

THE Official Rochester College

VOL. 35 | NO. 1

800 WEST AVON ROAD | ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48307 | RC.EDU

Get to know **Billie Wilcox**, who's living the suite life at RC...and loving every minute of it!



Challenging Academics. Christian Community.

RC HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE!

SPRING BREAK IN...DETROIT?

While most students spent their spring break soaking up the sun or binging on Netflix, a group of 17 RC students immersed themselves in the city of Detroit during Campus Ministry's annual Urban Plunge. The group helped JJ's House prepare for the arrival of foster kids and expecting teen moms; assisted Focus: Hope with packing boxes of food and delivering them around the city; visited My Brother's Keeper, a local church, where they interacted with and served the homeless; helped remodel a home in an intentional community; tutored students at Experiencia Predatory Academy, and took part in Hope House's reading and girls clubs. In between all of that, they had fun exploring the city and experiencing Detroit's unique culture.

Sophomore Danielle Fecteau said, "I didn't think I would get anything out of it, but [after praying about it] I knew God wanted me to experience Detroit. It was incredibly humbling and eye-opening to see human brokenness on such a high level. Going and working in a broken city was the greatest decision I could have made for spring break," she said. Senior Laura Corp enjoyed the experience as well, saying, "In addition to serving the community of Detroit, Urban Plunge is also a chance to develop spiritually alongside fellow students. It is the best example of a community I have ever seen."



TRUSTWITHOUT BORDERS—SUMMER IN AFRICA



From carrying jerry cans on their heads, peeling matooke until they got blisters and generally "making fools of [themselves] trying to do the hard work of [their] new Ugandan friends," the 2014 summer internship to Uganda, Africa was a life-changing experience for several RC students.

Partnering with Kibo International, a non-profit dedicated to tackling poverty and injustice while working with communities in East Africa to reach their full potential, the group embarked on a four-week journey to Jinja, Uganda over the summer. During their stay, they visited several villages while shadowing Kibo group workers, asking questions. They also simply observed the Kibo group's efforts which include facilitating projects like village sanitation, water rehabilitation, women's empowerment and tree planting. "We witnessed the struggles of poverty, government corruption, community tension, mistrust and broken families. We also witnessed community cooperation, families working together, baptisms, stove building and many other signs of communities helping themselves because of the encouragement of Kibo Group," said student Kalita Zila.

As the students got to know the culture of this different world, Zila says, "We slowly came to the realization that these children of God may not be so different from us after all. Our worldview broadened immensely. This trip was not about what we could do to change Uganda, but how it changed us, that we may intentionally and carefully strive to impact those around us, near and far."

Let's get

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE,

shall we?



You guys! This is Billy Wilcox. He recently started his sophomore year at RC, where he's majoring in accounting, livin' it up in Alma Gatewood, and participating in the A Cappella Chorus, Theta Chi, campus ministry and intramurals.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LIVING ON CAMPUS?

The community aspect of RC campus life is by far my favorite part of being on campus. RC is a place where everybody can know everybody else on campus and get involved in a multitude of things if they make the effort. I love how there always seems to be something on campus to participate in at any given time, whether it's going to see the current play production, doing a service project with your social club, or playing cards in the dorm lobby (which happens pretty regularly).

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS LIVE ON CAMPUS?

Being on campus makes involvement in campus activities much easier, and your involvement has a direct impact on your overall college experience. There are frequent opportunities to go out and have fun, oftentimes on a whim. At the end of the day, I get to come back to a room with an awesome roommate and a hall full of fun and Christian fellowship. On-campus living helps you establish life-long relationships with the overwhelmingly caring group of students you'll find living at RC.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A STUDENT AT RC?

As a student at RC, I most enjoy the small class sizes. They provide the opportunity for more developed relationships with professors, increased discussion and interaction with peers and an overall environment more suitable for maximum learning.



Ahh...making memories, man.

4 of the many reasons to LIVE ON CAMPUS



SAVE ON GAS MONEY!

(BECAUSE LET'S BE HONEST, YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE LIMITED FUNDAGE WHILE YOU'RE IN COLLEGE.)

WE CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH— COMMUNITY

Our campus is positioned right beside the Clinton River Trail. What does this mean for you? You'll want to get that term paper done so you can squeeze in some adventures like hiking, running, biking, "yaking" and cannonballing into the Clinton River. And did we mention that we also have a "lake" in our backyard? Admittedly it's not so great for swimming, but winter water fun is a must!



YOU'LL BE STEPS AWAY FROM THOSE 8 A.M. CLASSES DURING MICHIGAN WINTERS. 'NUFF SAID.

