

# NORTH STAR

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# PASSING *the* TORCH

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*Tyson Succeeds  
Shelly as President*







## FROM THE *president's desk*

After about a month on the job as the new president at Rochester College, I received the following email from one of our student-athletes:

"My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I want to apologize for my action and words I said to the referee on Saturday during our game. There is no excuse for what I did. I was wrong. And I want to assure you this will never happen again. I hope you can forgive me for what I have done as I have not only made myself look bad, I have made the team, the school, and you look bad. Thank you for taking the time to read my email."

The next day, the student came to my office at my request to visit. It became clear to me that he is a good athlete who could have played at any number of colleges or universities in America. The mistake he had made was not acceptable, but it is not uncommon for an athlete to be tempted to do such a thing in the heat of the moment in a passion-filled game.

What was unique was his willingness to accept responsibility for his behavior and to ask for forgiveness. As we talked, it became clear that just a few months ago he would not have responded this way. His life was changing for the better and he knew it. Coaches, teammates and teachers were influencing him in ways he did not expect, and he did not want to do anything to let them down. His experience at Rochester College was transforming him to be more like Jesus.

This student is not alone. Nearly every week I hear stories of students or alumni whose lives are being shaped in powerful ways by their relationships at this college. As the "new kid on the block," I am proud to be part of a great institution with such a strong legacy of building faith. As a friend or alumnus, I appreciate the role you play in making this college a special place.

At the end of our conversation, I assured the student that his behavior did not shed a bad light on me. On the contrary, what a great blessing it is to come to work every day knowing I'm part of a community that teaches the values of accepting personal responsibility, admitting mistakes and granting forgiveness. How could that make anyone look bad? After all, that looks a lot like Jesus.

John Tyson, Ph.D.  
President



## ON THE COVER

Rochester College's mace, introduced in 2004, is made from Michigan cherry wood and is hand carved in the shape of a torch. Traditionally, the torch symbolizes light in darkness. For Rochester College, this has two meanings:

- Enlightenment through education, so one grows intellectually and is able to connect coherently the truth of God with the wisdom of humanity.
- A beacon of Christian hope, embodied by the one claimed as the "light of the world."

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









# TYSON SUCCEEDS SHELLY AS PRESIDENT

Dr. John Tyson, president and CEO of Abilene Christian Schools in Abilene, Texas, officially began his duties as the ninth president of Rochester College on Aug. 1, 2013.

Tyson's selection concluded a nationwide search to succeed Dr. Rubel Shelly, who served as RC president since 2008.

William Anderson, chair of the RC Board of Trustees, noted the depth of experience in higher education and development that Tyson brings to his role as president. "Dr. Tyson is a visionary leader," Anderson said. "Dr. Tyson will continue to help Rochester College achieve its mission of preparing strong contributing citizens by providing an excellent liberal arts education in a Christian environment. Dr. Tyson has an exemplary record in development, which is crucial to the future of our college. We look forward to the leadership and energy he brings to our campus."

While serving at Abilene Christian Schools, a PreK-12 private Christian school, Tyson developed its strategic vision and long-range plans, increased student enrollment 16 percent, and raised major gifts for capital improvements. Previously, Tyson served as vice president for development for Abilene Christian University, a private institution with about 4,500 students, from 1994-2010. He directed all campus fundraising and advancement activities, securing more than \$330 million for ACU in philanthropic gifts. Tyson earned his Ph.D. with an emphasis on rhetorical studies from the University of Texas. A native Texan, Tyson and his wife, Valinda, have three adult children.

"It is a great privilege and honor to be invited to serve as the president of Rochester College," Tyson said. "The college has a great history and a bright future. The commitment of the faculty, staff and Board of Trustees to produce graduates who desire to serve and lead, excel in learning and live out their Christian faith is impressive and inspiring. Valinda and I are excited about this new challenge and look forward to the opportunity to serve."

With Tyson's arrival, Shelly assumed responsibilities as chancellor of the college. He works as an ambassador for RC and has returned to his most cherished roles of teacher-author within the college community.

Shelly assumed the role of interim president in Spring 2008, and, at the board's request, continued to serve as president during a challenging period of transition in the college's history. "Dr. Shelly's tenure not only witnessed a solidifying of the financial footings of Rochester College but, through his leadership, the college achieved significant academic and enrollment milestones," Anderson said.

Under Shelly's leadership, Rochester College increased its enrollment from 850 students to more than 1,100; established a School of Nursing in collaboration with Crittenton Hospital Medical Center; reorganized academic programming into an integrated learning model; and secured exceptional faculty and staff.

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

Shelly said he enjoys collaborating with the new president. "Dr. Tyson has just the right skill set for the opportunities before us," he said. "His academic training, experience in Christian higher education, and deep personal commitment to Christ combine to make him the right person to take Rochester College to the next level. I pledge my personal support to him as he assumes his role as president with us."



# Introducing RC's 9th President

# DR. JOHN TYSON

The NORTHSTAR recently sat down with Dr. Tyson for a wide-ranging interview about his life and plans for the college he now leads. For more about Dr. John Tyson, visit [rc.edu/president](http://rc.edu/president).



## **What was your first thought upon being named president?**

My first thought was both exciting and humbling. It's a tremendous responsibility, and at the same time it's an exciting opportunity. I also felt a great sense of appreciation.

## **What were the reactions of Valinda and your children?**

The reactions of my family were very positive. As a family, we had talked and prayed about this opportunity for awhile. Our whole family was engaged in the process of thinking about it, so when they heard the news, they were all very encouraging and affirming.

## **Throughout your career, you've gained experience with both the operational and academic side of higher education. How does this combined experience guide your leadership style?**

Higher education is a unique business. You're working with a large group of people who are very intelligent and extremely motivated, and it's exciting to be able to work with that much talent. Sometimes it can be challenging to find a way to inspire people to rally around common ideas and projects. In higher education, sometimes things move more slowly and yet we're in a culture and environment where change is happening at a more rapid pace. My experience in both operations and academics gives me a great appreciation for the real focus, which is the reason we exist—to influence the lives of our students. It helps me keep a focus on why we're here and helps me understand what it takes for us to adapt to change and be viable for the future.

## **What do you most want students to know about you?**

I want students to know I truly care about them and their futures. I remember my days as a student and as a young adult, craving the influence of godly mentors in my life. I believe those people helped shape me and make me into the husband, father and professional person I am. I truly want to help every one of our students achieve their dreams for the future.

## **What do you most want alumni to know about you?**

I share their love and appreciation for Rochester College and their desire for the college to continue to excel.

## **Tell us about your "road to RC."**

My first awareness of Rochester College was probably in the late 1970s when I became acquainted with Dr. Milton Fletcher who worked at Abilene Christian University during my time as a student. He left ACU during my senior year to become president of RC. Shortly after I returned to ACU in a professional capacity, so did Dr. Fletcher. Our friendship deepened at that time, and Dr. Fletcher often spoke of Rochester College. Additionally, my wife, Valinda, grew up attending the Park Forest Church of Christ in Chicago. That congregation has been very supportive of Rochester College, so for 35 years I have been observing the very positive influence of the college. In 2010, I contacted Dr. Rubel Shelly to learn more about what was going on at the college and to offer some friendly consultation. Throughout the past three years, I have been on the campus numerous times to visit with Dr. Shelly and others. Then in February 2013, I received a call from Bill Anderson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, asking if I would be willing to be considered for the position of president. My father, for whom I had been caring, had recently passed away and our youngest son was finishing high school. It felt like the right time for our family to make a change of this nature, so I was very willing to explore the possibility.

## **What will be the measure of the value of a Christian education in this day and age?**

The mission of Rochester College is to train students to be faithful—professionally, personally and eternally. Measuring our success doesn't happen quickly. We don't really know how effective we are until we look down the road in a person's life. All of us face many storms in life. There are many twists and turns, and we all make mistakes along the way. However, the real question is whether or not we continue to remain faithful in our relationship with Jesus Christ, despite what life may throw our way. The real value of a Christian education is in giving us the tools to remain faithful.

## **What are RC's biggest challenges?**

One of the biggest challenges at the present time is our financial situation. Virtually every college and university in the United States depends upon either tax revenue or endowment revenue, or both, to supplement what students and their families pay in tuition. Rochester College doesn't have the benefit of either. We're



not interested in pursuing tax subsidies, but it is imperative we develop a very strong endowment to help us sustain the college for the future.

Another challenge that is always present is the challenge of remaining faithful to our mission. I am deeply grateful that throughout the history of the college, leaders have remained focused on keeping this a Christian institution. As we move into the future, my goal is to continue to call us back to a focus on God's word and a close relationship to Jesus Christ. If we'll remain focused on those two things, we will remain faithful to our mission.

