Rockhurst Goes Coed!
(35 years ago)
Dear Rockhurst Friends,

I want to let you know that this academic year will be my final one as president of Rockhurst. It has been an extraordinary privilege to work with you and I cannot imagine a greater joy than to serve as the president of the university from which I graduated. I cherish the relationships I have made both on campus and in the community.

Together we have made significant improvements in our facilities, strengthened our mission and identity, and attracted increasingly large numbers of students. Rockhurst is positioned for a very positive future and a new president will bring talents and insight to guide our growth.

I have been at Rockhurst for eight years and I will be nearly 63 by the end of this academic year. No, I am not ready to retire but I believe that I should take on something new now while I still have the “youth” and energy to do so.

I informed the Board of Trustees of my decision at its Sept. 24 meeting, and the Board has taken steps to begin a search for my successor. Clyde Wendel, vice chairman of Rockhurst’s Board, will chair a search committee that will include trustees, a regent, an alumnus, a staff person and four elected faculty.

I will continue as president until June 2006. Following that, I expect to take a sabbatical, then receive a new assignment from the Jesuit Provincial.

Sincerely,

Edward Kinerk, S.J.
President

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ON THE COVER: Women were first admitted to Rockhurst College as full-time traditional students in 1969. This photo was taken in front of Massman Hall in 1968.
Students Connect With Technology

Rockhurst students are more connected with technology than ever. And with Rockhurst’s new wireless network and free USB flash drives, it’s getting easier to take it with them wherever they go.

When they started the fall semester, all full-time undergraduates received a free USB flash drive provided by the Student Senate. Small enough to fit on a keychain, the drive provides 128MB of portable storage space they can use to store, transfer and carry their files with them.

The university’s new wireless network provides Internet and network access from anywhere on campus, including university buildings, the Quad, residence halls and townhouses, even the athletic fields.

Students are thrilled with the opportunity to check their e-mail, write a paper and conduct research — tasks normally restricted to computer labs or dorm rooms — in the grassy comfort of the quad or among friends in the bleachers at a soccer game.

“It’s great being able to pick up and go anywhere on campus to study in between classes,” said Eric Clarkson, a third-year medical student in the DO/MBA program.

According to Matt Heinrich, associate vice president of administration, demand among students for campus technology is becoming an expectation.

“Students look at technological capabilities when making their decisions on what school to attend,” said Heinrich. “This campus-wide wireless network gives us the ability to provide access to a wide range of resources in a very flexible manner with no restrictions of time or place. If you have a laptop, you have a computer lab.”

Those who won’t find a laptop under the Christmas tree this year can use their flash drives to transfer files between any of the hundreds of state-of-the-art personal computers throughout campus, many of which remain available 24 hours a day.

The Mighty Class of 2009

Rockhurst welcomed the largest freshman class in more than 10 years when classes began Aug. 24. Nearly 370 students from 18 states comprise this year’s class, up 20 percent from last year and more than 50 percent from 2003.

Not only is the class size up, so are the new students’ academic profiles. The average ACT score for the class is one of the highest in the last 15 years, and the overall grade-point average has increased as well. What are these brains studying? The hot majors this year are business, nursing and pre-physical therapy.

A variety of efforts led to enrollment increases, says Phil Gebauer, director of admission. These include more than $30 million worth of recent campus improvements and stronger recruitment efforts.

“The entire Rockhurst community supported the efforts of the Office of Admission, and this year’s class reflects that campuswide support,” he says.

Group 2 was one of 13 groups of freshmen that bonded throughout Freshman Orientation for games, service projects and academic preparation activities.

Students received a free flash drive to transport computer files.
Students ROCK Rockhurst

Juniors Adam Trotter and Kevin “Stu” Schulte would really like to think of college as their backup plan. Although the two are serious about their degrees, they’d prefer to see their musical careers take off.

Together, as One Way Caravan, they’re well on their way to making that a reality. Their sound, which combines contemporary Christian music with acoustic rock, has become popular around campus. And last spring, the pair released its second album, “Another Step Closer.”

“God has had such an effect on our lives,” says Trotter. “We want to be a witness for other people through our music. Since God has blessed us with these talents, this is the least we can do to give something back.”

Both attended Hazelwood Central High School in St. Louis and became close friends when they decided on Rockhurst. As freshman roommates in Corcoran 336, their musical partnership formed and thrived. They met Dan Martin — a sophomore from down the hall — who would end up producing both their albums.

So why the name One Way Caravan?

“The definition of a caravan is a group of people on a journey through a hostile environment or territory,” says Schulte. “And we’re One Way Caravan. We’re on this path to find God. Every day we try to live our life another step closer to J.C.”

Outside of music, the two are very involved in what’s happening on campus. Trotter is a soccer player, and Schulte takes part in the university’s theater productions and works as a student ambassador. They still live in Corcoran but now serve on the residence hall staff. They also team with two other students to present Renewal, a student-led praise and worship program every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

“They definitely love God, and they’re not afraid to say He’s the center of their lives,” says junior Bridget Hiegel, who co-presents the Renewal program. “Their music is a great way for them to reach people.”

Practically everyone on campus knows them and their music from Masses and other campus events. Later this month, they’ll have the opportunity to reach thousands more by performing at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Atlanta — an experience that will bring them another step closer to their dream.

Adam Trotter (left) and Stu Schulte have released two CDs of original music.

Not So Elementary

When the Catholic Education Foundation asked Curtis Hancock, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, to write a book on educational philosophy focused on elementary education, he was intrigued and eager to comply.

“I’d written quite a bit about Catholic education at the university level and I wanted to get down to what’s going on with kids,” said Hancock. “I wanted to present an alternative and a tonic to current limiting philosophies that are unable to do what a Christian educator needs to do in the classroom.”

Students preparing to be teachers or administrators in Catholic schools should find Recovering a Catholic Philosophy of Elementary Education useful, but Hancock says he actually wrote it with parents of elementary school children in mind. As such, he purposely avoided philosophical jargon.

To order a copy of the book, published by Newman House Press, visit jhnewman.org. It also should be available soon from amazon.com.
**Board Appoints Two Members**

The Rockhurst University Board of Trustees recently appointed two new members.

Richard Thomas Sullivan Jr., ’73, is chairman and CEO of McBride & Son Companies, a home building company with offices in St. Louis, Kansas City, Atlanta, Indianapolis and Louisville.

Sullivan is director of the National Association of Homebuilders, a licensed Missouri real estate broker and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is actively involved with Habitat for Humanity-St. Louis and has served on a number of boards, including those of Lindenwood University and Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital.

While at Rockhurst, Sullivan earned a bachelor of science in business administration and became a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Theresa M. Opie, ’04, holds one of two board positions reserved for recent Rockhurst University alumni. She graduated in May 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in theology, a minor in political science and a certification in American Humanics.

During her time at Rockhurst, Opie was awarded a Van Ackeren Leadership Scholarship and a Miller Family Scholarship. Following her graduation, Opie joined the Missouri Secretary of State’s Kansas City office where she provides customer service and processes corporate filings.

**Be a Part of History**

If you’ve ever created a family album, you know how challenging it can be to document history. Rockhurst is facing that challenge as its 2010 centennial anniversary draws nearer.

To commemorate this important occasion, the Rockhurst University Press is publishing a history of the University. This coffee-table book, scheduled to be released in January 2009, will feature numerous photos, lively anecdotes and engaging stories about Rockhurst’s first 100 years.

If you have photos or memorabilia you can lend or donate, or memories to share, contact Bill Stancil, Ph.D., director of the Rockhurst University Press and editor of the Rockhurst University Centennial History, at (816) 501-4023 or bill.stancil@rockhurst.edu.

**Baby boomers vs. Gen Xers — What Makes Women Tick**

Baby boomers grew up with the idea that the way to achieve career success is to work hard and pay your dues. For generation X, this concept makes no sense at all, says Charlotte Shelton, Ed.D., assistant professor of management.

Shelton, a boomer mother, and her generation X daughter, Laura Shelton, are co-authors of *The Next Revolution: What Gen X Women Want at Work and How Their Boomer Bosses Can Help Them Get It*.

The book is based on survey results from more than 1,200 generation X workers, generally considered those born between 1964 and 1977. When respondents were asked to rank factors important to job satisfaction, they placed job status and prestige at the bottom of the list.

