a number of years and there is no question that he will be a tremendous asset to our athletic program. He is a young man of integrity to the nth degree and his work ethic is unsurpassed. We are both fortunate and pleased that Clayton has accepted this position."

Ron Keen, who is currently the athletic trainer for Rochester College, will head the cross country program that has been dormant for the past four years. Keen not only participated in cross country as a

student but has experience in coaching cross country. Concerning Keen, Pleasant said, "Ron is one of the most organized and capable individuals I have had the pleasure to work with. He leaves no stone unturned."

"We feel this is the time to expand our athletic program as we are in the middle of a capital campaign to build a new 65,000 sq. ft. athletic facility; for us and this community," stated Pleasant.

What's notable is that Rochester College's athletic program has a rich history of championships in multiple sports while never losing sight of the college's commitment to academics and faith. Moreover, in its nearly 50 years of existence, the Warriors have accomplished this without adequate athletic facilities!

The program will now include men's baseball, women's softball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball. Anyone interested in participating in these programs can call 248.218.2135 for additional information.

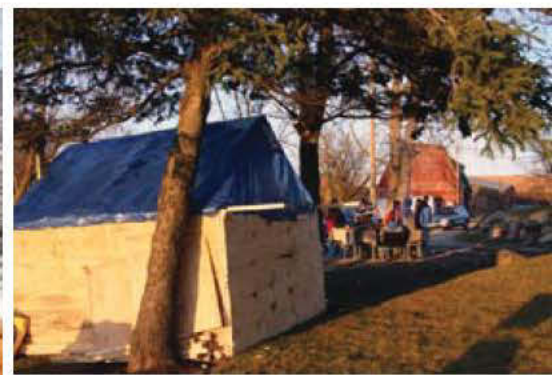
reaching out

Promoting Christ's IMAGE on the streets

by Amanda Passage



Members of IMAGE serve a hot meal to a line of poor and homeless people at the Coalition of Temporary Shelter in Detroit on a cold winter day. Many feel that inner-city trips like this are IMAGE's greatest service.



Top: Shacks line the Rochester College lawn along Avon Rd. during the annual Shack-A-Thon. Bottom: Senior Naomi Cochran talks with a man in Detroit on an IMAGE trip last fall.

Striving to help those less fortunate, searching for new mission projects, and setting Christ-like examples to those around them, students involved with IMAGE fulfill each of these categories as they make a difference in the community.

IMAGE, an acronym for International Missions and Global Evangelism, is a student functioning mission group that volunteers in the metro Detroit area at local food and clothing banks as well as senior care facilities.

Although IMAGE focuses on the needs of others, group members benefit just as much, explains junior IMAGE leader David Rotberg. "IMAGE is an amazing opportunity that not only blesses those in need, but also the participants. I suggest that everyone take part in this group."

Last October, IMAGE hosted a barbecue at Cass Park in Detroit. They served food to over 200 people with whom they talked and prayed throughout the day. Prior to this trip, clothing was collected on campus, which they passed out to those who came to eat.

Along with their helpful hands in the community, IMAGE organizes events on campus as well. In the fall of 2006, they held a commuter sleepover to help build more community between the commuters and the residents.

"A lot of commuters feel left out. So many come to school, do their work, and when they're done rush off to do whatever it is they've got scheduled off campus," said Karina Brazle, IMAGE member and sleepover coordinator. "We're trying to host a few events that will show we believe commuters are just as important as those who live on campus."

IMAGE also shows their support for the college's sports teams. Last fall, the group supported the men's and women's soccer teams by passing out Gatorade and cheering on their fellow classmates. They plan on adopting the men's baseball and women's softball teams this spring as their new endeavor.

"IMAGE is a great on-campus avenue for students to find a leadership role. It's also a great opportunity to serve the campus community and the community at large. Most of all, it's a way to take yourself out of the picture and serve others," said senior Naomi Cochran.

IMAGE hosted another downtown dinner this winter, this time held at the Coalition of Temporary Shelter (COTS) in Detroit. A dinner of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, stuffing, and croissants, along with apple crisp and ice cream for dessert, was served to the crowd who gathered for the occasion.

Although there is not a specific focus on Christ in these projects, Rotberg explains the unavoidable and inescapable presence of God throughout the day. "There is always a spiritual connection made, whether it is spoken or not. Service is one of Christ's greatest teachings."

This spring, the third annual Shack-A-Thon was held on the college lawn. Volunteers built shacks out of plywood, two-by-fours, and tarps and lived in them from Friday night through Sunday night. The event is meant to raise awareness about the lives of the poor for the community, and it also serves as a fundraiser for COTS. The stakes were raised this year, as participants only had access to portable bathrooms and meals were more limited than in the past.

"The Shack-A-Thon is a chance for students and members from local churches to understand and experience the lives of the poor who live less than 30 minutes down the road," said Rotberg. "The first year we raised over \$3,000 dollars, and that number has grown each year since. It's really great to raise awareness, and also so much money for a great organization like COTS."

IMAGE not only exudes the love of Christ to the surrounding community, but reflects the message of service and support that Rochester College stands for as well. •

campus ministry begins at home

Student Action Diversity Committee champions unity and understanding

by C. E'Jon Moore

And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. (Luke 14:23 KJV)

Eons before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, God dreamed a dream in many different hues, shades, tones, and colors. The Student Action Diversity Committee (SADC) is an organization that hopes to tap into God's creativity and communicate that each person has a unique role to play in the story of humanity that is unfolding. Under the guidance of JC Thomas, Jr., the college's director of diversity relations, SADC was founded in January 2006. The mission of the student-led ministry is to foster diversity in the areas of race relations, socio-economic differences, and differences across Christian tradition.

"I believe as Christians, we are called to love," says Adrienne Johnston, an SADC member. "If we are un-accepting, whether intentionally or unintentionally of other people and other cultures, then that is not showing our love ... 1 Corinthians 13 speaks of ... pure, holy love. When people are divided and unwilling to accept and acknowledge others, we do not love others in the way God desires us to."

During the spring of 2006, the SADC's early programs included a number of events aimed at educating people about African-American culture along with the "I Am Woman" campaign in celebration of Women's History Month. Most recently, the group hosted a slam poetry event featuring the award-winning Kalamazoo Slam Poetry Team. However, the SADC makes it

clear that they are not a minority group or a social club, but rather a group of ministry-minded students committed to figuring out what their unique role is in God's story. These ideals led to the development of the House of God Sessions during the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

The House of God Sessions are a five-part series of interpersonal meetings developed by the SADC which brought together 4-6 ministers from different denominations to have a candid discussion about issues important to the body of Christ. The sessions were held before a live audience of students, faculty, and members of the surrounding community.



"Lots of Christians disagree about a lot of important things. These sessions weren't about reaching some sort of agreement. Our biggest hope was that people would learn to respectfully listen to an opinion that is different from their own and possibly allow that opinion to help grow their faith," explained Calvin Moore, one of the student leaders of the SADC.

"No minister should be able to have this much fun," comments Dr. Rubel Shelly, professor of religion and philosophy at Rochester College, in reference to the time he spent during the first House of God Session on September 12, 2006. He participated in

a panel with four other ministers from various denominations discussing communion, baptism and salvation.

