

ROCKHURST NEIGHBORS

FALL 2009

A newsletter for neighbors of Rockhurst University

Welcome Back!

Rockhurst welcomes one of the largest freshman classes in its history this fall – more than 410 students. Their experience begins with a four-day orientation geared toward adjusting to university life, plus a long-standing Rockhurst tradition, the Finucane Service Project. Named in memory of the Rev. Bill Finucane, S.J., a former director of Campus Ministry at Rockhurst who devoted much of his life to service, the project sends students, faculty, staff and alumni to work at various sites throughout the Kansas City area. This year's sites include Blue Hills Family Life Center, Gordon Parks Elementary School, Seton Center, St. James Place, Ronald McDonald House, Troostwood Garden and Community LINC.



We'd Love to See You on Campus

Greenlease Gallery opens its season with the exhibition "text. (or the vacancy of)" Friday, Aug. 28. Join guest curator Jeremy Mikolajczak and artists Joy Drury Cox and Marilyn and Peter Frank at 6:30 p.m. for a gallery talk and reception. Minimal in every aspect, their collective work questions the very definition of language and the replacement of language with image. The exhibit runs through Saturday, Oct. 10. Greenlease Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday or call 816-501-4407 for an appointment.

Andrew H. Card Jr., former White House Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush, will open the 2009-10 **Visiting Scholar Lecture Series** with "Ethical Leadership—Challenges and Choices" on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Card will discuss how he leveraged strategy, execution and negotiation skills to orchestrate domestic, foreign, security and anti-terrorism policies. He contends that these three skills can be applied to any organization's business challenges. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Convocation Center. To register your attendance for this free event, call (816) 501-4828.

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature and the **Rockhurst Film Series** present three films that examine justice in education. The films will be shown in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall, at 7 p.m. on Thursdays, Sept. 3, 10 and 17. Admission at the door is \$3 per film or \$7 for the series. The films are:

- Sept. 3 *Stand and Deliver* (1987)
A demanding teacher in an east Los Angeles barrio inspires his students to take an advanced placement calculus test while he battles bureaucratic resistance from his administrators.
- Sept. 10 *Sugar Cane Alley* (1984)
An 11-year-old boy and his hard working, self-sacrificing grandmother manage to survive in a Martinique shantytown in the 1930s.
- Sept. 17 *Butterfly* (1999)
The impact of the Spanish Civil War on a small village highlights the relationship between a young boy and his teacher.

Come watch some action-packed excitement at a **Hawks men or women's soccer game**. You can find a complete listing of athletic events, including dates and times, at www.rockhurst.edu/athletics.

Progress Continues for Campus Master Plan

In August 2009 Rockhurst University initiated its 20-year master plan by gathering input from the university's community, including students, faculty, alumni, staff, trustees, business owners, neighborhood associations and community leaders. Currently, Rockhurst continues master plan discussions with neighborhood and community leaders. A facilitator has been invited to help guide the discussion so that the development of the master plan will conclude with a shared vision that meets the needs of the university and the neighborhood. Representatives from both the university and neighborhood are patiently working together on this plan that should result in a positive impact for our students and greater community.

In the meantime, Rockhurst has been busy updating existing facilities for new and returning students. Corcoran Hall, a residence hall built in 1962, received a complete renovation this summer to bring it up to speed with last summer's renovation of McGee Hall. As part of the renovation, Rockhurst donated beds, tables and chairs from Corcoran and the Town House Village to more than 10 agencies including Community LINC, Operation Breakthrough, Kansas Foster Adoptive Parents and Hope Faith Ministries.

You may have noticed utility work on Rockhurst Road during June and July. The university updated some of its infrastructure needs such as internet cabling and electrical updates. Off-campus houses also received indoor paint jobs and repairs before students returned for classes in August.



Volunteers load furniture donated from Corcoran Hall.

Service is an integral part of the student experience at Rockhurst University. During the 2008-09 academic year Rockhurst students gave more than 20,000 hours in service to others. Although service at Rockhurst is voluntary, more than 80 percent of Rockhurst students participated in service-learning or community service last year. Below is a snapshot of some of the projects our students, faculty and staff participated in.

RU Ready for College?

RU College Bound is an after-school program for area middle and high school students. Rockhurst students, staff and an Americorps Vista volunteer meet with participants weekly for mentorship and exposure to the world of higher education. Activities include homework help, age-appropriate college readiness programming, standardized test practice and college application assistance. The free 90-minute sessions are held at the Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost Ave., and are scheduled to start in late September. For more information or to enroll your student, call 816-501-4306.



Teens receive help with homework at RU College Bound.

Ghouls Rule!

Mark your calendar for the 18th annual Safe Trick-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza held at Rockhurst Community Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31. Rockhurst student groups spend hours creating a safe environment for the neighborhood children to enjoy. Children are encouraged to come in costume for some scary good times and lots of treats. Parents or guardians must accompany children.

Youngsters Strengthen Reading Skills

Rockhurst Community Center was one of the sites for the Upper Room Summer Reading Camp where area students came to strengthen their reading skills. For two weeks of the seven-week course, Pat Lucido, Ph.D., chair of the department of education, and faculty member Phil Brown shared their expertise with 42 fourth and fifth graders. They engaged the students through writing poetry, reading about the history of flight and scientific exploration of flight. Lucido said she thinks it is important for Rockhurst faculty to support the educational efforts in our community.



Last year more than 800 visitors attended Safe Trick-or-Treat along with more than 80 student volunteers.

Rockhurst Students Lead in Service

At Rockhurst, 70% of freshman engage in some sort of service learning activity. That is the highest percentage among the 28 Jesuit universities and colleges, which include Georgetown and Boston College. It is important to help all of the volunteers, especially the incoming students, understand that service is a large part of Rockhurst's mission. Student groups make time not only to complete a project in collaboration with community members, they also reserve time for reflection at the end of the project. This is one of the ways students learn to connect personally to their service while at Rockhurst.

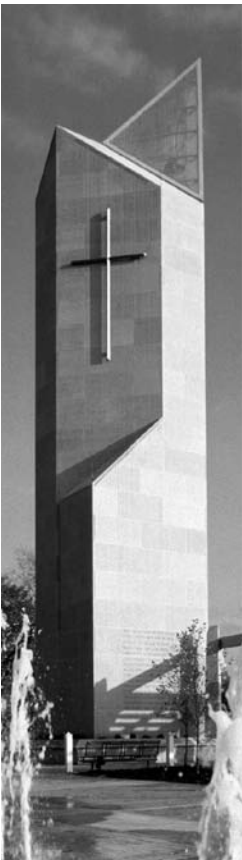


ROCKHURST

A Jesuit University

1100 Rockhurst Road
Kansas City, MO 64110

Learning, Leadership and Service in the Jesuit Tradition



Contact Information

Rockhurst University wants to make it easy for neighbors to contact the university.

You may contact Alicia Douglas, director of community relations, one of the following ways:

- 816-501-4304 Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- alicia.douglas@rockhurst.edu

After hours contact the Rockhurst security department at 816-501-4010.

What's on the Community Relations Web Site?

Visit the University's community relations Web pages to stay up to date.

You also can use the site to connect with us about:

- University news, sports and special events
- Our strategic plan and vision
- Master plan process and documents
- Updates on construction projects
- Campus maps

www.rockhurst.edu/communityrelations