Transforming Lives
Personal reflections on the Rockhurst mission
Greetings From France

Six Rockhurst students traveled to France in January to study the language and take in the culture. They spent some of their time in Paris, where they visited the Louvre, and some of their time in Montpellier, a university town in the south of France. The group included (from left) junior Brian Meyer, sophomore Charly Ann Ryan, sophomore Krista Wardell, junior Casey Heupel, sophomore Jacquelene Lenie and sophomore Jill Cohen. M. Kathleen Madigan, Ph.D., professor of modern languages, accompanied the students. See more photos of the trip at www.rockhurst.phanfare.com.
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On the Cover: Service learning has changed the way Annie Lee, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, thinks about her students and her role in their education.
Threatened Snakes Spawn Research Opportunity

When rattlesnakes were discovered during the survey of a construction site for a new subdivision in Lenexa, Kan., an alliance of enthusiasts — including a Rockhurst faculty member and her students — came to their rescue.

Mindy Walker, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology at Rockhurst and principal investigator on the timber rattlesnake relocation project, was part of a group that transferred the snakes to an undisclosed site and began tracking their location and survival rate using microchips, transmitters and wands.

Students habitually exposed themselves to fields of nettles, poison ivy, sunburns and ubiquitous ticks, chiggers and mosquitoes throughout the summer. Arriving in the field in the predawn darkness during the winter, they braved 20-degree temperatures coupled with rain. They even set aside time during Christmas break to isolate DNA in the laboratory.

“They’re looking at every level of biology from the gene all the way up to the environment, which is invaluable,” Walker said.

The students’ passion, labor and relentless dedication in adverse conditions earned them, in Walker’s estimation, the designation of “true biologists.”

As further proof, they will co-author the final research findings that likely will be published in a national herpetology journal.

In the classroom, Walker uses the project to exemplify the interdependency of organisms in the environment and more importantly, the impact of human development.

Although the new subdivision likely will feature a stately entrance marker, the snakes’ new home won’t be advertised to protect their safety.
Talent and Passion Run in the Family

Extending their education well beyond the classroom, brothers Marqwan and Jaqwan Sirls exemplify the Jesuit ideal of taking personal responsibility for learning. Their ambitious arts projects around campus and throughout the community have garnered praise and recognition and have helped each one develop his own individuality.

Marqwan, a sophomore majoring in business communication, is an accomplished poet who performs at various locations around the Kansas City area, including the historic jazz club, the Blue Room. In January he was recognized as “Last Poet Standing” after defeating 12 other contestants at the Westport Coffeehouse. For Marqwan, poetry gives the opportunity to share expressions of faith and love, as well as to communicate frustrations surrounding social issues relevant both domestically and abroad.

“People have used words to change the world,” said Marqwan. “Literature changes people’s lives, and I want my words to do the same.”

Jaqwan, a senior pursuing a major in English and a minor in theater, funnels a similar love for the arts through numerous projects that showcase his many interests. He is an actor, a clothing designer, a musician, a choreographer, a playwright and a children’s book writer and illustrator. His most recent projects include acting in A House With No Walls at the Unicorn Theatre, interning at the Dream Studio, choreographing the Miss Black Kansas USA and Miss Black Missouri USA pageants, and working as co-creator of the Happy Rhino Clothing Company.

“I love creating so much that I can’t do too much of it,” said Jaqwan. “My creativity is a natural part of me. I need it just as people need to breathe and eat to stay alive.”

Preparing for Priesthood

D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., who taught Hispanic language, literature and culture at Rockhurst University from 2002-05, will be ordained as a priest in June. Join him for his ordination and First Mass of Thanksgiving, both at St. Francis Xavier College Church on the campus of Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Mo. The ordination is at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 7, with his First Mass at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 8.
Research on African-American Theater Earns Fellowship

You may have studied the work of early black playwrights in theater or literature classes, but you’ve probably never considered it from a religious perspective. That’s because scholars of religion have paid a lot of attention to African-American music and dance but have virtually ignored the theatrical tradition in African-American cultures.

That’s about to change, thanks to the work of Craig Prentiss, Ph.D., associate professor of theology and religious studies. Prentiss has been awarded a National...
Nursing Students Learn From Older Adults

Making scrapbooks, discussing current events, sharing stories over a bagel breakfast, playing bingo. Such activities are hardly the substance of serious nursing school coursework, right? Think again.

For the students enrolled in Gale Hickenlooper’s Older Adult Health Practice course, these may be some of the most important lessons they will learn in preparation for their nursing careers. Hickenlooper is assistant professor in the Research College of Nursing, which partners with Rockhurst to offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Each semester Hickenlooper accompanies her class of junior nursing students to Village Shalom, a full-service retirement community in Overland Park, Kan. They spend two hours once a week with residents in various levels of long-term care, sharing activities, hearing their stories and getting to know them as people, not merely as names on a medical chart.

“The students have heard Holocaust survivors tell their stories and found it very moving. And they’ve assisted residents in their weekly bingo games,” said Hickenlooper. “They’ve learned how important communication is, nonverbal as well as verbal, and that you have to get eye to eye with the patient. This is a different level of learning for the nursing students.”

Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, which will allow him to focus full time on the book he is writing on the topic. The fellowship extends from August 2008 to July 2009.

Prentiss is focusing his research on a period spanning the 1850s through World War II, when live theater was a huge part of American culture. Black playwrights wrote about all sorts of topics — from the light-hearted to the serious. From the surface, these works dealt with topics such as race and gender. Prentiss says when you look more closely, important religious issues are so deeply ingrained within the story lines that they are a critical component — and barely noticed by contemporary scholars and critics.