Set up to resemble a dining room, five ministers representing Church of Christ, Salvation Army, Catholic, Baptist, and Messianic Jewish viewpoints sat down and shared their respective understandings of each subject. Nearly 120 gathered to hear the conversation unfold. Dr. Rex Hamilton, associate professor of religion, moderated the event, asking the panelists questions and following tangents as time allowed. The ministers discussed inquiries that each denomination has classically disagreed upon. While there were certainly differences of

opinion regarding such questions regarding salvation and communion, those in attendance found there was more commonality than many within evangelicalism understand.

"This was a very good idea. We're all supposed to be one body, yet we're so splintered. It is good to be able to sit down, eat, and discuss these kinds of things with my brothers and sisters in Christ, Jew or Gentile," states Rabbi Glenn Harris, one of the panelists and rabbi for Congregation Shema Yisrael.

Religious dialogue opens up during House of God sessions, held in the auditorium

The second House of God session addressed women in ministry, the third, Christians and sexuality, the fourth, Christians and race relations, and the fifth and final session, Christians and social action.

"The reason I decided to join the SADC was because I believe that I can [personally] make a difference at Rochester College and in the community. I also think a ministry like this one will bring us closer together as Christians," comments Leon Gilbert, also a member of the SADC. •

In choosing the “write” grad school, English majors prepare for *life abroad*

It's a dream come true for recent graduates Nicole Hornbaker and Cassandra Brown. This fall, both young women will cross the Atlantic Ocean for a year-long stay at the prestigious University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne located in the historic city of Newcastle, England.

Hornbaker will focus on creative writing in fiction while Brown has decided to pursue creative writing with a focus in poetry. The rich heritage of Newcastle holds a wealth of new experiences and learning opportunities for the Ex Libris alumni, and although they'll spend this summer deciding what to bring with them, the most important items—their faith and friendship—are too large to fit in their luggage.



Name: Nicole Hornbaker
Hometown: Delaware, Ohio
Year of Graduation: 2006
Major: English
College activities: Member of Ex Libris and editor of 2006 *Blackberry Winter*

Name: Cassandra Brown
Hometown: Lake Orion, Michigan
Year of Graduation: 2007
Major: English (writing track)
College activities: Member of Ex Libris and co-editor of 2007 *Blackberry Winter*

On life abroad:

NH: While I was a student at RC I participated in two of the study abroad programs—Scotland and Bavaria. The five months I spent in Britain and traveling around Europe were the greatest learning and growing experience I've ever had. I love learning about other cultures and living in different places, so I think I will enjoy this experience. At the same time, I know there will be a lot of challenges living overseas and going to school there. Past experience abroad has taught me it is easy to get overwhelmed, especially when the security of the familiar is taken away. You just have to take one day at a time and remind yourself where you are and what an amazing opportunity it is.

CB: I don't shy away from change or adaptation. And I'm always up for adventure. I've studied the British system, and I feel comfortable with it. I'm not anticipating any major life changing adjustments. It will take some adjusting to living outside of a small college community, but I recently took classes at Oakland Community College, and it wasn't terribly different. The Northumbrian coast is beautiful, and offers a quaint, smaller-town style of life, and this was a huge draw. It would be easy to stay in a city environment, but expense was a major factor. I have to find the funds to go somehow, but thankfully Newcastle will accept US federal loans.

On life after college:

NH: When I made the decision to go to grad school, I knew I wanted to challenge myself. Since traveling abroad with the school programs, I've missed the cultures and places I encountered. I not only wanted to go to a renowned school, but I also wanted to put myself in a new environment for learning. Going to school overseas is something I think I need to do to accomplish both personal and academic goals. I feel like Newcastle is where I am meant to be.

CB: I think it will be difficult to readjust to living back at home after the year is up. I'll be going from one school system to another, and when it is all over, I'll have to find something else to do, like get a job. I've thought about being a

flight attendant to travel for a year or two. Or I may just put that off a little longer and get a Ph.D.

On being accepted into grad school:

NH: It was hard to believe... still is! I knew it was going to be hard to get in. I had to submit a writing sample which was intimidating. There are so many better writers out there. I can't believe they chose me!

CB: It was funny that Nicole and I each thought the other really liked Manchester, so deciding was hard because we didn't want to disappoint one another. Finally we said we didn't feel right about Manchester, and it was such a relief. Newcastle was the one we both favored, and I'm so happy we feel at peace about attending there. We said we'd tell the other first if we got in, so then came the enthusiastic, frenzied phone calls.

On dreaming big:

NH: I would love to write books for young adults and adults. I also plan to remain active in the editing business my roommate and I recently started.

CB: I hope the program will suffice to let me finish some sort of collection or at least get a good start on one. Perhaps I'll teach for a while, or be an intern somewhere. Maybe I'll get an editorial job. Anything that would allow me to remain in England would be a plus. Getting published would be even better.

On writing to write:

NH: I write a little bit of everything—poetry, short stories, novels, essays—but my favorite style is historical novels.

CB: I enjoy writing poetry—the kind that deals with true events or truths about life and living.

On being inspired to write:

NH: I started writing around the age of 12. A Christmas gift started me on the writing path. It was a book by L.M. Montgomery. I didn't like reading when I was younger, but her books captivated me so much that I became an avid reader and decided I would try writing my own stories. I discovered writing was something that I not only enjoyed, but needed.

CB: Life inspires me. I had to find a way to express how the world affects me, especially my ups and downs as well as the mundane moments. Writing came naturally. I began some time in high school, but never got serious about it until my second year of college when we formed Ex Libris, the student writing group. Ex Libris opened my imagination to so many possibilities I never knew existed. It made them real and attainable.

Favorite author and book:

NH: Because she inspired me to write in the first place, I have to say L. M. Montgomery is one of my favorite authors and her books are among my favorites.

CB: This is the only question that's hard to answer. I could no sooner pick a single favorite than pick a favorite star in the heavens, but if I have to, I'd choose *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. My favorite author would be Douglas Adams, who wrote *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

On collegiate achievement:

NH: Seeing the birth of Ex Libris and being a part of the weekly meetings and annual publication was an amazing experience.