#### **What are RC's biggest strengths and opportunities?**

One of the greatest strengths of Rochester College is its people. We have very competent administrative leaders and an accomplished faculty and staff. Our people are not only academically and professionally qualified, but extremely loyal to the college. Also, as I've become acquainted with the community of Rochester Hills and with our alumni, I see groups of people who are very interested and willing to help the college be successful.

Another strength is our location. We are in a community that deeply appreciates higher education and shares our Christian values.

One of the biggest opportunities we have is to be a beacon of hope and integrity. Rochester College is located in the shadow of a community that has gained a reputation in our country for corruption and incompetence...what better place for a Christian college to be located and to help provide a solution?

#### **What are your top priorities as president?**

While I was still living in Abilene, someone asked me what my goals were for the college. My immediate response was, 'To help the college be better and be faithful.' What I mean by 'be better' is to be stronger financially and to improve our academic quality and reputation. When I talk about being faithful, I want us to be a group of people who love God's word and have a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### **What has been Dr. Shelly's best advice to you thus far?**

I'm not sure I can answer that. He hasn't gone much farther than grinning from ear to ear and saying, "I'm so glad you're here!"

#### **Dr. Royce Money, former president of ACU, is a longtime colleague and mentor of yours. What are some of the key lessons you learned from him during his presidency?**

I learned from Dr. Money to have a good sense of humor, not to take yourself too seriously, do the best you can everyday and depend upon God.

#### **When you walk across campus, what do you think about?**

I think about some of the great people who have been here in the past and have helped make Rochester College what it is today. I don't know many of these people personally, but I know there are hundreds of unnamed heroes and stories of sacrifice that allow us to be here today. I also think about the students who are here and all of their hopes and dreams. I think about what a great opportunity we have to bring people from all over the world to our campus, where we can deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and inspire them to go out and make a positive difference in our world.

#### **Describe your faith journey.**

I grew up in a suburb of Fort Worth, Texas, where my family attended the Church of Christ. Our lives revolved around our church family and church activities. Some of my earliest memories are learning about God in Bible class and worshipping with my church. Being with Christians has always been a positive part of my life.

Going to Abilene Christian University was a very transformative experience in which my faith in God deepened. Being under the influence of great scholars at ACU helped strengthen my faith and helped me understand what is most important—having a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### **Tell us about your children.**

Victoria graduated from ACU in May with a degree in family studies. She was always very involved in volleyball, choir and working with children. She is currently a homeschool teacher for preschool students of missionaries outside Kiev, Ukraine. She's working with Andrew and Jenny Kelly of Jeremiah's Hope, a ministry that reaches out to children of troubled backgrounds. Trey, our middle child, is a junior accounting major at ACU. He's interested in being an entrepreneur. Our youngest, Trevor, is a freshman business major at ACU. Both of our boys played football, basketball, baseball and ran track. In Texas, they played six-man football, and both Trey and Trevor were All-State football players. They're all great kids.

#### **What qualities does your wife, Valinda, have that will play a role during your presidency?**

Valinda is just a wonderfully friendly and loving person, and she's a great cook. She enjoys being with people, and she will be a gracious hostess. She'll be the kind of person people feel comfortable with and sincerely enjoy being around.



## **THE BIG DAY**

*For more snapshots of Dr. Tyson's inauguration, visit [photos.rc.edu](http://photos.rc.edu)*

## *Getting to Know Dr. John Tyson*

#### **What do you enjoy about living in Michigan so far?**

We love the people here and the change of seasons. And I can't forget to mention apple fritter Friday at Yates Cider Mill.

#### **What do you miss most about Texas?**

Without a doubt, mesquite grilled rib-eye steaks.

#### **What are some of your hobbies?**

Photography, reading, travel and fishing.

#### **Favorite sport/teams**

Football is probably my favorite sport, and I'm still partial to the Dallas Cowboys and the University of Texas.

#### **What are some things on your bucket list?**

I'd like to visit every state in the union, and I still have two that I need to visit—South Dakota and Montana. Another would be to visit several other places in the world that I'm curious about, such as the Holy Land and Australia.

#### **What are some of your weirdest eats?**

Fried chicken feet and whole fried miniature fish and frogs in China.

#### **What's something most people don't know about you?**

One of my earliest jobs was on the receiving dock at JCPenny's store before getting promoted to janitor. I took a lot of pride in making sure that second floor was cleaned well every day!

#### **What does your family like to do together?**

We love to travel, play games and gather to share a meal. We also enjoy trips up north where we snowmobile at Schuss Mountain or go boating on Torch Lake.





As we all know, Dr. Rubel Shelly did not apply for the job of president in 2008. Rather, he was requested (begged?) by the board to take the position at a moment when the future of the college was in serious question. The short story is that he accepted a one-year interim position that turned into a five-year presidency during one of the most challenging periods in the institution's history.

I believe there is a miracle story here. In order to survive, among other things, we needed a president with a rare set of qualities, and we needed that person to be immediately available and willing to accept the challenge. Fortunately, or providentially, Rubel had the qualities and was available and willing. I had the privilege of observing his presidency from an office 10 feet away. Here are a few observations I hope are meaningful.

RUBEL AS *pastor*

First, in 2008, our community needed a pastor, and if Rubel is anything, he is a pastor. The community was hurting. There was a great deal of insecurity and uncertainty, and I watched the parade of people, from every corner of the campus, flow through his office for pastoral care. Rubel never turned anyone away even though he was shouldering tremendous pressures himself. I am convinced those acts of care unleashed God's Spirit in remarkable ways and contributed as much to the survival and recovery of the college as any specific decision or initiative.

RUBEL AS *leader*

Second, we needed a leader with connections and, in that sense, Rubel was a gift from heaven. He brought us credibility and attention, both locally and nationally, and that turned into blessings. Rubel quickly

raised record-levels of money and ensured that we made payroll in the summer of 2008. That literally saved us. He connected us to the wonderful people at Church Development Fund who helped us consolidate our crippling debt when no one else would even take our calls. And from 10 feet away, I saw another parade of people start moving through our office: mayors, CEOs, community leaders, and others who became friends of the college through their friendships with Rubel.

TEAM *Shelly*

I also would like to emphasize that my observations were not only made from an office 10 feet away, but from across the dining room table in the Shelly's home. I am convinced that Rubel achieves his balance of strength and light-hearted joy because of his wife Myra. They are an incredible team. You can see how much joy and strength he draws from her, and how much stability and equilibrium she provides. I could also mention the financial sacrifices they have made, but that's not my story to tell. But as a community, we are clearly standing on their collective shoulders.

FILLED WITH *gratitude*

All said, here we are five years later, and despite continuing challenges, we are celebrating record enrollments, new programs, good morale, renewed accreditation, renewed donor interest and alumni participation, and more hope and optimism than we have had in years. The mission of RC is alive and vibrant.

And that leads me to a final metaphor. Preacher Rubel is always good for funny and memorable stories and metaphors. This is one of my favorites. In 2008, given the challenges we were facing, Rubel would sometimes say, "It looks like we have stumbled into a room full of dung." Then he'd smile, tell us to take out our shovels and start digging, since he was sure there must be a pony in the room somewhere.

As we start the 2013-2014 year, we're still digging, and we're honored that Dr. Tyson has now picked up a shovel to lead the effort. But it is obvious to me that we have already hit pony, and that pony is snorting and kicking! And while that is a testimony to the hard work of everyone at the college, it is also undeniably a tribute to Rubel and Myra's service, sacrifice and faithfulness.

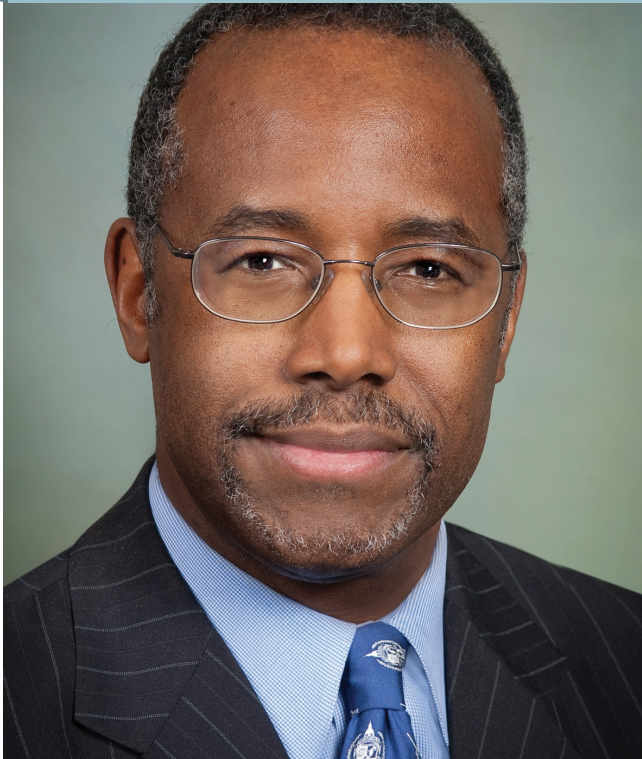
And that is something for which we can be very grateful.

