

ROCKHURST

THE MAGAZINE OF ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2010



**An Unlikely
Source of
Inspiration**

*Executive MBAs
Partner with
Conception Abbey*

Gallery Pieces Travel to Columbia

Two works from the Greenlease Gallery of Art permanent collection, including the one shown here, were loaned to the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Columbia, Mo., for "The Sacred Feminine, Prehistory to Postmodernity." The exhibition and a national academic symposium explored themes related to women in religion.

Altarpiece Fragment Showing the
Education of the Virgin
Ca. 1400-1500
Alabaster
15 1/2 x 5 x 4 inches



ROCKHURST

WINTER 2010

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ON THE COVER: (Clockwise from top left) Mike Thursby, '10 EMBA; Rev. Benedict Neenan, O.S.B.; Julie Hull, '10 EMBA; and Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B., are part of a new partnership between the Helzberg Executive Fellows MBA Program and Conception Abbey.

ROCKHURST

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Happy Birthday, Rockhurst!

Rockhurst University is gearing up for the celebration of the century — the 100th anniversary of its charter, which was signed in 1910.

A variety of events to mark the centennial will take place throughout the year. Alumni and friends who can't make it to campus will have the opportunity to experience a virtual centennial on the Rockhurst Web site, which will be enhanced as the year unfolds.

Past, present and future will converge thanks to a large time box sealed behind a brick wall in Massman Hall during

Rockhurst's 75th anniversary. Items in the time box, which reflect the University's early history, will be retrieved and displayed during 2010. Treasures stored for posterity include the shovel the Rev. Daniel

Conway, S.J., used to break ground for Conway Hall, a freshman beanie from the late '30s and a letter from the president of the Parents Association, expressing hopes for Rockhurst in its 100th year.

A time box committee is calling for all alumni, students, faculty and staff to contribute items that reflect the life of the University during the past 25 years. This memorabilia will be displayed before being sealed, along with the original items, in the time box. To contribute an item, or for more information, contact the Rev. Louis Oldani, S.J., at louis.oldani@rockhurst.edu.

For more information about the life and history of Rockhurst University, and a calendar of centennial celebration events, visit www.rockhurst.edu/100years.



Corcoran Hall Undergoes Major Renovation

Rockhurst University's Corcoran Hall got more than just a nip and tuck this past summer. The freshman residence hall got an entire facelift. New carpeting and beds, better and more electrical and wireless capacity, new study lounges and increased efficiency are just part of the nearly \$3 million renovation. The result is a source of pride for those who live there and an attraction for students considering Rockhurst for their education.

"In 2008, we started our renovations with McGee Hall and received great feedback from our students," explains Sean Grube, assistant dean of students and director of residence life. "Corcoran was the next step and now both dorms really reflect the type of updated

and comfortable housing students look for when they're considering where to go to school."

Student input, which was solicited as part of the McGee renovation, was used when making decisions during the Corcoran project. Amenities important to students, such as increased study space, loftable beds and moveable furniture all were incorporated. Behind the scenes, much-needed changes to increase the energy efficiency and power supply, increase the card-swipe access and add wired and wireless networks also were completed.

Both McGee and Corcoran are now at full student capacity, a level of use that validates the success of the renovations.

Economics Professor Awarded Fulbright to Poland

From unexpected windstorms, to language barriers and a whole new type of student, Rockhurst associate economics professor Myles Gartland, Ph.D., is having the experience of a lifetime. Gartland has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach in Poland for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The Fulbright Program is America's flagship international educational exchange program and is sponsored by the United States Department of State,

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Gartland is teaching and researching in Gdansk, Poland, and is on the faculty at Gdansk University of Technology, where he teaches statistics and strategic management. Gartland chose to complete his Fulbright in Poland after spending a two-week research and faculty development tour of Eastern Europe in 2008. Poland's beauty, history and complex issues related to conversion from communism to capitalism, as well as the European Union integration, fascinated him.

Gartland and his family — including four children ages 6 to 15 — have all moved to take advantage of an unforgettable international experience. Gartland's real-time experiences — both serious and humorous — can be tracked via his blog, *An American Economist in Gdansk*, www.rockhurst.edu/blogs. The blog chronicles his travels, classroom observations and reactions to his adopted country.

Gartland visits a castle in Poznan, Poland.



Honors Students Build Community

Honors should be an experience, not just a class or a project. That's the spirit of Rockhurst University's new Honors Living Learning Community, a special housing section in Corcoran Hall for students in the Honors Program.

The goal of the living learning community is to create an environment where learning is integrated into

students' lives beyond the classroom, allowing them to learn from each other and connect with other like-minded students, says senior Anna Connelly, the student who spearheaded the project. Started earlier this year, the community is receiving extremely positive reviews. The community is the latest of many Honors Program enhancements that have occurred over the past few years, including social and cultural activities, an ever-improving curriculum and special orientation and mentorship programs.

Honors students also are taking service activities to a new level with a service exchange with peer honors students from the University of Kansas. The collaboration allows students from the two universities to meet and serve the community, alternating between Kansas City and Lawrence.

The first project involved restoring a homeless shelter for the Family Promise organization in Lawrence. Students completed more than 30 jobs including painting, gardening and laying a new sidewalk path. The groups teamed again in November to work with KC Wildlands' "Honeysuckle Battle" to improve the environment of Swope Park by ridding it of invasive plant species.



Rockhurst and KU honors students volunteer during the KC Wildlands Honeysuckle Battle.

Fieldhouse's Retro Look Captures Attention



Mason-Halpin Fieldhouse sports a cool retro look that commands attention.

It seems that Rockhurst University's Mason-Halpin Fieldhouse has a little bit of star power. A group from South Dakota traveled to Kansas City in October for a tour.

The draw? It's the gym's "heritage" look, similar to a gym made famous in the 1986 movie "Hoosiers."

Kevin Lampe, a vice president of a Sioux Falls medical center, is working on a community project.

"We want a 'Hoosiers'-type gym," he said. That primarily means interior walls that are wood rather than brick and mortar, and bleachers that hug the edge of the court but are built a couple feet above the floor. Also,

the benches completely encircle the court.

When he lived in Joplin and worked at Missouri Southern State College years ago, Lampe attended a few basketball games at Rockhurst. The gym impressed him then, and he wants to copy it now in the Sioux Falls project.

He said he loves the "nostalgia and history" of the old fieldhouse design, and the fact that the fans sit so close to the players.

The Sioux Falls visitors aren't the first ones to notice the layout of the fieldhouse. The 71-year-old structure is quite the head-turner, according to Richard Konzem, Rockhurst's director of athletics.

"When people come here for the first time. They're amazed because it's so unlike today's traditional gym," said Konzem.

Soccer Pro Earns Humanitarian Honors

For soccer great Diego Gutierrez, '05, being a professional athlete is not just about the sports and excitement. It's about a chance to make a positive difference in the lives of those less fortunate. This past fall, Gutierrez received a significant honor for his service to others when he was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame.

The World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame recognizes athletes and those involved in athletics who distinguish themselves as role models in the community. Other recipients of the honor include such sports figures as tennis great Arthur Ashe, Major League Baseball pioneer Jackie Robinson, NFL coaching legend Tom Landry and professional soccer's Pelé.