CB: My greatest accomplishment has been making and keeping relationships. Working full time, going to school full time, and keeping up with the demands of Ex Libris is hard enough, but what really makes it all worthwhile are the friendships I've made. Without my buddies, none of this would have been worth it. Each one has taught me something different that I could never have learned in a book. •

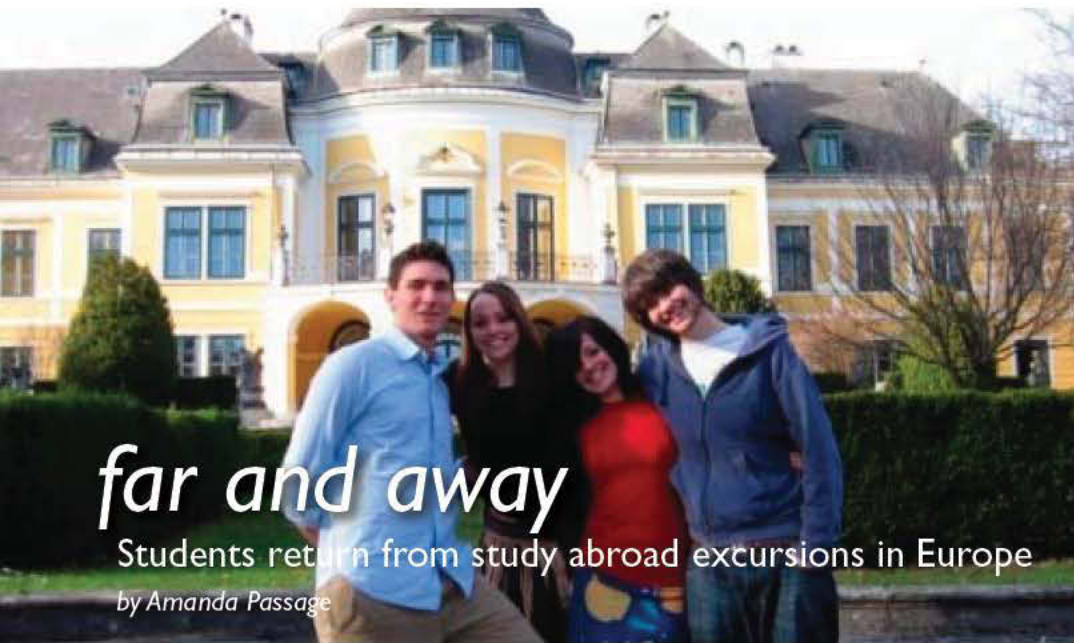
In the quaint city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the historic and the modern blend together to create a truly unique environment



far and away

Students return from study abroad excursions in Europe

by Amanda Passage



Mark Lackowski, Katie Malone, Cami Heater, and Jaron Bentley, members of the Fall 2006 GEO group, stand outside their Vienna castle "home," Schloss Neuwaldegg



Winter GEO travelers Naomi Cochran, Mike Thompson, Melanie Cramp, and Robyn Lampel enjoy a cloudy afternoon in Paris

Returning home from their three month stay in Vienna, Austria, the students and faculty who participated in this year's GEO (Global Education Opportunity) program brought not only a semester's worth of book knowledge back into the states, but also enough memories and cultural experiences to fill a lifetime.

Rochester College joined approximately thirty-five students from Oklahoma Christian University and Cascade College of Portland, Oregon to spend the fall 2006 semester claiming the historic and extraordinary Castle Neuwaldegg as home while visiting London, Italy and various other areas of Europe.

"Any majors were welcome to study abroad with this program. You did not need to have a foreign focus or a language requirement," said John Barton, associate academic dean.

This is hopefully the first of an annual program for Rochester College. OCU has successfully conducted study abroad programs since 1986 in Vienna due to the city's well-preserved history and culture.

"The experience that GEO provides is incredible, there is no better way to learn," said John Barton. "You get to learn more about yourself, music, food, politics and more. Traveling cross-cultures adds an unbelievable dimension to a college semester."

Along with John Barton, his wife, Rochester College campus minister Sara Barton, and their children also traveled the countryside with the group. The couple addressed the fact that international education would

be a life-altering opportunity.

"The way that the students' minds are opened throughout this endeavor changes their entire view on the world. Education is the opening of the mind, and GEO allows each person to experience the world at large," Sara explained.

There were many options available to students, not only to create a better understanding and appreciation for different cultures, but also to advance their spiritual growth through visits to historic churches, daily devotional times, possible volunteer work with clothing and food outlets, and assistance in shelters for children.

The vast differences in culture were the most fascinating aspects to most of the GEO participants.

Abbey Becker said, "GEO was definitely the biggest eye opener for me as to how other cultures really are and how they interact with others. There will probably be no other opportunity that allows me to encounter such a surprising new worldview while offering such exciting experiences."

In addition to the Vienna program, three students traveled to London and Paris for a 15-day encounter with European culture. They left on December 26, 2006 and traveled through the majority of Christmas break.

This trip was a three-credit course to fulfill a theater or art appreciation requirement. Rochester College students traveled with others from Ohio Valley University to bring the total group number to about 20.

Paris was unforgettable for student tourist

Robyn Lampel, "Something I will never forget is going to the top of the Eiffel Tower and being able to see all of Paris around me. I appreciated that moment because I realized I may never have another chance like this, and there are so many others out there who will never get this opportunity."

While visiting Europe, the group viewed various plays in theaters that were built hundreds of years ago. Days consisted of numerous museum and sight seeing excursions in an attempt to consume as much culture as possible in the short stay. The trip tightly scheduled, and the busy itinerary allowed for little free time. The doors of communication stayed open with helpful discussions following each event.

"Aside from getting to see *Les Miserables* and other plays, the times I enjoyed the most were the times I was able to explore on my own, to walk and think. It was a jam-packed and tiring, but also worthwhile and enlightening, 15 days. It's always good to break out of your normal routine and worldview for a little while," commented Naomi Cochran.

The cultural experience was an amazing opportunity in itself, but being exposed to the sights, sounds and spectacles of this culture along with a new set of peers made the trip that much more exciting and eye-opening for all of its participants.

"Rochester College strives to prepare its students for life after college, and a GEO experience will definitely do that," said chaperone Melanie Cramp. •

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our golden anniversary



1959

2009

50 | COMMITMENT TO
FAITH & LEARNING

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

Opening its doors to 54 students on September 28, 1959, North Central Christian College began a long tradition of commitment to faith and learning. Nearly five decades later, Rochester College continues to build upon its rich heritage with a vibrant community that shares the commitments of its founders.

College officials recently announced plans to mark the college's 50th anniversary during the 2008-09 academic year. Anniversary events will begin with the opening of the 50th year in August of 2008 and end with a grand celebration on September 28, 2009.

"The anniversary celebration will be a significant time in our history as we celebrate the past 50 years and look to the future with optimism and excitement," stated Rochester College president Dr. Michael Westerfield. "The 50-year milestone is significant in the life of any academic institution because it demonstrates a sense of continuity and tradition that benefits the entire college community."

A steering committee of 23 individuals began the anniversary planning process in August 2006. Led by Klint Pleasant, vice president of

development and grandson of former president Lucien Palmer, and Larry Stewart, director of alumni information and a 35-year college employee, the steering committee has organized into twelve subcommittees that each involve additional volunteers in the planning process.

"The anniversary celebration will provide several opportunities for friends and alumni of the college to visit the campus and share in this historic celebration," stated Pleasant. "In addition to celebrating the anniversary at all of the annual events like Fall Festival, Homecoming, Academic Symposium and Partnership Dinner, we plan to host such special events as a reunion and concert featuring former members of the A Cappella Chorus."