H O M E

suite

H O M E

WELCOME TO ON-CAMPUS LIVING AT RC

Ahh, dorm life (officially called residence life). It's hard to put into words how much richer your college experience will be if you choose to make RC your home "suite" home. Bottom line, we live it up around here. That's because college is more than making it to (and through) that terribly early class. The college experience is about afternoon ping-pong tournaments in DC lobby, evening Steak Outs (all the meat!) with the dudes on your floor, Pinterest and prayer nights with the gals, and simply going through this crazy thing called college *WITH* a community of your peers. The friendships, memories and lessons you'll gain from this experience are almost indescribable, but trust us—you won't want to miss out on all the fun. And speaking of fun, students who live on campus get all the perks of Rochester Athletic Club. This 28,000+ square foot fitness center is located in the heart of downtown Rochester, right next to the Paint Creek Trail and Rochester Municipal Park, providing a natural and refreshing extension to your workout. Commuting students can also purchase a membership at a reduced rate. Freshman 15, what? **Psst, FYI—Campus residence is required of all students who are under the age of 21 and of freshman or sophomore status (unless married, living with a parent or relative, or over the age of 25).*

MEET THE "DORM PARENTS"

Ok, we understand the whole going-away-to-college/having-lots-of-freedom thing. But we can't just let you guys and gals go totally cray cray while living on campus! Enter Residence Life, and more specifically, "dorm parents." (Trust us though, they're pretty cool.)

RC HAS BEEN HOME TO DEBI RUTLEDGE FOR MANY YEARS, first as a student, then an employee. She has spent her days in what seems like every office of campus, while holding the positions of admissions secretary, director of financial aid, consultant and dean of enrollment. Since 2002, however, Debi has been the Resident Director of Ferndale & Hoggatt. She also currently serves as Director of Residential Life and adjunct professor.

As one can imagine, living with large groups of college students for over a decade teaches a person a thing or two. "I've learned not to take myself too seriously and to consider the big picture. The balance between accountability and accepting people where they are is delicate and can create tension, but learning to live in that tension can produce beautiful and lasting results. Along the same lines, little things can mean a lot. I try to take time to recognize someone's accomplishments, attend an activity or just provide an encouraging word. Those things can make a big difference," she said.

Debi most enjoys the opportunity to get involved in students' lives. Although her primary focus is on leadership development with the resident advisors, she says that sometimes the most meaningful relationships are forged through adversity (i.e., when students get in trouble). "I believe that discipline and accountability administered in love matters and that these types of interactions are developmentally significant in shaping a person."

As a key player in "res life," Debi tries to focus on involvement and creating relationships. She understands that college is a very exciting and sometimes challenging life stage, and she takes joy in helping students navigate the transition into adulthood.



DEBI & FAMILY



LISA & FAMILY

LIKE MANY NEW RC STUDENTS, LISA CARNES RECENTLY MOVED INTO ALMA GATEWOOD. Although taking on the position of Resident Director means new experiences, the move to campus was familiar, as the residence hall was actually her home-away-from-home during her years as an RC student. Lisa says during that time she was blessed to experience life alongside caring resident directors and learn the importance of community—things she would like to pass on to her residents. "I want to provide activities that create a family atmosphere where people may start out as strangers, but are transformed in to life-long friends. This was my experience while attending RC," she said. Lisa continues, "I have always

enjoyed the opportunities and the challenges of working with and alongside college students as they pursue their next step in their journey of life," she said.

MEET THE NEWEST

(super fun, crazy friendly and ridiculously helpful)

RC RECRUITER



ADAM SOUTHERLAND

Adam graduated from Rochester College in 2009 with a degree in Christian ministries. Since that time, God has taken him all over the world. After completing his masters degree in Texas, Adam moved to Central Asia for two years to reach out to the nations overseas.

RC couldn't be more thrilled that Adam recently decided to move back to the states in order to get married and chose to return to the college as a recruiter. He thought the job was a good fit as he really enjoyed his four years of education at RC and has always been passionate about the mission of the school.

Adam was very involved while on campus as a student. He was a leader in campus ministry, residence life, student government, intramurals, and Epsilon Theta Chi. Adam says the small, Christian community is what really makes RC different. "Other schools, even Christian schools, want to achieve what Rochester has—that being the ability to provide a great education and safe environment to grow in one's faith."

Outside of RC, Adam is an avid sports fan. He enjoys playing most sports and watching almost all. He is actively involved in ministry as he is provided many opportunities to speak at local churches about his travel and overseas service. He also tries to get to Monroe, Mich. as much as possible to spend time with his three nieces and two nephews.

STOGNER NAMED PROVOST

Dr. Brian Stogner recently began his new role as Provost of Rochester College. Stogner has worked for RC since 1998 and served the college in many areas, including the psychology department and on-campus clinic, academics, assessment, accreditation and the nursing program. Stogner likes to think of his new role as being the Chief Learning Officer of RC. In addition to provost duties, Stogner plans to continue to teach some. "I love being in the classroom and will work hard to never let this new role disconnect me from students," he said.

Stogner enjoys being a part of the RC community for two reasons—the community itself and the mission. "I strongly believe in what we are trying to do here—educate people who can be academically and vocationally prepared for the uncertain and challenging world, and who have the character, values and sensitivities to be servant leaders who embody Christ in their life and work. That's the sort of thing that will change the world."