“If you read these plays, you’ll find that religious themes are constant in, I would guess, 70 percent of them,” he says. “You cannot make sense of African-American theater without taking religion into account.”

Prentiss’ fellowship also has been designated as a special NEH “We the People” project, which is awarded to encourage scholars to explore significant themes and events in the nation’s history and culture.

“My hope is that my research will lead others to look at these sources and at theater as a form of theological debates, not just in classrooms, but every day when individuals present their truths about God,” says Prentiss.
Undergraduate’s Numerology Research Published in Journal

As a recipient of the 2007 Deans’ Undergraduate Fellowship for Research and Creative Activity, junior Luciano Garofalo spent this past summer immersed in both an intellectual and spiritual endeavor.

Under the guidance of Daniel Stramara Jr., Ph.D., associate professor of theology and religious studies, Garofalo studied an English translation of the earliest Greek commentary on the Book of Revelation, focusing his research on its portrayal of numerology — the symbolic use of numbers. The Book of Revelation emphasizes more symbolic numbers throughout the text than any other book in the Bible, offering ample opportunity for exploration in this area, according to Garofalo.

A history and theology major, Garofalo’s interest in historical research prompted him to apply for the fellowship. After countless hours searching and analyzing the text, he compiled his findings in a 22-page article, which has been accepted for publication in the prestigious multilingual scholarly journal The Patristic and Byzantine Review.

“I really learned how to effectively research and about the discipline it takes to sift through information and properly annotate,” said Garofalo. “I realized this might be something I could do for the rest of my life.”

Garofalo will present his findings on Monday, April 7, at Rockhurst’s Festival of Student Achievement.

Having gained a better sense of his interests and passions, Garofalo has reflected a great deal on his lifelong calling and is confident in his plans for the future. After graduating in December, he plans to enter the Society of Jesus in hopes of fulfilling his desire of becoming a Jesuit.

High-Impact Experiences Help Students Thrive

When you think about your college years, what made the biggest impact on you? Maybe it was a service trip, a semester abroad, a capstone course or an outstanding professor.

Rockhurst administrators and faculty know these high-impact experiences are key to providing a high-quality undergraduate education. According to a recent study, Rockhurst ranks high in the quality and quantity of these high-impact opportunities.

The 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement attempts to measure the quality of undergraduate education by looking at how actively students are involved with their studies, faculty and campus community.

The results indicated Rockhurst students ranked higher than their peer groups in categories such as involvement in community service, volunteer work and courses featuring community-based projects. They also ranked significantly higher in participation in research projects with faculty. Last year, more than half of RU seniors had a capstone project, compared with less than a third of students from similar institutions.

The study, which compares Rockhurst with other Jesuit institutions, a group of similar institutions and hundreds of four-year institutions in general, surveys freshmen and seniors.

“We are very proud of our results,” said Bill Bassett, director of university planning and assessment. “We compare favorably with schools with which we compete for freshman enrollment, and we are very competitive with our Jesuit brethren.”

Plans are already in motion to improve some of Rockhurst’s existing high-impact opportunities. For example, the 2007–12 strategic plan calls for initiatives designed to increase study abroad opportunities and to enhance the first-year seminar, which helps freshmen adjust to college life.

Rockhurst is among a number of schools posting results online through a partnership with USA Today. The partnership is designed to educate the public about the link between student engagement and a high-quality student experience. Results can be viewed at www.usatoday.com.
Projects Emulate Workplace, Benefit Community

A group of Rockhurst business students helped build a wheelchair ramp for a resident in North Kansas City last fall. They planned the project, solicited donations of supplies and labor from area businesses, and then rolled up their sleeves to help with the construction. The project was one of several in conjunction with Organizational Behavior and Leadership, a course taught by Emmett Perry, Ph.D., assistant professor of management.

In the past couple of years in which Perry has given the assignment, students have been creative in selecting their projects. One group offered a merit-badge training session on rocketry to a troop of Boy Scouts with special needs. Another organized an activities night, complete with donated prizes, for the elderly residents of a low-income housing facility. Another team recruited volunteers and donations to provide yardwork and household maintenance for a 93-year-old Raytown resident.

Perry gives a service learning assignment to both undergraduates and MBA students. The intent is for groups to work together on a rigorous project with a short deadline, much like situations they’ll encounter in the workplace. Students learn organizational skills, conflict management and resourcefulness while meeting a real need for someone in the community.

Students Give Generously During Holidays

Two Rockhurst University student-led efforts to convert unused meal points into cash resulted in a warmer and more satisfying holiday for many families in the Kansas City area during December.

Brad Kelsheimer, a senior from Chesterfield, Mo., approached Mike Johnson with Sodexho, the University’s food service provider, to ask if the students on the second floor of Corcoran Hall could use their meal points to help a family. Johnson said that by the following Tuesday, Kelsheimer had gone door to door throughout student housing and collected enough money for Johnson to purchase 70 pairs of gloves, 70 hats and 70 $20 Target gift cards.

The items became part of gift bags distributed to foster children at the holiday party hosted by Associated Youth Services in Kansas City, Kan.

“We were very impressed with the Rockhurst students,” said Teri Kriege, vice president for development at AYS. “They also supplied some of the food and drinks for our party, which was attended by more than 200 people.”