"Our founders longed for a strong four-year liberal arts Christian college in this region of the country," stated Dr. Westerfield. "Now that Rochester College is graduating over 300 students each year with the bachelors degree in an array of quality academic programs, we are experiencing the fulfillment of their dream. Our anniversary celebration will allow us to look back at the wonderful progress that has been made and look forward to new opportunities in the future." •



ANNOUNCING 50TH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES



North Central Christian College

50 years later

Jerry Burns reflects on the birth of Rochester College

I was born in Florence, Ala., a beautiful renaissance city on the great Tennessee River. My father, C.C. Burns, was a minister for the Churches of Christ in several states and well known for establishing many new congregations both in Alabama and Michigan. It was 1919 when my father first went to Detroit by train from North Alabama where he worked at Ford Motor Company to earn money to attend Freed-Hardeman College. As a teenager, he attended church at the old Vinewood Church of Christ and worked on the Ford assembly line building the original Model T Fords. He often told me the story of the day Henry Ford visited the plant and walked down the assembly line and shook hands with him!

My personal relationship with Rochester College began in 1950 when Mr. Otis Gatewood came to speak at the Court Street Church of Christ in Flint where my father served as minister. My father and Mr. Gatewood became close friends shortly after that visit, and when my father heard that Mr. Gatewood and other members of the Churches of Christ in Michigan were establishing a new Christian college, he encouraged me to enroll. It was quite an adventure as I left home and drove a long way north in my '55 Chevy in early August of 1959.

Back then the campus was called North Central Christian College. I arrived in the Detroit area several weeks before the new dormitory and main building were completed on Avon Road in Rochester Hills. A wonderful Christian family, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Eslinger invited me into their home in the historic village of Franklin, Mich. I worked for Mr. Eslinger in his landscaping business for a few weeks before the semester began. Two other families who were members of the Birmingham Church of Christ were also wonderful to me that first year. Mr. Homer Case, then a city supervisor for Bloomfield Township, and his family treated me like a son. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Utley were also very kind to me. Mr. Utley was the chairman of the Board of Trustees for NCCC and the minister of the Birmingham Church of Christ.

The first semester of North Central Christian College was very exciting as it was a brand new college. I knew that the other students and I would be responsible for establishing traditions that would continue for a long time. I was enthusiastic and eagerly accepted the challenge of being the editor of the school paper. I have always been enchanted by the mystique of the "North"—perhaps it was reading Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* and the Michigan stories of Ernest Hemingway. For a boy from Alabama, Michigan and the "North" of the 1950s was very exciting. I loved hunting and fishing with my father, especially ice-fishing on Houghton Lake in the winters. I loved going to Briggs Stadium and watching my beloved Tigers, especially Al Kaline. I got a home run ball one time that Yogi Berra of the New York Yankees hit at Briggs Stadium.

Subsequently, when it came to naming the school paper I suggested NORTHSTAR, because of my special love of the North Country. I also thought that it would be appropriate because North Central Christian College would be a guiding star for young people in the state of Michigan and other states. Whenever I see a copy of the NORTHSTAR today I am filled with awe and respect. Helping start and name the paper is a highlight of my life. Mr. Wheeler Utley published and printed the paper for us at his printing company in Detroit. He was a great friend to me and to Rochester College. The NORTHSTAR has become a beautiful and very professional journal. I am extremely proud of it.

I only attended North Central for one year, but there are a flood of memories from those early days. I am especially thankful for the influence of the good people who were so kind to me, including members of the Birmingham Church of Christ, President Gatewood, Mr. Lucien Palmer, Mr. Maurice Hall and all the teachers and staff of the college that first year.

We had great Christian teachers at NCCC. I especially enjoyed the survey of civilization course. During that first winter we ice skated on the lake around the totem pole, and I was thrilled to be on the first basketball team and in the first chorus. Chapel was also a highlight, when we assembled every day in the home of President and Mrs. Gatewood. It was a very special place, and I have a special love for all my fellow students from that first year—young men and women from several states.

After almost fifty years I look at the first copies of the NORTHSTAR and the first edi-



Jerry Burns (center), Harlan Huckaba and David Coleman prepare for a broadcast on radio station WNCC in 1960.

Jerry and Gloria stand in front of Gallahar Center on the Rochester College campus. Formerly the Maxon Estate, Gallahar is one of the only buildings on campus that was here when Jerry attended NCCC in 1959.





tion of the TOTEM POLE with great respect, awe, and love for all those associated with North Central/Michigan Christian/Rochester College. I am even proud of the scar on my left hand, which I received my first semester when the guys in the dorm decided to throw me in Lake Norcentra. As they carried me down the dorm hall, my hand scraped along the wall and made quite a gash. Every day since, I have looked at the scar on my hand and remembered my days in Rochester Hills.

During the next 10 years I attended a total of six colleges and universities including Flint Junior College, University of Michigan, Freed-Hardeman University, University of North Alabama, and Abilene Christian University, accumulating over 200 semester hours and graduating with majors in psychology, communication, and English. I met my wife, Gloria Kelley, at Abilene Christian University. During those 10 years I served as a minister in Churches of Christ in Corinth, Miss., Bremen, Ga., Flushing and Saginaw, Mich., and Town Creek, Ala. I have great appreciation and respect for all of these institutions and have a special love for Rochester College.

In the spring of 1969, during my final semester at Abilene, my older brother Charles began a new manufacturing business. He was a minister as well as a businessman. After graduating, I had interviews with Pep-

perdine University and General Motors in California, but decided to go into business with my brother. During the following years we had an aviation business and an automotive parts manufacturing and national distribution company. Our main business became Burns Manufacturing, located in Muscle Shoals, Ala. For twenty years we manufactured Burns-Craft houseboats, cruisers, and yachts. We both continued to preach in North Alabama and for several years had a daily 15-minute religious radio program.

Our manufacturing concerns were sold in 1986 and my beloved brother died in July of 2006. Since selling our business, I have been living in Texas with my wife, dividing my time between church work, reading, writing, and when I can, backpacking in the high mountains of New Mexico, especially in the Pecos Wilderness near Santa Fe. I love cycling and try to ride 20 or 30 miles each week. We are fortunate to be members of a wonderful church family here in Dallas, the Prestoncrest Church of Christ. Our two children, Brian and Julie, graduated from Texas A&M University and live in the Dallas area. We also have four grandchildren, two girls and two boys.

We were thrilled to visit the campus of Rochester College in the fall of 2006 and see the development and beauty of the campus. I am impressed with the quality of the admin-

Help us create memories

In preparation for publication of a book about the history of the college, written memories, photos, memorabilia, and artifacts are being requested by the 50th Anniversary Committee. Items can be either loaned or donated to the college. Many items will be photographed for use in the anniversary book or other college publications. Eventually, some of the donated items will be housed in a special room commemorating the college's history.

- Written memories
- High quality photos
- Memorabilia and artifacts
- Sports uniforms
- Imprinted memorabilia
- College sportswear
- Chorus robes and outfits
- Drama props and costumes
- Programs
- Items from the Maxon Estate
- Athletic items
- Class rings
- Cheerleading outfits
- Other significant items

Written memories and offers of photos and memorabilia can be submitted on a preliminary anniversary website at www.rc.edu/anniversary.

istration, staff and professors. There is a great, free spirit of spiritual development on campus that is very refreshing in our post-modern era. That was, in essence, the message I tried to convey during my chapel presentation to the current students. In an age where absolutes are no longer accepted and we often don't know what to believe, we can, in spite of the allure of materialism, choose to live by reason *and* faith. We choose to believe in the Christian story. We mean to believe.

