Leading Youth to Truth

Pope Benedict XVI addresses Catholic educators
Congratulations, Graduates

Alisa Rothstein was one of more than 750 Rockhurst students who graduated Saturday, May 17. She earned a master’s degree in education.
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ON THE COVER: Pope Benedict XVI spoke to Catholic educators during his six-day visit to the United States in April. Photo by Tony Fiorini/The Catholic University of America
Work Begins on 20-Year Master Plan

Will the Rockhurst campus change as much in the next two decades as it has in the past two? We are getting ready to find out.

The University has begun the process of developing a 20-year master plan and has hired a firm, Einhorn, Yaffee and Prescott, to lead the process. Washington D.C.-based EYP has extensive experience in higher education planning and will be joined by local firms BNIM architects and Taliaferro Brown consulting engineers. The firm is charged with working closely with the University to develop a strategy that outlines the best use of our physical campus. Particular attention will be paid to three priorities, which include reducing the University’s deferred maintenance, expanding student housing and renovating Sedgwick Hall. The planning process is expected to take about nine months.

The University’s current master plan was introduced in 1990 and included plans to renovate Conway Hall and to build the Town House Village.

The firm has begun meeting with faculty, administrators and students to collect data on facilities and classroom use. Meetings are scheduled for summer and early fall to gather input from neighbors and community groups.

Administrators expect the proposal will be ready to present to the board at its December meeting.

Gallery Director Presents Work in L.A. Exhibit

Anne Austin Pearce, artist and director of the Greenlease Gallery of Art, often portrays people and life in nontraditional ways in her artwork. Such was the case when she was featured along with seven other Kansas City artists at the Milo Gallery in Los Angeles, April 26-May 24.

The show, KC to LA, included two of Pearce’s works, Marcus and Yellow African. In Marcus, Pearce used mixed media on paper to create a psychological landscape of her long-time friend and fellow painter, Marcus Cain.

Unlike traditional portraits where an outline is drawn of the form, she starts with a pure abstract wash, then adds layers of various media such as pen strokes or colored pencil. She describes her portraits as primarily abstract tethered with reality, and she plans to create a series using the same technique.

Pearce looks for inspiration from the people around her and the human condition to create her vision of contemporary art.

“I know they have felt pain, humor and love,” said Pearce. “Because they have formed opinions, I want to understand and visually reflect these observations.”

Pearce teaches drawing and painting classes and directs several students in independent study at the University. Her next show runs through July 23 at Byron Cohen Gallery in Kansas City, Mo.
New Labs, Curriculum, Leadership Strengthen CSD Program

Faculty and students in Rockhurst University’s Communication Sciences and Disorders program have a lot to be excited about this year. Their department has recently achieved re-accreditation, launched a newly revised curriculum, introduced three new labs and welcomed a new chair.

The CSD program received full re-accreditation status from the Council for Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for a period of eight years — the maximum accreditation period granted to any program.

Thanks to feedback from CSD alumni, the department has completed a comprehensive revision of the curriculum that meets — and in some areas exceeds — the CAA’s 2008 standards. The new curriculum features a sharper focus on research and the academic coursework that prepares students for clinical experiences.

Students already have taken advantage of three new labs that opened earlier this year. The augmentative and alternative communication lab allows hands-on experience with various assistive technology devices. An adult/child language lab provides opportunities to demonstrate, conduct and evaluate diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. The new therapy resource lab allows students more opportunities to practice intervention techniques.

“These curricular and laboratory enhancements will more effectively prepare our students for clinical experiences,” said Carol Koch, interim chair, who will become department chair on July 1.

CSD prepares practitioners to assess, diagnose, treat and help to prevent disorders related to speech, language, cognitive-communication, voice, swallowing and fluency.

Students in the program can expect a healthy job market upon graduation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the field to see excellent job opportunities in the coming years. U.S. News & World Report ranked speech-language pathology and audiology among the top 25 careers for 2008.

Global Studies Extends Its Reach

Because the Jesuit dedication to serving others knows no borders, global studies is a natural fit for Rockhurst. Beginning this fall, it’s a better fit. The revised Global Studies program is designed to help more students expand their worldview and their education.

The new program extends its interdisciplinary approach, and requires one semester of intercultural work. Renee Michael, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, worked with faculty from across campus to create a program with varied educational options and in-depth intercultural experiences.

“It’s important for students to clarify their own values and perspectives,” Michael says. “Intensive experiences with people and cultures from other parts of the world allow them to do that. They can think about how they might be part of a larger world community, and how their actions impact that community.”

Elective courses will cover culture, institutions and markets. For their international or intercultural experience, students can study abroad or participate in a spring break service trip or an intensive local service project with an international group.

Laura Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., associate professor of economics, teaches an Introduction to Global Studies course. She says students can customize their program, while gaining a true sense of their place in the world.

“`If we educate students, but haven’t taught them about global issues and how they fit into the world, we really haven’t educated them,” Fitzpatrick says. “I’m excited that students are really interested in and pursuing global studies.”