Generation X places great value on relationships and collaboration, Shelton says. Workplaces characterized by competition cause women of generation X, especially, to opt out. Generation X women comprise the fastest growing segment of entrepreneurs, according to Shelton.

Baby boomers and generation X differ on how to balance work and life, Shelton says.

“The majority of the younger-than-40 workforce aren’t going to exhibit the workaholic behavior their parents and professors have role modeled.”

*The Next Revolution* is scheduled for an October release and will be available in bookstores, at amazon.com and through the publisher at www.daviesblack.com.
Summer Fellows Shun Lazy Days

Summer. For many college students the word conjures visions of beaches, late nights, lazy days and freedom. But for four Rockhurst students, it fostered an entirely different game plan — research and writing.

The students were recipients of the Summer 2005 Deans’ Undergraduate Fellowships for Research and Creative Activity, which allowed them to spend time working on their own original projects.

Cagney Bennett, ’06, jumpstarted her plan to create a line of cosmetics made from natural ingredients such as flowers, fruits and vegetables. A chemistry major, Bennett hopes to eventually market her products with the help of friends who are business majors.

Christopher Pease, a senior majoring in psychology, heard from Arab-American friends they were experiencing an increase in discrimination and hate crimes. He thought the attitudes behind this activity might also affect jury verdicts in trials involving Arab-American defendants. An initial search showed little research in this area, so that’s where he decided to focus his efforts.

“Arab Americans could be put to death or sentenced to 50 years in jail just because of someone’s opinion of them,” Pease said.

Lynne Clure, a junior majoring in psychology, focused her fellowship on “Emotional, Cognitive and Behavioral Concomitants of Jealousy.”

When Gregory Frye graduates in May, he hopes to attract an agent for his portfolio of plays and screenplays. Frye, who says it’s harder to write during the semester, used his summer fellowship to work on his play, which he characterizes as a dark comedy.

“I know I want to be a writer for a living and this has confirmed that,” Frye said.
Imagining competing in a field of 50,000 students for one of 250 slots in an MBA program. Those are the odds that filled the classrooms of two Helzberg School of Management faculty members who spent the summer teaching at one of India’s top management schools — the Xavier Labour Relations Institute.

XLRI is a Jesuit institution located in the northeastern steel city of Jamshedpur. Martin Stack, Ph.D., associate professor of management, taught international healthcare management and international management. Jacob Kurien, Ph.D., visiting associate professor of economics, taught managerial economics.

Stack said the students are very curious about the U.S. business environment. He was invited to give three 90-minute presentations on differences between the business culture in the United States, Europe, and India. Each one lasted longer than scheduled, with 15 students at the final session remaining for an additional hour to talk.

“They know a great deal about U.S. culture and history,” Stack said. “In a sense there is a great information asymmetry, as they know a lot about our society and we don’t know much about theirs.”

Why is she so driven? Through her advocacy work, Hansbrough is connected with others from all over the world who share her passion.

“It’s not just about plagues of locusts any more or a year of failed crops that causes starvation, although that does happen,” said Hansbrough. “It’s about people who have a successful crop year, but because of the ways the rules are written, they can’t have access to markets. So farmers can’t sell their crops or feed their kids.”

Hansbrough is pursuing a degree in political science along with minors in economics, theology and nonprofit leadership studies. She plans to study sustainable development in graduate school, then travel internationally to help communities reach their economic and social potentials.

And whether it’s “global trade soccer” or real people who don’t have enough to eat, Hansbrough hopes to help level the playing field for everyone around the world.
Rockhurst Community Responds to Hurricane Disaster

A mber Pelzl, from Clearwater, Kan., was thrilled. It was her fourth day of freshman orientation at Loyola University New Orleans, and she’d fallen in love with the city, the school and especially the palm trees on the campus quad. Then came the knock at the door of her new dorm room. A resident assistant was telling everyone to evacuate.

After a harrowing four days scrambling to get away from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, Pelzl made it home, and then to Rockhurst. She was among 27 students who transferred to Rockhurst after evacuating from areas affected by the hurricane.

In the weeks that followed, the university community came together to help Pelzl and others in need.

To make their transitions as smooth as possible, Rockhurst agreed to delay billing to ensure students wouldn’t pay tuition to two institutions.

A special orientation session introduced them to campus.

The Mass of the Holy Spirit, held each September to celebrate the beginning of the school year, was dedicated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

A student-led rosary also was held in their honor.

Student organizations sprang into action initiating blood drives, food drives, bottled water drives, and a school supplies drive. Fundraisers included a barbecue, bake sale and four-square tournament.

And when her new friends in McGee Hall offered to buy Pelzl notebooks and school supplies, she truly started feeling at home at Rockhurst.

“I love these fountains,” she said. Even though they’re not the palm trees she fell in love with at Loyola, she’s excited to be in college.

“It still seems surreal that I’m not there.”

Whether she’s here for just one semester or the long haul, she’s likely to remember her turbulent first weeks of college, and the friendship and support she found at Rockhurst, for a long time to come.

Freshman Katy Hernandez was one of several students who volunteered their time to make “hugs” blankets for children at local hospitals and shelters who were displaced from areas affected by the hurricane.
ROCK REPORT

Psychology Professor Named Carnegie Scholar

Remember cramming for tests in college? You probably remember the late nights, but not much about the material you actually studied, right?

Like most educators, Renee Michael, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, believes this technique is no substitute for real learning. But as one of 21 faculty members chosen nationwide as Carnegie Scholars by the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning this year, she’s made it her mission to explore ways to help students learn material in more meaningful and enduring ways.

“The Carnegie Foundation is interested in helping students see how their whole college experience is connected,” she said.

Each semester, students in Michael’s research methods class engage in a service project that calls for collaborating with a local nonprofit agency to conduct research that helps the organization better meet the needs of its patrons. To do this, students need to draw on what they’ve learned in other courses — communication, statistics and psychology, for example — as well as their personal experiences in community service and critical thinking.

The result is an experience that engages students in pulling together all their knowledge and available resources to solve a problem. Michael believes the integrative nature of this practice teaches students not only what to learn in the short-term, but how to learn throughout their lifetime and “be better prepared to be educated citizens in the real world.”

Michael is the second Rockhurst faculty member to be named a Carnegie Scholar. Anita Salem, professor of mathematics, was selected in 1998. In 2003, the Carnegie Foundation designated Rockhurst as a national leadership site for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning — one of only a handful of institutions to earn this distinction.

“This adds to Rockhurst’s reputation as being at the forefront of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning initiative,” said Michael. “Ideally we’d like students to see the big picture, and how what they’re learning makes sense in a Jesuit institution where we value the whole person.”

Rockhurst Ranks Again

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Rockhurst University No. 14 in the Midwest Best Universities — Master’s category in its 2006 rankings. The rankings are part of the magazine’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” issue and accompanying guidebook.

More than 175 public and private master’s institutions are included in the Midwest region. Rockhurst consistently is ranked among the top 15.

The magazine bases its rankings on a number of criteria, including peer assessments, freshman retention rate, graduation rate, faculty resources, class sizes, student/faculty ratio, student selectivity, acceptance rate, financial resources and alumni giving rate.

“This ranking is one more validation of the exceptional quality of the Rockhurst experience,” said the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., president of Rockhurst University.

“We encourage students to look at these rankings as part of a holistic approach in their college selection. There are many aspects of a Rockhurst education that cannot be measured in these rankings, such as our distinctive mission, which calls on us to develop each student as a whole person — intellectually and professionally, morally and spiritually,” said Fr. Kinerk.
Where the Girls Are

Rockhurst Goes Coed

For today's students, it's hard to believe. Before fall 1969, women could enroll in the Evening Division but weren't admitted to Rockhurst as full-time traditional undergraduates. Two alumni describe life before and after what may be the biggest change to hit this campus.
While it seems like only a few years ago, I arrived in Kansas City during the late summer of August 1966 to attend Rockhurst College. That started a relationship with the University that has lasted almost 40 years and taken me from freshman to economics faculty member.

My first few days at the college were pleasant and amusing ones, but also very hot days and evenings, since air conditioning did not arrive at Xavier-Loyola Hall until years later. During freshman orientation, we were required to wear Rockhurst beanies, and to participate in a range of activities that included a scavenger hunt, picnics and required lectures.