Men like Garth Pleasant, Clint Pleasant, Dr. David Fleer, and many others currently serving at the college inspire me, and I hope to always be involved in some way with this institution and its people. I am eternally grateful for the influence of Rochester College in my life. •



From left, theatre directors Kelly Brock, Cathie Parker, and David Keller

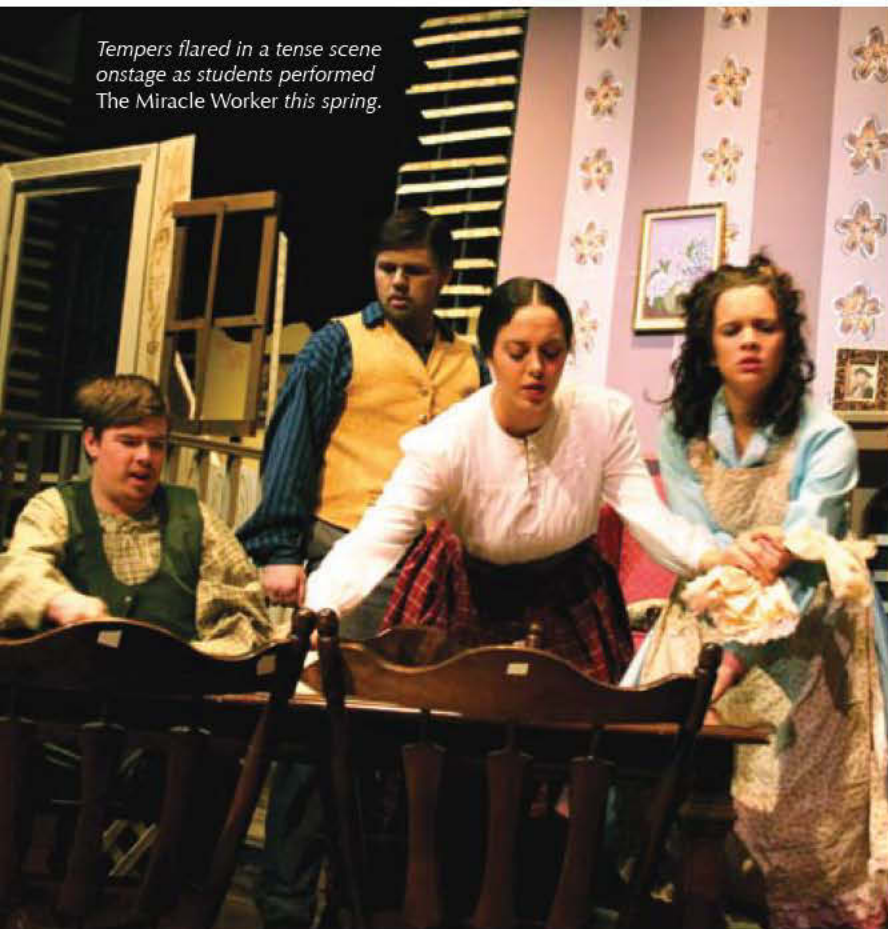


State-of-the-art equipment, like this lighting rig, is a feature of the theatre.

all the world's a stage

Theatre department grows up
by Yvonne Scott

Tempers flared in a tense scene onstage as students performed *The Miracle Worker* this spring.



The Rochester College theatre department has become a house built on a rock. That foundation consists of three individuals who possess not only a purpose in their work, but a passion for their work. Since the theatre opened in the fall of 2004, the college has hosted everything from comedy, family shows, and short one-act productions.

Catherine Parker, assistant professor of theatre, along with Kelly D. Brock, adjunct instructor, and Dr. David Keller, professor of interdisciplinary studies, have combined their talents, love of theatre, and willingness to serve to make up a dynamic trio whose goal is to present professional quality productions. These three individuals are not lukewarm about their mission to advance the theatre program at Rochester College. Adding to this force are adjunct instructors Jaime Sieber and Aaron T. Moore.

The theatre program offers a variety in type, genre, and style. Parker is conscious of alternating between serious plays and comedies, historical plays and contemporary performances. Past productions include: *Number the Stars*, *A Man In A Case*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Angel Street*, *Little Women*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Imaginary Invalid*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Parker has served as director of the theatre department since 1997. After earning her B.S. from Rochester College in 1996, she completed her M.A. and coursework towards a Ph.D. Immediately after her arrival, the college was able to offer a theatre track to communication majors. Last year, the department added a theatre minor, and this year a theatre concentration.

The spring 2006 production of *Charlotte's Web* was enjoyed by an audience of young and old alike!



Kelly Brock started in the theatre program as a freshman in 2001. She graduated in the spring of 2005 and directed *Charlotte's Web*, her first full-length production in March 2006. She is now near completion of her M.A.

Dr. David Keller is a man hooked and high on the theatre. His love affair began in 1983 when he began directing one-act plays as a component of the literature courses he was teaching at Northeastern Christian Junior College. He then pursued and completed an M.A. in theatre arts from Villanova University. Dr. Keller has designed and directed an average of two productions every year for the last twenty-two years. A crowning moment for Dr. Keller was directing Richard Rashke's *Dear Esther* in 2000, the true story of Holocaust survivor Esther Raab. "I'm receiving encouragement from Abe Raab, Esther's son, to produce and direct the play here at Rochester College, and I am looking forward to that opportunity," says Keller.

The college is reaching out to the greater Rochester community through involvement with local elementary schools. The new theatre has allowed Rochester College to invite children to special daytime performances, of which *Charlotte's Web* was the first. A great response was received from the

community, and the theatre was filled with children for two daytime performances. In the fall, *Number the Stars* was presented as the second show for young people. This was geared for older elementary and middle school students, and both daytime matinees sold out. Following each performance, a Holocaust survivor addressed the audience. The cast also performed *Number the Stars* at West Bloomfield's Holocaust Museum to sold out audiences.

The theatre department has also reactivated its children's theatre troupe, Pied Pipers. The group performs at local elementary schools and churches throughout the metro Detroit area and beyond.

The theatre faces challenges that come with growth: adequate space and resources. Dr. Keller observes that another challenge is the competition from the flood of media surrounding our culture. "We can't have a quality educational theatre unless we're striving to be what theatre in general needs to be," Keller says.

Plans for next year include the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* for Homecoming, and Brock is hoping to direct *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the spring. Parker most recently directed *The Miracle Worker*

and offered a sign language interpreter for the deaf during one of the performances. The opera program together with the theatre presented *Godspell* in April. The opera program has also presented *Amahl and the Night Visitors* as an annual Christmas pageant for the past three years.

For Parker, the theatre department serves the academic mission of the college, which states that "an educated person is able to connect coherently the spiritual truths of God with the wisdom of humanity embodied in the arts and the sciences."

"In a theatre program, we do not just read these great works—we enact them," Parker says. "Students get to crawl within the skin of another person and ask what it might be like to endure the circumstances given in the play."

Brock shares her dream for the theatre: "I would love for our program to grow to the point where the play patrons in Oakland County would ask: I wonder what's showing at the Rochester College theatre?"