Through another holiday effort, the Ceremony of Lessons & Carols Return to Christmas, students donated enough meal points to supply St. Francis Xavier Parish Social Ministries with approximately 2,000 apples, 2,000 oranges and 190 five-pound bags of potatoes. The food was part of the holiday distribution to more than 300 people in 100 households served by the church organization. In addition, food collection barrels were placed in the church foyer during Rockhurst’s Ceremony of Lessons and Carols, held Dec. 1. Audience members were asked to bring nonperishable food items rather than pay an admission fee.
Transforming Lives

What is it about Rockhurst that changes people’s lives? We asked a student, an alumnus and a faculty member to reflect on the transformational power of their Rockhurst experience.
If I had to choose an event that has shaped my career at Rockhurst, I’m not sure I could pinpoint just one. The truth is that my experience has been shaped by nearly all of the activities and organizations I have been a part of since I arrived here. Allowing myself to be totally immersed in the campus life is definitely among the best things I have ever done.

When I first arrived on campus as a freshman, I jumped at the chance to get involved. Campus ministry was the first group I associated myself with. Whether I was cantoring at Mass, leading a Christian Life Community or taking part in a retreat, there was always something I could be doing to help out with this ministry. They really helped me step out of my comfort zone and interact with a variety of people and make some extraordinary friends along the way.

Through the next couple of years, I had the opportunity to be an orientation leader, a social mentor and a resident assistant, and I was promoted to small-group coordinator for the Christian Life Communities. Each one of these positions taught me something different about being a student leader. They all demanded that I handle myself in a responsible manner around campus and forced me to be the best person I could be. It feels good to be able to say that if I had to do it all over again, I don’t think I would change a thing.
Duane Lock
Executive Fellows MBA Class of 2001
President, The Lock Group

I attribute the ways I view the world, pray and think to the Jesuit influences that exist at Rockhurst. They became the largest influences in my adult life during my years of graduate studies with the Executive Fellows MBA program.

Among the personal development and spiritual gifts I received from the Rockhurst community, discernment was the one that really enabled me to find God in all that I do. There were many people at Rockhurst who helped me, and through discernment I opened up to new thoughts and ideas. It changed my faith life.

Rockhurst gave me the tools to learn about social justice issues as well as finding God in everything, especially in the areas of corporate social responsibility. I began to truly understand the Jesuit notion of being “men and women for others.” It is through discernment that I’ve learned to follow the spirit wherever it calls me, even if that means to live counter-culturally and to speak out against injustice.

Furthermore, Rockhurst taught me to have the courage to follow my heart and mind no matter how difficult that road may be. This led me into entrepreneurship and starting my own business.

I admire the Jesuit emphasis on striving for excellence and for having high expectations and a call for service. Rockhurst challenges us to develop ourselves fully, to stretch our vision, to open our minds and to go beyond what we think is possible.

All of these thoughts, actions and experiences I have as an adult can be traced back to the people at Rockhurst who helped me become the person I am today.

Duane Lock’s experience at Rockhurst led him to follow his heart and start a business. Today, he’s the head of a firm that specializes in electricity brokering and risk management.
Establishing a service-learning partnership between my general chemistry classes and a local charter school has been a transformative experience for me. Each week, Rockhurst chemistry students provide one-on-one tutoring for students at a neighboring high school in the Kansas City, Mo., school district. Not only do these high school students improve their chemistry knowledge, but our students, by having to know the material well enough to serve as tutors, improve their ability in chemistry as well.

Interacting with students about chemistry and learning about the educational system in our city and its problems, the needs of the high school students and access to quality education has hopefully enriched their understanding of the world around them. When my students reflect on their experiences, they not only discuss their tutoring experiences, but also issues of justice and civic responsibility, which is powerful evidence of this learning.

At Rockhurst, we strive to prepare our students to find their unique way to make a difference in the world. Service learning has been a small way for them to discern and examine themselves and their world while they are here at Rockhurst. I am thankful to be at an institution that supports initiatives like service learning. It is, by its very nature, Jesuit.

For me, the service learning experience has changed the way I think about my students. It always has been fulfilling to share my excitement and respect for the field of chemistry with them. But service learning helps me be more fully engaged in their development not only as scientists but also as human beings. It has changed where I see my place in their education. It also has challenged me to become more involved in my own community.

Annie Lee, Ph.D., has taught chemistry to Rockhurst students since 2001.
He has worked for the World Bank, finished a master’s degree from Harvard in one year and lets his 11-year-old son invest in the stock market. You might say Sudhakar Raju, Ph.D., sets his goals high.

As a professor of finance, he has high expectations for his students as well.

Sudhaker Raju, Ph.D., professor of finance, is a certified risk manager and has been published in many of the profession’s leading journals. He has served as a consultant for the World Bank, United Nations Development Program, Bahrain Stock Exchange, Chicago Board of Trade and others.

Born and raised in Madras, India, Raju attended India’s Loyola University, a Jesuit school considered among the elite institutions in the country. He came to the United States in 1983 to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Toledo. He later earned his Ph.D. in finance and economics from Northern Illinois University.

At Rockhurst, he brings his expertise and real-world experience into the classroom, where he teaches finance to undergraduates and MBA students.

Raju spent his sabbatical in 2006-07 earning a master’s degree in public administration and public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. He knew the program would be crowded with some of the heavy hitters in the world of public policy. He’d heard the Kennedy School educates more of the world’s leaders than anywhere else. While the Harvard Business School trains people to run companies, he said, the Kennedy School trains people to run countries.