Recognition for service is nothing new to Gutierrez, who was the national spokesperson for "Nothing but Nets," a United Nations Foundation campaign to help provide mosquito nets for people in Africa to prevent malaria. For his contributions, he received the U.S. Soccer Foundation's 2007 humanitarian of the year award.

"Diego has used his talents, resources and influence to help those who can't help themselves," says Tony Tocco, Ph.D., Rockhurst head soccer coach.

"We can all be proud of how he exemplifies the Rockhurst tradition of service and leadership."



Freshman Class Largest Ever at Rockhurst

Some students were drawn by a desire to serve and lead, while others were drawn by the promise of a challenging and rewarding academic experience. Regardless of their individual reasons, more students than ever before began their college career at Rockhurst University in August 2009.

The university opened its doors to 417 freshmen, making the class of 2013 the largest in Rockhurst history. This reflects a 16 percent increase over the number of freshmen who enrolled the previous fall.

Making their presence known from the start, the new Rockhurst students participated in their Finucane Service Project on Sunday of Freshman Orientation. Twenty-five area organizations were served during the project with students working with neighborhood organizations near Rockhurst.

"Clearly more students than ever are looking for ways to make their world a better place — a sentiment that is foundational to Rockhurst's mission and values," said David Melton, associate vice president for enrollment services.

Nursing Students Work With High-risk Children

For some children, the opportunity to learn basic everyday and social skills is not always available. That realization was the impetus for a social justice partnership between the Research College of Nursing and the Niles Home for Children, a not-for-profit agency that provides food, shelter and education for local homeless and orphaned children.

Research nursing students are doing their part by working with children in five different life enrichment areas: developing practical everyday skills, strengthening academic skills, helping with physical and activity skills, fostering arts talent and interest, and teaching basic social skills.

"This is our second year in partnership with Niles Home for Children. We are excited to be expanding this program to run from October through May," says Lori Vitale, director of student affairs for Research College of Nursing. "Our students are able to learn from the children at Niles while teaching them some important lessons about healthy habits, teamwork and academic basics."



(From left) Sophomore Abby Gibbs and freshmen Aaron Tribby and James Wilmes served at St. James Place during the 2009 Finucane service project.

Foreclosed Homes Become Class Topic

Meaghan Fanning and her classmates learned a few lessons on the streets of some of Kansas City's urban-core neighborhoods this past fall.

Equipped with clipboards and cameras, and led by instructor Mary Jo Draper, they surveyed approximately 150 vacant houses that were being or had been foreclosed.

Their mission: to evaluate the condition of the homes, then devise strategies to help prevent the deteriorated and abandoned properties from taking the rest of the neighborhoods down with them.

Fanning, a 19-year-old sophomore from St. Louis, said she was struck by both the enormity of the problem, and the fact that people

"could make an impact on it." Some neighbors of foreclosed homes, for example, had taken it upon themselves to mow the lawns and make repairs.

Draper said she generally incorporates a real-life issue in her "Community Engagement" class. The class's findings will be used by Legal Aid of Western Missouri in its work on foreclosure. In addition, the information was presented as part of a November panel discussion about foreclosure organized by Consensus KC.

In addition, Draper said the students developed ideas on "how to give people more sense of power about what's going on in their neighborhoods."

An Unlikely Source of Inspiration

Executive Fellows immerse themselves in the life of a Benedictine monastery for lessons on strategy, business consultation and teamwork.

By Katherine Frohoff, '09 EMBA



The words of the prayers are sometimes hard to hear as they rise toward the ornately painted ceilings of the vast basilica, but there is no mistaking the sense of peaceful contemplation generated by the robed monks' rhythmic singing at the front of the church. It's 1 p.m. on a Friday and the Rockhurst Executive Fellows MBA class of 2010 is seated in the pews for the second time today. For the monks of Conception Abbey, it's already the fourth time.

The vice presidents, directors and managers who gathered for the two-day opportunity to authentically experience life at the Abbey operate

in a day-to-day world much different from this one based on obedience, prayer and humility. And that's precisely the point.

Beginnings of a Partnership

When the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S., moved to Kansas City in 2006 to accept the presidency of Rockhurst University, he knew he wanted to find a place of quiet retreat where he could pray and spend time away from his hectic schedule, just as he had done in other cities. Inquiries led him to Conception Abbey. Drawn to the open, natural beauty of the grounds, the opportunity to attend

Mass and the hospitality of the monks, he began to schedule time there regularly.

As he got to know the monks better, conversation turned toward whether anyone at Rockhurst could assist the Abbey by writing a business plan. Clyde Wendel, chairman of the Rockhurst University Board of Trustees and member of Conception Abbey's financial advisory board, also wondered if the two organizations could benefit from a partnership. Fr. Curran approached faculty in the Helzberg School of Management, who were excited to learn more. As talks regarding a partnership



Executive Fellows and faculty attend Mass at Conception Abbey.

progressed, members of the Abbey's leadership team visited Rockhurst to meet the faculty and the possibilities began to emerge.

Fr. Curran says he hopes the experience of working with the Abbey will provide rich food for thought for the Fellows, now and long after they finish the program.

"Part of Jesuit education is life-long learning, which requires ongoing reflection," Curran said. "This begins by engaging the world around us. Projects like the one with Conception Abbey are important because they teach us about working together to solve problems as partners, about being men and women for and with others."

Consultants With a Cause

As the Fellows begin their work with the Abbey, their charge is to serve as consultants. They will use their individual skills and abilities in concert with the knowledge gained in the executive MBA curriculum to deliver significant value to their "client."

Some of the Fellows have not heard of Conception Abbey, located 90 miles northeast of Kansas City near the Iowa border. But they soon learn that as one of its several business ventures, the Abbey offers rooms to groups or individuals looking for a peaceful setting for meetings or retreats. Class members check in on a late-August Friday morning and head to a seminary class-

room where they are greeted by Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B.

Abbot Gregory welcomes the Fellows and their faculty members with an introduction to the Order of St. Benedict and the Abbey's history. Any apprehension is soon dispelled as the abbot, who functions as both spiritual leader and CEO, explains that the Benedictines comprise the oldest religious order and that hospitality is central to their beliefs.

"Every person who visits is to be received as if he were Christ himself," says Abbot Gregory.

Group tours of the Abbey's facilities give the Fellows an in-depth look at its business endeavors and

Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B., shares the rich history of Conception Abbey and the Order of St. Benedict.



an opportunity to ask probing questions regarding mission, strategy and revenue generation. As they tour the Printery House, which manager Fr. Peter Ullrich describes as making a connection between “altar and home,” Ullrich admits that he doesn’t have the business background the Fellows possess.

“That’s why we’re here,” is the response. Questions follow about target markets, communication with customers and financial goals.

Later, as the Fellows and their faculty meet to discuss initial impressions, they remark on how open and willing the monks are to share information. They still have many questions. What is the Abbey’s mission? Is it to educate priests? Create monks? Sustain the faith? How do these fit with financial considerations? And most of all, what if they have to give the monks tough advice — will they be receptive?

The Fellows are told to think of themselves as change agents, but as Fr. Patrick Caveglia jokes, “We’re dressing like we’re in the sixth century. How much change can we take?”

Common Ground

One of the Abbey project team leaders, Mike Thursby, senior manager of corporate development for Sprint Nextel Corp., says this partnership allows the Fellows to practice their strategic planning and analysis skills in a different environment. But the more he talks with the monks, the more he realizes that similarities exist between their world and his.