Freshmen were expected to do whatever was asked by upper classmen. I can recall freshmen students running around the perimeter of the cafeteria quacking like ducks. I can also remember upper classmen giving me arduous tasks of writing letters to their girlfriends back home and summarizing chapters from their textbooks. My response was to give them an erroneous name and room number so that I wasn’t obligated to complete the tasks. In any case, my first few days at Rockhurst were an introduction to an all-male environment where no students were women, there were very few female faculty members and there were far more Jesuits than are now present at the University.

It is hard to imagine that type of environment now, but it clearly was a different time. Not only were women absent from the education scene, the religious requirements were far more extensive. For my freshman and sophomore years, mandatory retreats were required. They lasted two or three days and colored cards were distributed to the students during the lectures that had to be signed to guarantee they were attending the religious lectures. I worked in the Dean’s Office for Fr. Cahill and the Evening Division. I remember seeing those brightly colored cards on the desk next to mine and casually picking up several dozen or more and distributing them to friends so we would not have to attend those lectures. I realize now that it was the devil that made me do it, and I have mended my evil ways. I also realize now what a luxury that was to have the opportunity to take a few days of retreat.

The Vietnam War became more and more prominent during my college education, and students were motivated to remain in college for that important deferment that kept us out of Vietnam. The draft was mandatory for all men, and almost always would mean a free trip to Vietnam. During my senior year, President Nixon introduced the lottery, which determined which of us would be
called to service and which would be allowed to continue normal lives. I remember that night because everyone was out drinking, whether to celebrate his high number or to forget the low number that meant he would be called up soon after graduation.

“The men far outnumbered the women during those first years, and women fully appreciated the advantage that gave them.”

What also occurred by that time was that young women had been allowed to enter the college. During my junior year, I studied abroad at Loyola University in Rome, Italy, which was a life-changing experience. When I returned for my senior year, women had arrived and certainly had improved every aspect of college life. There were, of course, very few women in upper classes, because they primarily began entering during their first year of college.

Prior to their acceptance into college, there were very few contacts with women during a normal day at Rockhurst. For example, during my first two years, each class sponsored a formal dance in the Rock and Aztec Rooms, when young ladies were allowed to visit. Those dances were one of the few times every year when Rockhurst was more than an all-male environment. The dances eventually stopped as unrest grew because of the war. Other things changed as well. During my first year, there was room check every night in the dormitories at 10 p.m. during the week and at midnight over the weekends. That disappeared as students became less docile during those years when the war was challenged.

Along with all of these rather significant changes that occurred at Rockhurst during the 1960s, women arrived with very little interruption of normal activities, although an adequate number of women’s restrooms only arrived years later. The men far outnumbered the women during those first years, and women fully appreciated the advantage that gave them. There was a coed dorm — a pretty radical idea for the time, but it was coed because there were not enough women to fill an entire dormitory. McGee Hall was the women’s dorm and, I believe, it was only the first two floors where women lived. Years later when the advantages and disadvantages of coed dormitories were debated, I always remembered those first few years when it was just a matter of economics.

There was never any question that Rockhurst had made the right decision, and it is hard to imagine an education at the collegiate level today that would not include both genders.

Michael Stellern earned a bachelor of arts in economics from Rockhurst in 1970, a master’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He began teaching at Rockhurst in 1979 and is associate professor of economics in the Helzberg School of Management.
Compared to today’s college searches, my choice in 1972 was a breeze. I was looking for three qualities in a college: First, a Jesuit college. All four of my brothers were educated by Jesuits and I was seeking my chance with these great educators. Second, a return to Kansas City, which I had left as a freshman in high school. Third, a coed school. Having attended an all-girls high school, it was time to go to school with guys.

Rockhurst fulfilled all three of my requirements, and so my choice was easy. Fortunately, Rockhurst had become coed in 1969. Had that change not taken place I would have given up my quest to return to Kansas City and attended a Jesuit college in another city. My father questioned my reason for choosing a coed school, inquiring whether I was coming to college to find a husband. He knew Rockhurst enrolled seven men for every woman. I assured him that had never entered my mind and was pleased to prove him wrong when I graduated four years later with a great education and no husband in sight.

From August 1972 to May 1976 I had the time of my life. Of all my high school friends in Chicago, I was the only one not worried about starting school. That bravery evaporated as I pulled into the parking lot of McGee Hall, my home for the next four years. I knew no one coming to Rockhurst. As the youngest of six children, four of them boys, the ratio of men to women should not have been a big deal. But at that moment in the parking lot of McGee Hall, the women’s dorm that couldn’t be filled due to too few female Rockhurst students, I wondered if perhaps I should have found a school with more women.

The gender issue was soon reinforced as I entered Massman Hall for the first time. Fr. Blumeyer, who was academic dean and knew my brothers who had graduated from Rockhurst in ’65 and ’70, greeted me. He teased me about my decision to come to Rockhurst recalling that my brothers didn’t think Rockhurst should become coed (At the time many students and alumni were trying to adjust to the change.). I advised Fr. Blumeyer that it wasn’t the first time, and probably wouldn’t be the last time I did something with which my brothers did not agree.

Perhaps in Massman Hall, home of the only dining hall on campus, the gender ratio had the biggest impact on me. In that dining hall it quickly became evident that men outnumbered women. It must have been those guys who found a way to “drop” their forks into the ceiling. One of my friends remembers her very first class at Rockhurst being “Christ in the Scriptures.” She was the only woman in the class.
According to Rockhurst Lore

Long before the college became coed, a young German student boarded a ship bound for the United States and set off on a long journey that would lead to Rockhurst. Upon the weary traveler’s arrival, administrators were surprised to find she was a woman. They were reluctant to turn her away after bravely coming so far, so they granted her special permission to enroll. And so began the legend of Rockhurst’s first female student.

Fact or fiction? We couldn’t verify it, but if you have more details about this story, send a message to Katherine.frohoff@rockhurst.edu and we’ll share the information in a future issue.

Jan Holland Stacy received a bachelor of science in business administration with a major in marketing from Rockhurst in 1976. She lives in Kansas City with her husband, Jim, ’66, and children, Katie, Michael and Ann. She operates a business, JS Management, which manages investment real estate.

“
My father questioned my reason for choosing a coed school, inquiring whether I was coming to college to find a husband.”

Fr. Denzer was more than willing to help me with classwork following my absence due to a trip to the National Student Lobby in Washington, D.C. Mr. Knickerbocker always made me feel as though my contributions to the Hawk were special, even though he had to “encourage” me to complete the articles and meet the deadlines. Though history was not my strength, Dr. Rydzel made sure I got through his freshman course, which was my first major realization of the difference between high school and college. Without the help of Dr. Bryce Jones, I might still be at Rockhurst. After finding myself short of an economics class the second semester of senior year, Dr. Jones allowed me into one of his classes. The class was full of econ majors. As a marketing major I was in a little over my head, but with his guidance I graduated on time.

Just as male students outnumbered female students, male professors outnumbered female professors. Although few, Rockhurst had great women professors such as Dr. Rigby, Dr. Servoss, Dr. Tunks and Mrs. Martin. However, as a business major, I never had a class taught by a female professor. I am grateful to Dr. Joyce Smith, the lone female in the administration, who served as a mentor to me as the first female president of the Student Government Association.

Although the men far outnumbered the women, it is the women of Rockhurst who have remained my life-long friends. And these women have stories of their own. In 1975-76 Sue Thornhill Sweeney and Margo Enig Lubus were captains of the first women’s intercollegiate basketball team at Rockhurst. Mary Rafferty Corry joined with many of us in a “sit-in” at the Jesuit residence as we campaigned for the cause of a coed dorm at Rockhurst. She then became a resident assistant in Xavier-Loyola, the first official coed living space at Rockhurst.

Without sororities or similar clubs, our dorm floor served as our community. From floor parties, to informal gatherings in the floor lounge to floor dinners in the private dinner room in Massman Hall, to sunbathing on the roof of McGee, friendships were formed and cemented. Sharing not only bathrooms, but also one phone for a floor full of women can cause bonding like nothing else.

Reflecting on the last 30 years, I am still very grateful that Rockhurst became a coed school. I received a great education from outstanding educators — Jesuits. I returned to Kansas City, a city that I love and the city where I still live. And, belatedly, my father was right. I met my husband, Jim Stacy, at Rockhurst. But not until after I graduated did I meet Jim while serving on the Alumni Board. Fr. Freeman officiated at our wedding, along with Fr. Van Ackeren, Fr. Weiss and Fr. Daues. Our first child, Katie, was born on Father Van’s birthday and Fr. Freeman baptized all three of our children: Katie, Michael and Ann. Thank you, Rockhurst!