**\*Excerpted from a speech by Dr. John Barton, provost, to employees at the Opening Session in August 2013.**





## Noted Physician and Leader Headlines 43<sup>rd</sup> Partnership Dinner



**Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., M.D., headlines Rochester College's 43rd annual Partnership Dinner, which will be held at the Royal Park Hotel on Saturday, April 12, 2014.**

In June 2008, Dr. Ben Carson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the land. Carson was recognized as one of "America's Best Leaders" in 2008 by "U.S. News & World Report" and Harvard's Center for Public Leadership. In 2009, the award-winning movie "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story," starring Cuba Gooding, Jr., premiered on TNT.

A popular media commentator, Carson has written five books: "Gifted Hands," "THINK BIG," "The Big Picture," "Take the Risk: Learning to Identify, Choose and Live with Acceptable Risk" and "America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great." Carson has been married for more than 37 years to his wife, Candy, and is the father of three sons.

The 2014 Partnership Dinner follows an inspiring 2013 dinner when Olympic Gold Medalist Scott Hamilton shared his story of struggle, faith and courage with a capacity audience. He talked about competing on the ice and battling cancer — both the highs and the lows deepened and strengthened his faith in Jesus Christ.

Partnership Dinner is an annual event that generates funding for student scholarships. The dinner normally is held during the spring at the Royal Park Hotel in downtown Rochester. A special reception for sponsors and the featured speaker is held in conjunction with the dinner.

Tickets are \$200 for adults, \$175 for alumni and \$100 for students. Various sponsorship opportunities, ranging from \$500 to \$10,000, are available. To buy tickets or learn about sponsorship opportunities, go to [www.rc.edu/carson](http://www.rc.edu/carson) or call 248-218-2021.

Throughout its recent history, RC's Partnership Dinner has featured notable individuals, such as Barbara Bush, Colin Powell, Elizabeth Dole, John Major, Sam Donaldson, Mary Lou Retton, Art Linkletter, John Glenn, Robin Roberts, Dave Ramsey, Michael Medved, Don Meyer and Judge Ken Starr.



SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO HEAR SCOTT HAMILTON'S INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE FROM RC'S 42nd PARTNERSHIP DINNER.



TO VIEW ONLINE, VISIT RC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
[YOUTUBE.COM/ROCHESTERCOLLEGE](http://YOUTUBE.COM/ROCHESTERCOLLEGE)



# ASSOCIATES

BY Natalie Redmond



# RESTRUCTURE

## AFTER SETTING FOUNDATION FOR COLLEGE

*Since the establishment of Rochester College in 1959, a dedicated group of supporters, known as the Associates of Rochester College, have benefited the college with financial donations vital to RC's continued existence and improvement.*

In May 2013, the Associates passed a donation milestone — giving more than \$4 million to Rochester College over the past 54 years.

Shortly after this milestone was reached, the Associates announced an important restructuring of the group. The Associates Board of Trustees have officially transitioned control of the group over to RC's Development Office.

"Most of our current membership was over 65, and not able to do what they could do 40 years ago. Over the years, the organization was not able to attract the volume of younger

members necessary to keep the momentum needed to thrive," said Lynne Stewart, a board member and former Associates president.

The decision to restructure the group was made in lieu of disbanding it entirely. Though the reorganization is permanent, ARC will continue to benefit the college both under its new direction in the development office, as well as through continuation of the Associates Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Founded by Alma Gatewood, the wife of the college's first president, the Associates' first meeting occurred on a stormy night three weeks before the college, then known as North Central Christian College, was set to open its doors. Approximately 350 women crowded into the recreation room of the campus's estate house to discuss fundraising for the new school.

This powerful first meeting set a precedent for the significant role the Associates would play in Rochester's growth and success over the next half century.

ARC's membership over the years has been comprised of women who have together raised funds for scholarships, new buildings, classroom materials and much more.

"I have no doubt there were times in Rochester's history when the money the Associates gave helped keep the college doors open. Rochester College likely would not be here today without the financial support of the Associates for these 54 years," Stewart said.

Indeed, the group has been so vital to the college's existence that nearly all school-wide projects have been supplemented by funds



*Dr. Rubel Shelly and Carol Passage stand with the check that helped ARC reach its \$4 million mark.*

from the Associates. Through the acquisition of library books, college vehicles, and classroom furniture and equipment, generations of students and faculty alike have reaped the benefits of the group's generosity.

The Associates of Rochester College will undoubtedly be missed, especially the passion its members have for Rochester College. The time and energy the women of ARC devoted to making Rochester College a better institution is unmatched in dollar amounts...even ones that total over \$4 million.

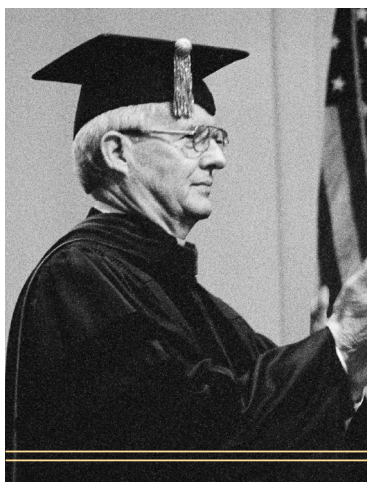
*Alma Gatewood, wife of the college's first president, Otis Gatewood, founded the Associates in 1959. Otis recalled his wife saying,*

**“OTIS, LET'S GET THESE WOMEN TOGETHER. I THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RAISE \$2,000.”**





# RC Community Remembers MILTON FLETCHER



Milton B. Fletcher, the college's fifth president died on March 20, 2013, just two months after the death of his second wife, Evelyn. He lost his first wife, Gene, to cancer while serving as president.

Fletcher will always be remembered as a true pillar in the history of Rochester College. He served as an administrator from 1961 to 1972, and returned as president in 1980. During his administration, a sense of tradition and devotion to the institution permeated the campus.

"Milton Fletcher left his imprint on the college and me personally as well," said Garth Pleasant, professor of physical education. "He was a father figure to me. He enriched my life and I am a better person because of him."

Early in his presidency, Fletcher made a commitment to do everything possible to minimize the administrative turnover that often occurs when a new president assumes duties. As a result, the college ended the 1980s with a leadership team that bridged the institution's first three decades.

"Milton Fletcher was always concerned about employees," said Dr. Joe Bentley, professor of music. "The camaraderie on campus was very strong in those years as a result of his leadership. He loved all of us and was easy to follow."

Fletcher often worked late into the night. He spent countless hours on the phone soliciting funds and enlisting volunteers. He organized successful annual fund dinners in cities around the United States and on most weekends visited churches in the Great Lakes region to foster greater interest in the college.

"He had a true love for the college's mission," said Kent Hoggatt, assistant professor of communication. "In particular, he had a strong interest in building a more stable financial picture and often said we could not be closed down if we operated in the black."

Fletcher worked diligently to increase gift income and control expenses. During his presidency, the college operated in the black each year, almost eliminated its entire debt, and began building an endowment fund. Before he retired from the presidency in 1991, the college established its first bachelor's degree program and laid foundations for another bachelor's degree in business.

"Milton's wisdom and many years of experience proved invaluable to me as I was learning the art and science of fundraising," said Dr. John Tyson, president of the college. "Milton shared many stories with me about Rochester College. Because of him, I had a wonderful introduction to the college that inspired me to be here today."

In a Facebook post after Fletcher's death, his son Eric wrote, "Dad loved Rochester College and all of you who are so connected with the school. Reading your comments has made me smile, conjured countless memories, and brought more than one tear to my eyes. Thanks to each of you for enriching his life."

## PROFESSOR NAMED OUTSTANDING DISABLED VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Disabled American Veterans named Dr. John Todd, Rochester College professor and injured Army veteran of the Vietnam War, as the 2013 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. Todd served as a Cobra attack helicopter pilot from 1968 to 1969, and after being shot down twice, his injuries rendered him legally blind.

Todd was presented the Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year award by National Commander Larry Polzin at the organization's 92nd National Convention at the Hilton Orlando on Aug. 10.

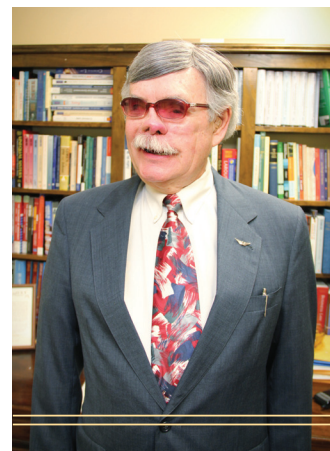
"John Todd's entire life has been about service to others," said Polzin. "Life presented him with immense challenges, but he didn't miss a beat. He just continued to move forward, serving veterans and the members of his own community."