With this kind of love and passion for the theatre, along with their commitment and integrity to honor God and the community they serve, Brock's dream should have no trouble coming to fruition. •

“cool quad” spreads hope

How Troy Butler makes a difference every day

by Elizabeth Nalewajk

Troy Butler, self-titled “cool quad,” is the kind of person most of us strive to be: he is generous, selfless, and has persevered against the odds. A quadriplegic from birth, he has faced all the odds and never let anything stand in his way.

Troy graduated from Rochester College in 1998 with a major in social work and a minor in psychology. His time here began in 1987, but because the facilities had not been updated at the time, Troy took a break in 1991.

a disability. I was always included.”

It was this sense of belonging and spirituality that Troy took with him when he graduated. “I took a piece of Rochester College with me. I never stopped learning and my desire to serve as an alumnus has grown since graduation.”

Troy and his 6-year-old English lab, Jagr, are volunteers for Paws with a Cause. Jagr is Troy’s service dog and best friend. The duo goes into the community and to schools to demonstrate the dog’s abilities. Together they spread the word about people with disabilities.

Troy is also a field grant researcher for the Community Hospice of Livonia. He aids in searching for money for volunteer programs. As a board member for Community Housing Network for Oakland and Macomb counties, he helps low income individuals with mental illness and physical disabilities find money for down payments. Since March 2006, he also has been an advocate for RIK, an organization that fights for the rights of children and adults with disabilities.

Troy’s attributes don’t stop there. He is a strong presence in his church, Faith Apostolic Church of Troy. He participates in the Pastor’s prayer team, is a part of the Card Ministry of the church, and once a month, he teaches children ages four years to sixth grade about bible lessons, prayers and mission work.

It’s his relationship with the Lord and his time at Rochester College that Troy says plays the biggest part of his success. “A big part of the reason that I got the gumption to speak up and do the things that I do is because of my experience at Rochester College.”

A scholarship in Troy’s name was established and awarded in 2003 for students in social work. Troy says he wanted to do this because he knows the struggles that students go through while attending college—with or without a disability. It was a dream that he, his mother and his father, who passed away, all wanted to see happen.

Troy attributes his success to many people along the way at Rochester College, among them Dean Candace Cain. He says she is one of the people who would give a smile that kept him going when he needed it. The staff and students made every step of the way something special for this strong and determined man, and he will never forget that.

“I would not trade my experience here for \$1,000,000 or a pot of gold.” •

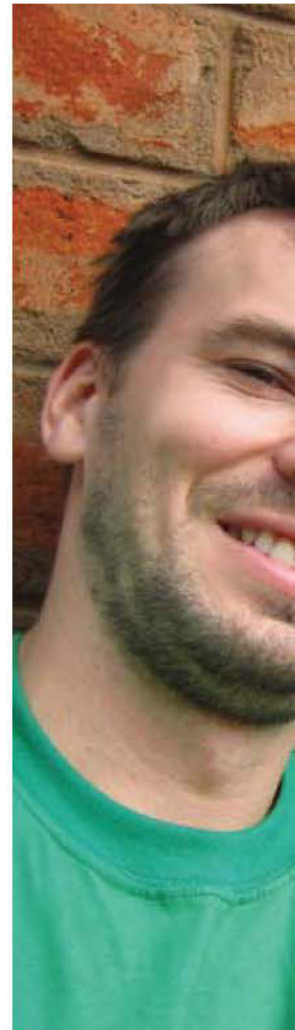


Troy Butler begins each day at his home in Troy, Michigan—and then goes out and lives it to the fullest

After the science buildings became available and Rochester began to grow, he made the decision to come back in 1994 to complete his degree. He began working on a master of arts in counseling through Sienna Heights from 2001-2004.

While attending Rochester College, Troy was a member of the Alpha Kappa social club and Epsilon. Troy even jokes that he tried time and again to join the basketball team, but Coach wouldn’t let him, “I can’t imagine why,” Troy chuckles fondly.

Troy was also a participant in *Celebration*, an experience that he remembers as one of his favorites. “I wasn’t even involved in musicals in high school, but I got involved in *Celebration*, and no one cared that I had



mission to malawi

Alumnus Brad McKenna cashes in his chips to make a move around the world

by Elizabeth Nalewajk



Above, Malawian residents enjoy a day with Brad's mission team. Below, Brad bonds with a small girl from the orphanage where he now works full-time.

When Brad McKenna began his education at Rochester College in 1997, he had dreams of being a basketball star. Instead, he spent three years playing baseball and four years on the soccer team. He didn't join any clubs or activities, in fact, he helped formed the now infamous "Clubless Club." Brad admits he was not a stellar student and nearly flunked out at one point. He wasn't even a Christian; "When I first came here, I came for the sports," McKenna said.

McKenna may have come for the sports, but even before he graduated, he began to follow a greater calling. Brad McKenna graduated in May 2002 with an interdisciplinary degree in communication and science. Somewhere along the way, he decided he wanted a degree in zoology in order to work with animals. He knew that Rochester College didn't offer this type of degree, but he took the science classes he would later need for the degree.

After his suitemate returned from a mission trip to Ghana, boasting about all of the animals he had seen, McKenna decided to join a mission trip himself. He was looking for the experience of seeing the creatures he had been studying. What he found was a life-changing event that would cause him to be baptized by the second week of his trip. "It was the people: I excel at things, but was I giving back?"

When Brad graduated, he began fulfilling his dream of working with animals as a trainer at the Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills. He eventually worked his way through the organization, and by the time he left four years later, he was working on fundraising and public relations. Since leaving Leader Dogs for the Blind, Brad has been working at a mortgage company in a position that would turn out to be the first step towards his new mission in life.

He is a member of Kensington Community Church, serves on the missions' board, and is a small group leader. Among his accomplishments, Brad counts befriending Coach Carter, the California high school basketball coach famous for benching his whole team in 1999

during an undefeated season for not meeting their academic requirements.

In August 2006, Brad joined another mission to Malawi, East Africa. Malawi is a small country on the southeastern end of Africa. The country inhabits more than 13 million people of which less than 3% live to be over the age of 65. During his stay, Brad was once again touched not only by the people, but also by a calling from God to become a full-time missionary.

For one day's events, the missionaries organized fun activities and bible study but were told to end the day by noon. When asked why, they were told that the children would be walking over four hours each way just for a slice of hope. Many of the children already have AIDS and will not live past their teenage years. When Brad returned to the states, he feverishly began working on raising the funds and passing the requirements to become a missionary, a task that normally takes up to two years. He was ready in four months.

Brad is a member of Extreme Response, an international organization that aids in providing relief and support for people living in the worst of conditions. He will be working with KINDLE (Kids in Need Deserve Love and Encouragement) an organization that is aiding the more than 500,000 orphans left by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Brad will be living in a rural area called "the Farm" which is a little over an hour from Malawi's capital city.

He will remain in the country for the next two years where he will work on finance and budgeting to help the people become more self-sufficient. When asked what he will do when his mission is complete, Brad said, "I took this as a job transfer. God's hands are guiding me and as long as he is in control, I will go wherever I am guided." Brad admits that he is fearful of a strange, new environment, but knows that God will guide him everywhere he goes.