Jan Holland Stacy received a bachelor of science in business administration with a major in marketing from Rockhurst in 1976. She lives in Kansas City with her husband, Jim, ’66, and children, Katie, Michael and Ann. She operates a business, JS Management, which manages investment real estate.
Nurturing Nature

Backpacking retreat inspires care for God's creation

Story and Photos by Jamie Sievering
Miles away from civilization, wrapped in winter coats, mosquito nets and rain gear, several novice campers and I huddled around a campfire for warmth.

“I bet it’s 80 degrees back home,” I thought as I ate the last of my oatmeal. But the thought didn’t last long. It was time for morning prayer — an open-eyed, free-movement prayer on the misty bank of Mountain Lake — then to set out on the day’s trek through the wilderness.

In Jesuit spirituality, we’re taught to find God in all things. Last spring, I accompanied a group of Rockhurst students who set out on a path to explore their relationship with the earth in light of their Christian faith — a backpacking adventure called the SuperNatural Christians Retreat. The destination? The most pristine and isolated place we could reach in a university van… the 18,000-acre Sylvania Wilderness Tract in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Our group consisted of six students, a staff member, a former Jesuit Volunteer and myself.

Opposite page: The calm waters of Crooked Lake create a perfect setting for prayer and personal reflection.

Left: The author finds the weight of her canoe adds new meaning to a breathtaking experience.

Below: Senior Nicki Lee (left) and junior Mary Pimmel watch for eagles in the unspoiled wilderness.

Those canoes were heavy,” said Nickie Lee, a senior English major. “But people can surprise you. It was amazing to see girls who were 5-foot-nothing carrying them.”

Along the way, we were overwhelmed by the forest’s spectacular natural beauty. Far away from the noise of highways and cell phones, we were immersed in the sounds of nature and surrounded by bald eagles, loons and other wildlife. The location was especially appropriate for the purpose of our expedition. Part of the land had been purchased in 1895 by a lumberman who intended to cut it down, but he was so inspired by the beautiful scenery that he changed his mind. Today, the land continues to be carefully preserved by the national forest service.

The physical challenge involved cold, wet weather conditions, heavy equipment and plenty of hiking and paddling. We canoed and kayaked through half a dozen lakes and explored miles of wilderness on foot. We carried our own 64-pound canoes between lakes — some portages stretched to three-quarters of a mile — filtered our own drinking water and cut our own firewood.
On the way home, the group joined the men of the Jesuit Novitiate House in St. Paul, Minn., for Mass. “It has broadened my perspective on this issue that I was rather indifferent on before,” she said. Discussion topics included how to be better stewards of the environment. Recycle. Reuse. Buy more recycled products and fewer disposable ones. Drive less often. Volunteer for environmental projects. “The Bible says we have dominion over nature, and people tend to turn that around as an excuse to exploit nature,” she said. “This trip reminded me of the duty and responsibility we have to protect the environment and not exploit it.”

This fall, we’re teaming again to organize a conservation initiative on campus. By becoming better stewards of the environment and sharing this mission with others, we hope to take some small step in preserving the world in the way God intended. What a super, natural way to live.

Find out More

Campus Ministry sponsors the SuperNatural Christians retreat every other May. For more information, visit www.rockhurst.edu/retreats.
Solid Gold

Rockhurst icon celebrates 50 years of teaching chemistry

By Katherine Frohoff

It may take a village to raise a child, but it only takes one 82-year-old chemistry professor to build and maintain a community that stretches from Kansas City to Alaska to Egypt and beyond.

This August, the Rev. James D. Wheeler, S.J., began his 50th year of teaching at Rockhurst. During this time, he has instructed countless numbers of students — including the current university president. Many have gone on to accomplish great things. And Fr. Wheeler helps them all keep in touch. Twice each year, he compiles the many e-mails he receives from former students around the world, adds stories about who has called or dropped by and publishes a newsletter for a mailing list of 943 people.

“Chemistry Newsletter No. 36” (the most recent issue) is a no-frills publication written in a stream-of-consciousness style that defies editing. It’s a formula that has charmed alumni into contacting him just to get their names and stories included in the pages, says Philip Colombo, Ph.D., ’91, one of two Rockhurst alumni who took classes from Fr. Wheeler and now teach alongside him in the chemistry department.

Stories about people who meet people who know Fr. Wheeler are legendary. Colombo said his brother recently met a physician in New York who is originally from Colombia and who studied under him.

But this isn’t the only thing that sets Fr. Wheeler apart. Although he turned 82 years old July 19, he still dons shorts and walks from the Jesuit residence to the weight room where he works at keeping in shape. He still enjoys traveling and for a recent birthday, his fellow Jesuits sent him on a trip to Belize. On his 81st birthday, he presented a research paper at a chemistry conference.

It is rare for a faculty member to have a career that spans this many years, let alone at the same institution. Somehow Fr. Wheeler is able to connect to college students who find in him a caring and knowledgeable instructor. Maybe that’s the cornerstone that keeps the community alive long after they’ve graduated.
For someone who enjoys hearing from former students, colleagues and friends, there may be no better gift than a collection of memories and accolades. Thanks to chemistry alumni, we've created a special edition newsletter.

To view archived copies of Fr. Wheeler's chemistry newsletter, visit www.rockhurst.edu/chemistrynews.

Fr. Wheeler's lifelong dedication to education is now and will continue to be an inspiration. His network of contacts is amazing, his dedication to students unconditional; his shoes will certainly be hard to fill!

Jackie Riedel, '05
DO/MBA Candidate, class of 2008
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

I have found Fr. Wheeler to be a “rock” of wisdom and faith. His 10:15 p.m. Sunday night Mass homilies were always to the point of “know where you are and what you should be doing.” The number of e-mail addresses from his newsletter exemplifies the many lives Fr. Wheeler has affected. I always marvel at the great number of Ph.D. and M.D. designations that follow the names in that newsletter. To think of all the lives each one of those has touched as an extension of Fr. Wheeler’s message is impressive.

I have spent the past eight years teaching doctors during their residency training years. I recall my cohorts and myself seeking help on general chemistry problems after that 10:15 homily was completed. The homework was due the next day. This selfless example of a teacher is my paradigm for instructing the residents. From this I found a learning moment is not just in the classroom.

Daniel Casey, M.D., '91
President of the Medical Staff
John Peter Smith Hospital
Fort Worth, Texas

I, like many other of his students, was convinced to start Fr. Wheeler’s weightlifting program. I remember that it was very intense, so much so that it took two weeks of very hard calisthenics just to qualify for using weights. I recall many days where I could hardly walk up the stairs to the locker room after working out. Of course, it was always worse when he was in the weight room, as he’d make you work like a dog (much like in chemistry).

Overall, I count Fr. Wheeler as a great teacher and mentor for countless chemistry students. With him and Dr. Servoss during the time I was there, I believe we had one of the finest chemistry departments around. Many of my colleagues went on to obtain M.D. or Ph.D. degrees as a result of his efforts.

Thomas M. Sack, Ph.D., '80
Director, Chemical Sciences Division
Midwest Research Institute

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Chemistry Newsletter Special Edition
I signed up for chemistry because I thought I wanted to be a doctor. I was assigned to General Chemistry with 80 other freshmen in the basement lecture hall of Conway. This is before any renovations had taken place.

At 11 a.m., in walks this short gentleman, with a flat-top haircut, desert boots, white socks, powder-blue pants, orange tie, glasses and a non-descript suitcoat, and he says, “Good morning, my name is Fr. Wheeler, this is General Chemistry, take out a half-sheet of paper, question number one.”

The entire class was in shock and stunned silence. Who was this person who had invaded our lives? We soon learned however that looks can be deceiving. Fr. Wheeler is a terrific teacher, a very pastoral priest and a dear friend. He led me into the Jesuits. I have been a happy member since 1974.

Becky Wimbish, ’04
DO/MBA Candidate, class of 2008
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

Fr. Wheeler is an amazing teacher and mentor. I took Honors Chemistry with Fr. Wheeler my first semester at Rockhurst, and I thought I would never make it through that class. I did do well, and I learned how hard I could really work if I wanted something. Fr. Wheeler has been a wonderful mentor dedicated to guiding pre-med students to their dreams. I thank him for all the hard work he has done for Rockhurst students and myself.