Chanasai Tiengtrakul, Ph.D., has been named director of the Global Studies program. Tiengtrakul, an assistant professor of anthropology, will join the faculty in August.
Internship Brings Grad School One Step Closer

Rockhurst junior Reggie Nguyen was thrilled to land a highly competitive internship with KU Medical Center this summer. He will be working in the biochemistry department, where the focus of his research will explore how the manipulation of bacterial genomes affect protein functions.

As he prepares for his senior year at Rockhurst, Nguyen is doing everything he can to get into graduate school and trying to decide between a Ph.D. or an M.D., or both. This will be Nguyen’s third summer at KU Med. As a freshman, he earned a pre-med internship, and last summer, he was selected to take part in an MCAT prep program. He even volunteers in the emergency room and pediatric unit on the weekends. Now with a research internship under his belt, Nguyen feels he has a better chance of being accepted to graduate school.

“For me, science is the ultimate field. It’s built on facts and research. And it just excites me to learn. I wonder things like how does DNA know what to do?”

But his interests include more than science. Nguyen is a founding member of Rockhurst’s new Asian Students In America organization, and he’s also pursuing a nonprofit leadership studies minor. This spring, he took part in a service trip to Belize, where he helped build a house for a family.

He’s even tossed around the idea of serving abroad with an organization such as Doctors Without Borders some day. But for now, Nguyen will focus his attention on the bacteria under his microscope.

Ethics Training Prepares Students for Tough Choices in Leadership Positions

Rockhurst University workshop recently was held to prepare more than 50 freshmen and sophomores for tough decisions they’ll face in student leadership roles. Resident assistants, orientation leaders, social mentors and PEERS health educators all attended the New Student Leader Ethics Workshop sponsored by the student development department and the University’s corporate ethics and social mentoring team.

Jay Hoffer, ’71, president of BiltBest Products Inc., served as the workshop facilitator. He presented students with a real ethical dilemma he faced in a previous position: employees manipulating inventory levels to generate higher bonuses.

Students reviewed the case study, discussed the right course of action in small groups led by members of the Rockhurst regents and alumni, and then heard how Hoffer resolved the situation.

“Doing the right thing is not always easy,” Hoffer said. “People typically don’t like whistleblowers. This workshop helped plant the seed now so that students make the right choice if they’re faced with the decision later.”

Anne Skinner, assistant director of career services and staff liaison, said this is the fifth year Rockhurst has held the workshop and it continues to receive positive feedback from students.

“Students often say that the interaction with the regents and alumni is most beneficial to them,” Skinner said. “They bring additional perspective to the case study and getting confirmation from someone in the real world really drives home the point for students.”
Board of Trustees Welcomes Six New Members

Rockhurst University’s Board of Trustees recently welcomed six new members. These new trustees, five of whom were elected for three three-year terms, will add valuable expertise to the 32-member board. Two positions are reserved for recent alumni, who serve a single two-year term.

The Rev. Larry Biondi, S.J., is president of Saint Louis University. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in modernizing and revitalizing the campus, increasing the university’s academic standards, completing two significant capital campaigns, and increasing the university’s endowment by $820 million.

Fr. Biondi holds a master’s degree in linguistics and a doctorate in sociolinguistics from Georgetown University, three degrees from Loyola University Chicago and a licentiate in sacred theology from the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago.

Denny Hogan, ’70, is a partner at Pansing Hogan Ernst & Bachman LLP, a full service law firm in Omaha, Neb. His practice areas include real estate and commercial law, zoning and development law and sanitary and improvement districts.

Hogan holds a law degree from Creighton University and is a member of the Omaha Bar Association and the Nebraska State Bar Association.

Denny Thum, ’74, is executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Kansas City Chiefs. Thum, who has been with the franchise since 1974, previously served as executive vice president and assistant general manager of the Chiefs organization.

Thum has served on the University’s Alumni Board of Directors and was honored as Rockhurst’s 2006 alumnus of the year for outstanding achievement. He is on the board of directors for the St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation, and takes a hands-on role with a number of other charitable causes.

Duane Lock, ’01 EMBA, is president of the Lock Group, an energy consulting and risk management firm serving businesses throughout Texas. He is a member of the Council of Advisors for Energy, based in New York, which consults for investment banking firms on matters related to energy policy, market structure and regulation.

Lock holds a bachelor’s degree in business from the University of Southern Mississippi and is a member of Rockhurst’s Executive Fellows MBA Class of 2001.

Marny Donnelly Sherman, ’75, is an active member of the community, serving on the boards of directors for both Ozanam and St. Paul’s Episcopal Day School. She worked in the telecommunications and real estate industries before deciding to focus her full-time efforts on her family and the community.

Patrick Wank, ’05, ’06 MBA, is serving in one of the two board positions for recent alumni. Wank is general manager of Hennessey Sheet Metal Inc., in Kansas City, Kan. He received both a bachelor’s degree in accounting and an MBA from Rockhurst.

