Nationally Recognized for Service by the Carnegie Foundation
Reflection and Discernment

The statue of St. Ignatius Loyola seated by the Cardoner River already has become a focal point on campus. Representing the Rockhurst core value of Reflection and Discernment, the garden around St. Ignatius changes with the seasons and beckons passersby to stop and enjoy a moment of peace. It is located near the Greenlease Library.
INSIDE

A COMPELLING STORY  9
Rockhurst earns national recognition for its service focus.

ROCKS AROUND THE WORLD  14
Meet some alumni who extend the Rockhurst reach internationally.

DEPARTMENTS

ROCK REPORT  2
HAWK TALK  18
GIVING BACK  20
FOR ALUMNI  22
CLASS NOTES  24

ON THE COVER: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recently awarded Rockhurst University its community engagement classification. The University's service immersion trip program was among the many reasons. This group traveled to Belize in March 2010.

ROCKHURST

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Science Fair Lets Rockhurst Students Take the Lead

What does a college senior learn by participating in a high school science fair? A hint: it’s more than just science.

For the last five years, Laura Salem, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, has partnered her cell biology class with a group of students from Brookside Frontier Math and Science School (BFMASS). The Rockhurst University students, mostly seniors and juniors, work with high school freshmen and sophomores to conduct science experiments, study them and develop a report that is presented at the Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair. This year’s fair was held on March 23.

While the Rockhurst students contribute their science knowledge, they play another important role.

“They have to provide leadership, and they always rise to the occasion,” Salem said.

Patrick Murray is a senior who plans to go to medical school. He said he learned a lot while mentoring his student from BFMASS.

“One of the things that can be difficult for anyone to do is to take knowledge we have acquired and communicate it to someone else,” he said. “Any opportunity we can get to practice working on these interpersonal skills is extremely valuable. It doesn’t just benefit us from an academic standpoint but will also be beneficial for us later in life.”

The dedication to the project from both Rockhurst and the teachers at BFMASS has been paying off for the high school students.

“At the science fair, I talked to the kids,” Salem said. “They all said they felt more confident standing up, giving their presentations. They had a sense of pride and confidence in themselves. That was our job – to make it a positive experience, and help them develop confidence in their science skills.”
Philosophy Professor to Lead Ethics Committee

John Morris, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, recently was appointed chair of the Ethics and Human Values Committee at Carondelet Health – the first non-employee of the health care group to hold the position.

Most hospitals have some form of ethics committee, said Morris, and its role is to provide objective advice regarding the ethical dilemmas encountered by doctors, patients and families.

Morris’ academic background, experience and interests make him well suited for this leadership position. His graduate work in scarce health care resources led him to an interest in applied ethics in the health care setting. He has served on the ethics committee of St. Joseph’s Hospital and on the national ethics committee of the American Occupational Therapy Association. In addition, he is special adviser on early life issues to the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

“Sometimes you wonder how a philosopher can serve, but this is what I wanted to do when I got into philosophy,” Morris said. “I wanted to find a way to use my knowledge to help people with tough issues.”

Many of the cases the committee hears involve beginning of life issues, such as early inducements of labor, or end of life issues when patients move to palliative care. Morris said most often the issues involve confusion in communication between medical staff and families.

Morris isn’t the only Rockhurst faculty member to lend expertise to the ethics committee. Catherine Green, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, who has an academic specialty in the philosophy of nursing, also is a member. Both of the positions are nonpaid volunteer roles.

“People definitely have recognized and appreciated Rockhurst’s service contribution to this work,” Morris said.

Rockhurst Receives $1 Million Gift for New Nursing Simulation Lab

Rockhurst University has received a $1 million grant from the “In Thanksgiving to the Blessed Seelos Fund.” This gift will be used for a new nursing simulation lab at Research College of Nursing.

The new lab will create a learning environment that teaches students how to better navigate health care. Students will gain clinical reasoning skills and experience interprofessional collaboration in a safe environment.

“This gift will provide the opportunity to create patient-centered scenarios,” said Nancy DeBasio, Ph.D., president and dean of Research College of Nursing. “As a result, graduates will be better able to lead change, acknowledge system fallibility and improve processes – leading to safe, quality patient care.”

The new lab, called the Seelos Simulation Center in honor of the donor family’s patron, The Blessed St. Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R., will be constructed in the College’s lower level. It is scheduled to be ready for student use in the fall of 2011.

The gift will be used to renovate the existing space, train faculty, provide maintenance and purchase new equipment, including newborn, pediatric and adult manikins, an electronic health record system and audio and video recording equipment.

Rockhurst University offers its bachelor of science in nursing degree in partnership with Research College of Nursing.
Three Jesuits Receive Emeritus Status for Their Decades of Service

Don’t confuse emeritus status with retirement around the Rev. Martin Bredeck, S.J.

“Retirement is Florida,” he said.

Fr. Bredeck, as well as the Rev. Louis Oldani, S.J., and the Rev. James Wheeler, S.J., will receive emeritus status this spring in recognition of their years of service to Rockhurst University. While it provides an opportunity to cut back on some of their responsibilities, each of them will continue to be in the classroom, teaching one course per semester.

Fr. Martin Bredeck, S.J.

Among the three Jesuits receiving this honor, Fr. Bredeck has been at Rockhurst the shortest period of time – a mere 33 years. In that time, he has taught 13 different theology courses, among them Sacraments and Christianity in Film.