“At Sprint, the economy is creating challenges for us as customers make do with less,” Thursby says. “It is the same at the Conception Abbey Printery House. People are not ordering as many cards. Nonprofit and for-profit companies are experiencing similar challenges. I think we can really learn a lot from each other through this experience.”

In addition to business commonalities, Fellows team members also have discovered the monks’ way of life offers lessons in personal fulfillment.

Margaret Keough, marketing and communications manager for the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, says getting to know the monks prompted her to think about what’s



Fr. Peter Ullrich, O.S.B. (above), manager of the Printery House, explains the facility’s capabilities.

Fr. Benedict Neenan, O.S.B. (right), helps organize tours of Conception Abbey operations and grounds for the Executive Fellows.





Executive Fellows discuss their initial impressions of Conception Abbey's primary business areas.

important in life in a way that will stay with her.

"They have a different pace to their life. It seems slower, but they get an incredible amount accomplished. It reminds me to focus and to put things in perspective."

Looking Ahead

After spending the initial weekend at the Abbey, where they began to employ a process based on best practices in the consulting field, the Fellows shared their findings with each other and began to organize for action. They each chose whether to become part of the team that would work on the Conception Abbey project, one that would serve on a consulting project for Operation Breakthrough (see sidebar) or both.

Each area of the Abbey's operations was discussed, including the monastery, the Printery House, hospitality services and the seminary. According to Executive Fellow Julie Hull, vice president in the client organization at Cerner Corporation, the Abbey leadership team and the Fellows team jointly decided to focus on the Printery House. They will create a strategic business plan based on business and market analyses to determine near-term, mid-term and long-term plans that will fit with the Abbey's overall strategic plan.

"Our goal is to determine if there's a way to create a niche market," Hull said. "There are still people who buy cards and probably always will."

Fortunately, Fr. Patrick's humorous comment about reluctance to change proved to be nothing more than a lighthearted joke. Hull says the monks prompted the Fellows team to move at a more rapid pace than they had planned. That was possible, in part, thanks to the monks' openness.

"In the Midwest, trust is something you earn," Hull says. "In the Abbey, their principles are that you step into a spirit of trust with them right away."

As part of their project, Hull says the team plans to help create an overall brand strategy for the Abbey, which future classes of Fellows could use to guide projects for the organization's other operational areas. The overarching goal is to create a sustainable planning framework that will benefit the Abbey for years to come.

Whatever path the partnership takes in the future, the wishes Abbot Gregory expressed on the Fellows' first day in Conception, Mo., have already taken hold.

"We hope this is a mutual enrichment, that Conception Abbey will find at least a small place in your heart."

Breakthrough Service Partners

Conception Abbey is not the only organization to which the Executive Fellows serve as consultants. The program also has a longstanding partnership with Operation Breakthrough, an urban-core daycare center for children and youth from low- and no-income families.

The relationship began in 2001 when Executive Fellow Gary DeRigne proposed to his classmates they conduct a diaper drive. The result was several pickup truck loads of diapers, baby furniture, clothing, toys and cash.

That initial project led to yearly strategic projects designed to help Operation Breakthrough with operational and other needs. During the past five years when DeRigne led the program's corporate social responsibility component, he estimates the Fellows have contributed the equivalent of more than \$500,000 in consulting fees in services rendered. Projects have included Web site and outreach video development, lobbying efforts on behalf of childcare legislation in Missouri, an internship program with KCP&L and a youth mentorship program with 100 Black Men of Kansas City.

The partnership continues this year with a team from the class of 2010 working with Operation Breakthrough in tandem with the Conception Abbey team, identifying a need and developing a strategy to fulfill it.



Rockhurst Cares *for You*

By Jan Sokoloff Harness

A Rockhurst education

touches your head,

your heart and ...

your health? Absolutely.

With undergraduate and graduate

degree programs in a wide variety of

health care fields, Rockhurst University delivers a

powerful antidote to systemic problems in health care.

We're educating doctors, nurses, therapists and others who

enter the health care field devoted to being men and women for

and with others. Bolstered by Jesuit values, Rockhurst alumni –

including the six profiled here – approach each patient mindful

of “cura personalis,” care for the whole person.

Brian Mills, '00 Occupational Therapy

The people he met at Rockhurst continue to shape Brian Mills' career. Mills, manager of therapy services at KU MedWest Therapy and Wyandotte Therapy, recently partnered with physical therapist Larry Briscoe, '00, to create a medical tool that clearly reflects the compassion of "magis," and finding a more purposeful and effective way to carry out their work.

The ethics at Rockhurst, the very high level of respect for the whole person and the idea that we're here to serve, never lapsed. I wasn't required to take religion courses, but the idea of service was there all the time and has become part of my career.

I worked with a partner, Larry Briscoe, to create a multifunctional joint measurement tool. We approached it from a service perspective. By developing this tool, we can be more efficient with patients. For example, if we're working on the burn unit, it generally takes three therapists. One holds the extremity because of the skin grafts, another takes the measurement and — given the need for sterility — still another writes it down. By increasing the therapists' efficiency, we don't have to spend as much time manipulating the extremities being measured, so we can make it easier on the patients.

Sure, occupational therapy is a career, but the idea that we're here to serve underlies all we do.



Deborah Moore Rainey, '91 Physical Therapy

What does philosophy have to do with physical therapy? Quite a bit, according to Deborah Moore Rainey, director of therapy at the Kansas City Physical Therapy Group. She says her PT degree from Rockhurst helps shape her daily interactions with patients.

I think some of the philosophy classes I had at Rockhurst helped me think differently about where the patient is coming from. For example, I'll talk with them about how manageable their pain level is, but we also talk about general activities in life. I want to know how they're dealing

with certain things, including limited function, so I'll ask questions about what they can and can't do, and how it affects their general day-to-day activities. For example, when one of my patients goes to church, she has trouble kneeling down and getting back up. So we're helping her learn how to perform specific functions using the correct muscle groups without causing a lot of pain or additional injuries.

I really encourage students to go to Rockhurst. I believe Rockhurst does more one-on-one with students. If you're having a problem, there's always someone there to help you understand concepts, problem solve, use critical thinking and encourage you to better your skills. You can always find a teacher who's willing to help you and give you guidance.



Dr. Kim Bezdek Benage, '99

Arts & Sciences

After receiving her biology degree at Rockhurst, Dr. Kim Benage went on to medical school at Loyola University Chicago. She now practices family medicine at Clinica Family Health Services in Denver.



My passion for service started at Rockhurst with the Finucane Service Project and became a way of life.

I work in community health care, where people have no health insurance. We take care of a predominantly Latin American immigrant population, and if we didn't care for the whole person, we wouldn't accomplish anything. For example, if someone comes in with shortness of

breath, it may be cardiac, pulmonary or related to any number of psychosocial stressors, such as a family member being deported or the loss of a job. We need to consider other things that may contribute to the problem as well.

I can't remember the last time I wrote a prescription that wasn't on the \$4 formulary list. Our patients want to be respectful, so they'll take the prescription — but they won't take the pill because they can't afford it. It is difficult, particularly in our current economy. But, don't be discouraged about the state of health care in our nation. I believe what we do is important. We may not always see the direct impact of our work, but if we prevent one heart attack in one patient, that's a big deal.