As an undergraduate, Wank was a freshman orientation leader and coordinator, a member of the Greek Risk Management Committee and president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon—Kappa Nu Chapter.
Today’s prospective students are looking for more than your traditional dorm room and community bathroom down the hall. Colleges around the nation are feeling the pressure to modernize and upgrade their student housing facilities to compete for new students, and Rockhurst is no exception.

by Jamie Swearingen, ’06 MBA
Remember futons, shower shoes, milk crates and built-in furniture? Nothing says dorm life like a well-worn beanbag chair, a minifridge and cramming all of it — along with your roommate and all his stuff — into a single room.

Many of the quirks of campus living are the same as they’ve always been. But some are changing.

The 12-by-16-foot shared rooms with community-style restrooms have been the norm for decades. Today, national trends suggest students are looking for more personal space, more modern facilities and more autonomy. On campuses across the nation, housing options such as suites and town houses are growing in popularity.

"Today, most of our students have never had to share a bedroom or even a bathroom," says Sean Grube, director of residence life and assistant dean of students. "We face a lot of the same challenges as other schools." In addition to students with higher expectations, Rockhurst and other schools are dealing with aging facilities, which have outdated floor plans and are more costly to maintain. Students expect to have reliable access to the Internet and campus network and to be able to plug in a variety of gadgets that demand much more power than the building was designed to provide, requiring expensive technology and power supply upgrades.

"A residence hall was originally designed for eating and sleeping and that’s it," says Grube. "There was one house mother for the entire building who would keep an eye on things. Today each hall has staff members who help provide social and educational programming for residents. The focus is how we can develop you as a whole person and help fulfill your spiritual, social, physical and educational needs."


The Town House Village, with apartment-style units, was built in 1994 in response to the growing demand for housing and the trend toward more personal space. Each unit has a kitchen and shared living space for four to six residents.

Then in 2006, Rockhurst introduced on-campus housing, which gave students the opportunity to live in University-owned houses that hold three to six students, located on the streets adjacent to campus.

"Living in a residence hall your freshman year is important," says junior Anna Connelly, who lived and worked as a resident assistant in McGee Hall during the 2007-08 academic year. "I wouldn’t have traded that experience, because I learned a lot about how to live with people. But I’m super-excited to live in an on-campus house next semester."

This fall, Connelly will serve as an RA to the residents of 14 student houses north of campus.

"In a house, you’re still part of our community, but it allows you a little more independence. We expect you to be responsible, and we’re here if you need us."

Rockhurst uses a competitive application system to determine who gets into the popular town houses and on-campus houses. Students are selected based on their service and leadership experience, GPA and number of credit hours.
According to Grube, the on-campus houses option is fairly uncommon at universities, but seems to be working well to meet students’ desire for more independent living environments, as well as the overall demand for student housing.

Some students are not as excited about their housing options.

“I’m really happy with this room,” says junior accounting major Sean Furey from Corcoran 218. “But I’m moving to X-L next year, and I’m concerned about it.”

Furey had planned to move into a town house in the fall with some friends. But after realizing how much more the town houses cost, he decided to stay in a residence hall, and his only option was Xavier-Loyola, the oldest one on campus. Corcoran is reserved for freshmen; a few rooms may be offered to sophomores when space is available.

Furey says he didn’t consider housing a major factor when he was deciding which college to choose, but he actually ruled one school out because of the poor condition of its residence halls.

That’s a big concern for Lane Ramey, director of freshman admission.

“I can understand that if you’re going to stay somewhere for four years, you want it to be nice,” he says. “Today’s students aren’t just looking for strong academics. They’re looking for the whole package.”

Colleges around the nation are responding with a variety of options. Some examples on the higher end include units with plasma TVs, granite counter tops, walk-in closets, high ceilings, full-size bathtubs, on-site game rooms and swimming pools.
“I’d like to see more study areas and learning communities,” says Connelly. “And the furniture could be a little nicer, but we’re getting there. I think the physical condition of a building is much less important than how welcome it feels.”

For now at least, Rockhurst is doing what it can to improve its facilities. Thanks in part to a generous gift, McGee Hall is undergoing a renovation this summer that will provide new carpet, paint and furniture throughout, as well as a redesigned lobby and new elevator. The project is scheduled to be complete by the time students move back in August.

As work continues on the University’s 20-year master plan, the Rockhurst community will determine the best approach for investing in its student housing.

“Our goal is to provide affordable, well-maintained housing that makes you feel like you’re a part of the campus community,” says Grube. “I think we’re achieving that.”

But experts warn the need to balance luxury with purpose.

“The freshman residence hall experience really forces students to engage with their peers,” says Sandy Waddell, director of new students and retention services. “In some of the newer residence halls around the country, the focus is on providing privacy, but the more privacy students have, the less time they spend interacting and getting to know their classmates.”

That’s why Rockhurst is working to find a balance between giving students what they want and maintaining a strong campus community.

“Part of the challenge is our competition,” says Ramey.

He says other colleges are outpacing Rockhurst in the construction of new and improved housing options. Students who look at Rockhurst also consider the University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Kansas, Truman State, Creighton and Saint Louis University. Several of these are either constructing new housing or have opened new facilities in the past couple of years.