“We had some very challenging coursework,” he says. “The expectations were extraordinarily high.”

It didn’t take long for him to meet his classmates and realize just how prominent they were. There were finance ministers, economists and stock exchange directors from various countries, corporate CEOs and diplomats. Among his professors were a former member of the Council of Economic Advisors, a chief economist of the World Bank and a deputy director of the U.S. Securities Regulatory Commission. One of his colleagues on a group project apologized for having to miss a meeting — he had to travel to New York to close a billion-dollar deal for his company.
Sumaye tried to explain that while he may be a member of their government at home, there in Cambridge he was only a student.

For all its diversity and pressure, this was an environment in which Raju thrived. He worked hard on his coursework and completed two years’ worth in a year. On top of that, he earned a fellowship that required him to teach a graduate finance class, which he considers the most intellectually enriching experience of his life. His students must have found value in it as well because they honored him with the KSG Teaching Excellence award.

“He is a phenomenal researcher. A lot of great researchers are not great teachers. Sudhakar is the exception.”

But for many, including Raju, there was something about going back into the classroom as a student that was daunting.

The finance minister of one particular country is said to have flunked a finance course. A security director with the Iraqi military related the apprehension he felt handing in an exam to the fear he felt on the streets of Baghdad. One morning a group of Raju’s classmates gathered in Dunkin’ Donuts for coffee. When some African visitors entered, they instantly recognized one of the students as Fred Sumaye, former prime minister of Tanzania, and insisted on carrying his belongings and walking him to his destination.

Sudhakar Raju, Ph.D., teaches finance to undergraduates and MBA students.
The award was especially meaningful to Raju knowing that the Kennedy student government voted on it and, as he later found out, previous recipients have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.

Raju says that while most graduate programs do a good job of training students to be technically competent, what’s special about the Kennedy School is that it takes technical competence as a given and instead focuses relentlessly on the big picture. His experience at Harvard has helped him to further develop his current area of research, which explores policies that countries use to manage financial crises.

“He is a phenomenal researcher,” says close friend and colleague Brian Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., professor of finance. “A lot of great researchers are not great teachers. Sudhakar is the exception.”

The two engage in lively discussions on everything from religion to politics. Fitzpatrick smiles as he mentions they have never voted on the same presidential candidate, at least until perhaps this year.

“I believe markets are inefficient and people are irrational, and he believes markets are efficient and people are rational,” says Fitzpatrick. “We disagree on many major issues, but we have a deep respect for each other’s beliefs.”

Fitzpatrick had been teaching at Rockhurst only a year when Raju joined the faculty in 1990, and they immediately became friends.

“Raju is very accepting of all people,” he says. “That’s one of his best attributes. We don’t think it’s good to judge people, even though we have to judge students all the time.”

In his 17 years at Rockhurst, Raju has made some adjustments to his approach to teaching. Early on, it occurred to him that his students would benefit from learning about finance in a way that allows them to apply it to their own lives.

This idea really hit home, so to speak, as Raju and his wife, Aruna, a professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center, prepared to buy their first house. As they sat down with the banker to discuss the loan terms, Raju was surprised to see his wife pull out a calculator to compute the monthly loan payment. When he asked her about it, she looked at him in bemusement and said, “You have a Ph.D. in finance and you don’t know how to do this?”

That’s when Raju realized his teaching had been too focused on the technical aspects of finance. He could talk all day about derivatives and portfolio modeling but was not used to applying it in everyday situations. He thought, what better approach to use when teaching students?

So he focused on presenting financial concepts from a more personal perspective that touches on retirement planning, investments and mortgages. It was less high-tech theory but more useful finance.

Students know him as a knowledgeable professor with high expectations who teaches challenging content.

“I might be biased because I love numbers,” says Steve Seggerman, CFO of Bishop Spencer Place, who has taken three MBA courses with Raju. “He obviously knows numbers. He definitely knows what he’s talking about and has in-depth knowledge. He likes what he does and it shows.”

Raju cares deeply for the development of his students. He encouraged one of his undergraduates, a first-generation college student, to apply for an internship at the U.S. Treasury Department. She not only landed the internship, but he later learned she went on to graduate school at Georgetown and secured a position with the Division of International Monetary Affairs.
“As a faculty member, my responsibility is to give them vision,” says Raju. “You should never let students settle for doing less than their best. A student who is asked to do only what he can will never do all he can.”

But like any teacher, his student evaluation forms include a range of praise and criticism. One in particular stands out in his mind.

A student wrote, “We’re not going to work for the World Bank or the U.S. Treasury. Most of us are going to get low-level accounting jobs right here in Kansas City. Why do you try to teach us all this technical content that’s not relevant to us?”

Raju considered the comment condescending to his students and often mentions it in class. “I am no one to put limits on what anyone can achieve. It’s my job to train you well enough so that you can succeed at any level anywhere in the world.”

His teaching philosophy is all about setting high expectations for his students.

“I realize people make a lot of sacrifices to be in school, and we should honor that commitment by teaching them as well as we possibly can. I want to treat students in a manner that I hope other professors will treat my own children.”

So does managing risk ever come into play in his personal life? Certainly. As his 5-year-old daughter, Shreya, prepared for a field trip to a museum, Raju made sure she had a note with emergency contact information in her pocket.

And when his son, Pranav, was learning about investing in school with software that tracks simulated investments, Raju suggested he open a real account to learn using the real thing.

Shocked, his son asked, “Dad, do you realize I’m just an 11-year-old?”