After his recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1970, Todd moved to New York City to work as the National Coordinator for Vietnam Veterans for a Just Peace. He later worked for President Richard Nixon's staff, where his work twice earned him the Freedom's Foundation Award for Excellence in Political Communication.

Todd earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in the late 1970s and served as the National Legislative Director of the Blinded Veterans Association. There, he authored legislation that provided a rebuttable presumption of service-connection for permanently and totally disabled veterans so their spouses and dependents could qualify for benefits. The bill was passed into law and Todd's work continues to affect veterans and their families today.

"The legacy of John Todd's work in the veterans community is profound," said DAV National Adjutant/CEO Marc Burgess. "The contributions he has made in his lifetime will better the lives of veterans and their families for many years to come."

Todd joined DAV Chapter 19 in Fraser, Mich. in 2010, where he serves as the judge advocate. He is professor of business law and American legal studies at RC. Todd and his wife of 38 years, Joyce, have two daughters and one grandson.



## MEN'S GOLF FINISHES THIRD AT NATIONALS

After shooting a 312, men's golf finished third place in the 2013 USCAA National Tournament in State College, Penn. on Oct. 8. Daemen College finished with a score of 588 and won its second national championship in a row, finishing 25 strokes ahead of Lindenwood University-Belleville and 34 strokes ahead of RC.

The Warriors were led by sophomore Bailey Matheison who consecutively shot a 73 during the two-day tournament and tied for the medalist position with Apprentice School's Ben Hunter after two rounds. In the playoff, Matheison shot a par but was outdone by Hunter who shot a birdie and took home the second individual medalist honor of his career. Freshman Chet Ryeson shot a 153 for the tournament, landing a top 10 finish. Matheison garnered USCAA First Team Golf All-American honors and Ryeson was named to the Second Team. Additionally, Adam Yarber, senior, was named to the 2013 USCAA Golf All Academic Team.



# THUMBS UP

## RC Wins Gold Medal for UP Campaign

RC's UP promotional campaign won a Gold Medal for Total Advertising Campaign in the 28th Annual Educational Advertising Awards, the largest educational advertising awards in the United States.

The UP campaign was created and coordinated by PUSH22, the college's advertising agency, with support from RC's Office of Communication Services, which includes employees Elliot Jones ('07), Elizabeth Fulton ('11), Kayce McClure ('13) and Lora Hutson.

The campaign featured radio ads, billboards, online ads, print publications, webisodes and a variety of advertising techniques.

"The Rochester College UP campaign is focused on delivering a positive message in a highly creative and engaging way, and addressing the needs and barriers many students have — not just their education and careers, but their lives in general," said Michael Verville, partner, PUSH22.

This year, close to 3,000 entries were received for the Advertising Awards from more than 1,000 colleges, universities and secondary schools from all 50 states and several foreign countries. The college took the Gold Medal for Group 1: Schools Under 2,000 students.

Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals and the editorial board of Higher Education Marketing Report.



## STUDENT MAGAZINE RANKED FIRST CLASS

*The Shield* magazine, which is planned, written, edited and created by Rochester College students, earned a First Class Ranking from the Associated Collegiate Press, the oldest and largest national membership organization for college student journalists.

Dr. Joanne Simpson, ACP judge, said, "This is an incredible volume of work to review. Your staff is working hard to provide a magazine that is both credible and entertaining." Simpson also commended *The Shield* for issues that "embrace an RC school spirit that is unmatched in other publications," and for some "daring, yet responsible" articles.

The quarterly magazine earned three Marks of Distinction: Coverage and Content, Writing and Editing, and Layout and Design.

The *Shield* staff, consisting of about 25 students, was led by Editor in Chief Kayce McClure, Design Adviser Elizabeth Fulton and Managing Adviser Lora Hutson.

The *Shield* student media staff also produces written content and podcasts for digital platforms at [www.rcshield.com](http://www.rcshield.com).



## MRE PROGRAM ADDS NEW SCHOLARSHIP

The School of Ministry and Theology has started a scholarship in honor of Ryan Woods, an MRE graduate in RC's first cohort of 2011. A Vancouver, Wash., native, Woods died from cancer in November 2012. He left behind wife, Jessica, and their two young children, Jones and India.

The Ryan Woods Scholarship is a full-tuition scholarship for someone who shows promise, both academically and ministerially, and who is interested and involved with non-traditional ministries, according to Dr. Mark Love, dean of the School of Ministry and Theology

"Ryan was an exceptionally gifted person," said Love, a long-time friend of the Woods family. "Ryan's imagination for ministry was exceptional. He and Jessica were an amazing team, creating a vibrant community of hospitality in downtown Vancouver. This scholarship is a way not only to honor Ryan and create some sort of legacy, but also to encourage others who share Ryan's ability to dream about what the Kingdom of God might look like in their neighborhood."

The recipient of the first Ryan Woods Scholarship is Jordan Kelley, a MRE student from Chicago.





# Dirt Dreams: Archeological Dig At En Hazeva

Sometimes the desert is the most fruitful spot on earth. At least that was the case for the archeologists and dig volunteers on a May 2013 spring archeological trip to En Hazeva, Israel.

"This was a dream dig; one of the best in all my experience as an archeologist.

The team was really into it," said TaliGini-Erickson, a licensed Israel Antiquities Authority archeologist.

The dig picked up where it left off in 2008 after co-director Craig Bowman's four-year battle with cancer.

For 13 days, 25 volunteers, who were recruited from Rochester College, the Austin Graduate School of Theology and friends and family, dug seven hours a day at the remains of an eight-stadium fortress in what is believed to be biblical Tamar.

This dig is proving crucial on more than one front. Artifacts discovered this spring are helping substantiate the contested 10th century date for the fortress, providing a



link to the copper trade and supporting a later date for the Edomite Kingdom.

The three RC volunteers were Darryl Lambert, a junior Biblical studies major; Jacob Sandoval, a 16-year-old dual enrollment student; and Linda Davis-Kirksey, a grants and development consultant for RC. The group described their experiences as "life-changing," "one of the most amazing things experienced in my life," and "a once in a lifetime experience."

Lambert tagged along with Erickson when she met with world-renown pottery experts at the Ben-Gurion University. These experts determined that many of the pottery shards discovered during the dig were unique. They even declared one a 10th-11th century shard of a Judean cooking pot.

The volunteers also enjoyed some amazing sightseeing adventures. They scoped out the seas: snorkeling in the Red Sea, floating in the Dead Sea, and visiting the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee.

They also walked in Jesus' footsteps: visiting Herod's harbor in Caesarea, Capernaum, the street of the money-changers, the steps of the temple mount and the wailing wall. Braving the dark, some team members waded through waist-deep waters in Hezekiah's tunnels.

This trip certainly was a treasure trove of memories, moments and archeological discoveries.

BY Rebekah Haigh

## CEL PROGRAM INTRODUCES NEW DEGREE OPTION

This fall, Rochester College's Center for Extended Learning introduced a new Bachelor of Science in strategic leadership degree.

"The Center for Extended Learning has had an organizational leadership and communication degree for quite some time," said Scott Cagnet, director of CEL Operations. "After a lengthy review of the program, a decision was made to update the degree to make it more relevant and consistent with other leadership programs."

Cagnet says this degree will offer professionals the opportunity to receive a foundation that is applicable to nearly every field of study, research and industry.

The goal of the strategic leadership degree is to help graduates move beyond entry level professional positions by equipping them with the knowledge and tools required to be effective leaders in their industry. The degree is broad, which allows the CEL program to potentially offer the degree in a variety of settings.

The degree is also transfer friendly, which creates the opportunity for graduate schools, new job promotion and a possible career change.

"Our goal is to provide degree offerings that are relevant to the current graduate school requirements and job opportunities," said Cagnet.

The new degree has been well received thus far. Several students who were pursuing a degree in organizational leadership and communication have made the transition to the new degree, and an additional 16 students have started the program.

For the time being, the new degree is only offered at RC sites at the Macomb University Center and the Mott University Center. CEL plans to expand the offering to the main campus and to RC's Southfield location in the spring.

BY Kayce McClure

## RC HOCKEY SCORES IN FIRST SEASON

Rochester College's new hockey team is enjoying a warm welcome from the campus community and a competitive start to its first season in the American Collegiate Hockey Association.

"People are excited about merchandise, buying season passes, coming to games and supporting the team," said General Manager Scott Cagnet. "We're excited to bring the community together to start this experience and journey with us."