Another trend shows many colleges are working to integrate learning and interactive experiences into students’ living environments. That might involve a classroom or study space located on the ground level of a residence hall. Or perhaps a coffee shop where students would spend some time and interact. These living and learning environments help integrate all aspects of a student’s experience and ensure that learning isn’t limited to the classroom.

Rockhurst’s Housing Options

Xavier-Loyola Hall (1958)
Upperclassmen

Corcoran Hall (1962)
Freshman men and women, some sophomores

McGee Hall (1966)
Freshman women

Town House Village (1994)
Upperclassmen, competitive

On-Campus Houses (2006)
Upperclassmen, competitive

McGee Hall, home to Rockhurst’s freshmen women, is undergoing a renovation this summer.
Leading Youth to Truth

Pope Benedict XVI encourages Catholic educators to invite students to search for the truth

By the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S., President of Rockhurst University

Pope Benedict XVI arrived on the Catholic University of America campus by pope mobile. He exited his vehicle to hear students yelling, “Yo Pope! Hey Pope!” The former university professor, waving and beaming with a great smile, seemed very much at home in front of the students.

The pope was on campus to address the 221 presidents of Catholic colleges and universities and the 194 diocesan directors of Catholic education. This event was part of a six-day tour in the United States that included religious and civic events in Washington, D.C., and New York. The tour coincided with the bicentennial of the founding of the first five Catholic dioceses in the United States.
He believes this mentality denies such things as metaphysics and the pursuit of the transcendent, which results in us denying our faith and our need for a moral vision. "Truth means more than knowledge; knowing the truth leads us to discover the good," he said.

I especially appreciated his invitation to participate in intellectual charity, which he describes as love prompting the educator to lead the youth to truth. In fact, I found the entire context of the pope's remarks to be in the form of an invitation. This resonates with how I would characterize the religious environment here at Rockhurst. We must be about providing a religious environment that is invitational rather than one that is expectational.

It is an invitation extended to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. This invitational experience involves ongoing reflection upon what motivates each of us to become and remain a part of this community. And this reflection is consistent with our ignatian heritage. The results of this reflection will vary with each individual. Over time, the response to this invitation can change, grow and mature. Ultimately, we desire that all our activities are motivated by the love of God. When will we know this to be the case? In the words of St. Ignatius Loyola, when we do all for the greater glory of God (A.M.D.G.).

When he spoke of the relation between faith and reason, he asserted that truth purifies reason. He rejected reason standing alone, which he contends results in positivism.
Rockhurst Athletes Receive Prestigious Awards

Two Rockhurst student athletes earned notable recognition this spring.

Garrett Fischer received the 2007-08 Richard E. Scharf Paragon Award on May 20. The Great Lakes Valley Conference presents the award annually to two student athletes who display academic excellence, athletic achievement, character and leadership.

Fischer helped guide the Hawks to the NCAA Men’s Tennis Tournament in all three years he was with the program. He earned bachelor’s degrees in business administration and economics in May.

His activity in the community also sets him apart. Fischer organized a fundraising team for the annual Guts & Glory Walk-Race and helped raise more than $1 million for research for the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America.

Fischer was also a representative at the National Seminar on Jesuit Higher Education in 2006 and an Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Honors Student Council Member in 2007.

“Garrett is very deserving of the GLVC Paragon Award,” said tennis coach Carolina Mayorga-Perry.

Rockhurst senior golfer Kristin King was one of 16 student-athletes to receive the 2007 Academic Momentum Award. The award is sponsored by the Scholar-Baller Program, in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports.

King was the female award winner in the Midwest region. An education major, King will graduate from Rockhurst in December.

“In over 40 years of coaching, Kristin is in the top five of all athletes under my tutelage,” said Rockhurst golf coach Carl Capra. “She has been our captain for the past two years and will be in the top of her graduating class.”

Basketball Teams Honored for Service, Sportsmanship

The Rockhurst women’s basketball team received the Community Service Volunteer Group Award from the Rose Brooks Center on April 24.

Rose Brooks Center is a comprehensive domestic violence agency in Kansas City that provides prevention programming, crisis intervention and other services to thousands of women and children each year.

“We are so honored to receive this award,” said Rockhurst University women’s basketball coach Rebecca Morrisey. “We believe that we have gained far more than we have given and our hearts go out to the women and children served. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Rose Brooks in the years to come.”

Morrisey’s squad has volunteered with the Rose Brooks Center for the past four years. Individual players also have assisted in donation drives and service projects.

“The Rockhurst women are a phenomenal group of people,” said Joan Dougherty, manager of volunteers and community support at Rose Brooks. “They are very close to our hearts.”

The Rockhurst men’s basketball team also was honored for the 2007-08 academic year. The Hawks were selected as one of the team recipients of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Student Athlete Advisory Committee Sportsmanship Awards for the winter season.

The award is determined by votes of the 14 GLVC member institutions’ campus SAACs. The committees select their top three choices in each sport and base their decision on their view of sportsmanship.