Dr. David Kricsfeld, '05

DO/MBA Dual Degree

The practice of medicine is a calling. It's also a business. Dr. David Kricsfeld at the Hickman Mills Clinic in Kansas City believes he is a better doctor — and businessman — thanks to the dual degree program offered jointly between Rockhurst and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

I don't think there's a better dual degree program anywhere in health care leadership. Like most pre-med students, I had taken a lot of science courses, but no formal business classes. This was the perfect opportu-

nity to get two degrees in four years and it is certainly paying off — what I learned in class has translated into measurably better patient care.

During my MBA education at Rockhurst, there was definitely an emphasis on caring for the whole person, whether we were learning business skills or leadership skills. Now, I get to know each patient and their individual situation, including their financial and personal situation. That way I can tailor the treatment for each individual. For example, a patient of mine was recently laid off



and needed to see me for follow-up care. I discounted the services, which was the appropriate thing to do. He's in a tough situation, I'm his doctor, and I need to take care of him. We need to take care of our fellow man.



Therese (Hamtil) Talarico, '08 Communications Sciences and Disorders

Since earning her master's degree in Communications Sciences and Disorders, Therese (Hamtil) Talarico has worked at Shawnee Mission Medical Center and at a specialty hospital. Just married and moving to Wichita, she expects the lessons learned at Rockhurst to continue enhancing her career as a speech-language pathologist.

The very personal, loving environment at Rockhurst taught me to look at the person instead of the disorder. Some of my patients are dealing with the loss of the ability to speak or to swallow. They're dealing with cancer of the head and neck. I don't just look at their medical chart. I look at

their spirit. I consider their mental, emotional and physical needs.

Service is a wonderful part of it — giving others what they can't get alone. I've had lots of conversations with people on their deathbeds about their relationship with God. There's a lot more to what I give people because I talk about God and their spiritual needs. And it's not just care for one person. My job involves counseling with the patient, the family and loved ones. I can give them a sense of hope in a terrible situation; we can talk about what good can come out of it. Rockhurst has empowered me to be a better person to others.

Joe Hicks, '07 Nursing, in partnership with Research College of Nursing

The ability to look at the whole person — and beyond the person, to the whole family — is part of the daily "routine" for Joe Hicks, who received his BSN in '07 and is now a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Overland Park Regional Medical Center in Kansas.

The education I got at Rockhurst was great. I learned so many things about myself. I took theology and philosophy, classes other universities don't require. These classes helped me grow as a person, and built on the foundation I had received growing up and going to Catholic schools.

Taking care of the whole person fits with my everyday work. When I'm dealing with premature infants, I'm



also dealing with families — moms, dads and siblings. Some of the parents have struggled to have kids, and then their miracle child ends up in the NICU. I help parents focus on being part of the care for their infant, and seeing them happy makes my day.

When I go to work, I have good days and bad days. I see life changing right in front of my eyes. Rockhurst University taught me to take pride in what I do, even on bad days. Every day is a gift.

O'Connor Achieves Coaching Milestone

When it comes to records and awards, Bill O'Connor would rather talk about the success of his players on the Rockhurst men's basketball team.

O'Connor, now in his 16th season at Rockhurst, became the University's men's basketball coach with the most wins when he surpassed Joe Brehmer on the all-time victory list Dec. 5 with his 227th win.

"Obviously being the coach with the most wins at Rockhurst is an honor, primarily because this school has had very good coaches during its basketball history," O'Connor said. "Secondarily I've been here a long time."

In 2008-09, O'Connor led the Hawks to a 19-11 record and a second-place finish in the Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division with a 13-4 league record. He was named the GLVC Coach of the Year as the Hawks were picked to finish fourth in the GLVC West Preseason Coaches' Poll.

"This award is a great reflection on the team and the entire coaching staff. It shows that I was coaching the team of the year," said O'Connor, whose Hawks advanced to the NCAA Division II national tournament for the second time in the last three seasons.

O'Connor also received Coach of the Year honors in the Heartland Conference in 2001-02 and 2002-03.



Bill O'Connor (right) reaches a milestone and Larry Park (second from right) is named head women's basketball coach.

Coach Park Takes on New Challenge

Larry Park has spent the past 13 years working with the Rockhurst men's basketball team. Now he runs his own program as the head coach of the RU women's basketball team.

"This is something that I always wanted to do. This is a special place for me," Park said. "I want to see the program excel. We will work our tails off to do that."

Park has coached for the past 26 seasons on the collegiate level. He has been an assistant coach for the Rockhurst men's program since 1996. He also was an admission and financial aid counselor and assistant men's basketball coach at Rockhurst from 1989-91.

Park played an important role in Rockhurst's successful conversion from an NAIA Division I affiliate to an NCAA Division II member in 1998. He was involved in all aspects of

the men's program under head coach Bill O'Connor.

Earlier this year, Park received the Walt Tylicki Memorial Award from the Greater Kansas City Basketball Coaches Association for his long-time service as a coach and educator who has devoted an entire career to helping people become better students and athletes.

"Larry brings a wealth of experience as a college basketball coach," said Richard Konzem, Rockhurst athletic director. "He has been a

part of the Rockhurst family for many years. Larry played a key role in our men's program reaching the NCAA Tournament two of the past three years."

Park graduated with a bachelor's degree in American history from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he was a two-year letterman in basketball from 1980-82. He is married to Kelli, and they have four children: Brennain, Curtis, Tucker and Tori.

All in the Family

Maggie McGovern was in her senior year at Notre Dame de Sion High School and one of the top volleyball players in the Kansas City area.

Saint Louis University, the University of Missouri and Wake Forest University recruited the 6-foot-3 McGovern. She ultimately decided to keep up with the family tradition at Rockhurst.

Both of McGovern's parents graduated from Rockhurst. Paul, '75, and Becky, '78, met each other while at Rockhurst. Paul's father, Paul Sr., attended

Rockhurst in the 1940s. Becky's brothers, Stephen and Gregory Larm, are also Rockhurst graduates.

"I liked the school," said McGovern, who is a sophomore and majoring in elementary education. "I looked at several Division I schools, but decided I wanted to stay close to home."

In her freshman year, Maggie started all 33 matches while finishing second on the team in kills per set and being named to the all-conference third team. This season, she leads the team in kills, service aces and points per set.



Maggie McGovern, '10

Maggie's older sister, Loretta, also joined the Rockhurst volleyball program prior to the 2009 season. Loretta, who played two seasons at the University of Missouri, started out the season as an assistant coach for the Hawks while enrolled in graduate school at Rockhurst.

In the middle of the season, Loretta discovered that she still had one year of college eligibility remaining. She immediately made the switch from assistant coach to player and has helped the Hawks coming off the bench as a front row player.

Twins Mean Doubles Success

When Ben and Zach Newell first stepped on the Rockhurst campus in the fall of 2007, they didn't have a tennis coach. Now two years later, the twin brothers from Topeka, Kan., not only have a coach they respect and enjoy playing for, but a conference championship to go along with it.

The Newells, both juniors majoring in business, led the Hawks to the 2009 Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship by winning their No. 1 doubles match against top-seeded Drury in St. Louis. The victory earned the Hawks the top seed in NCAA Division II Midwest Regional at Rockhurst.