At press time, the hockey team had a record of two wins and five losses with two of those coming in shootouts.

Cagnet says the team's first victory came at home with an overtime 4-3 win against the University of Michigan Dearborn on Saturday, Sept. 28. Forward George Holt, sophomore from Rochester Hills, Mich., scored two goals in the game, and forward Brock Malatches, sophomore from Cambridge, Ontario, scored the game-winning, breakaway goal with two minutes left in overtime.

The win marked the first victory as a collegiate head coach for Nick Tomczyk.

A former coach at Oakland University, Tomczyk said, "I think we have a really good group of competitive guys with a lot of excitement for the team. I'm very excited about being part of a small town, small college atmosphere."

The hockey squad is encouraging alumni support, and has discounted season-pass prices for alumni.

"The nice thing about starting a program is it's nature as a blank slate," Cagnet said, "Everything we're doing right now is creating tradition and history for years to come. We welcome alumni to walk alongside us with their ideas."



BY Sara Beason



FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, ROCHESTER COLLEGE HAS SHAPED THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH EDUCATION, PERSONAL MENTORING AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION. ROCHESTER COLLEGE IS FOCUSED ON

# BUILDING

## **WE BUILD CHARACTER.**

Our students learn more than how to make a living; they learn how to live — with personal integrity and with respect for one another.

## **WE BUILD FAITH.**

As a Christian college, we believe that history, science, business and the professions should be informed by faith. Our students are challenged to view their lives and careers in terms of God's will.

## **WE BUILD COMMUNITY.**

From the diversity of our student body, we find ourselves united in the pursuit of truth in our various fields of study. We work together to envision and create a just, fair and peaceful world.

## **HELP US BUILD.**

Our primary concern is not brick-and-mortar building. But we do need lecture halls and libraries, classrooms and residence halls to achieve our mission. Our urgent need is a gymnasium that will house student athletic events, enhance campus spirit and provide impetus for future growth. Functional in a variety of ways, the same building can be used for all-student assemblies and for community service. It is a facility Rochester College has needed for years. The time has come to make it happen. Bill and Shirlee Fox have provided a \$1 million challenge gift to launch the project. We need your help to make it a reality.

## **PHASE 1 PROJECT LAUNCH**

As early as 2005, Rochester College began dreaming and planning for what was conceived as a Health and Life Sciences Center. The project estimate for that 90,000-square-foot structure was more than \$14 million. A campaign was started to raise money for the building, but several factors dictated a major delay.

Approximately \$2.5 million was raised toward the \$14 million goal. Various project-related expenses were paid from that fund. Approximately \$1 million was spent in architectural fees, design modifications and site preparation. The major expenditure was a sophisticated energy-management system that would serve not only the new building but the entire RC campus. This \$1.5 million system was mandated by DTE before any construction steps could be initiated for a new facility.

## **THE GREAT RECESSION**

Then came the Great Recession of 2007–2008 and a challenge to the very survival of Rochester College. Along with many other small colleges and businesses in the region, RC was forced to realign its priorities to deal with this serious challenge. The college is stable now, and the regional economy is recovering. Some important-but-minimal elements of a larger plan were achieved, but we still do not have a Health and Life Sciences Center.

## **RENEWING A BUILDING PROJECT**

We must move the project to completion, but good judgment dictates a deliberate and responsible course of action. We plan to build the complex in three stages, while remaining steadfast in our primary mission of building character, faith and community. This approach allows us to build in successive, manageable increments what we are now calling the Health & Behavioral Sciences Building—to house not only certain athletic programs but also our School of Nursing.

## **PHASE 2 THE GARTH PLEASANT GYMNASIUM**

With significant infrastructure work now completed, the second step is to build The Garth Pleasant Gymnasium. Garth's long-time friend, Bill Fox, is committed to this project and has offered a \$1 million gift toward the projected \$3.8 million necessary for turnkey construction of the gym. Once the Garth Pleasant Gymnasium is finished, we will add the remainder of the facility as student growth and funding allow.



## CHANGING LIVES

The Garth Pleasant Gymnasium will honor and perpetuate the 38-year career of Coach Garth Pleasant. In addition to incredible success on the basketball court, Coach Pleasant has influenced the lives of hundreds of students. He models RC's mission of building character, faith and community.

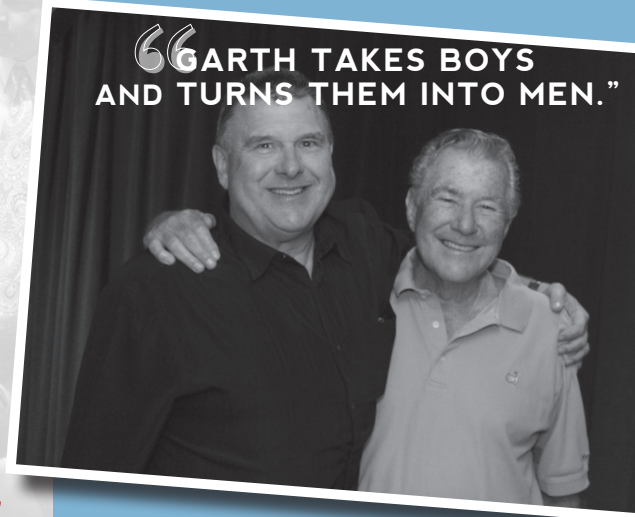
After a winning season with his men's basketball team, a player asked, "Coach, how do you think we did?" Garth's answer sums up his philosophy of coaching and life: "Ask me again in 20 years. After I see what kind of men, husbands and citizens you have become, then I'll know how good a job we did."

Garth Pleasant's influence has reached well beyond our campus. Through Pleasant's summer basketball camps, more than 15,000 boys and girls have been influenced. "The camp and Coach Pleasant's intentional challenge for us to be young people of character affected me greatly. I wanted my 11-year-old son to have a similar life-building, faith-enhancing experience [to the one I had 30 years ago], so I sent him from Tennessee to Michigan to Coach Pleasant's camp. It is amazing that the legacy of Garth Pleasant is still being carried out on the campus of Rochester College by current staff who were trained at the feet of Garth as well." (Rogers Clayton, Nashville, TN).

**66** AFTER I SEE WHAT KIND OF MEN, HUSBANDS AND CITIZENS YOU HAVE BECOME, THEN I'LL KNOW HOW GOOD A JOB WE DID."

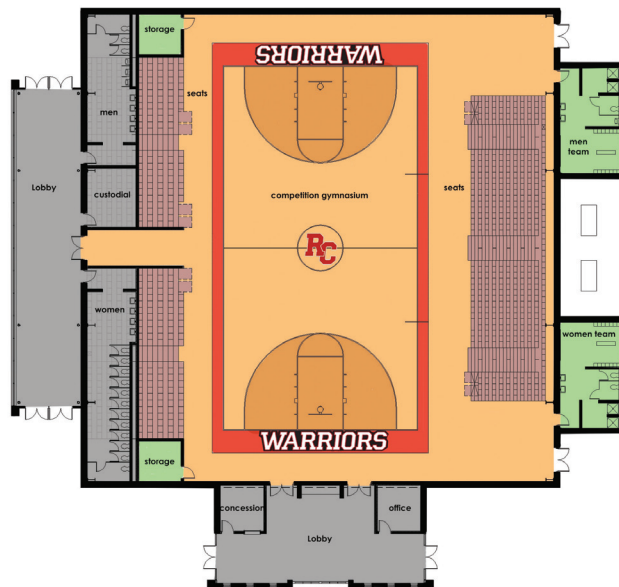
## FRIENDS & PARTNERS

**GARTH TAKES BOYS AND TURNS THEM INTO MEN."**



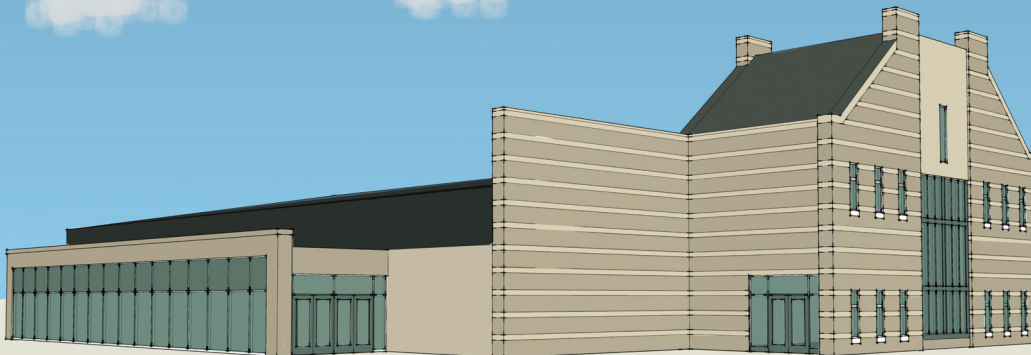
### THE PLAN

*\$3.8 million is necessary for turnkey construction of the Garth Pleasant Gymnasium, shown in these renderings. Once the gym is finished, the remainder of the facility will be constructed as student growth and funding allow.*



**BILL AND SHIRLEE FOX** have been friends and partners with Coach Pleasant throughout the years. Bill and Garth have a unique bond of friendship that few people attain. When Bill was asked about the value he places on the work of Coach Pleasant, this was his answer: "Garth takes boys and turns them into men."