Rockhurst’s men’s basketball team was selected by its peers as the team best displaying sportsmanship in 2007-08. The Hawks clearly modeled the vision of its institution by displaying the awareness of dignity in its behavior toward its opponents.
Tennis Coach Makes Immediate Impact

It didn’t take long for Carolina Mayorga-Perry to make her presence felt at Rockhurst this spring. In her first three months as the men’s and women’s tennis coach, she led the Hawks to 22 dual match victories and an eighth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II Men’s Tennis Championships.

Mayorga-Perry, who replaced Kendell Hale as the tennis coach in February, guided the Hawks to the semifinals in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Women’s Tournament and a runner-up finish in the GLVC Men’s Tournament.

“It is really exciting to coach at Rockhurst and to continue to build up the tennis programs,” said Mayorga-Perry, who has served as the director of tennis at the National Golf Club in Kansas City, Mo., since 2003.

Mayorga-Perry was a two-time All-American, an NCAA doubles semifinalist and ranked No. 3 in the nation. She was also the recipient of the Southeastern Conference Community Service Award and National Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship in 2002.

A four-time SEC Academic Honor Roll Selection, she received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“Carolina has an impressive background in directing tennis programs,” said Richard Konzem, Rockhurst’s director of athletics. “She was an outstanding collegiate player and is currently one of the top amateur players in the Kansas City area.”

Hawks Post First Winning Season

The Rockhurst softball program stepped up in 2008 to post its first winning season in only its fourth year of existence. Coach Galen Struve directed the Hawks to a 28-20 record and a first-ever appearance in the GLVC Tournament.

“We met our goals this year,” said Struve. “We had a wonderful year, but we have a lot of room for growth.”

The Hawks, who were picked 14th in the GLVC Pre-season Coaches Poll, finished tied for sixth place in the GLVC standings with a 12-12 record. Rockhurst won road games at seventh-ranked Lewis and Wisconsin-Parkside on the last weekend of the regular season to earn a berth in the GLVC Tournament.

A pair of junior pitchers helped the Hawks finish with the second best pitching staff in the conference. Heather Robertson led the team with 15 wins, while Emily Dye won 13 games after transferring from Johnson County (Kan.) Community College. Both received All-Conference honors and garnered the GLVC Pitcher of the Week Award.

Sophomore right fielder Holly Hilton led the team with a .329 batting average and was named to the All-GLVC team. Senior first baseman Erica Stone and Hilton were co-leaders on the team in home runs (5) and runs batted in (23).

“We’re thinking big next year,” Struve said. “Everybody is back except for four seniors. We’re thrilled with the kids that we have coming back.”
As a Jesuit university, Rockhurst prepares students to change the world. Soon, thanks to the Rockhurst World Campus Initiative, students will have new opportunities to explore and accept their responsibilities as global citizens.

The World Campus Initiative is a far-reaching outgrowth of the University’s strategic planning process. The program is part of the University’s ongoing dedication to encouraging and supporting students, faculty and staff who want to participate in service trips and study abroad.

At the heart of the initiative is the establishment of the Center for Study Abroad and International Education. As outlined in the strategic planning process, the center will help students select study abroad programs, assist with international mission trips and develop course work on cross-cultural studies.

Three Join Advancement Team

Three development professionals have joined the Office of University Advancement.

Edward Fredenberg, a Kansas City native, joins Rockhurst as one of two new major gifts officers. He has more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit field with 16 years in major and planned estate gifts. Most recently, he served as director of planned giving at Graceland University.

In his new position, Fredenberg meets and visits with alumni and friends to learn about their Rockhurst experience and passion for the University. He helps them find ways to make gifts that will have an impact on students, programs, departments or the University that are in line with their interests.

Jennifer Wewers McKnight brings 10 years of experience in fund raising to her position as major gifts officer. Also a native of Kansas City, she recently returned to the area after living and working in New York City for 12 years. She is highly skilled at building relationships with donors and board members, foundation work, volunteer management and special events.

In her new position, McKnight meets with prospective benefactors and is responsible for seeking out new donors and the stewardship of major donors. Her father and grandfather, along with a number of other family members, are Rockhurst alumni.

Mark Wunder is Rockhurst’s new senior director of development. He has nearly a decade of experience working in institutional advancement, including eight years in higher education, and has held positions as assistant dean for external relations and executive director of development. Prior to working in advancement, Wunder practiced law for 11 years. He is responsible for managing the University’s fundraising program and staff and participates in securing external financial support.

A generous donation from Ron Ward, a Rockhurst Regent, and his family provided a jumpstart for the initiative. If you’re interested in contributing, donations may be made online at www.rockhurst.edu/giving or sent to Rockhurst University Office of Advancement, 1100 Rockhurst Rd., Kansas City, MO 64110. Be sure to designate that the donation is for the World Campus Initiative.
Like a reserve bottle of wine, Rockhurst University is the best of the best. Mark your calendar now to toast the University at the 13th Annual Gala, “Rockhurst Reserve.”

This Gala will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner and dancing.

This year’s co-chairmen are Mark, ’82 EMBA, and Donna Teahan and Joe, ’82, and Elsie Forlenza. The honorary chairmen are Elvin and Judi Knight, and the young alumni co-chairmen are Jeff, ’94, and Kate (Hanna), ’96, Bush.