Even though he’s only trading penny stocks, Pranav is learning all about P/E ratios, market-to-book values and options. And his investments? They’re not breaking any records but earning a modest return. Pretty good for a fifth-grader.

Seggerman says Raju sets an excellent example of a healthy balance between work and family. “He’s not absorbed in his work. That’s how I’d like to be with my family too.”

For someone with his credentials working in a field that is so immersed in the idea of maximizing profit, Raju’s approach seems almost out of place.

“He is not motivated by money,” says Fitzpatrick. “It’s actually way down on his list. He’s a devoted family man, and it’s the people and the job that make Rockhurst a good fit. Maybe that’s why he’s so happy.”

“I realize people make a lot of sacrifices to be in school, and we should honor that commitment by teaching them as well as we possibly can.”
Women’s Soccer Team Posts Highest GPA in the Country

The Rockhurst Hawks finished with the highest grade-point average in the country among all collegiate soccer programs as the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) announced the recipients of the College Team Academic Award for the 2006-07 academic year. The NSCAA honors collegiate soccer teams each year for posting a team grade-point average of 3.0 or higher. Hawks women’s soccer accumulated a 3.68 GPA for the 2006-07 academic year. In 2005-06, the women finished fifth in the country with a 3.60 GPA.

“Finishing with the highest team GPA is a tremendous achievement,” said coach Greg Herdlick. “I think this speaks well for the intelligence, work ethic and the character of this team. I am thrilled for our players and proud that they represent Rockhurst University as true student-athletes.”

A Senior Floor Leader

Joey Deas hopes to close out his college basketball career at Rockhurst with a strong finish. The senior point guard has grown to become one of the top players in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Deas helped the Hawks upset two nationally ranked teams at home to open the 2007-08 season. He posted 19 points and seven assists in a 73-65 win over 24th-ranked Wisconsin-Parkside on Nov. 29. Deas was named the GLVC Player of the Week after scoring 24 points in an 83-75 victory over 18th-ranked Central Missouri on Dec. 8.

“I’m a lot stronger now than when I first got here,” said Deas, who was an All-Metro player at Oak Park High School in Kansas City, Mo. “I’ve done a lot more shooting and lifting weights than I did in high school.”

Deas, who stands 5-foot-10 and weighs 185 pounds, has added 35 pounds since his freshman season. He’s also increased his playing time from 14 minutes per game in his freshman season to 33 minutes per game this season.

“Joey has worked hard and has physically improved,” said coach Bill O’Connor. “He has gotten better each year as a player and is now the veteran leader on the team.”

Deas and senior center John Torson have stepped up as scorers after last season’s leading scorer, junior guard Aaron Hill, was lost for the season with a knee injury.

“We’ve had to make some adjustments with Aaron out. My main goal is to get back into the NCAA Tournament,” added Deas, who is on pace along with Torson to surpass 1,000 career points at Rockhurst.
Rockhurst’s Tom Heinemann was named to the 2007 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Adidas NCAA Division II All-America Team.

Heinemann, who missed the 2006 season with a knee injury, earned All-America second team honors from the NSCAA. He was also chosen to the All-Great Lakes Valley Conference first team, in addition to earning All-Region first team honors from the NSCAA and Daktronics.

“Tommy stepped up and had an outstanding season,” said Rockhurst coach Tony Tocco, Ph.D., whose Hawks finished with an 11-6-3 record and reached the semifinals of the GLVC Tournament.

The sophomore forward from St. Louis finished third in the Great Lakes Valley Conference with 15 goals (six game-winning goals) and 36 points. He scored seven goals to lead the Hawks to wins in their first five games. He knocked in three goals against Truman State and scored two goals each in wins over Delta State, Kentucky Wesleyan and Bellarmine.

Senior midfielder Adam Johnson and sophomore forward Haggai Leboo received All-Region second team honors from the NSCAA. Johnson led the team with 10 assists. He was also named to the All-GLVC second team and the Daktronics All-Region second team. Leboo, who finished with 12 goals and 28 points, was an All-GLVC second team honoree.

Emily Crowley is already setting high standards in her first year at Rockhurst. She stepped immediately into the starting lineup for the Hawks volleyball team last fall.

Crowley averaged 2.67 kills, 2.27 assists, 2.21 digs and 3.21 points per game while playing right side and setter for the Hawks, who finished the season with a 22-12 record. She capped off the season by being named the Freshman of the Year in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

“I love hitting the ball,” said Crowley, who was a prep standout at Marian High School in Omaha, Neb. “I just like to play wherever I can help the team. I’ve been lucky this year in that I haven’t been hurt.”

Crowley posted three triple-doubles and eight double-doubles. She finished in doubles figures in assists and digs 14 times, and posted 10 or more kills in 12 games.

“Emily is a versatile player,” said Rockhurst coach Tracy Rietzke. “This award is nice recognition and well deserved. I think she will continue to get better.”

Crowley also received All-GLVC Second Team honors along with senior middle hitter Rachel Fowler of St. Paul, Minn. Senior setter Amanda Hydorn of Gladstone, Mo., and junior outside hitter Audrey Boese of Wichita, Kan., were both named to the All-GLVC Third Team.
Approximately 70 years after their association with Rockhurst, the stories of three men will come alive again, thanks to an anonymous donor. The donor, who graduated from Rockhurst in 1938, recently established the Gordon, Killiger and Tallman Memorial Scholarship to create a perpetual memorial to three men he admired and to help pay for the tuition of a deserving student with financial need.