Bill and Shirlee want Garth's legacy and the mission of Rochester College to thrive in future generations. Therefore, they have committed \$1,000,000 to build the Garth Pleasant Gymnasium. Their challenge gift invites the larger community, alumni and friends of Rochester College, and his players to complete this important phase of the Health & Behavioral Sciences Center.



For more information about helping with the gymnasium project, call the Development Office at 248.218.2021





BY Kayce McClure

# BEYOND *the* CLASSROOM

*Nursing student, Asia Smith, helps with disaster relief*

On May 20, 2013, an EF5 tornado hit Moore, Okla., devastating the city. The storm killed 23 people and injured more than 370 others.

The next day Asia Smith received a text message from Brian Bowers, minister of community life for the Rochester Church of Christ, asking her if she had heard about the group from DRAW, a disaster relief organization, that was planning to go to Oklahoma to help.

This was not Asia's first time to serve after a natural disaster. She had been on a trip in high school and recently spent over a week with Poured Out Disaster Relief in New York after Hurricane Sandy crashed into the East Coast last December.

When Asia got the call this time, she knew she had to go, but she was not sure if she could afford the trip fees.

Within two days, Asia and several other volunteers were on their way to the ruined city, and Asia's trip was completely paid for by the Rochester Church of Christ.

"This trip was a whirlwind. I found out about DRAW sending a group of first responders; I received a text from Brian and the trip was paid for in a matter of three days. We left at 4 a.m. the Friday after the tornado hit and drove for 19 hours. It was an exhausting couple of days, but as soon as we got there we were ready to go," said Asia.

Among the other volunteers were RC students Elliott Kern, Claire Poppleton, Miriah Jones, and Jessica Brooks, along with Chris Shields, RC's campus minister, and his wife, Kristen.

The group spent the first day and a half working outside of Moore cleaning up debris at a local high school and elementary school.

The second day, in the afternoon, the group finally headed into Moore.

"We drove into the city and almost immediately were overwhelmed by the amount of devastation. We had no words. You could look on one side of the road and see houses that were completely untouched and on the other side see an entire neighborhood flattened. The houses were just piles of rubble. People were rummaging through the piles looking for things they could save."

The group spent the rest of their time cleaning up debris and pulling out trees that had fallen over and were coming out of the ground.

"The trip happened so fast I had to process it afterward," Asia said. "But I loved being there and helping people in need."

Asia headed back to Moore in August to help with clean up. This time homes were still gone, but so were most of the volunteers. Though it was evident the city had made great strides in piecing itself back together, much still had to be done.

"I would certainly do it again. I love it. I don't know why I love it exactly. It just combines the things I love, hard work and helping people," said Asia. "I like being able to be there for someone. You don't always have the right words to say, but being there and helping them in that moment of need is enough for them."

Asia hopes to have an opportunity to help in the future. "It's always so rewarding for me to be able to serve people with the talents God has given me."

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*[Disaster relief] combines the things I love—hard work and helping people.*



*For more information on disaster relief organizations Poured Out or DRAW, go to [www.pouredout.org](http://www.pouredout.org) or [www.drawbuckets.org](http://www.drawbuckets.org).*





# ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

BY Chelsea Hackle

When **Naomi Cochran Walters** (pictured above) of Princeton, N.J., graduated from Rochester College in 2007, she planned to get her Master of Divinity degree from Abilene Christian University, then get her doctorate and find a teaching position at a Christian school or university. Although she enjoyed the few preaching classes she took at RC, her aim was to become a professor in a Bible department: focusing on teaching, not preaching. But God had other plans.

Naomi, who is currently working on her Doctorate of Ministry in missional and spiritual formation at Lipscomb University, says the years she spent in college helped her realize what those plans were.

"It wasn't until the last year of my time at ACU that I began to admit to myself that – were all options open to me – I would at least be considering ministry as a vocation. So ACU impacted me by creating a safe space for me to imagine and explore multiple career opportunities," Naomi says.

For a Christian woman seriously considering ministry as a vocation, multiple hurdles and roadblocks could block the way. But the Stamford Church of Christ in Stamford, Conn., saw Naomi's gifts and appointed her as minister in residence in September.

Naomi realizes many will be watching her in this new position. "...My success or failure (and there surely will be some of both) will impact other churches' willingness to hire a woman in the future... I hope I will be able not to let this worry me; I hope I will be able just to use the gifts that God has given me to serve the church that God empowered to hire me," she says.

Naomi knows various viewpoints exist on the sensitive issue of women serving as ministers. "This conflict has a 'face' for me – when I picture 'the other side,' I see the faithful men and women who raised me, who taught me in children's church, Sunday school, and youth group, who instilled in me a love of scripture and a desire to join God's mission in the world," she says.

In an address to the Stamford congregation when announcing Naomi's hire, Dale Pauls, senior pulpit minister, said the elders and ministers were "blown away" after Naomi's extensive interview. "E-mails flew back and forth — the morning-after gist of which were, 'Wow! Could you believe that interview?' Most of us had been part of many interviews; few of us had ever seen a person who interviewed as well as Naomi, who came across with her poise, wisdom and spiritual insight."

As Naomi prepared to begin her one-year commitment to the Stamford Church, she says she looked back on previous years and saw how God was at work in her life as she shaped and nurtured the specific gifts he gave to her. While at RC and ACU, Naomi was blessed as teachers mentored and challenged her, both academically and spiritually.

While at RC, Naomi served as a campus ministry intern, helping coordinate chapel and developing devotionals and worship services for students. Assistant Professor Sara Barton, who served as campus minister

during Naomi's time at RC, says Naomi is a gifted communicator. "Naomi's unique insight into scripture was evident when she spoke in chapel as a campus ministry intern and presented sermons in her preaching classes. Her energetic approach to the power of scripture is contagious. When you hear her talk about the Bible, you want to pick it up and read more."

In addition to her new part-time role at the Stamford church, Naomi is married to husband, Jamey, and they have one son, Simon, who will be 1 on Christmas Day 2013. She lives an active life, including reading, running, playing soccer, listening to music, and watching TV and movies. She incorporates that interest in culture to her studies. She delves into scripture and homiletics, and her academic pursuits include the liturgical calendar and thinking about TV, movies and music theologically. Jamey is a Ph.D. student at Princeton Theological Seminary, studying the history of early Christianity with a special focus on Syriac Christianity. He is currently working on his dissertation, and he hopes to teach in a university religion or Bible department.

Merging all these interests—family, theology and culture—makes Naomi well equipped to minister to the church. "It's clear that Naomi loves the church," Barton said. "She wants to spend her life serving communities of faith and helping them grow in their commitments to Christ."

So from the classrooms of RC, where she first explored her interest in ministry, to the pews at Stamford, Naomi continues to serve God and others. In a message to the Stamford church, Naomi said, "My call to ministry is less like a Burning Bush or a Damascus Road situation, and more like a matrix of personal skills and life situations that make a particular path a good fit. My path is made up of steps that, only in retrospect, show that God was leading me to ministry."



Jamey, Simon & Naomi Walters





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## A LOOK AT ALL THAT KEEPS OUR CALENDARS FULL

1

### STREAMING CONFERENCE

For those who understand the church as a community of participation in the mission of God, the topic of faith and discerning the work of God in the world is important. Church leaders often speak of discerning the leading of God, but sometimes with little clarity about what that means or how a congregation might go about discovering what God's leading might be. RC's annual Streaming Conference took place on campus May 22-24 and featured Luke Timothy Johnson, whose work in this area helped participants realize what is at stake in this "drama of discernment." Patrick Keifert, Rubel Shelly, Kim Seidman and Jerry Taylor also spoke on the topic of "The Living God and the Drama of Discernment."

2

### ICE CREAM OLYMPICS

The Alumni Association hosted the Ice Cream Olympics to welcome the students to campus on Sunday, Sept. 1. Led by Brad Irwin ('96), the group filled an outdoor area on the campus mall with overhead lighting, music and canopied ice cream stations. Students, alumni and employees sampled and voted for the best ice cream from among seven of the area's top ice cream makers, including Calder's, Cook's, Guernsey, Hudsonville, Kilwin's, Ray's and Treat Dreams. The event provided a great opportunity for students and alumni to interact with one another. Dozens volunteered to help with logistics and a large crowd packed the mall for the event. The evening was presented by Kevin Stewart ('04) ReMax Suburban.