"They have so much energy on the court," said Rockhurst tennis coach Carolina Mayorga-Perry, who was the 2009 GLVC Coach of the Year in men's tennis. "A big part of why we were successful last year was because of how well they did in doubles."

Ben and Zach posted a 20-5 record in doubles last season after only playing six doubles matches together in their freshman year. They were ranked among the top doubles teams in the region, in addition to being ranked nationally in 2008-09.



Zach (left) and Ben Newell '11

"Coach Perry has been a blessing for us," said Zach, who is right-handed. "She has been able to push us to become better individually and has given us the type of coaching experience we were looking forward to receiving in college," said Zach.

"Rockhurst has been great for us," said Ben, who is left-handed. "We have made friends from around the world because of the sports here."

Gala Gets New Vibe

Who says a gala needs to be a formal, conventional black-tie affair? This year, Rockhurst University shook things up and created a festive celebration alumni and friends won't soon forget.

More relaxed than in years past, "Toast of Kansas City" promoted Rockhurst as a wonderful asset to the greater community. A new format and on-campus location gave people a better opportunity to mix and mingle with guests and sponsors from throughout the city.

Guests gathered in the transformed Convocation Center, which went incognito as an ultra-cool cocktail lounge, complete with stylish furniture, lavish bar and entertainment stage graced by student and alumni performers throughout the evening. DJ David Basse provided additional entertainment.

"Student performances have been used in years past, but not to this extent," said Tori Snowden, Rockhurst events coordinator. "This allowed us to showcase our students in a dynamic way, reinforcing that the purpose of the gala is to benefit them."

Proceeds from the Rockhurst gala help fund service trips, scholarships and library technology enhancements.



Talented Rockhurst students provided the entertainment at this year's gala. Jaqwan Sirls, '10, (center) who performed his original songs, visited with gala-goers Martin, '62, and Lilyan Flaherty.

Student Callers Inspire, Engage Donors



Sophomore Ella Multin called donors during the Fall 2009 Phonathon.

Everyone knows college students love to talk on the phone, and if you're a Rockhurst alumnus or friend, you may have received a call from one in September. For the first time in more than 20 years, student callers staffed the phones for the semiannual "phonathon" to raise financial support for the Rockhurst Fund, the foundation for all giving at Rockhurst. Having students make the calls enabled donors to talk to the very people who will benefit from their donation. "The calls allow alumni and students to exchange

Rockhurst stories, ask about professors and discuss the student's favorite things about college life," said Jennifer Wewers McKnight, director of annual giving. "Through student callers we grow the tradition of giving at Rockhurst and we strengthen our relationship with alumni and parents." Student callers said they especially enjoyed helping alumni who may not have given before reconnect with Rockhurst.

"I called one alum who was coming up for his reunion weekend but didn't want to make a gift," said freshman Haley Long. "But

I told him he should watch the women's soccer game because I play. He ended up really enjoying watching the game and the whole weekend and donated for the first time in 50 years."

The overwhelming positive response from alumni and parents raised more money than last year, and McKnight says she believes it is likely to continue to increase each year. Those who missed their fall call will have another opportunity to chat with a Rockhurst student during the February phonathon.

Giving Starts Close to Home

Sharing Our Gifts

For Dan and Mary Charles, philanthropy and giving back are a way of life — one they want their children to embrace.

"Philanthropy and giving are values that begin at home. And we want our children to understand them," says Dan Charles, who, along with Mary, started the Charles Family Scholarship several years ago to provide tuition assistance to students with financial need. "Providing scholarship assistance is a great way to help someone with an education and also know first-hand where our contribution is going."

For Dan and Mary, a Rockhurst scholarship, in addition to their annual donation to the school, was the ideal way to support students in need and the school. They share a common commitment to Jesuit education and developing people in the area of critical thinking skills. Dan credits his education and Rockhurst experience with the launch of his career and enriching his life in multiple ways.

"It's where I met my wife, where we met our best friends and has an important place in our lives," he says.

Mary's motivation originates from her days at Rockhurst when she first heard "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam," which means "for the greater glory of God." To Mary, it served as a clear call to think beyond personal needs and to serve others.

The Charles Family Scholarship is designated for students in liberal arts or business and thus far has helped one student complete college. Today, Chris VandeVen, a freshman from O'Fallon, Mo., is benefiting from the scholarship, and currently studying to become a speech pathologist.

"I'm paying my way through college, so this scholarship is really making it possible for me to attend Rockhurst," says VandeVen. "I'm very thankful for it."

To find out more about how you can help Rockhurst University students through scholarship support, contact Mark Wunder at (816) 501-4544 or mark.wunder@rockhurst.edu.



Charles Family

Thomas Dart Leads University's Fund-raising Efforts

Thomas N. Dart joined the Office of University Advancement July 1 as vice president, leading the team responsible for planned, annual, foundation and major gifts, plus alumni outreach.

Before coming to Rockhurst, Dart worked in a variety of leadership capacities at the University of Chicago, John Carroll University and Dominican University.

Dart brings an international perspective to his work, having served Catholic Relief Services in a number of roles, including leadership to programs in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia, and service in Rwanda and Burkina Faso. In addition, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia.

Dart says one of his most rewarding career accomplishments was helping to formulate the Catholic Church's response to the Rwandan genocide of 1994 on behalf of Catholic Relief Services.



Thomas N. Dart

Dart received an undergraduate degree in secondary education from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in international development from Clark University.

He and his wife, Corinne, have been married for 28 years. They have five children.

We're Nationwide

Just because you've graduated doesn't mean you have to leave the Rockhurst community behind. No matter where you live there are opportunities to become an involved Rockhurst alumnus.

In Kansas City, more than 60 alumni gathered during Homecoming weekend to participate in planting tulips for *Tulips on Troost*. Alumni enrich campus worship experience with their presence at Mass of the Holy Spirit, the Mass of Remembrance and the Alumni, Parents, Reunion Mass. The Kansas City Advisory Council serves the Kansas City alumni population by developing programming for alumni of all ages.

In St. Louis, alumni recently held a *Day of Service*. Rockhurst alumni and parents volunteered at Loyola Academy, Marian Middle School, De La Salle Middle School and Our Little Haven.

In Washington, D.C., a core group of alumni spearheaded the chartering of the Washington, D.C., alumni chapter. Joshua Yurek, '07, will serve as president, Andrew Felz, '07, will serve as vice president and Mark Lavin, '98, will serve in programming. The newly formed chapter will concentrate on developing a program for alumni moving into the D.C. area by offering contacts, mentoring and friendship.

For more information on ways you can get involved in regional events, visit www.rockhurst.edu/alumni. If you don't see activities in your area, contact alumni director Mary Landers at mary.landlers@rockhurst.edu to get something started.



St. Louis area alumni organized a *Day of Service* at several sites, including Loyola Academy. Standing: (from left) Maureen Heitmann, '84; Chris Newbold, '86; Rick Heinrichs, '83; Glenn Heitmann, '83; Ted Toczylowski, '00; Tom Simon, '73; and Lenny Paletta, '03. Kneeling: Bill Newbold, '86, and friends.

Events Keep Alumni and Friends Connected

Rockhurst Day 2009 provided fun for all ages, from balloon animals and soccer games to an outdoor beer garden.



Rich Teahan, '57, and Mark Teahan, '82, prepare to depart for the green in their golf cart during the Fr. Freeman, S.J., Golf Classic in Overland Park, Kan.