Fr. Bill Oulvey, S.J., ’74
Superior of Jesuits, Belize

I took one course from Fr. Wheeler, Quantitative Analysis, about 48 years ago. I was successful with the analytical feature of the course, but (by my inference), Father proved to me that I was not going to become a proficient lab chemist, lacking the patience and precision skills to get precise weights and measures needed for accurate results. However, on a positive note, I learned to appreciate the value of analytical chemistry. During my professional career as a research leader I can recall many instances where research problems were solved with the necessary innovations of analytical chemistry. It’s as important, or perhaps even more important, to understand the technology as to be able to do it.

Joseph Glas, Ph.D., ’60
Cory Schulte is a double threat, both in the classroom and in athletic competition. Not only did he balance two varsity sports at Rockhurst — soccer and basketball — he also balanced two majors. Schulte recently completed undergraduate degrees in business administration and psychology.

Playing two back-to-back sports was an exciting, exhausting challenge for Schulte. “It’s one of the toughest things someone can do. I was always at basketball practice the day after soccer season ended,” said Schulte, who will play his final year of basketball this year while completing a master’s degree in business administration.

Schulte, who red-shirted in basketball his freshman year, is one of the top returning players from last year’s team. The 6-foot-5 guard/forward played in 50 games over the past two years, scoring 224 points and grabbing 104 rebounds. Coach Bill O’Connor is counting on Schulte to provide leadership for a young Hawks team this season.

A four-year starter for the soccer team, Schulte played in 60 games as a defender and helped lead the Hawks to a pair of NCAA tournament appearances in 2002 and 2003. He was named the Hawks’ 2004 defensive player of the year.

Rockhurst University alumni and fans will now get a better chance to watch the Hawks play in major markets throughout the Midwest. The University officially joined the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) for the 2005-06 academic year.

Frank Diskin, Rockhurst University director of athletics, said membership in this new conference allows all 11 of Rockhurst’s teams to compete in one conference for the first time.

“The GLVC is a strong Division II conference,” Diskin said. “This takes us into St. Louis, where we recruit a large number of our students, in addition to opening up new areas for us in Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Louisville. These are also areas where we have a large number of alumni.”

This fall, Rockhurst’s soccer teams will make road trips to Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Springfield. The Lady Hawks volleyball team will be playing league matches at Drury, Southern Indiana, SIU Edwardsville, St. Joseph’s, Indianapolis, Quincy, Wisconsin-Parkside and Lewis.

Basketball season for the RU teams will include road games between Dec. 1 and Feb. 25 at Northern Kentucky, Bellarmine, St. Joseph’s, Indianapolis, Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri-Rolla, Drury, SIU Edwardsville and Quincy. The Hawks and Lady Hawks will travel together and play doubleheaders.

For a complete athletic schedule, go to www.rockhurst.edu/athletics.
Sarah Schwandt wears a different uniform than her teammates on the Rockhurst volleyball team. The physical therapy student from Manhattan, Kan., plays a special defensive position in the back row called the libero, who is required to wear a uniform that contrasts with her teammates’ uniforms.

The libero, which has been in use since 2002, was designed to add excitement to the game and raise the level of play. Restricted to play as a back-row player, the libero is not allowed to attack the ball or attempt to block, and is not counted toward a team’s number of substitutions.

Schwandt became the Hawks’ libero in her sophomore season in 2003 and led the team with 620 digs in 152 games. By the end of her junior season, she was one of the top liberos in the nation. Schwandt ranked seventh among NCAA Division II players with 6.22 digs per game and was named the Libero of the Year in the Heartland Conference.

“Sarah works extremely hard. She is solid playing in the back. You’re assured of getting a good pass from her. Her leadership will come into play more this year. We’re looking for her to have a good year,” said Rockhurst volleyball coach Tracy Rietzke, who is the second winningest active NCAA Division II women’s volleyball coach.

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Schwandt earned her bachelor’s degree in biology in May and is a graduate student in the Rockhurst doctor of physical therapy program.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference

Bellarmine University (Louisville, Ky.)
Drury University (Springfield, Mo.)
Kentucky Wesleyan College (Owensboro)
Rockhurst University
Saint Joseph’s College (Rensselaer, Ind.)
University of Indianapolis
University of Southern Indiana (Evansville)
Lewis University (Romeoville, Ill.)
University of Missouri-Rolla
Northern Kentucky University (Highland Heights)
Quincy University (Quincy, Ill.)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Kenosha)

Visit the Hawks Online

Whether you’re a die-hard Rockhurst sports fan or just want to see the score from last night’s game, check out the new athletics news Web page. Updated regularly by John Dodderidge, sports information director, the section includes news, features, photos and upcoming events. Find it by clicking the yellow Athletics link at the top of any Rockhurst Web page at www.rockhurst.edu.
A fund-raising effort is under way for Rockhurst University’s proposed Health and Wellness Complex, an approximately $20 million facility intended to increase options for on-campus student recreation opportunities.

An innovative design that incorporates the traditional look of limestone with contemporary architectural elements will connect new and existing structures. The project will consist of two phases.

Phase one includes construction of a building behind Mason-Halpin to house a multipurpose court and locker facilities. During phase two, a new building will be added behind Massman Hall for workout rooms, an atrium dining space and a rooftop garden. The second floor of the Convocation Center will be extended to accommodate an indoor running track.

Students will be able to choose from a variety of settings in which to sweat, including the new track, specially designated rooms for the latest weight-training and cardio equipment, and a window-lined enclosed bridge connecting the two new buildings, where additional equipment will be found.

Attractive cloistered walkways will line parts of the western and northern perimeters of the soccer field, creating an inviting environment for walking or gathering to watch games.

Construction could begin on phase one during the second half of 2006 if enough funds are raised. If you would like to make a gift to Rockhurst University to help fund the Health and Wellness Complex, call (816) 501-4888, visit www.rockhurst.edu and select “Giving to Rockhurst” or mail a check to: Office of Institutional Advancement, Rockhurst University, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110.

To see additional views of the proposed facility, follow the “About Rockhurst” link on the Rockhurst Web site to “Campus Developments.”

The proposed Health and Wellness Complex connects the Convocation Center with a new building east of Massman Hall and replaces the roadway in front of Mason-Halpin Fieldhouse with a pedestrian plaza.

This north-looking view shows the cloistered walkways that will line portions of the soccer field.

Wellness Complex Could Transform Campus

More than 180 golfers teed off June 27 for the third annual Rockhurst University Golf Classic at Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate. The celebrity tournament, held in memory of the late Rev. Joseph Freeman, S.J., was a tremendous success, raising more than $50,000 for University athletics.

Each foursome chose a celebrity team member from a group of local professional athletes and celebrities. Chiefs broadcasters Mitch Holthus and Bill Grigsby, as well as defensive end Eric Hicks and wide receiver Eddie Kennison, were among the celebrity golfers. The winning team included George McDonnell, ’77, MBA ’82; Scott Holland; Flip Frisch, ’77; Joel Frisch, ’65; and Kansas City Chief Mike Davidson.

Chiefs defensive end Jared Allen and Al Fitzmorris, Royals broadcaster and former pitcher, were honorary chairmen for the event. Title sponsors included McBride & Son Homes and ThreeSixty Architecture.

Golfing for Dollars
Come get jazzed with us for the 10th annual Rockhurst University Gala on Saturday, Oct. 29. This black-tie event, which raises funds each year for scholarships and student services, will be held in the Imperial Ballroom of the Muehlebach Tower, Marriott Downtown.

The evening will include cocktails and dinner, with music by the incomparable jazz singer and songwriter Angela Hagenbach. For those who attend, the opportunity to participate in a drawing for a new car will be available.

Anchorman and local celebrity Larry Moore will preside as master of ceremonies, and will be honored as a Rockhurst University Honorary Alumnus. This year’s gala co-chairs are Bill and Betty George and Barbara and Michael O’Flaherty. Charles and Patty Garney and Kurt and Ursula Pfahl are honorary chairs.

Reserve your space now for this special event. Tickets are $200 per person or $100 for undergraduate alumni from the classes of 1995–2005. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4807.
A Friend Indeed

As one man struggles with Alzheimer’s, an old college friend comes back to stand by his side.