3

### CAMPUS MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Guided by the theme verse of Isaiah 40:31, RC Campus Ministry kicked off the academic year with several annual events, including 24 hours of prayer and Shack-a-thon. Campus Ministry also introduced two events, 10th-Hour and Unplugged, to its regular campus-wide programming, which includes The Offering, a monthly gathering of instrumental praise and worship, and frequent "Happy Hour" events that connect campus clubs and organizations to the rest of the RC community. 10-th hour is a worship and communion service hosted on Sunday evenings and Unplugged challenges the campus to practice the spiritual discipline of simplicity by leaving behind technology for a time of fellowship and reflection. For more information about Campus Ministry, visit [facebook.com/RCampusministry](https://facebook.com/RCampusministry)

4

### WOMEN'S SOCCER BREAST CANCER AWARENESS GAME

The Rochester College women's soccer team went head to head against Cleary University on Oct. 4 in the team's annual breast cancer awareness game. Although the Warriors fell 2-1, the score was not all that mattered. Each of the ladies on the team played for someone she knows who has battled breast cancer. Dedicated fans also took part in the "pink out" to show their support. Proceeds from the game raised money for the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

5

### THE INAUGURATION OF DR. JOHN TYSON, JR.

The local and college community welcomed RC's ninth president, Dr. John Tyson, Jr. at an inauguration ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 10 in the auditorium of the Rochester Church of Christ. Nearly 800 guests, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends of the college, Tyson family members, community leaders and representatives of several affiliated colleges were in attendance. Bryan Barnett, mayor of the City of Rochester Hills, and Dr. Virinder Moudgil, president of Lawrence Technological University, led the dignitaries from Michigan who offered greetings to Tyson. Dr. Royce Money, chancellor of Abilene Christian University and long-time mentor and colleague of Tyson, passed along anecdotes about Christian education to Tyson and guests. "It is a great privilege and honor to serve as the next president of Rochester College," Tyson said. "The college has a great history and a bright future. The commitment of the faculty, staff and board of trustees to produce graduates who desire to serve and lead, excel in learning and live out their Christian faith is impressive and inspiring."

6

### FAITH, FAMILY & DUCKS

Jase and Jep Robertson of A&E's "Duck Dynasty" entertained a sold out crowd of more than 2,400 people at Woodside Bible Church on Sunday, Oct. 13. Speaking about how faith and family come before ducks, the bearded duo's signature humor and laid back personality were evident as they offered insights into their personal testimonies, family dynamic and the making of their popular television series. Several audience members were also able to meet the men at a reception hosted on campus prior to the main event. The evening program was hosted by well known Church of Christ preacher and speaker Jeff Walling.

7

### FALL MUSICAL

"The Fantasticks," by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, has entranced generations of audiences throughout the world. The Rochester College Theatre Department will present this funny and romantic chamber musical, Nov. 14-16 and Nov. 22-24. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for adults if purchased in advance, and \$12 at the door. To reserve tickets online, visit [www.rc.edu/RCTheatre](http://www.rc.edu/RCTheatre). For more information, call Julayne Hughes at 248.218.2149 or email [rctheatre@rc.edu](mailto:rctheatre@rc.edu).

8

### FLETCHER-SHINSKY GOLF CLASSIC

Join us for friendly golf competition and support Rochester College at the same time. The annual Fletcher-Shinsky Golf Classic will take place on Monday, July 28, 2014 and we are thrilled to return to Twin Lakes Golf Club in Rochester Hills after a successful event hosted at the course this summer. This four-star golf course, as named by "Golf Digest Places to Play," is a Jerry Matthews-designed course featuring wide-sweeping fairways and huge, contouring putting surfaces. Check out the revamped schedule of events and sign up to golf and sponsor the event at [www.rc.edu/golfclassic](http://www.rc.edu/golfclassic).



# Brenda Phillips Named Alumna of Year

Rochester College recently recognized Brenda Phillips, a member of the class of 1977, as 2013 Alumna of the Year. Brenda was cited for her longtime service to the Alumni Association.

"Brenda has filled a significant leadership role for over 30 years," said Larry Stewart, director of alumni relations. "She planned the college's first summer class reunion in 1987 and has been involved in almost every alumni activity since that time."

A 1977 graduate of Michigan Christian College, Brenda began working with the Alumni Association shortly after finishing her bachelor's degree in 1979. In addition to her work with alumni, she has served as an adjunct instructor, cheerleading coach and host for student small groups.

"I can't remember how I became involved with the Alumni Association, but do have many wonderful memories," Brenda said. "It has been awesome to work with people who truly love the college and have spent much of their lives connected to it in some way."

In addition to chairing the planning committee for a recent reunion for alumni from the 1970s, Brenda serves on the new alumni board. She has been actively involved with the volunteer committee, which has already hosted two lake clean-up days and the Ice Cream Olympics.

"It's exciting to see a new generation of alumni assuming leadership roles and finding new

and creative ways to serve and promote Rochester College, while providing opportunities for alumni to interact with one another and stay connected with the college," Brenda said.

When Brenda enrolled at Michigan Christian College, she had not made a career choice. She credits two of her instructors, Carolyn Franklin and Barbara Cole, for encouraging her to continue her education at the bachelor's degree level.

"I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, and had very little self-confidence," said Brenda.

"The confidence those instructors had in me and the support they gave helped me develop the confidence I needed to continue my education."

After a brief stint with Consumer's Energy in her hometown of Midland, Mich., Brenda worked for Volkswagen of America for 14 years as a human resource coordinator and specialist. She has served as a human resource specialist for Mott Community College since 1997.



Brenda Phillips (front row, second from right) is pictured with fellow classmates and lifelong friends at this summer's 1970s reunion.

"The time I spent at Michigan Christian College as a student had a significant impact on my life and I want the college to grow and prosper so other students can have those opportunities and experiences as well," said Brenda. "I believe an active and involved alumni community is vital to that growth."



Rochester College introduced Warrior Adventures this summer in an effort to connect former students with one another. Alumni enjoyed special days at the Detroit Zoo, a Detroit Tigers baseball game and the Detroit Cultural Center. "It was nice to see friends everywhere we went," said Wendy Burcham, a 2003 graduate. Additional events will be planned in the future.





# Alumni Host 1970s Reunion

Alumni from 17 states and Canada converged on the campus of Rochester College July 26-28 for a reunion of former students and employees of the 1970s. A committee led by Brenda Phillips ('77) planned the three days of friendship renewal and reminiscing.

The weekend began with a walk down the Clinton River Trail to downtown Rochester and a golf outing. That evening everyone spent time catching up with one another before a devotional led by Murray Hibbard ('75). Several individuals shared memories and life experiences.

"It was good from a heart standpoint to see people who have experienced some difficult events in their lives and to see how they have persevered," said Steve Hudson ('74). "The laughs and tears cannot be shared through Facebook."

Saturday included a morning chapel program led by Paul Shinsky ('78) as well as campus tours. Participants broke into groups by class years in the afternoon for group photos and reminiscing sessions, followed by a chorus rehearsal with former director Randy Gill ('74). An evening program featured touching comments by Kent Hoggatt ('73), Steve Hudson, Gordon MacKinnon ('77), and former faculty members Larry Journey and Ken Franklin.

Reunion participants had an opportunity to make silent auction bids throughout the weekend on a vintage MCC sweatshirt. Dave Zito ('75) won with a \$300 bid, but told reunion guests he would increase his bid to \$5,000 if they would match that amount with gifts to the college. Those present met the challenge within the next few weeks.

During the reunion, class members frequently posted photos and comments on a reunion Facebook page. That trend continued for several days after the event.

"I had a wonderful time at the reunion," said Molly Ice, wife of Larry Ice ('75). "I have to admit that as a non-alumni spouse I was kind of dreading it, but I'm glad I got to be there. I can see why the college means so much to Larry."

Mark Smith ('75), who preached for the Rochester Church of Christ on the last day of the reunion, wrote, "I wish everybody could have made it to the reunion. It was one of the best weekends I've ever had."

Linda (Doughty-'74) Park wrote, "I am still feeling incredibly uplifted by the fellowship with some of the dearest people on earth. What an amazing weekend. I believe God gave us a glimpse of heaven."

"Hugs to all of you," wrote Nancy (Replogle-'76) Smith. "We have a special bond that can never be broken."

“

*The laughs and tears cannot be shared through Facebook.*

*-Steve Hudson ('74)*

# ALUMNI NEWS

To submit news, see [rc.edu/alumninews](http://rc.edu/alumninews) or send information to Larry Stewart at 800 West Avon Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

## 1963

**Sharon (Simpson) Rice** received a Distinguished Toastmaster Award, the highest honor of Toastmasters International, at their district conference on May 11. She has served as an area governor and assistant division governor for the organization. Sharon lives in Redmond, Wash., and can be contacted at [sharonrice1943@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonrice1943@hotmail.com).