Norman P. Gordon, a Rockhurst adjunct professor and coach of the debate team, was a young attorney and new to Kansas City when he solicited the Kansas City civic community to sponsor debates between Rockhurst and universities such as Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and Stanford. “He turned the Rockhurst debate program into a David and Goliath thing,” according to the donor. Members of the debate team who became civic leaders in the community credited Gordon with transforming their lives by training them to be accomplished speakers.

John G. Killiger Jr., ’37, a member of Gordon’s debate team, attended Rockhurst and the University of Kansas City School of Law simultaneously and held the distinction of being valedictorian of his class at both universities. He practiced law for more than 50 years and served as a captain during World War II in the Army Air Force, flying over Alaska, Burma, India and North Africa.

Francis J. Tallman, ’35, founder of Tallman Insurance Agency, served as a gunnery officer on a Merchant Marine vessel during World War II. Active in veterans’ organizations and in politics, he regularly entertained Gen. Ralph Truman (President Truman’s cousin) and his wife, Olive, as Sunday dinner guests in his home. His most exceptional contribution is his introduction of the Hungarian Vizsla breed to the American Kennel Club.

The donor, like the three men honored in the scholarship, held a distinguished career and will leave a legacy of leadership and service. Through his contribution, 21st-century students enrolling at Rockhurst will be given the opportunity to leave their own legacies.
Grants Enhance Campus Technology

Educational technology is increasingly important in today’s colleges and universities. Prospective students and faculty members judge universities based on the educational technologies they offer, and technology can enhance teaching, learning and assessment.

Two new grants promise to help keep Rockhurst technologically advanced. The University has received a five-year, $1.3 million grant from CampusEAI Consortium, a not-for-profit provider of information technology services and consulting. The grant will fund an institutional portal, which will provide students, faculty and staff with Web access to a variety of information through a single graphical interface.

Portal users will be able to quickly and easily link to essentials, including assignments, grades and course scheduling, as well as more novel information such as weather conditions and stock tips. The portal will integrate and improve access to real-time information, allow users to personalize their experience and enhance users’ communication and collaboration.

Rockhurst's classrooms also will get a technological update, thanks to a joint gift from the William T. Kemper Foundation – Commerce Bank Trustee and the David Woods Kemper Memorial Foundation. This two-year, $300,000 grant will upgrade multimedia classrooms across campus with streamlined instructor stations, master control systems and interactive whiteboards. New technology also will enable faculty to record audio and video of their lectures to create podcasts for students to review while studying.

“These critical technology improvements will enhance student learning and maintain Rockhurst’s position on the forefront of teaching excellence,” says Amy Mullinax Drouin, director of foundation and government relations.

Give Rockhurst Rankings a Boost

Did you know that your gift to Rockhurst can improve our U.S. News & World Report college ranking? A university’s alumni giving rate is one of the factors the magazine considers in creating its annual guide to America’s best colleges.

The great news is that it doesn’t matter how much you give. Any gift, small or large, can help to improve your alma mater’s reputation.

If you want to make the most of your gift, consider the Rockhurst Fund, which targets the University’s most pressing financial needs. This fund has helped meet such needs as faculty development, student research projects, service trips, technology for state-of-the-art classrooms and maintenance for safe facilities.

“The reputation of your Rockhurst degree gets stronger as the University as a whole is strengthened,” says Shelly Blake, MBA ’08, annual gifts officer. “An important way to grow and strengthen Rockhurst is by financially supporting your alma mater on an annual basis. The Rockhurst Fund is a great means for investing in the University’s future.”

Donations to the Rockhurst Fund can be made online at www.rockhurst.edu/giving, by calling (816) 501-4629 or by mailing your gift in the envelope included in this magazine. Make sure to designate the Rockhurst Fund when making your gift.
Benefits Abound for RU Alumni

Are you taking full advantage of your Rockhurst Alumni Association membership? There’s no need to sign up — you’re already a member. There are no dues and no obligations. The Alumni Association comprises alumni and former students from all Rockhurst programs, including those at the undergraduate and graduate levels. As a member, you have excellent opportunities to visit with former classmates and to make new friends among fellow alumni. But it’s not all about socializing.

“Although the social aspect of an alumni association is very important, we’d like to get more engaged in the areas of continuing education, networking and recruiting future Rockhurst students,” says Mary Landers, director of alumni and constituent relations. “Involvement also can enhance the service component of your education and provide you with career-related services.”

Don’t live in Kansas City? You won’t be left out. Landers and others will be traveling throughout the Midwest and the nation to establish alumni clubs. Cities on the summer 2008 itinerary include St. Louis; Springfield, Mo.; Chicago; Omaha, Neb.; Denver; and Wichita, Kan. Watch for news of events in your area. Whether you’re near or far, a great way to stay informed is to sign up for the Rockhurst alumni e-newsletter at www.rockhurst.edu/alumni and select first time login.

Young Alumni Spotlight

Name  Sarah Pomerenke, ’03
Degrees  Mathematics and Education
Currently  Pursuing a Ph.D. in learning, teaching and curriculum from the University of Missouri-Columbia

Allow us to introduce Sarah Pomerenke. As a student she was involved in several activities, including the tennis team and Zeta Tau Alpha. After earning her degree, she traveled to Denver where she taught math at Regis Jesuit High School. She also served a two-year term as one of two young alumni representatives on the Rockhurst Board of Trustees.