Brad has learned that through his education and sense of community and calling, God is able to bless people around the world. For more on Brad's mission visit his website at malawibrad.com. •

a bond unbroken

Three alumni remain connected years after going their separate ways



From left, Jeremy Deming, Luke Ubelhor, and Jeremy Cooke at one of their annual summer gatherings. It makes us wonder—how many other alumni have similar yearly meetings? Write in and tell us your story!

Just what is the weekend of the little green man? "I'm not sure what that means. He may be referring to himself, but he's not green," explains Luke Ubelhor about his long-time buddy, Jeremy Deming.

Since completing their education in the late nineties, Ubelhor, Deming and fellow Rochester College alumnus Jeremy Cooke have gathered together every year for their own mini class reunion. They usually meet sometime during the summer at each other's homes or at an out-of-town cabin. The trio has done well thus far having received a strong spiritual foundation and academic training from Rochester College.

Ubelhor, a native of Plainfield, Ind. graduated from Rochester College in 1999 with a degree in marketing. He currently works as an account executive at Van Ausdall & Farrar, an office technology solutions firm in his home state. According to Ubelhor, professors Jeff Simmons and David Fleer had the most profound impact on him as did his overall experience at Rochester College.

"I don't think I would have had the opportunity to truly grow into my own if I had chosen a larger public college or university," said Deming about his time at Rochester College.

Deming left Bolivar, Tenn. to pursue a bachelor of business administration at Rochester College. He considers his position as chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Natchitoches in Louisiana his "dream job." As a single dad to six-year-old Isak Ross, Deming's relationship with his classmates has helped him remain grounded during tough times.

"We're like brothers. There's a close bond that we all have with each other that has proven to be unbreakable over the years," Deming said.

Reunions are one of the best ways to stay connected to former classmates. How do you keep your classmates close?

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

JULY 20-22, 2007

CLASS REUNIONS—
1962 & 1982

AUGUST 2007

2ND ANNUAL
WARRIOR RALLY

NOVEMBER 10, 2007

HOMECOMING

For more information about these and other alumni events, contact Teresa Graney, development coordinator, at 248.218.2059 or tgraney@rc.edu.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your news! Submit information online at www.rc.edu/alumni or clip and return this form to:

Larry Stewart, Director of Alumni Information
Rochester College
800 West Avon Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

NAME (maiden if applicable): _____ YEARS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME (maiden if applicable): _____ YEARS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

1982

KURT (2002) AND JODY (FIDLER) FLEIS-CHHUT recently moved to 8390 Sunburst Avenue, Center Line, MI 48015. Kurt is a contract specialist with TACOM and Jody is a homemaker. The couple has two children, Meta Grace and Erich William.

Joe and **JILL (JEZIERSKI)VINCENT** live at 647 Charles Drive, Gilbertsville, PA 19525. Joe is employed by Merck and Company, and Jill is a teacher. The couple has three children, Joy, Jaime, and Joey. Jill is seeking volunteers to help with a class reunion this summer and can be reached at jfamilyvincent@comcast.net.

1984

PAUL AND ANGELA (GREER) CARPENTER recently moved to Ohio. Paul is the minister for the Pearl Street Church of Christ and Angela is a registered nurse. The couple has one daughter, Faith Noelle. The family lives at 613 Hastings Drive, Lynchburg, OH 45142.

1990

Noah recently joined Caleb, Stephen, Rebecca, Jonathan, and Joshua in the home of **MARK AND CHRISTINE (CAMPBELL-89) BRACKNEY**. Mark is the minister of the Arlington Church of Christ, and Christine is a homemaker. The family lives at 8529 Pierre Marques Street, Knoxville, TN 37938.

1991

MARTY KINDALL'S first novel, *The Knot*, was released by The Wild Rose Press last fall. Marty can be reached at 12654 Tucker Crossing Lane, Charlotte, NC 28273.

1993

Lucas Scott joined Emma in the home of Scott and **STEPHANIE (PERRY) BARRY** on October 3, 2006. Stephanie is an attorney and Scott is a firefighter. The family lives at 5419 Spitfire Drive, Newport, MI 48166.

1994

Donald and **DAWN (CREWS) WILLIAMS** are expecting their second child in August. Dawn is employed by Music and More Productions and once again is enrolled in

college. Donald is the manager of the Havre Day Activity Center. The family lives at 1121 17th Street West, Havre, MT 59501.

1995

Elijah William joined Micah and Jonah in the home of **JOHN AND APRIL (SHEPARD) BATTY** on October 25, 2006. John is a manager for Staples and April is a homemaker. The family lives at 16752 West Hadley, Goodyear, AZ 85338.

Skip and **HEATHER (HANNA) MIRCH** recently relocated to Tucson, Arizona, where Heather is working as a registered nurse in the Tucson Medical Center. Skip is attending school for electrical engineering. The couple lives at 7990 East Snyder Road #7106, Tucson, AZ 86750.

1996

BRAD IRWIN began responsibilities as marketing manager for the Detroit Historical Society in May. He is living at 3115 Coolidge Highway #128, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Brian and **LEAANNA (MUSKIN) WHITFIELD** welcomed Emerson Charles on December 5, 2005. Brian owns a home inspection company, and LeaAnna teaches first grade for the Van Dyke Public Schools. The family lives at 935 East Browning, Hazel Park, MI 48030.

1997

ALLAN AND AMY (YOUNG) DURHAM welcomed Hannah Grace on April 10, 2006. Allan is a manager for PNC Bank, and Amy is a homemaker. The family lives at 4305 Candlestick Court, Dumfries, VA 22025.

1998

EDWIN CAHILL married Martha Baiza on June 24, 2006. Edwin is an assistant director at Pepperdine University, and Martha is a preschool teacher for KinderCare Learning Center. The couple resides at 2623 Antonio Drive #107, Camarillo, CA 93010.

1999

Xavier Donald joined Noah in the home of DJ and **YOLANDA (CRITES) FETT** on August 28, 2006. DJ is president of Lima Contract-

ing, and Yolanda teaches 4th and 5th grade at the Golden Bridge Academy. The family lives at 3409 Redbud Lane, Lima, OH 45806.

HOLLY JOHNSON married Jeff Lemons on May 27, 2006. Holly is a financial aid counselor for Virginia Commonwealth University and Jeff is a human resource manager for Honeywell. The couple lives at 8230 Sterling Cove Terrace, Chesterfield, VA 23838.

ELLIOT AND SHANNON (HILLMAN) JONES welcomed Trent Elliot on December 23, 2006. Shannon is a middle school special education teacher in Waterford, and Elliot is the director of marketing and design at Rochester College. The family lives at 8739 Hamilton East Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48313.

2001

LAURA EVANS married James Heidell on April 22, 2006. Laura is a senior sales and leasing consultant for Saturn and James is a master technician for Saturn. The couple lives at 5500 Beresford Street, Canal Winchester, OH 43110.

2004

JIM JACKS was awarded the Ed Donley Distinguished Graduate Award from Lawrence Technological University in November while completing his master's degree. Jim is a studio engineer for the GM Design Center. He and his wife, Mary, live at 7769 Ambassador Drive, Shelby Township, MI 48316.