A fall reception honored the Rev. Nicholas Rashford, S.J. (left), founding dean of the School of Management (now the Helzberg School) and the Executive Fellows MBA, shown here with Robert Druten, '80 MBA.

Alumni Leaders

Poet's Work Brings Charlotte Street Grant

Glenn North's life as a poet and performer took a sharp turn a few years back.

As a young man, he loved pushing the edge of the envelope.

"I'd say things for the shock value," he confessed.

Now 43, North, who graduated from Rockhurst in 2006, says he's matured and mellowed a bit. And has gotten serious about Christianity. His message, he says, has changed as well.

"A lot of it is social commentary, issues affecting the African-American community. A lot of my poems speak to my spiritual beliefs."

In recognition of North's "important ideas" and "dynamic performance ability," David Hughes said the Charlotte Street Foundation gave him a \$5,000 grant earlier this year. Hughes is the organization's founder and director.

As the poet-in-residence and education specialist at the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City's 18th and Vine district, North performs on



Photo: Diallo French

Glenn North, '06

special occasions — and often with the Jazz Disciples. He hopes to make a recording with them fairly soon.

North also mentors young performers. He hosts a jazz poetry jam at the Blue Note on the third Tuesday of every month. For several years, he organized a regular

poetry slam known as Verbal Attack.

He also has taken groups of young spoken-word artists to events out of town. The avenues vary, but North's messages remain the same — about injustice and racism, Christianity and jazz music.



The Rockhurst Hawks November basketball game at the Sprint Center was the perfect opportunity for a pizza reception in the Power & Light District. Rockhurst President the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S., visits with guests.



'52

John J. Jurcyk Jr. received an annual distinguished alumnus award from the University of Kansas School of Law on May 2, 2009. The award is presented to KU School of Law graduates who have distinguished themselves through exemplary service to the legal profession, their community, KU and the state. Jurcyk is a 1957 graduate of the KU Law School.

'53

Robert "Bob" Winsky and his wife, Betty, spend six months of the year in Leawood, Kan., and the other six months in Fort Myers, Fla. Winsky's company, Consolidated Transfer & Warehouse Co. Inc., is celebrating its 61st year in business.

'63

Timothy "Tim" Braithwaite published his sixth book since retirement: "Enterprise Architecture and Security Integration" for the FEAC Institute, Washington, D.C.

Michael Louis Postlewait is the president of Management By Strengths Inc., a management consulting firm based in Olathe, Kan., specializing in communication and team-building skills.

'65

Charles L. Dunlap was appointed to serve as the president and CEO of TransMontaigne Inc.

'67

Dennis Owens practices law in Kansas City, appearing in state and federal appellate courts in Missouri and throughout the country. He has been named "Best of the Bar" by *Ingram's* magazine, "SuperLawyer" by *the Business Journal* of Kansas City and "Lawyer of the Year" by the *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*. Owens is president of the Association of the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. As the editor-in-chief for more than 25 years of the American Bar Association's *Appellate Practice Journal*, he has published more than 450 reviews of books about law, ethics, legal history, jurisprudence, the courts, American history and science. He and his wife, Cathy, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.



'69

Jim Lingl was selected to serve as the director of operations and planning of Mediators Beyond Borders, an international non-profit mediation advocacy group that seeks to build capacity for conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconciliation. Lingl was married on July 24, 2009, in Thousand Oaks, Calif., to Carolyn "Candy" Doehlert.

Daniel G. Tobben recently assumed the litigation department chair position for the law firm Danna McKittrick. Tobben practices in legal malpractice defense, public pension and other government litigation, civil and commercial litigation and insurance law.

'70

David Huff and his wife, Catherine, were featured in the April 2009 issue of *Consumers Digest* as "baby boomer" professionals who have elected to retire abroad. David retired in August 2007 and they moved to the Lake Chapala region of south central Mexico. David serves as the volunteer medical consultant at Hope House in Ixtlahuacan, Jalisco, a resident care home for abused and neglected boys ages 8-18.

James (Jim) R. Ward has been named managing director of MidCap's Kansas City, Mo., office. Midcap Advisors LLC is a New York-based investment bank serving mid-sized, privately held companies.

'71

Paul Lombardo traveled to Rome in February to speak at a conference at the Vatican on "New Frontiers of Genetics and the Danger of Eugenics," sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life.

'73

Richard L. Haberberger Jr. relieved Captain J. Christopher Daniel, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy, in a Change of Command ceremony on Aug. 21, 2009, in Silver Spring, Md. He took command of the Naval Medical Research Center.



'74

Denny Thum was named president of the Kansas City Chiefs. Thum also was appointed to the Rockhurst University Board of Trustees in 2008 after previously serving on the Alumni Board of Directors.

William Quinn and his son, **Scott Quinn**, '90, co-authored an article for *The Angelus* titled "The Origins and Causes of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)" for the July and August 2009 editions.

Rockhurst University
is on

facebook

Become a Fan



'75

Ken Mellard and his wife, Nancy, served as presidents of Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas' 36th Annual Snow Ball. Snow Ball, historically the largest revenue generating philanthropic event in the Kansas City area, is a black tie gala with a cocktail reception, formal dinner and dancing. All proceeds from Snow Ball benefit the Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas, which provides programs and services for 85,000 people in need.

'78

Walter L. Milner Jr. retired from his job in insurance and is currently working as an elder at Zion Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Mo.

'80

Morrine Tauheed works as a claims authorizer with the Social Security Administration. Tauheed also joined Penn Valley Community College as an adjunct faculty member in fall 2005. Tauheed made a presentation at the Oxford Round Table in Oxford, England, on July 3, 2007, and had a paper published in the spring 2008 edition of the *Oxford Forum on Public Policy*.

'81

Maureen Herrmann was featured in an article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for her work as director of Marian Middle School, a Catholic school for girls from low-income backgrounds.

Donita Joseph will serve as the new chair of the committee on estate planning for the California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA). Joseph has been a member of CalCPA for 21 years, when she joined Windes & McClaughry — a leading Southern California accounting and consulting firm.

'84, '94 MBA

Chris Fernandez recently was featured in a *Kansas City Business Journal* article for his work as McCormick Distilling Co. Inc.'s CFO.

'86 MBA

Leonard Kline Jr. was featured in an article in the *Kansas City Business Journal* for assisting, as CEO, in the growth of Ascension Insurance Inc. from zero to \$75 million in revenue within the past two years, despite the recession.

'87

Andrew "Andy" Janson was named president of Hanson Logistics after serving as the company's executive vice president of business development for four years. Janson also serves as a chairman of the International Refrigerated Transportation Association.

'90

Shirley Winn was named director of the housing and community development department of Kansas City. As director, Winn will continue to appropriate the City's Community Development Block Grant allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which helps tackle serious challenges facing the resident of Kansas City.

'92

Michael "Mike" James Morris, his wife, Elizabeth, and their three children live in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Morris works for Cliffs Natural Resources as the senior director of Global Tax.

'92

Timothy "Tim" Reed retired as CIO from a manufacturing company and as management consultant for the National Guard.

'94

Campbell Owens is Federal Express Regional Sales Manager for Alaska and Washington. He lives near Seattle and races bicycles. After he graduated, Owens worked as a district executive for the Boy Scouts of America in Kansas City, Lawrence and Berkeley, Calif. While he lived in Northern California, Owens did a bit of acting in the murder mystery play on the Napa Valley Wine Train. He joined FedEx seven years ago.