Some of her fond — and quirky — Rockhurst memories include:

- Napping in the afternoon
- Taking part in the Finucane Service Project
- Practicing Tae-Bo in the basement of McGee
- Going to the “dungeon” to lift weights
- Seeing the doves released at graduation

Today, she’s the captain for the Class of 2003, which means if you’re one of her former classmates, she might be calling on you to get involved and come out to some alumni events.

Five-Year Reunion Approaching

Join Sarah Pomerenke this fall as she helps host Rockhurst’s first five-year reunion. If you’re a proud graduate of the Class of 2003, make plans to attend your reunion on Friday, Sept. 26. The event, along with reunions for the classes of 1958, 1968, 1983 and 1998, will be held in conjunction with Rockhurst Day. If you’re interested in helping plan your reunion, call (816) 501-4199.
Alumni Leaders

Biblical Example of Caring Inspires Alumnus, Wife

Just as the Good Samaritan could not pass by the wounded Jew on the side of the road, Marylyn and Lou DeFeo, ’57, are a modern day example of Jesus’ commandment to love our fellow neighbor. Both have devoted their lives to their Catholic faith and to being leaders in service to others.

More than 20 years ago, Marylyn felt called to reach out to those in need within her community. Despite numerous obstacles, in 1987 she founded the Samaritan Center, an interfaith social service agency in Jefferson City, Mo., that provides food, clothing, utility assistance, medical and dental care, tax help and educational programs to families in need.

Her husband, Lou, who is an attorney, expanded the center’s offerings after he retired from his longtime position as executive director of Missouri Catholic Conference. In 2003, he established the Samaritan Center’s Legal Care program, which helps those who cannot afford legal representation get justice. The program has served approximately 1,300 people.

Together, the couple has helped the Samaritan Center grow from serving 15 families in 1987 to serving more than 1,100 families each month. Today, in any given week, approximately 645 volunteers of different faiths give their time and 48 local churches donate to the center.

However, for the DeFeos, their concern is not just how many people the Center serves, but how those people are treated. They place great value on recognizing the dignity of each person and they give freely of their time, treasures and talents to serve families in need.

“You get so much more out of what you give than what you take,” Marylyn says. “God surely has his hand on the center. We’ve been low financially, but we’ve never been out. That’s when some other miracle comes around and fixes it.”

The DeFeos, who have been married for 51 years, have seven children — four of whom are Rockhurst graduates — and 25 grandchildren. Their youngest son, Benjamin, ’00, serves as the communication outreach specialist for the Samaritan Center.
Sign Up for Your Alumni E-Newsletter

To stay up to date with the latest Rockhurst news and gatherings in your area, sign up for the University’s alumni e-newsletter. You’re also invited to log on to RU’s online alumni community, where you’ll have access to news, events, career services, an alumni directory, member photos and more. Sign up for both by visiting www.rockhurst.edu/alumni and selecting first time login.

‘58
Stanley C. Garnett has retired after 40 years of federal service. For the past 10 years, he has been director of the Child Nutrition Programs, which are administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. He and his wife, Eileen, reside in northern Virginia, and now will have more time to spend with their three children and four grandchildren.

‘67
James C. Wirken was recently voted as a Missouri “Super Lawyer” for the third year in a row. This honor is reserved for the top 5 percent of Missouri lawyers. He continues to serve as the coordinator of the Trial Advocacy Program at UMKC School of Law and teaches the legal modules in the Helzberg Executive Fellows MBA program.

‘72
James Kopp has been named senior vice president of global sourcing and U.S. operations for Aero Products International Inc. Prior to this position, he served as president of RT Sourcing USA Inc., the U.S. division of RT Sourcing Asia Ltd., a marketing, product development and global sourcing company.

‘76
Stephen R. Parke has recently retired after 20 years as an institutional chaplain for the state of Colorado. He is now focusing on travel, writing music and giving presentations about western Kansas history.

‘80
Jim Kissinger has been named executive vice president of human resources for YRC Worldwide. In this role, Kissinger will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of human resources including compensation and benefits, talent management, leadership and employee development and diversity.

‘80 EMBA
Robert Druten joined the board of directors for the American Italian Pasta Company in December. He retired from his position as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Hallmark Cards in 2006.

‘81
Barbara Jene (King) Johnson graduated in May 2007 with an educational doctorate in urban leadership and policy studies from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

‘82 MBA
Tom Gerke has been named chief executive officer of EMBARQ. Gerke serves on Rockhurst’s Board of Trustees.

‘86
Leonard L. Wagner has been appointed associate general counsel for Kansas City Southern. His focus area will be claims and litigation.

‘86 MBA
Jeri Woerner Bartunek has been honored with a number of awards, including Women Who Mean Business, Kansas Woman Owned Service Business of the Year and the National Association of Women Business Owner’s Team Builder Award. Her business, Bartunek Technology Group, was named one of the 100 fastest growing companies in Kansas City.
in 2005. She is a doctoral candidate in the history department at Drew University.

'96
Joe Erskine has been promoted to the new position of deputy secretary for finance and administration at the Kansas Department of Transportation. He oversees the agency operation of the Division of Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Chief Counsel and Office of Civil Rights.

'96
Jenifer Lynn (Gundry) Whiting completed a master’s degree in theology at Georgian Court University in 2001 and a master’s degree in library science from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2005. She is a doctoral candidate in the history department at Drew University.

'90
Scott C. Trout, managing partner for Cordell & Cordell PC, was named “Super Lawyer” for 2007. This honor is reserved for the top 5 percent of Missouri lawyers.