D'MITRI RUSSELL and his wife Zepporah welcomed Liya Ann Marie on April 18, 2006. D'Mitri is a receiving and material handling supervisor for Visteon, and Zepporah is a homemaker. The family lives at 742 Jefferson Lane, Milan, MI 48160.

STEVE STIMSON recently began a new job at J&L Industrial in Southfield, MI. He can be contacted at 2977 Hartline Dr., Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

2005

STEPHANIE BURR recently accepted a role as a sales and service representative for the Volkswagen Credit Remarketing Group. Stephanie lives at 38968 Golfview, Clinton Township, MI 48038.



athletic center update

We grow closer to our goal as more and more people continue to *Catch the Vision*

Total Goal for
Catch the Vision
Campaign:
\$31,000,000

Raised as of
April 2007:
\$10,000,000
(32%)

Rochester College is in the midst of a \$31 million capital campaign of which the new Arena and Recreation Center is the flagship. The components of the *Connect to the Vision* campaign are:

- **Capital Goal—\$13.2 million**
The capital fund supports the construction of new buildings and facilities, including the new Arena and Recreation Center.
- **Endowment Goal—\$10 million**
The endowment fund will provide a secure future for the college. The income generated by the invested funds provides for student scholarships and funds, endowed chairs, and professorships.
- **Annual Operating Fund Goal—\$4.8 million**
The annual fund supports the daily operation of the college (salaries, utilities, maintenance, etc.)
- **Restricted Gifts Goal—\$3 million.**
The restricted fund provides for new programs not funded in the college's annual budget.

The development office was recently re-structured and is now managed by Klint Pleasant, vice president of development and special assistant to the president. Doug Edwards serves as vice president of planned and major gifts and Scott Samuels is the associate vice president of development. Other members of the development team are Elton Albright, Dennis Veara, Amanda Holt, and Teresa Graney. Additionally, Cathy Ries provides part-time administrative assistance.

The new development team brings a fresh outlook to the campaign. The team has recently focused on near term unrestricted cash gifts (Annual Operating Fund) while not losing sight of the other components of the overall campaign. The economy in the state of Michigan remains depressed (7.1 % unemployment rate, \$860 million state budget deficit, and depressed housing market), despite a national economic resurgence. The Annual Operating Fund is very important as the college weathers the economic storm. Because of this recent focus, the

annual fund portion of the campaign is progressing very well. Despite the difficult economy, however, the restricted and capital portions of the campaign are making significant progress as well. To date, \$10 million of the \$31 million has been raised.

Efforts to raise money for construction of the new Arena and Recreation Center were dealt a blow earlier this year as the new congress decided to eliminate all new appropriations requests for the fiscal year 2007. Rochester College's request for appropriation funding progressed through to the final stage of the process before the last-minute congressional decision. Despite this setback, the college is re-applying for federal appropriations money in the 2008 fiscal year.

In addition, the development team is formulating plans to move forward in the capital and endowment campaigns with innovative fundraising strategies. Over \$3 million has already been raised towards the athletic center and over \$1 million has been spent on design, architectural fees, permits, and other related construction expenses. The new development team recognizes how important the Arena and Recreation Center is to the future of Rochester College and is committed to seeing this project through to completion.

Please visit the new development website at www.rc.edu/development for opportunities to *Connect to the Vision*, such as:

- Help us meet the \$1.2 mil. Isom Challenge Gift
- Attend the annual Partnership Dinner fundraiser
- Participate in the Pay-for-a-Day annual operating fund program (see ad)
- Include Rochester College in your estate plans
- Consider a charitable gift annuity
- Consult the calendar of events and attend a dinner or reception in your area

If you have any questions, please contact the development office at 800.521.6010 or visit us on the web at www.rc.edu/development.

partner's honor roll

2006 CALENDAR YEAR

Thank you to all of our generous donors. You truly do make a difference in the lives of our students. For more information about donor clubs, honor and memorial gifts, and estate planning, please contact the development office.

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(\$100,000+)

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Gerald & Lucille Isom

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USDA

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JULY 2006—MARCH 2007

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Northstar survey

Faithful Northstar readers, we need your help! Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. It is important for us to provide you with meaningful and appropriate information in the Northstar magazine. Your input will help us to better understand what information is important and relevant to you and how we can better meet your needs through this publication. An addressed, postage-paid envelope is included for your ease of return. If you prefer, you may instead complete the survey at www.rc.edu/nssurvey.

SECTION A

Please circle the appropriate number on the scale below each question.

1. Generally, the **NORTHSTAR** provides me with news about the college that I was previously unaware of.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

2. I feel out of touch with the college when I do not read the **NORTHSTAR**.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

SECTION B

Please circle the appropriate number on the scale below each question.

1. Typically I read the **NORTHSTAR** from cover to cover.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

3. It is important for me to receive the **NORTHSTAR**.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

2. Typically I scan the **NORTHSTAR** for articles that appear to contain new information and read only those articles.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

4. When I receive the **NORTHSTAR** it is placed on my "read when I get a chance" stack.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

SECTION C

Please circle the appropriate number on the scale below each question.

1. I would rather receive the **NORTHSTAR** via email in electronic format than in the traditional mailed print format.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

3. I would prefer one the **NORTHSTAR** publication each year with more frequent email updates.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

2. I would not be bothered if advertisements were included in the **NORTHSTAR**.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

4. I would prefer one **NORTHSTAR** publication each year with more frequent newsletter updates.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

SECTION D

Please circle the appropriate number on the scale below each question.

1. The **NORTHSTAR** influences my decision to donate to the college.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

2. The **NORTHSTAR** helps me determine if the college is effective in using the funds raised.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

3. After reading the **NORTHSTAR**, I have a desire to help the college continue in its mission.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

4. I have donated funds to the college to support a specific effort after reading about it in the **NORTHSTAR**.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

SECTION E

Please circle the appropriate number on the scale below each question.

1. The reason the college publishes the **NORTHSTAR** is to keep readers informed about what is happening at the college.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

3. The reason the college publishes the **NORTHSTAR** is to ask for more donations.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

2. The reason the college publishes the **NORTHSTAR** is to keep alumni connected to the college.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

4. If an alumnus, the **NORTHSTAR** provides adequate coverage of alumni achievements, events, and information.

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____
Agree _____ Disagree

SECTION F

Please answer the following questions.

When considering the different types of information found in the **NORTHSTAR**, how would you prioritize the following? Please rank their order of importance to you, from "1" (most important) through "7" (least important):

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ____ Letter from the President | ____ News Briefs |
| ____ Faculty focus articles | ____ Alumni News |
| ____ News about athletics | ____ Student testimonials |
| ____ Recent event articles | |

Please indicate state of residence: _____

How many semesters did you complete at Rochester College? (check one)

____ 0-2 ____ 3-4 ____ 5-6 ____ 7+

Please check the appropriate age range:

____ 18-25 ____ 26-35 ____ 36-45
____ 46-55 ____ 56-65 ____ 65+

Please list other college or university publications you receive that are similar to the **NORTHSTAR**:



Notes for 2007

May

*remember:
pay for a day!*

June

August

July

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