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Challenging Academics. Christian Community.



Teacher Education Program provides experiences to equip future teachers

The teacher education program at Rochester College strives to prepare elementary and secondary teachers for the challenges they will face as they enter their careers. Our program emphasizes the need for teachers with Christian ethics and integrity who can work with students from diverse backgrounds and varying levels of academic ability. It is our hope that the courses and field experiences in our program equip our teacher candidates with the tools necessary for them to become teachers who will inspire and motivate their students to be life-long learners.

At Rochester College, teacher candidates are exposed to the classroom early and often in the program. Prior to student teaching, students spend over 200 hours in the classroom, observing, helping individual students, and teaching lessons to entire classes. When student teaching begins, teacher candidates are confident in their skills and their ability to be "lead" teachers. After fifteen weeks of student teaching, candidates are eager to step into the world of teaching and taking responsibility for their own classrooms.

Graduates of the teacher education program currently teach a variety of grades and subjects throughout the United States. Those who live in areas where the economy has affected job placement are finding jobs as building substitutes or long-term substitute teachers while they wait for the job market to take an upward turn. Many of our graduates, whether or not they are employed as teachers, have completed additional subject area endorsements or Master's degrees in additional areas of education. *(continued inside)*

Pictured is the program's faculty; Professors Vicki Bentley, Jim Dawson, Ann Bryan, Caye Randolph, Linda Park; Dr. Mel Blohm (director), and Lynne Stewart (certification specialist)



Academic Spotlight

The faculty members of the department developed and continue to honor our mission: To prepare teachers of understanding with Christian values who can effectively serve in the diverse and challenging schools and global communities of the twenty-first century. Our full-time faculty has taught a combined total of 86 years in K-12 classrooms throughout the U.S. and Canada and has held administrative positions as principals and central office personnel for a combined total of 53 years. A number of teachers who currently teach in K-12 classrooms also teach classes for us as adjuncts, bringing current information and experiences to our students.

The wealth of experience our faculty brings to the students greatly enhances the teacher education program. Amy Stewart, 2007 graduate currently teaching high school English and history at Anson New Technology High School in Wadesboro, North Carolina said of James Dawson, "Mr. Dawson was a model of everything he believed a teacher should be. I've had professors in my graduate program who do not come anywhere close to modeling good approach and pedagogy like Dawson did."



Joel Schroeder

Rochester College is a place where students from all backgrounds grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Through small classes, a tight-knit campus community, and caring faculty students flourish in any academic field they choose. This small college in Michigan changes peoples lives—it definitely changed mine! After attending another school for three years, I transferred to Rochester College to play basketball for Coach Pleasant. This was the best thing I ever did academically, spiritually, and athletically. In the short time I was at RC the people I met and the faculty influenced me in so many ways. I made some of my closest friends here as well as most of my professional influences.

After receiving my degree in Secondary Education I taught PE and History in a small high school for three years. That is where I fell in love with coaching basketball and decided to chase a dream of coaching in the college ranks. My first call was Coach Pleasant, who gave me a chance with the RC men's team as an assistant coach. Then three years ago I was then given the opportunity to become the head women's coach and an admissions advisor for the downriver area and the east coast of the United States.

I would recommend Rochester College to anyone and have so many personal experiences I can share as to why. Please feel free to contact me anytime... I would love to help you become a Rochester College Warrior.

Teacher Education Program content area options

Rochester College is authorized by the Michigan Department of Education to recommend teacher candidates to the state certification at both the elementary and the secondary level.

Students wishing to teach in elementary or middle school may pursue elementary certification. In addition to completing education courses, a professional studies core of education courses, and a minor in courses specific to elementary teaching candidates major in one of the content areas listed below. Graduates who receive elementary certification may teach all grades K-5 and their major content area in grades 6-8.

Those wishing to teach middle school or high school may pursue a secondary teaching certificate. In addition to completing general education core and the professional studies core of education courses, candidates choose a content area major and/or minor. Graduates who receive secondary certification may teach grades 6-12 in their major and/or minor content areas.

Elementary: [Majors] Integrated Science, Language Arts, Elementary Mathematics, Social Studies

Secondary: [Majors] Biology, English, Secondary Mathematics, Social Studies
[Minors] Biology, English, Math, History

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In his own words... meet recruiter



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In her own words... meet student

Randee Rowell

Never before in my life have I been challenged to explore my identity in the many ways I have at Rochester College. It continually pushes me to new heights. The people and opportunities that have come into my life during my time here have shaped me into a new person. I've been influenced and encouraged by so many: the education majors who I have begun to know and learn alongside of, the professors who have taught me so much more than what their course descriptions indicated, the brothers and sisters that I have found in Sigma Phi Delta Nu, the church members who have made this my home away from home, the students who traveled and explored Europe with me for a semester, the mentors I have found in so many of the faces at RC, and numerous others.

The atmosphere found at Rochester College is incredibly unique. Not only has it challenged me to explore my identity, but also it has given me the avenues to do so by allowing me to get involved in numerous ways. I joined the social club Sigma Phi Delta Nu my freshman year and I am currently the president. I also am the photo editor for the school newspaper, *The Shield*. I work as a tutor in the ACE Lab and spent last year as Student Body President. My sophomore year, I was blessed to get to study abroad for a semester in Europe. And this list is no comparison to the various events and spontaneous activities I've had during my time at RC!

Rochester College has taught me that I never want to stop growing and discovering. I want to live everyday with a hunger for knowledge and a desire to explore this world and the opportunities it holds.

Alumni Excelling

Former students make RC proud in the workplace



David Brazle, 2005

Secondary Math Education

"Rochester College broke me out of my shell," says David (pictured here with wife Lara, '05). "By nature, I'm extremely introverted ... however, RC forced me out of my comfort zone, and I realized how much richer life could be when lived in true community with other people." During his time here, David was involved as a tutor in the ACE Lab, a leader within the mission organization IMAGE, and he sang in the A Cappella Chorus. Right after graduation he was hired as a math teacher at Lahser High School, not far from Rochester, and later earned his master's degree.

Now entering his sixth year of teaching subjects from beginning algebra through AP statistics and even physics, David also tutors students in the local area and online. He says, "RC shaped me into the teacher I am today. For example, Professor Dawson had us explore the history of education and all the different possible methods for educating. As a result, I've been able to develop into a teacher who sees the need to help students construct learning. My daily goal is to connect new math concepts with prior knowledge so it can all be well-connected for my students."

Jennifer Johnson, 2008

Secondary English Education

While at RC, Jennifer was involved all across campus, as a volleyball player, member of Sigma Phi, guest writer for *The Shield*, and student mentor. After graduating, she immediately began a long-term substitution position at Grand Blanc High School and then was hired at Conner Creek Academy to teach middle school history and high school English. She just accepted a new position and will begin work this upcoming school year at Michigan Collegiate Academy, teaching English to high school students mainly out of the Detroit area. Jennifer says, "The education program at RC prepared me for my job by placing me in so many different schools



throughout the Metro Detroit area and even Muskogee, Oklahoma in order to gain a wide range of experience. Professors like Mr. Dawson, Mrs. Bentley, Mr. Golden, Dr. Greer, and many others pushed me and showed me by example how a teacher should act towards his/her students. I love my job because every day I get the opportunity to make a difference in students' lives, just like my professors did in my life."