## 1984

**Mike Morningstar** has been employed by Dwyer Instruments since 1992. He recently began duties as a supply chain engineer in the materials management division, which includes travel to the Pacific Rim. His wife, **Peggy (Whitman-'85) Morningstar**, recently ended a 20-year tenure at Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services and is now doing freelance public speaking on teen development. The Morningstars have four children: Dawn Zachary, Larissa, and Seth. The family lives in Valparaiso, Ind. Mike can be contacted at [plasticmaster@gmail.com](mailto:plasticmaster@gmail.com).

## 1989

**Chad and Lesly (Hoggatt-'83) Brock** recently purchased a new house in Nashville, Tenn. Chad is the part owner of Ashley's Transportation and an operations manager for Tennessee Logistics. Lesly works as the business manager for Ashley's Transportation. Chad can be contacted at [brock1962@comcast.net](mailto:brock1962@comcast.net) and Lesly at [ldb1960@comcast.net](mailto:ldb1960@comcast.net).





## 1997

After serving 18 years as a youth and family minister, **Philip Brackney** recently accepted a role as program director at Michigan Christian Youth Camp. Philip and his family now live in Attica, Mich. He can be reached at philip@mcyc.org.

## 2001

Paul Dry Books recently released "The Elk Hunt: The Adventure Begins," the first book in a new series by **Nathan Dahlstrom**. Nathan is an avid outdoorsman and founder of Whetstone Boys Ranch. Nathan and his family reside in Lubbock, Texas. He can be contacted at ndahlstrom@whetstoneboysranch.com. More information about his series is available at www.wildergood.com.

## 2004

Eban James joined Ezra, Elijah and Elam in the home of Caleb and **Suzy (Goffin) Plettner** on April 24, 2013. Suzy reports her boys "love their Rochester College bears and call them Roxy Bears." The bears are sent to alumni who submit birth announcements for the North Star. Suzy and her family live in Lincoln, Neb. She can be contacted at suzy.plettner@gmail.com.

## 2005

Thomas Julian joined Dina, AJ and Evie in the home of Rick and **Michelle (Witt) Corbin** on Nov. 24, 2012. The family lives in Highland, Mich. Michelle can be reached at ricknchelle@comcast.net.

**Benny Lumpkins** moved to Los Angeles in 2012 and is working in the film and television industry as a costume designer. His previous credits include "Oz the Great and Powerful," "Real Steel," "Detroit 187," and "21 Days." Benny can be contacted at blumpkinsjr@yahoo.com.

## 2012

**Amber Stephenson-LaForest** completed her master's degree at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology in July. She currently lives in Marine City, Mich., and can be contacted at amberlaforest@yahoo.com.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Feb. 27, 2013—Sept. 6, 2013

### Trent Austin

Zearl & Betty Watson

### Jane Bass

Sam & Patti Bass

### Marsha Bills

Joe & Sarah Reddick  
Larry & Lynne Stewart

### Ralph & Lorraine Church

Dave & Janice Church

### Paul Crumrine

Joe & Sarah Reddick

### Nancy Dawson

Ken & Becky Berry  
Ed & Ronda Rosenbaum  
Larry & Lynne Stewart  
Glendon & Beverly Williams  
Jeff Williams

### George & Kathleen Brackney

Mark & Christine Brackney

### Beth Fisher

Brad & Betsy Fisher

### Evelyn Fletcher

James & Bonnie Burkett  
Mary Utley

### Milton Fletcher

Shirley Alexander  
Dieter & Marlyn Balzat  
Mary Ann & Troy Butler  
Rebecca Craddock  
Bob & Jennie Cross  
Jerry & Virginia Ebeling  
Bruce Kresge  
Lockheed Martin  
Brent & Kay Magner  
Ernie & Ginny May  
Jim & Bertha O'Rourke  
Cathy Ries  
Joanne Shinsky  
Larry & Lynne Stewart  
Mary Utley  
Sarah Yoakum

### Lucille Green

Joe & Sarah Reddick  
Joanne Shinsky  
Larry & Lynne Stewart

### Peggy Luane Hall

Renee & Yves Francois & Family  
Kristie & Wade Gillespie & Family  
Tom & Carol Williamson

### Dean Hoggatt

Sarah Yoakum

### Mark Kirk

Zearl & Betty Watson

### Ira Kirkman

Zearl & Betty Watson

### Roy Luxton

Dwayne & Marie Birdwell  
Alan & Billye Borders  
Ivy Borders  
Doris Dunn  
Kent & Debi Hoggatt  
Don Ross  
Joanne Shinsky

### John McClelland

Sam & Patti Bass

### Barbara Miller

Joe & Sarah Reddick

### Hubert Volin Miller

Joe & Sarah Reddick

### Craig Myers

Odai Baylor  
Andrew Clark  
Adam & Katy Hacias  
Tyler & Rachel Leipprandt  
Steve McCune  
Todd Myers  
Garth & Pat Pleasant  
Francis & Kristen Ramirez  
Scott & Christie Samuels  
Doug & Carolyn Schmidt  
Steve Stuecher  
Mike Upshur

### Lynn Orfgen

Barton Malow Company Foundation  
Bill & Shirlee Fox  
Keith & Diane Hinshaw  
Kirco Management Services, LLC  
Dan & Margaret Kollay  
Stephen Lieberman  
Brad & Mariann Merrelli  
Mark & Diane Muench  
Michael & Jane Pole  
Rubel & Myra Shelly  
UnaSource Surgery Center  
US Naval Academy, Class of 1968  
Dennis & Kathleen Van Wagoner  
Yvette Warren

### Annette Riley

Joan Costello

### Cheryl Riley

Joan Costello

### Herb Rodgers

Zearl & Betty Watson

### Hope Shull

Larry & Lynne Stewart

### Ella Sprogis

Pam Barton

### William Werth

Joe & Sarah Reddick

### L. B. & Laura Work

Zearl & Betty Watson  
Ed & Joan Work

### Jessie A. Young

Gary & Mary Turner

## HONOR GIFTS

Feb. 16, 2013—Sept. 6, 2013

### Troy Butler

Terri Trudell

### Garth Pleasant

Don & Carmen Meyer

### Rubel Shelly

Kent & Debi Hoggatt  
Larry & Lynne Stewart

### Helen Slater's 90th Birthday

Ken & Donna Slater

### Dr. John Tyson

Don & Rudith Drennan

### Vernon & Flo Wallace

Michael & Sandi Wallace

Hey, classes of the  
**1960s-**  
IT'S REUNION TIME!  
Mark your calendar for  
**MAY 15-17, 2015**  
ON THE RC CAMPUS  
MORE INFO AT:  
» [www.rc.edu/6osreunion](http://www.rc.edu/6osreunion)

RC  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION



# rochester in RETROSPECT



## 1962

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**A WARM** *Welcome*

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Lucien and Ida Palmer, along with Otis and Alma Gatewood, welcomed freshman Hazel Smith and other incoming students at the 1962 Faculty Reception. Students enjoyed this annual tradition at the opening of the academic year for more than four decades.

The first time the campus community gathers together at the beginning of a new academic year is still a highly anticipated event. This year, RC welcomed students and its new president to campus with the Ice Cream Olympics, hosted by the Alumni Association. To read more about the event, see page 19.





800 West Avon Road  
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307

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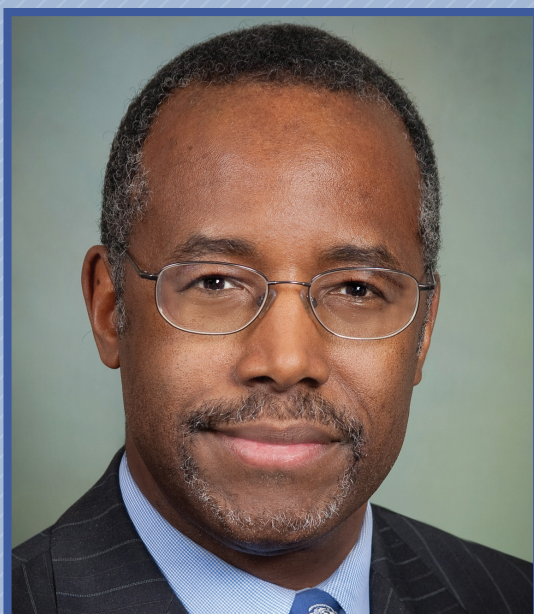
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**43<sup>rd</sup> Partnership Dinner**  
*featuring*

**BEN CARSON, M.D.**

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