'91 EMBA
Mark Johnston was appointed to the new regional board of directors in the Greenville, S.C., area for First National Bank of the South. He is co-founder and CEO of Community Journals LLC.

'92 MBA
Kelly Tyler is a nationally known speaker, trainer, business owner and author with expertise in management, employee development and motivation. She speaks fondly of her Rockhurst education in her speaking engagements.

'99
James P. Still was recently promoted to tax manager at BKD LLP, a CPA firm in Kansas City.

'00
Eric Charles Larson Jr. graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry in 2006. He recently has been made a partner at Kuhlman, Majors and Larson Dental Group in Wichita, Kan. He also has served as a director for the Wichita Dental District Society.

'01
Jacqueline C. Barnes-Almquist is executive director of the State Fair Community College Foundation in Sedalia, Mo. She is responsible for managing the foundation’s assets, working with the board and friends of the college and providing scholarship support to students. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in relational and organizational communication at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Barnes-Almquist is the daughter of Jim Barnes, ’75, and resides in Sedalia with her husband.

'02
Kim (Sieve) Yawitz and her husband, Andrew, are opening a new business in the Grove neighborhood in St. Louis in March 2008.

'04
Leah Meisterling will complete her anesthesia residency this summer at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn. She was accepted as a Critical Care Fellow at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

'05
Kathryn Dyan (Hanna) Raatz was promoted to major account executive at IKON Office Solutions Inc. She specializes in production printing and the graphic arts industries.

Births

'89

'96
Kristie (Eisman) Kupka and her husband, John, welcomed the birth of their first child, Danielle Nicole, born April 12, 2007.

'98
James A. Ringwald and his wife, Kaia, announce the birth of their son, Eli, born Sept. 27, 2007. James is a practicing CPA in St. Cloud, Minn.

Submit a Class Note

We’d love to hear from you. Submit a class note online at www.rockhurst.edu/classnotes.

James P. and Penelope (Taft) Still, ’00, welcome Matthew James, who was born March 11, 2007. He joins big sister, Madeline Nicole.

José-Paulo Lota Mamuric and Nikki Jean LaBruyere were married Aug. 18, 2007, in St. Louis. Both work for Procter and Gamble in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a senior financial analyst for global business services, and she is an assistant brand manager for Folgers.


‘99, ’00 BSN
Karen (Rice) Bock and her husband, Mike, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Caroline Elizabeth, born July 13, 2007.

In Memoriam
John Magers, ’40  
Feb. 1, 2008  
John L. Black, ’41  
Nov. 14, 2007  
Richard Hans “Dick” Dierks, ’44  
Nov. 22, 2007  
Jerome Richard Kennally, ’44  
Oct. 11, 2007  
Frederick C. Azar, ’45  
Nov. 17, 2007  
John H. Walsh, ’46  
Nov. 22, 2007  
Leo W. Zahner Jr., ’47  
Nov. 15, 2007  
Walter H. Epp, ’48  
Oct. 27, 2007

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Oct. 27, 2007

Rev. Thomas P. Gier, ’48  
Oct. 5, 2007  
Clarence Deitchman, ’49  
Oct. 11, 2007  
Larry A. Kratoofil, ’49  
Oct. 22, 2007  
John F. Schuttley Jr., ’50  
Oct. 15, 2007  
Donald Edward Renken, ’51  
Oct. 21, 2007  
Leonard E. Fagan, ’54  
Oct. 11, 2007  
John F. Eisenhauer, ’55  
Oct. 30, 2007  
C. John Forge, ’56  
Nov. 16, 2007  
Frederick Francis Bukaty, ’57  
Dec. 18, 2007  
James W. “Jim” Ryan, ’60  
Jan. 8, 2008  
J. Lee Wiederholt, ’65  
Aug. 19, 2007  
Charles A. Bagall, ’67  
Oct. 26, 2007  
Terrance A. Dierks, ’68  
Feb. 5, 2008  
Roger G. Hurd, ’69  
Jan. 2, 2008  
William G. “Bill” Willis, ’71  
Jan. 20, 2008  
Joseph J. Byrne, ’75  
Nov. 19, 2007  
Melvin D. “Tax Man” Loux, ’77  
Dec. 22, 2007  
Carla Ann Harris, ’79  
Nov. 29, 2007  
Lisa Steele McCann, ’89 MBA  
Jan. 8, 2008  
Loren E. Walter, ’95 MBA  
Dec. 3, 2007

Marriages
‘98, ’07 MBA

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Create a Perpetual Living Memorial

The Gordon, Killiger, Tallman scholarship (see page 18) tells the story of a Rockhurst graduate who established a perpetual living memorial honoring a teacher, a classmate and a schoolmate.

You too could consider creating a perpetual living memorial that will help transform lives and form leaders. Rockhurst endowment funds can be established to honor individuals and to provide support for operations, scholarships, faculty, athletics, the library or various other needs.

The Office of Advancement can guide you through five simple steps to establishing a named endowment:

1. Determine whom you want to honor with the endowment.
2. Decide what you want your endowment to benefit.
3. Contact the Office of Advancement for assistance.
4. Determine how you will fund the endowment.
5. Select the launch date.

Gift officers are available to listen to you, to talk about Rockhurst and to show you opportunities that link your situation and interests with the needs and vision of Rockhurst University. To learn more, call (816) 501-4629.
Troost Avenue Is in Bloom

Rockhurst students help plant bulbs and maintain flower beds for Tulips on Troost, an initiative aimed toward changing the way Kansas City views color on Troost Avenue.