Molly Owens served as a Jesuit Volunteer in Seattle for the year following her graduation, working with the homeless. She is married to Steve Connolly and they have a child, Jameson Dennis Owens Connolly, who is now 3. Owens is the Social Services Director at the Park Ridge Care Center, Shoreline, Wash. She has completed her training as a Certified Yoga Instructor and started her own business, Silver Sage Yoga, offering yoga classes to the residents of care centers in the Seattle area.



'95

Matthew Szymankowski (left) and friend **Brian Rutherford** walked and jogged from Oakland, Calif., to Portland, Ore., in 31 days to raise \$15,000 for a friend who has breast cancer. The 830-mile journey required them to complete about 26 miles, or approximately one marathon, per day.

'97

Brian L. Burge was added as an associate to Kansas City firm Sanders, Warren & Russell. He will focus his practice on insurance defense, as well as business and construction litigation.

Dr. James Bradley Doty and his wife, **Teresa (Vondrak) Doty**, '99, have opened Brain Balance, a treatment center for children with developmental disabilities and delays, such as dyslexia, ADD, ADHD and autism spectrum disorders. The center aims to assist families by providing effective treatment at a reasonable cost. The Dotys also are active in the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education, which raises funds to provide special education services in Catholic schools so that children with special needs can attend their parish school along with their siblings and friends. They recently volunteered on the FIRE fund-raising event, Bonfire.

'98

Matthew P. Clune, an attorney for Spradley & Riesmeyer, P.C., in Kansas City, Mo., recently won a case in the Kansas Supreme Court. He argued on behalf of the Mental Health Association of the Heartland for a tax exemption on property in Leavenworth County, Kan.



'99 M.Ed.

Karen Burgard received a 2009 Graduate Assistance Fund Award during the 2009 UIMKC Women's Council Awards Luncheon. Burgard was one of nine who were honored as Outstanding Merit Recipients.

Submit a Class Note

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

'99, '01 MPT

Biagio Mazza was featured in a recent article in *435 South* magazine for his work as owner and founder of Elite Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy in Kansas City.

'01

Sean Brennan, Ph.D., was named assistant professor of history at the University of Scranton.

Ryan Sage works as a pharmaceutical representative with P&G Pharmacy in Topeka, Kan.

'01 MIHE

Mike McKinne was selected as dean of the School of Education at Avila University.

'02

Sarah Day is the new youth director at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Maryville, Mo. She will be working with youth in grades six through 12.

'05

Jesse Owens moved back to St. Louis in May 2008 after working at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank. Owens has been a bank examiner in customer affairs for the Federal Reserve for three years and now works for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Owens just bought a house in the Southwest Garden neighborhood (near the Hill) and has a new dog named Bodhi.

'05 MBA

Tanya (Oberoi) Pandya accepted a position with the medical staff at the Emory Johns Creek Hospital. Dr. Pandya specializes in family medicine with particular interests in diabetes, hypertension and women's health. She was the chief resident for Emory University and was selected as the 2008 Resident Physician of the Year for the state of Georgia.

'06

Christine Marie (Diederich) Kemplay and her husband, Jimmy, live in Gardner, Kan., with their three dogs. Kemplay is working in the underwriter department at Farmers Insurance as a customer service representative. She hopes to return to school to pursue an occupation in health care.

'08

Ashley Breuer has taken charge of the *Northeast News'* marketing and advertising department as a development specialist.

Bill Taft and friend, Paul South, directed and produced a movie based on the life of Robert Andrew Berdella, the notorious Kansas City murderer. The film premiered to the public on Sept. 10 at the Screenland Theater.



'09 EMBA

John B. Quigley was named regional vice president for Time Warner Cable operations in the Albany, N.Y., area.

'09 M.Ed.

Andy Nordland was announced as the new assistant track and field coach at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Go Hawks!

Be sure to visit www.rockhurst.edu/athletics for complete team schedules for all winter and spring sports.



Marriages

'80

Ann (Rydzel) Walker married Eli Cumming Walker Aug. 15 in Overland Park, Kan., with Rockhurst alumni and professors present. Ann and Eli reside in Warner Robins, Ga., where Ann is the bookstore manager at Central Georgia Technical College in Macon.



'98

Katie Fischer Clune, Ph.D., and **Matthew P. Clune** were married Dec. 27, 2008, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Kansas City. Katie is an assistant professor of communication at Rockhurst University and Matt is an attorney at Spradley & Riesmeyer P.C. Several Rockhurst alumni were in the wedding party. Back row (l-r): **Jenny (Fischer) Rinella**, '93; Katie Clune; Meghan Clune; **Chrissy (Hittler) Clune**, '03; **Julie (Hornung) Rome**, '98; **Eileen (Clune) Forbes**, '96; **Liz (Fischer) Schroeder**, '99; **Annie Fischer**, '03; **Matt Clune**, '98; **Katie Fischer Clune**, '98; **Connor Clune**, '02; Brenden Forbes; Brian Dunn; **Matt Cindrigh**, '05; Andrew Beck; Mike Rinella; Greg Schroeder; front row (l-r): Will Schroeder; Jack Rinella; Josie Rinella; Anne Rinella



Devin McKeon (Far left, white shirt) and **Rebecca (Abeyta) McKeon** (Front left, white dress) were married Sept. 5, 2009, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Parish Church. Devin is a public accountant at Winger Company and Rebecca has worked as a nurse for nine years. She is currently finishing her master's degree in nurse anesthesia at Truman Medical Center through the University of Missouri-Kansas City and will work as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Overland Park Regional Hospital. Joining Devin and Rebecca at their wedding were several Rockhurst alumni and friends, including: **Nicole (Reed) and Mark Lavin**, '98; **Amy and Mike Bartkoski**, '98; **Brad Doty**, '97; **Erin and Matt Propst**, '98; **Dave Rocco**, '98, and **Amanda Anglyn; Brandy and Kevin Hobart**, '98; **Christine (Jett)**, '98, and **Justin Bruegenhemke; PJ and Nick Palmer**, '98; **Matt Madden**, '98; **Michelle (Schaffer) Bopp**, '98; **Maureen (Madigan)**, '98, and **Matt Lawrence; Jennifer (Freeling)**, '98; and **Scott Kropatch**. Not pictured **Mike Brewer**, '98; **Elizabeth (Lee) Cook**, '98.

'02

Karyn (Turtle) Nunn married Jeffrey Nunn Sept. 27, 2008, in St. Louis, Mo.

'06

Heather Nicole Thomas married Bryan Allen Neth on Feb. 21, 2009, at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City.

'07

Luther Mieser married Heather Mazurkiewicz May 14, 2008, on the beach in Riviera Maya, Mexico. Mieser and his wife are both registered nurses at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo.

Births

'67

Paul J. Smith, Ed.D., and his wife, Susan, are the proud grandparents of **Zoe Faye Smith**, the daughter of their son, Bob, and his wife, Brittany. Zoe is joined by her big sister, Ava, and big brother, Zach. Smith now has five grandchildren.

'91, 95 MBA

Lisa A. (Meyer) Connor, and her husband, Mike, proudly welcomed the birth of their daughter, **Mary Katherine**, on Aug. 7, 2008. Mary joins her siblings, **Andrew**, 9; **Ryan**, 7; **Ben**, 5; and **Elizabeth**, 3; in Overland Park, Kan.