Tickets are $200 per person or $100 for alumni from the classes of 1998–2008. The event will raise funds for scholarships and student services. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call (816) 501-4807 or (800) 756-2586.

More than three dozen students recently had the rare opportunity to thank the donors who made it possible for them to attend Rockhurst. On April 10, scholarship benefactors and recipients met face-to-face for a scholarship appreciation luncheon.

This event allowed donors to meet their students and see firsthand the effect of their gift of scholarship. It also provided a meaningful opportunity for the students to meet and personally thank those assisting them.

“Scholarships play a vital role in allowing us to educate students regardless of their financial abilities,” said Joyce DeHaven, director of scholarships. “Scholarships also inspire students to give back, thus continuing the Jesuit tradition of helping others.”

Through the encouragement and support of individuals who fund scholarships, Rockhurst students develop into “men and women for others.” To learn more about establishing a scholarship fund, call Thomas J. Audley, ‘61, director of gift planning, at (816) 501-4551, or e-mail thomas.audley@rockhurst.edu.

Maria Martinez, right, and other endowed scholarship recipients enjoyed the opportunity to meet with their benefactors, including Virginia Mason Waters, a supporter of the Mason Family Scholarship, on April 10. Martinez graduated with a nursing degree in May.
Chicago Alumni Cheer from the Rooftop

Nearly 70 alumni and friends of Rockhurst gathered April 30 to watch the Chicago Cubs take on the Milwaukee Brewers. The group watched the game from Beyond the Ivy, a rooftop venue overlooking the stadium.

While most of the attendees were rooting for the Cubs, a few Brewers fans came to town for the event. The friendly rivalry didn’t get in the way of a good time and a chance to visit with old friends.

Plans are moving forward to further develop the Chicago alumni chapter. Keep your eyes open for an alumni gathering at a Chicago Fire game this fall. Don’t miss your chance to cheer on Rockhurst’s own Diego Gutierrez, ’05, who is a midfielder for the Fire.

Rockhurst alumni share their personal stories of transformation

Transforming Lives in the Jesuit Tradition

By LaShonda Threat, ’04 MBA
Program Specialist, General Services Administration

In retrospect, my Rockhurst experience virtually changed the course of my life, thereby giving me the audacity to dream big. One of my final projects required me to
Summer Job Makes Lasting Impact on Rockhurst Alumni

In the summer of 1966, Ed McKee, a Rockhurst senior from St. Louis, was approached by his basketball coach, Dolor Rehm, about a summer job. Little did McKee know that more than 40 years later, that job would still be making an impact on him.

McKee was one of eight college students who served as an Upward Bound counselor to more than 50 low-income Kansas City high school students. For eight weeks that summer, the counselors lived in Xavier-Loyola Hall with the students, mentored them as they attended Rockhurst classes and took them on field trips to places such as Municipal Stadium to watch the Kansas City A's.

Upward Bound is a national government program designed to increase the rate from which at-risk students graduate from high school and enroll in college. Students must come from low-income families or be a potential first-generation college student.

“We tried to show the students that if they made the effort and had the right attitude, that they could go to college, find a career of interest to them and be a success versus a statistic,” McKee said.

Joe Buehler, ’68, was also a counselor that summer and remembers Upward Bound as a government program that really made an impact on the lives of participants. “It had an effect on me and made a difference in the lives of those kids,” he said. “At the end of the summer, you couldn’t help but feel good about your job.”

Today, McKee keeps in touch with one of the students he was a counselor to all those years ago. After completing the Upward Bound program and graduating from Manual High School in Kansas City, Mo., O’Dell Anderson obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees and pursued a career in education. McKee says they still talk from time to time and reflect on that summer.

“Because these kids were from low-income families, they may not have had the opportunities that kids in the suburbs did,” McKee said. “But it was satisfying to know they were all talented, eager to learn and ready to make the most of a federal program designed to help them.”

O’Dell Anderson (left) was among the high school students taking part in the Upward Bound program in 1966. Ed McKee, ’67 (back), served as a counselor that summer.

How has Rockhurst transformed your life? We’d love to hear your story. Please share it with us at alumni@rockhurst.edu.
'65
Sam J. Enna, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology and physiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, has been named associate dean for research and graduate training.

'67
James C. Wirken has been named Alumnus of the Year at Rockhurst High School. The award is given annually to an alumnus who honors the spirit, mission and vision of the Society of Jesus in his work as a man for others in service to Rockhurst High School and the community. Wirken and his wife, Mary, have six children: Christopher, '91, Erika Lawler, '99, Kurt '02, Gretchen, '04, Jeffrey and Matthew, '08, and two grandchildren.

'68
Bill Craig recently celebrated his 15th year as president and CEO of Lakemary Center, a not-for-profit agency that serves more than 500 individuals with developmental disabilities in the Kansas City metro area. Craig also was appointed chair of the Kansas Autism Task Force by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

'70
Lennis Echterling, Ph.D., director of the graduate counseling psychology program at James Madison University, recently received several awards. From JMU, he received the All Together One award, which recognizes service and enhancement of community, and the College of Integrated Science and Technology Service Award. He also received the Virginia Counselors Association Humanitarian Award and the Counseling Vision and Innovation Award from the National Association of Counselor Education and Supervision. These awards are in recognition of his work with survivors of disasters and terrorism, such as Hurricane Katrina, the shootings at Virginia Tech and the terrorist attack on the Pentagon. Lennis is married to Mary Lou (Wylie), '70.