Walt Tylicki, ’64, and Ralph Telken, ’64: two names that have been engrained in Rockhurst’s collective history. As members of the 1964 NAIA Championship basketball team, they were friends and teammates.

They drifted apart after college, as friends do. But their lives intersected again in 2001 as Tylicki struggled with the deteriorating effects of Alzheimer’s disease.

As soon as Telken heard he was sick, he immediately came to his friend’s side. Tylicki required constant supervision by that point, and Telken offered his help until Tylicki passed away on April 5, 2005.

Every week, they’d go get pizza or a movie. Once in a while they’d even take in a Rockhurst basketball game.

“When Walt went in the nursing home, Ralph took communion to him every day,” said Mickey Tylicki, Walt’s wife of 40 years. “There were very few days that he missed. He always took ice cream and candy bars. He’d sit in there with him and say the rosary and say prayers.”

Those who knew Tylicki will remember an energetic man with a persistent smile and fun-loving attitude.

“He was impossible to dislike,” said classmate James Millard, Ph.D., ’64.

“He was just a great guy,” said Mickey. “He loved his job. Loved the kids.”

She wasn’t just referring to their four children. Tylicki turned his love of basketball into a long career as a teacher, counselor and coach, spending 29 years at Bishop Miege High School in Roeland Park, Kan. Two of his children followed in his footsteps when they began careers as educators.

Last year, the Rockhurst class of 1964 celebrated its 40-year reunion. “All the guys went over to the nursing home, and he just beamed,” said Telken. His condition had worsened by that point, but his expression was different that day. “He knew.”

The day had special meaning for Telken, who knew he was losing a dear friend.

“With guys, you don’t say I love you,” he said. “But actions speak louder than words. And I loved him.”

Walt Tylicki, ’64, was surrounded by friends throughout his life. Here he visits with Nancy Bengtson in Chesterfield, Mo., around the time of his diagnosis with Alzheimer’s disease.

Please Write

Looking for a fun way to show off your alma mater? Send your friends and family a free Rockhurst University e-card. Go to www.rockhurst.edu/postcard and choose from a variety of images and messages, then add your own message to personalize the card.
You may have seen the statistic that one in 10 Rockhurst alumni is president or CEO of an organization, but did you know that one is president of a country? Far from landlocked Kansas City, three-fourths of the way from Hawaii to Indonesia, the Federated States of Micronesia spans 2,500 kilometers across the Pacific Ocean. The country’s president, Joseph J. Urusemal, earned a bachelor’s degree in administration of justice from Rockhurst in 1976. Urusemal said he became interested in Rockhurst when three classmates from Xavier High School in his home country enrolled a year before him. After he graduated, Urusemal worked for the Jackson County Department of Correction for six years before returning to Micronesia in 1982. He became president in 2003. Micronesia comprises four states — Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap. Urusemal said one of his priorities is creating unity among them. “I find my biggest challenge thus far has been the establishment of a common ground to bridge the four states, which are distinctly different in cultures and beliefs, yet united through strong traditional values,” Urusemal said. Those who envision his country as remote and untouched might be surprised. “I don’t think most people in the United States realize the extensive influence the Western world has in the Micronesian islands, especially the FSM,” Urusemal said. “Long gone is the pristine paradise living. Today’s FSM shares the realities of other small developing nations and is equally afflicted by issues global in nature.” Moving to Kansas City to attend Rockhurst was Urusemal’s first exposure to foreign culture and he admits to feeling a bit of culture shock. “Rockhurst not only kept me grounded in the values and beliefs that transplanted me to the United States, but it also instilled in me a deep sense of awe and appreciation of the diversity of humankind,” Urusemal said. “To this day, the marvel of humankind continues to be a daily inspiration for me in my work.”
William R. Conwell was recently elected to his third term as mayor of Atherton, Calif. He also serves as chairman of the San Mateo County Criminal Council and on the governing boards of the San Mateo County City/County Association of Governments, the San Francisco Airport Roundtable and the San Carlos Airport.


The Rev. Roger W. Hough retired in March 2005 after 40 years of active ministry as a priest in the diocese of Salina, Kan.

John J. Jurcyke Jr. was featured as a collector at “Tons More Things People Collect” at Kansas City’s Crown Center in June 2005. Jurcyke displayed his more than 100 figures and scenes of law.

Robert Dell’Orco retired from the American Red Cross in January 2005.

Sam Enna, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics, received the 2005 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation Award in Excellence for outstanding contributions in pharmacology. The award is presented each year to scientists who received a PhRMA Foundation research grant early in their careers and who went on to distinguish themselves through scientific and academic achievements.

James C. Wirken was elected to the board of governors of the Missouri Bar for the 2004-05 term. Jim will act as liaison to both the technology and computer law committee and the special committee on mental and developmental disabilities. Wirken recently was named the “Best of the Bar 2005” by Kansas City Business Journal after being voted for the honor by his peers in the legal community. He has a regular slot on Sunday’s “Kansas City’s Morning News” on KMBZ AM radio. He also writes “Wirken Tips: Law Office Marketing, Management and Economics,” a weekly column for The Daily Record legal newspaper.

John J. Kolich Jr., president of Kolich & Company, was featured in the AIR Commercial Real Estate Association newsletter in February 2005. Kolich is an 18-year veteran of commercial real estate brokerage. He and his wife, Arlene, and their daughter, Tara, live in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

Robert “Bob” D. Rowan, who lives in Clarksville, Ga., recently retired. He works part time at a Catholic camp.

Lawrence W. Reiter, Ph.D., has been named director of the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Exposure Research Laboratory in Triangle Park, N.C., one of three national laboratories within the EPA. In his new position, Reiter will direct a staff of more than 400 federal employees in research facilities located in North Carolina, Ohio, Georgia and Nevada. He has served in the EPA’s Office of Research and Development for 32 years.

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George Joseph Pierron has been a judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals in Topeka for the past 14 years. He married Diana Carlin in 2003. Carlin is the dean of the Graduate School and International Programs at the University of Kansas.

Phil E. Bower is a production manager for General Dynamics in Lincoln, Neb. He and his wife, Terry, who works for the Nebraska Golf Association, have five grandchildren.

Terry Dunn received the Order of the Lion Award from Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The award recognizes outstanding commitment and loyalty to the fraternity by an alumnus. Dunn is a Rockhurst University trustee.

Jayme (Jay) W. Hoffer became president of Biltbest Products Inc. in St. Genevieve, Mo., in March 2005. He retired from the Navy after serving 20 years.

John Stacy, a Rockhurst Regent, received the Order of Minerva Award from Sigma Alpha Epsilon. This award, the third highest award an SAE alumnus can receive, recognizes outstanding commitment and loyalty to the fraternity over an extended period of time. Stacy has given more than 25 years of service to Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Jeff Karl, women’s soccer coach for Meramec Community College, was inducted into the St. Louis Soccer Hall of Fame in September 2005. Karl, who started his 23rd season
with the Magic this fall, has more wins than any other junior college
women’s soccer coach in the nation (287-89-30). His Meramec squads won
back-to-back national titles in 1991 and 1992, and he has coached 34
All-Americans.

Michael Shirley was recognized by the Executive
Recruiter News for quality
reputation and professionalism on his 25th anniver-
sary in retained executive search. Shirley has led his
own independent firm in Kansas City for the past
15 years.

Richard Sullivan, who
serves as chairman of the
board and CEO of McBride
& Sons Enterprises, will
move full time to his role
as CEO, effective Jan. 1,
2006. The company is the
St. Louis region’s largest
home builder. Sullivan
recently was appointed
to the Rockhurst University
Board of Trustees (see Page 4).

’74
Roger William Player
serves on the board of
Western Catholic Union
Fraternal Insurance Com-
pany and served on the
Quincy Notre Dame High
School foundation board.
He and his wife, Nancy,
live in Quincy, Ill.

’75
Marian Weilert Sauvey
has been promoted to
senior vice president at
Atlas World Group. She
also serves as general
counsel and secretary for
Atlas World Group and
Atlas Van Lines.

’76
John Klotz, Ph.D.,
co-authored Carpenter
Ants of the United States
and Canada, the first book
entirely devoted to the
lifestyle of carpenter ants.
Klotz is associate coopera-
tive extension specialist in
the Department of Ento-
mology at the University
of California, Riverside.