'94

Norm Bamber and his wife, Jill, recently welcomed twins, **Kaitlyn Rose** and **Sean Ryan**, to the family. They join siblings **Samantha** and **CJ**. Bamber recently moved back to the Kansas City area. He is working at the Neurosurgery of South Kansas City in Overland Park, Kan.

'98

Katarina (Dethloff) Barnett and her husband, Donald Barnett, welcomed their first child, **Elizabeth**, Jan. 25, 2009.

'98, '00 MPT

Brian Murphy and his wife, Shannon, welcomed daughter **Celia Quinn** in October 2008.

'01

Kelly (Rock) Staponski and her husband, **Virgil**, welcomed daughter **Rowan Margaret** April 2, 2009.

'02

Howard Davis and his wife, Colleen, welcomed daughter **Victoria Noelle Davis** Sept. 1, 2008. Davis is technology coordinator at Star Charter School in Austin, Texas. He is responsible for all technology needs and teaches four computer courses, including Visual Basic and Business Computer Information.

'04

Erin (Brooks) Pinkerton married Steven Pinkerton on July 27, 2007, at the Shrine of St. Joseph in St. Louis, Mo. They welcomed son, **Ryan Keith**, on Aug. 26, 2008.

Robin (Perry) Humphrey and her husband, Damon, announce the birth of their son, **Damon Le'roy Humphrey III**, born April 26, 2009.

'05

Stacey Hittle and her husband, Jeffrey, welcomed son **Owen** in October 2008.

In Memoriam

- Hon. John F. Doyle, '38 – June 6
 Arthur B. Cogan Jr., '41 – Feb. 18
 Edward P. Masterson, '41 – April 4
 Dr. John R. Rufe, '42 – March 17
 George T. Spink, '42 – Oct. 18
 C. Craig Whitaller, '45 – April 2
 Joseph G. Gleason, '46 – May 9
 James E. Costello, '47 – Aug. 30
 M. Edward Mullin Jr., '47 – July 2
 C. Thomas Rafter Jr., '47 – July 25
 Joseph A. Bukaty, '48 – March 24
 John P. Downs Jr., '48 – June 27
 Maurice J. Frey, '48 – July 11
 Charles C. Male Jr., '48 – Feb. 8
 Col. Paul G. McMahon, '48 – March 7
 William J. Purdy, '48 – April 2
 Paul K. Whitmer, '48 – April 9
 Rev. Harold C. Bradley, S.J., '49 – July 10
 Henry F. Maggard, '49 – Aug. 10
 Richard W. Meyers, '49 – Oct. 13
 Leo J. O'Brien, '49 – Oct. 23
 Edward F. Aylward, '50 – Sept. 30
 John F. Dobel, '50 – March 7
 John F. McShane, '50 – April 18
 Charles F. Huppe, '51 – July 3
 Michael A. Kozak, '51 – Feb. 6
 Gene Braught, '52 – March 8
 Daniel B. Lawless, '53 – Feb. 18
 Leo J. Thoma, '53 – March 20
- Karl A. Benkeser, '54 – May 17
 John M. Easterday Sr., '54 – March 8
 John E. Gaschen, '54 – Feb. 27
 John J. Kitchin, '54 – Feb. 16
 Marion Lee Brown, '55 – May 12
 Anthony J. Burasco, '56 – April 29
 John J. Stock, '56 – April 5
 Robert S. Kelley, '57 – June 26
 Richard P. Kinnard, '57 – March 23
 Antonio Procacci, '57 – July 11
 Thomas W. Redmond, '57 – Oct. 11
 Francis J. McCarvel, '58 – March 14
 Robert J. Rafter, '58 – Oct. 6
 George E. Bethel, '59 – June 5
 Nicholas J. Bonura, '59 – Feb. 22
 Gilbert S. Anderson Jr., '60 – May 8
 Thomas A. Grace, '60 – Oct. 23
 Richard E. Moran, '60 – Oct. 4
 William C. Hisey, '61 – Sept. 29
 Anthony J. Rinella, '61 – March 27
 Dr. Richard J. Sullivan, '61 – June 27
 Fred C. Dimmel, '62 – July 13
 James H. Johnson, '62 – Aug. 4
 Dr. George L. Marchin Jr., '62 – June 19
 Paul F. McWilliams, '62 – May 4
 Arthur J. Baughman, '63 – Aug. 3
 Edwin O. Boothe Jr., '63 – May 9
 Theoplis Allen, '65 – Feb. 13
 Marion L. Beard, '66 – July 24
- William D. Thate, '66 – July 11
 William E. Fuiks, '67 – Aug. 31
 Rudy C. Sixta Jr., '67 – Feb. 28
 Dr. Frederick G. DeFeo, '68 – Sept. 29
 Lester L. Geringer, '68 – May 1
 James W. Long, '71 – May 18
 William L. Gomerdinger, '73 – March 15
 John W. Hotzel II, '73 – Feb. 27
 John V. Muehlberger, '73 – March 4
 Ronnae L. Coleman, '75 – Feb. 6
 Pedro H. Franco Jr., '75 – March 19
 Timothy I. Montney, '81 – Feb. 19
 L. Doty Moore, '82 – Aug. 12
 William W. Sears, '82 – June 6
 Richard W. Darragh, '83 – March 10
 Timothy L. Gabisch, '84 – July 4
 Katrina L. Austin, '86 – June 25
 David L. Laffere, '86 – June 2
 William R. Sprague, '86 – Oct. 20
 Susan C. Kliethermes, '89 – July 5
 Maureen M. Crow, '92 – April 3
 Constance C. Embree, '94 – Aug. 11
 DeAnne Ferguson, '94 – June 16
 Mary P. Beamer, '95 – Oct. 11
 Claudia K. Henley, '95 – Oct. 16
 William Fritz III, '05 – June 15
 Christopher Quante, '07 – Feb. 22

All dates are from 2009.

Rockhurst Mourns Loss of Faculty Member



The Rockhurst University community lost a valued colleague and friend when Linda Solomon, Ph.D., associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, died Dec. 21, 2009.

"Linda's clinical expertise and leadership in the department helped guide the efforts of this growing program," said Carol Koch, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. "She met each day with a renewed sense of wonder and great wit. She will be greatly missed."

Solomon's work centered on helping people with neurological disorders recover their ability to communicate and maximize their quality of life. Throughout her career, her focus was to provide effective and compassionate care to patients and to train the next generation of practitioners to do the same.

Solomon's family has established the Linda Z. Solomon, Ph.D., Memorial Award to support one Rockhurst student each year to attend the national convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Gifts to the fund can be made online at www.rockhurst.edu/giving or by calling the Office of University Advancement at (816) 501-4888.



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SAVE THE DATE

Centennial Celebration Weekend

SEPT. 23-26

Mark your calendars now for the biggest celebration of Rockhurst's centennial year! Connect with friends, relive great memories, see what the campus looks like now and join us for a look at Rockhurst's promising future.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Golden Hawks (50-year class) reunion
- Informal barbecue
- Photo displays
- Hawks soccer and volleyball
- Classroom experience
- Dedication of new St. Ignatius statue
- Reception with past and present Rockhurst Jesuits
- Dinner Under the Stars

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