'75
Eldon A. Trame, M.D., a board-certified specialist in internal medicine, was re-elected to the Illinois State Medical Society’s Board of Trustees at its recent annual meeting. He practices internal medicine at Esse Health in Belleville, Ill.

'80
Mark Lamping, former president of the St. Louis Cardinals, has been named chief executive officer of the new state-of-the-art stadium in the Meadowlands, home of the New York Jets and the New York Giants.

'82
Phillip Johnson, who is developing a film company, currently is working on "Beyond Vietnam – Dr. King’s Year."

'83
Bridget Clare (Hain) Hogan, who earned a law degree from Saint Louis University in 1997, received the pro bono award from the Decatur Bar Association in 2007. Hogan is board president of St. Teresa High School in Decatur, Ill., and serves on various other boards. She and her husband, Chris, have three children in college and one in high school.

'86 EMBA
George H. Richter has been named president and chief operating officer of the pork group for Smithfield Foods Inc. The presidents of Smithfield Foods’ five pork-processing companies will report to him. A 34-year veteran of the pork industry, Richter has spent his entire career with Farmland.

'87
Agnes Otto has been named vice president and technology practice leader at HNTB Federal Services Corporation. Since joining HNTB in 1998, Otto has managed technology teams to develop award-winning multimedia, Web and geographic information system solutions and has directed teams submitting a total of seven technology patents.

'89 MBA
Dan Porter has been appointed vice president and director of consultant relations for JanusINTECH Institutional. Porter will provide guidance to institutional investment consultants and will serve as an internal resource for institutional sales, portfolio management and client service professionals.

'90
Shannon (Colvin) Daly and her husband, Brian, have three children, Cecilia, Matthew and Andrew. The family lives in rural northeast Iowa.

'92
Pulchratia Lynn (Falker) Kinney-Smith is manager for classification, compensation and employment in the department of human resources at Governors State University in University Park, Ill.

Joseph McClernon, Ph.D., assistant professor in Duke University Medical Center’s department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, was named the recipient of the 2009 Jarvik-Russell Young Investigator Award at the annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco. The award recognizes scientists who, early in their career, have made an extraordinary contribution to the field of nicotine and tobacco research. McClernon, who is also director of Duke’s Tobacco Research Laboratory, lives in Durham, N.C.
Todd L. Redding was named president and chief executive officer of ASI-Modulex, a full-scale planning, design, fabrication and installation company for exterior, interior and digital signage. Todd and his wife, Shannon, and their two children live in Grinnell, Iowa.

‘93 Russell E. Murray has been elected to the Rockhurst University Alumni Board. He is employed with Sentry Insurance. He and his wife, Ramona, and their three children live in Raytown, Mo.

‘93 MBA William “Bill” Mendel is employed with UBS Financial Services in Leawood, Kan. Bill and his wife, Doris, have been married for 23 years and have four children, ages 6 to 18.

‘99 EMBA James C. Sbarro has been named president of Farmland. Sbarro has 25 years of experience in the food industry and has been senior vice president of sales, marketing, research and development at Farmland since 1999.

‘00 Matt R. Crites and his wife, Kim, recently opened Badda Bings Italian Beef & Sausage Restaurant.

‘01 Kara Lynn (Holz) Higgins is finishing a master’s degree in nursing as a certified nurse midwife through the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Molly E.W. (Welch) Thiessen has been selected as one of the chief residents for the Denver Health Residency in Emergency Medicine for the upcoming academic year. She will complete her emergency medicine residency training in July 2009. Molly and her husband, Patrick, live in Arvada, Colo.

‘01 EMBA Eliu O. Perez has been promoted to senior vice president of CDM, a consulting, engineering, construction and operations firm. Perez has 23 years of experience developing environmental infrastructure projects. He also has implemented community outreach programs in South Florida and Puerto Rico.

‘03 Erin C. (Martinez) Manning is an executive recruiter for the administrative division for Morgan Hunter, a corporate search firm. She has two children, Brooklyn and Hayden.

‘07 Catherine Wiehl and Mary Pimmel have committed to serve as volunteers with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. They will dedicate themselves to a year of simple living and working for social justice with people living in poverty or on the margins of society. Wiehl is living in Baltimore, Md., and working at Beans and Bread Outreach Center. Pimmel is living in Syracuse, N.Y., and working at Northside Catholic Youth Organization.

‘03, ’05 M.Ed. Jeffrey Nevinski and Kristy Morton were married on Aug. 4, 2007, in the Loose Park Rose Garden. Jeffrey and Kristy are high school teachers in the Kansas City area.

‘06 Jose Cavazos married Angie Billmeyer on Sept. 1, 2007. They have a son, Jack Louis, and live in St. Charles, Mo.