Larry Daniels was
appointed general manag-
er for Hyatt Regency DFW
at Dallas/Fort Worth Inter-
national Airport. He man-
ges the day-to-day opera-
tions of the 811-room
hotel and its 350 employ-
es. Daniels has been with
Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
since 1980, previously
serving as general manager
of the Hyatt Regency New
Brunswick in New
Brunswick, N.J.

’80
Tom Brennan has been
promoted to general manag-
er for central Illinois at
Negwer Materials Inc. He
oversees all yard opera-
tions for the company’s
locations in Springfield,
Decatur, Urbana, Bloom-
ington/Normal and Peoria
and monitors sales, safety,
margins and personnel.

’81
Jonathan Edward Frazier
was ordained to the priest-
hood on Dec. 6, 2004.

Steve Rygelski joined
National Real Estate Man-
agement Corporation as its
chief financial officer in
June 2005.

’82 XMBA
Randall Lyne founded Pre-
frrred Pump & Equipment
in 1982. Today, Preferred
Pump & Equipment LP
remains a closely held
company, with 28 loca-
tions in 12 states and 250
employees.

’83
The Rev. Christopher
George Frechette, S.J.,
received a doctor of theol-
ogy degree in Old Testa-
ment at Harvard University
in June 2005. He is an
adjunct professor of Old
Testament at Loyola Mary-
mount University, Los
Angeles.
Timothy McDaniel, assistant professor of mathematics at Buena Vista University, was awarded BVU’s highest faculty honor, the prestigious George Wyeth Award for Teaching Excellence.

‘84
Peter France retired from the United States Naval Reserve following 28 years of Naval Service. He has been honored with numerous awards, and recently received the Joint Meritorious Service Medal for his naval service after being recalled to active duty for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. France lives in Wildwood, Mo., where he consults on matters of national defense and policy.

‘85
Gina Kay (Nichols) Gregg works in case management/utilization review and resource management at the Genesis Medical Center in Davenport, Iowa. She is pursuing a master’s in health care administration and raising three sons, Zachariah, Austin and Dalton.

‘86
Elda M. de la Pena was reappointed by Colorado Governor Bill Owens to a four-year term on the state board “Special Funds Board for Workers’ Compensation Self Insurers” in March 2005.

Robert C. “Haef” Haefner owns an entrepreneurial and franchise consulting business, The Entrepreneur Authority.

‘89
Ronald E. Hardin Jr. was appointed chief information officer for Arizona’s Department of Environmental Quality Agency in March 2005. He also serves as the agency representative on various advisory and oversight committees for statewide technology initiatives mandated by Governor Janet Napolitano.

‘90
Joseph Reardon was elected mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kan.

Scott C. Trout is managing partner and COO of Cordell & Cordell P.C. in St. Louis, Mo. The Trouts are happy to announce the birth of their son, Hutton Carter, born Dec. 1, 2004. Hutton joins siblings Graham, Hannah, Cullen and Brogan.

‘90 MBA
Khalid Abedin was promoted to senior vice president to lead the Credit Risk Management Group at Constellation Energy. Abedin is a frequent speaker at the Energy Power Risk Conference and served on the board of directors for the International Energy Credit Association. He and his wife have a daughter.

‘91
Jeffrey Bruce Beshoner was ordained to the diaconate with the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order Regular on May 21, 2005, in Loretto, Penn. He teaches at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

Debra (Church) Davis is a charge nurse and preceptor in the neonatal ICU at Research Medical and volunteers as a docent at the Kansas City Zoo. Davis and her husband, Brian, have two children, Natalie, 3, and Jackson, 5 months old.

Brad O’Neal has been promoted to district manager for Ajilon Consulting’s Houston office.

‘92
Pulchratia Lynn (Falkner) Kinney-Smith works for the State Universities Civil Service System. She has a master’s degree in labor and industrial relations and an advanced certificate in human resources education from the University of Illinois. Kinney-Smith is married and has three children.

Kimberly Ann (Six) Tatom and her husband, Monty, sell, repair and rent video arcades, pinball machines and jukeboxes in Kansas City.

‘93
Brian Matthew Brownrigg earned his MBA at Loyola University in Chicago in 2002.

‘94
Suzette Naylor has been promoted to controller at the Kansas City Art Institute. Naylor also is pursuing a master’s degree in theology at the Great Commission School of Ministry. She is an active volunteer at the Memorial Missionary Baptist Church – New Vision Ministries Inc, serving as prayer leader, young adult leader and president of the singles ministry.
Trek to Mongolia Inspires Effort

A Rockhurst education, especially theology courses with the late Fr. Don Murphy, S.J., inspired my interest in the practices of other religions. Last year, I traveled to the Gandan Monastery Temple in Ulaanbataar, Mongolia — a site included on every tourist itinerary and the highlight of mine. The monastery was established in 1835 and by the early 1900s, Gandan was the center of Buddhist learning in Mongolia.

During the 1930s, the socialist government closed all monasteries and the monks were jailed or executed. Gandan reopened in 1944 as the only functioning monastery during the socialist regime. After the democratic change took place in Mongolia in 1990, Buddhism returned. The young monks pictured are a few of the hundreds who live and learn at the monastery.

During a tour of the grounds I learned that a renovation project is under way to provide safe housing for the young monks. The current heating system is failing and during the brutal Mongolian winters many become ill as a result. I have organized a fund-raising effort, but we are still thousands of dollars short of our goal. To learn more about the effort, or visiting the monastery, contact me at nmmoye@earthlink.net.

— Nina Moyer, ’84

‘95
Robert “Radar” Edward Adams has accepted a new position with American Trust Administrators Inc. as senior network engineer. Adams, an instructor at National American University, was awarded the 2004 Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

‘96
Margot Jane Nitzsche is pursuing a master’s degree in educational technology. She is a technology coach for teachers and a mentor for new teachers in her district. Nitzsche has four children and eight grandchildren.

‘96, MPT ’98
Brian W. Lynch was selected as national sales representative of the year for Johnson & Johnson Advanced Wound Care.

‘97
Brad Doty graduated from Cleveland Chiropractic College in December 2004. His practice is located at Waldo Chiropractic Clinic.

Jaynelle Dawnette Nixon, who moved back to Kansas City in September 2004, has taught in Georgia, California and Alaska.

Nicklas Sainato is a field chemist for Von Roll America Inc. He and his wife, Anita, live in Ballwin, Mo., with their children, Zach, 9, Noah, 4, and newborn daughter Anna.

‘98, MPT ’00
Brian Patrick Murphy is the area therapy director for RMY Co. His territories include North Carolina, South Carolina and Savannah, Ga. Brian and his wife, Shannon, live in the Raleigh-Durham area, where Shannon teaches sixth grade math.

‘99
Kristen Suzanne (Mader) Guillaume recently moved back to Kansas City from Dunedin, Fla. She is a member of Healthcare Information Systems Society and American College of Healthcare Executives.

Gregory Ledwon was promoted to sales manager with Glazers Midwest. He and his wife, Jessica (Jansen), ’99, moved to Columbia, Mo., in August 2004.

Ron Ira Steel completed his master’s degree in human resources organizational management from The University of Phoenix in June 2005. He owns Steel Photography LLC.

‘00 MBA
Tom Finocchiaro was named vice president of operations excellence at Applebee’s International. He and his wife, Ann, have two children, Collin, 14, and Eric, 8.
'01
Heather “Beau” V. Bowman is pursuing a master's in marketing at Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

Shannon Marie Stoops is an occupational therapist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She lives in Thousands Oakes, Calif.

'02
Marybeth Mall, who is serving in Iraq, recently was promoted to captain in the U.S. Army.

Christopher Mulligan graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., in May 2005. Mulligan is an associate in the corporate litigation department at Dewey Ballantine LLP in New York City.

'03
XMBA '03
Marvin Rollison has been promoted to vice president, corporate culture and community strategy, for KCP&L. Rollison, who has been with the company for 15 years, has been leading internal efforts to create a corporate culture known for engaged employees and leadership at all levels.

'99
Andy Bond and Clare Barnes, '02, were married April 23, 2005, in St. Louis, Mo. The couple lives in Brookside in Kansas City, Mo.

'00
Chris Kesting and Blair Chamblin, '02, were married on Nov. 27, 2004, at Ascension Church in Overland Park, Kan.

'00, '02 MOT

'00, '02 MPT

Jill Mandrell married Steven Ecker in June 2004. She is employed at St. Luke's Hospital as supervisor of physical therapy.

'02
Vince Carney and Shelley Pientka were married on April 2, 2005. The couple, who started dating their freshman year of college, live in Mission, Kan.


'03
Elizabeth Wilson Vickers has been working in Washington, D.C., for Congressman Ike Skelton since September 2003. Vickers recently was promoted to legislative assistant. She handles issues related to labor/pension, housing and science/technology.

'03 MIHE
Chukwudi Nicholas Anya and his wife, Gerris Shelise (Williams) Anya, '04, have two children. Chukwudi works for Costco Wholesale.

Sarah Westman has been hired as a research analyst in the research department at Bernstein-Rein Advertising Inc. in Kansas City. Prior to joining the agency, she served as a junior project director at TNS.

'04
Navy Fireman John D. Berg recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at recruit training command in Great Lakes, Ill.

'80
Carolyn Elise Wagner and Michael L. Maphies were married in July 2005 in Overland Park, Kan. Carolyn is human resource manager at Custom Energy LLC and Mike is a sales representative with RamAir Inc.

'98
Christina Michelle Thompson and William Emery Patterson were married on April 30, 2005, at St. Therese Church in Parkville Mo. They are both employed at the University of Missouri–Columbia. Christina is pursuing a master's degree and works in the Student Health Center and Will is a sales executive for the Mizzou sports magazine.

Marriages

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Births

'89
Beth Fuegner Crane and her husband, Tim, announce the birth of their son, Kevin Patrick, born March 9, 2005. Kevin joins big sister, Lauren, 5. Beth teaches fifth grade at Twin Chimneys Elementary in O’Fallon, Mo.

'90
George Simon and his wife, Elaine, announce the birth of their daughter Elizabeth on April 28, 2005. She joins her five older sisters Maria, Therese, Sarah, Caroline and Rebecca.

'92
Shannon (Shaw) Coleman, and her husband, Jonathan, are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, Tatum Kathleen, born January 31, 2005. She joins big sister Reece, 3, and big brother, Nash, 2. Her proud grandparents, who now have eight grandchildren, are Dick and Daffy Shaw.

'93
Teresa M. Guerra-York and her husband, Michael, welcomed their second son, Gabriel Standley. He joins big brother Michael, who is 3.

'94, MBA ‘96

'95

Michelle (Kokotajlo) Ginn and her husband, Jason, welcomed their first son, Stephen Alexander, on Dec. 22, 2004.


Holly (Urbom) Palacio and her husband, Luis, announce the birth of Daniel Paul, who joins big sister Anna. The family recently moved back to the Kansas City area.

Lori (Morgan) Shank and husband, Anthony Shank, ’97 MBA, are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Alexander Christian, born March 14, 2005. He joins big brother Andrew, 3, and big sister Ainsley, 1.

'96
Julianna Madrigal-Osborne and her husband, Rob, announce the birth of daughter, Annessa, born Nov. 2, 2004. Annessa joins two big brothers, Austin, 5, and Brantley, 2.

'96, MPT ’98
Michael Vogel and his wife, Molly, announce the birth of their daughter, Clare Ann, born May 3, 2005.

'97
Craig Burroughs and Sara (Hesse) Burroughs, ’99, welcomed their first child, Hannah Leigh, born May 18, 2005.

Kristen (Bergner) and Matthew Muckerman, ’99, MBA ’03, announce the birth of their first child, Shane Matthew, born in June 2005.

Christy D. (Cramer) Preston and her husband, Scott, welcomed their daughter Bailey Christine on Dec. 28, 2004. Christy is an attorney in Rolla, Mo.

'99
Stephanie Hunter, M.D., and Natalie (Hammond) Hunter, ’00, welcomed baby Matthew Gabriel, born Nov. 28, 2004. He joins big sister Miriam, 3. The Hunters live in Louisville, Ky., where Stephen is a resident in pediatrics at the University of Louisville.

Gina (Larson) Adams and her husband, Slade, announce the birth of their first child, Jillian Margaret, born Feb. 28, 2005.


Rockhurst magazine earned a PRISM award, which signifies first place, in the four-color magazine category from the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. The chapter presented the awards at a September banquet.
In Memoriam

Jack F. Whitaker ('32) May 19, 2005
John Beverly (Bev) Cameron ('35) July 16, 2005
Fredrick Joseph Frey Jr. ('37) April 5, 2005
Maurice C. Rubin ('38) May 8, 2005
John W. Spoor ('38) March 25, 2005
Harold F. Livers ('39) May 25, 2005
Charles Warrington Barnes Jr. ('41) June 30, 2005
Felix David “Phil” Fortin Jr. ('41) April 11, 2005
James Joseph Mangan ('41) March 4, 2005
John F. Fogarty Jr. ('42) June 2, 2005
George B. Shrewsbury, DDS ('42) Dec. 27, 2004
John Edward (Jack) Stuart ('43) July 14, 2005
Robert Anthony Meyers ('44) April 21, 2005
Col. John D. Noble ('44) May 16, 2005
Phillip V. (Fee) Thomas ('47) Jan. 2, 2005
William G. Cahill ('48) Jan. 14, 2005
James F. Conrow ('49) July 13, 2005
Joseph McLiney Crowe Sr. ('49) Feb. 12, 2005
Edward Patterson Graney ('49) Feb. 15, 2005
Clement Joseph Hessel Jr. ('49) April 21, 2005
Warren E. Peak III ('49) June 20, 2005
Victor P. Wirtz ('49) Feb. 4, 2005
Robert W. Wallerstedt ('49) May 7, 2005
Richard Lee (Dick) Wicker ('49) Jan. 21, 2005
D. Eugene (Gene) Hart ('50) July 16, 2005
Rev. Roger Frederick Miller ('50) March 12, 2005
George J. Capra ('51) Feb. 15, 2005
Mayhue (Mike) Kiriakos ('51) Jan. 16, 2005
James Reid McDonald ('51) May 7, 2005
Leo Andrew Wernel Jr. ('53) April 28, 2005
Rev. William Kellett, S.J. ('54) July 18, 2005
Thomas Edward Shine ('54) Jan. 14, 2005
William E. (Bill) Weigers ('54) June 22, 2005
Robert E. Bradley ('55) Jan. 9, 2005
William Garies ('55) July 16, 2005
John Terrence Dunn ('56) June 13, 2005
Bud Greener ('57) Jan. 1, 2005
Vincent D. Koehler ('60) May 11, 2005
John Michael Burke ('61) March 6, 2005
Walter Lewis Gilhaus ('62) June 4, 2005
Ramon Ramirez ('63) June 23, 2005
Marvin L. Van Kirk ('63) May 19, 2005
Bill L. Freeman ('64) Feb. 16, 2005
William L. McCasland ('64) Feb. 11, 2005
Walter Henry Tylicki ('64) April 5, 2005
Terrance “Terry” Meyer ('65) Dec. 6, 2003
John P. Foley ('68) March 19, 2005
Richard A. Messbarger ('70) April 19, 2005
Leroy George Huff ('72) Jan. 11, 2005
Timothy L. Farrell ('73) March 3, 2005
Shaun O’Rourke ('75) May 14, 2005
James Gregory Pressley (Nkosi Imhotep Shabaka) ('78) Feb. 19, 2005
Daniel M. Tartaglia Jr. ('79) June 3, 2005
Laura Marie (Ernst) Campanini-Pape ('87) Jan. 22, 2005
Virginia Rose Krueger ('89) Dec. 31, 2004
George M. Lichtenauer ('89) April 1, 2005
James Thomas Rank ('89) July 26, 2005
Linda Jean Wilson ('96) April 21, 2005
Deborah Ann Moles ('97) Jan. 2, 2005

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Rock Around the City

Have you seen these famous faces? The new Rockhurst billboards, which feature 2005 graduates (from left) Jacqueline Schumacher, Michael Nigro, Essence Scott and Jeremy Schumacher, are currently located at I-70 and Highway 40. The billboards will be rotated to various locations in Kansas City through June 2006.

C A L E N D A R

O C T O B E R

29 10th Annual Gala – Rockhurst is Jazzed

N O V E M B E R

4 Alumni Wine Tasting

D E C E M B E R

3 Ceremony of Lessons and Carols

Please send address changes to alumni@rockhurst.edu or to the alumni office.