‘93 Angela (Perry) Haley and her husband, David, celebrated the birth of their first child, Mia Katherine, on July 13, 2007. The family lives in Nashville, Tenn.

‘94 Lisa (Ducommun) McGrath and her husband, James, announced the birth of their third child, Katherine Julianna, born March 17, 2007. She joins sister Addison, 6, and brother Cole, 3.

‘99 Cheri Renee (Gash) Bonsignore and her husband, Matthew, proudly announce the birth of their first baby, Adelaide Elizabeth. She was born on Jan. 21, 2008.

Regina E. “Gina” (Larson) Adams and her husband, Slade, are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Teresa Rose, “Reese.” She was born on Aug. 16, 2007.

Jessica (Jansen) and Gregg Ledwon welcomed their first daughter, Grace Frances, who was born on Nov. 6, 2007. She joins big brothers Nick, 5, and Luke, 3. Jessica is a full-time mom and Greg is employed by E. & J. Gallo Winery. They live in Fitchburg, Wis.

‘00 M.Ed. Regina “Gina” Pasalich and her husband, Stephen, proudly announce the birth of their second child, Caroline Rose, born March 25, 2008. Caroline joins big brother Blake, age 2.

‘03 Cheryl (Slahck) Fisher and her husband, Ryan, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Gavin Ryan, on Dec. 21, 2007.
RU Mourns Loss of Beloved Chemistry Professor

Rockhurst University lost a dear friend and colleague when Don E. Gibbs, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, died on Feb. 28.

Gibbs joined the Rockhurst faculty in 1979. Students may remember him best for the academic rigor of his Organic Chemistry course. In a letter he shared with each new class, he tried to prepare students for the demands they’d face.

“You are undertaking one of the most challenging courses of your career,” he wrote. “You will be asked to use more neurons than you think you have. Formation of many new neuron associations will be needed. That takes time and there are no shortcuts.”

Gibbs’ research interests included designing and synthesizing insect feeding deterrents, designing synthesis of isotopically labeled compounds for pharmaceutical research and creating learning modules for science education in elementary schools.

He was not only knowledgeable in organic chemistry but also in history, literature, music and other subjects.

“He had a broad range of interests and the depth of his knowledge astounded me,” said Dale Harak, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of chemistry, who worked with Gibbs for 13 years. “He could have a meaningful conversation with any of the faculty on campus.”

If he wasn’t in class, he could usually be found working in the lab or conducting research in Linda Hall Library. On many Friday afternoons, he brought his grandchildren into the lab and helped them perform experiments.

“He had a strong love of his family and talked about his grandchildren often,” said Harak. Gibbs is survived by his wife, Linda, three daughters and four grandchildren.

Rockhurst held a memorial prayer service in March.

In Memoriam

Lawrence Francis Marnett, ’42 – March 27, 2008
Joseph Anthony Cherrito, ’47 – April 2, 2008
William E. Mangold, ’47 – April 11, 2008
Albert Gene Colaw, ’49 – March 2, 2008
Edward C. Mulligan, ’49 – March 5, 2008
Joseph Thomas Cullen, ’50 – March 24, 2008
Frank S. Rutkowski, ’52 – April 27, 2008
Clarence B. Mitchell, ’56 – March 9, 2008
William J. Barry Jr., ’59 – April 11, 2008
Dr. James R. Holmes, ’62 – April 5, 2007
Jo Rita Rosson, ’73 – Feb. 28, 2008
George Kenneth Tippin, ’79 – March 25, 2008
Russell “Russ” Shelby Campbell, ’83 – March 5, 2008
Christopher Mark Ost, ’83 – March 16, 2008

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.
Are You a Regular Investor in Rockhurst?

If you’re a loyal Rockhurst graduate, parent or friend who makes a gift every year, you’ll be invited to join an exclusive group of loyal Rockhurst supporters. There’s no specific dollar amount or giving category required, and there’s still time to make your gift within the 2008 fiscal year, which ends June 30. As a Regular Investor in Rockhurst, your consistent support of the Rockhurst Fund is deeply valued. Donors who give consecutively for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 or more years will be recognized in the Honor Roll of Donors as Regular Investors in Rockhurst.

If you’re not a Regular Investor in Rockhurst, perhaps it’s time to start a new tradition. Show your loyalty to Rockhurst by making a gift every year. To make a donation, visit www.rockhurst.edu/onlinegiving or use the enclosed envelope.
Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming alumni events.

June 22-23  Sixth Annual Joseph M. Freeman, S.J., Golf Tournament
June 28   Kansas City Royals host St. Louis Cardinals
Aug. 22  St. Louis Cardinals host Kansas City Royals
Sept. 11  Mass of the Holy Spirit
Sept. 25  Golden Hawks Reunion, Class of 1958
Sept. 26  Rockhurst Day
Oct. 19  Phoenix Alumni Gathering
Oct. 25  13th Annual Rockhurst Gala “Rockhurst Reserve”
Nov. 12  Mass of Remembrance
Dec. 6  Ceremony of Lessons and Carols

For more information, call the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or (800) 756-2586.

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