“That in itself is a pedagogical feat,” said Daniel F. Stramara Jr., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. “But most notable is the dedication and service he has rendered to the Rockhurst community by serving on numerous committees.”

Fr. Bredeck has been on 21 committees, including several search committees, as well as the faculty senate. Also, he is responsible for the creation of Rockhurst’s TimeBox.

“At the 50th anniversary they had a nice dinner,” Fr. Bredeck said. “Afterward, there was nothing to commemorate it.”

Fr. Bredeck wanted to preserve the historical elements that were brought up as part of those anniversary celebrations. And he didn’t want them to be buried in the ground and forgotten for hundreds of years. So he created a TimeBox that would be unveiled every 25 years. He began collecting items for the 75th anniversary and added to it at the 100th.

Although he will hand off that responsibility, Fr. Bredeck will continue teaching one upper-level theology course each semester. He said he is grateful for the opportunity to continue those duties.

Fr. Louis Oldani, S.J.

Fr. Oldani is celebrating his 40th year teaching English at Rockhurst University. In addition to his teaching duties, he has spent a great portion of time developing policies on faculty review and student final grade review. While these can be thankless tasks, they were very important to the University and Fr. Oldani.

“They were tasks that were fulfilling because they had much to with justice and justice in difficult situations,” he said. “Justice is not something you talk about. It’s something you do.”

Fr. Oldani has also served on many committees and boards at Rockhurst, including the Greenlease Library board and the TimeBox committee. Beyond his official duties, however, he has become well known for his wit and generosity.

One such instance happened in the late ’90s when Jason Arthur, Ph.D., currently a visiting assistant professor of English, was a student at Rockhurst. There was a fire at Arthur’s home that ruined almost everything – including his computer, with all of his schoolwork. He asked Fr. Oldani for a paper extension. In response, Fr. Oldani started showing up with bags of books.

“He started preparing me for graduate school, got my library back on track,” Arthur said. “And he wouldn’t accept any thank you for it. It was formative for me.”
Taking on emeritus status doesn’t change much of what Fr. Wheeler has been doing for more than 50 years. That means teaching chemistry, being a trusted confidant to students and producing his ever-popular newsletter.

Because he came to Rockhurst in 1956, Fr. Wheeler has fantastic institutional knowledge. He was the second full-time instructor in the chemistry department. He taught the first biochemistry courses at Rockhurst. He recalls the day that the fourth floor of Conway was added. He has been an integral force in preparing students for medical school and has championed the pre-medical scholars program. For a time, he also served as the adviser to Alpha Phi Omega, the service fraternity, and oversaw their creation of a radio station.

Although Philip Colombo, Ph.D., taught chemistry at Rockhurst for 12 years, he started his journey in one of Fr. Wheeler’s classes.

“He’s a challenging teacher, he really does push students,” Colombo said. “He’s obviously very concerned about helping students achieve their dreams, especially when those dreams include going to medical school.”

As a faculty member, Colombo said Fr. Wheeler is fearless when it comes to trying new things.

“He’ll go to a conference, or read something, and he just jumps off and tries it,” he said.

Fr. Wheeler will continue teaching a chemistry lab for freshmen and will enjoy it, “even in my antiquity,” he said.

New Technology Means New Opportunities for Teachers

It has been one of the most coveted pieces of technology for the last year – the iPad. The tablet from Apple has had people lining up for hours to pay hundreds of dollars. But for some master of education students at Rockhurst University, all they have to do is show up to class.

Through a grant, Mandi Sonnenberg, Ed.D., assistant professor of education, has given her graduate students an iPad to use for free this semester. Sonnenberg said the ability to have the device at home, in class and while teaching motivates older learners – who may not be innately comfortable with technology – to demystify its operations.

“We use SMARTboards, but they don’t have a SMARTboard at home,” Sonnenberg said. “I was looking for something to motivate them that was exciting.”

During class, students share the apps they have found useful and discuss how they envision using it in the classroom. This collaboration is in contrast to an atmosphere where new technology is introduced in one setting and then abandoned, leaving teachers to troubleshoot and explore on their own.

“I feel like, in our education system, the expectation is to prepare teachers to be leaders. They’ll have to know how to use technology and help others,” Sonnenberg said.

To develop that leadership, Sonnenberg’s class also has a service learning component. Her students teach educators from Summit Christian Academy in Lee’s Summit, Mo., how to use technologies – such as the iPad and SMARTboards – over the course of three visits.

“I’m using technology to prepare students for their future. If I can grab students now and get them used to adapting to change, that will help them be more successful in the classroom,” Sonnenberg said.

A few lucky M.Ed. students received an iPad to use for a semester.

“I tried to answer the question, ‘How would early Jewish-Christians understand this and what would it mean to them?’” Stramara said.

The result is God’s Timetable: The Book of Revelation and the Feast of Seven Weeks.

What originally was intended as a 20-page article to explore the topic quickly became a book as Stramara uncovered more and more information.

He noted there have been three basic ways to interpret Revelation: it’s about past persecution of Christians; it’s a moral story about good and evil for the present; and it’s a precise prediction about what will take place at the end of time. The latter view didn’t come about until the early 1900s.

As Stramara sought to view the work through the eyes of the apostle John, a Jewish person and follower of Jesus Christ credited with writing Revelation, he found many indications that John wrote a prologue and epilogue to an earlier Hebrew apocalyptic work about the Jewish War that took place from 66-70 A.D. This war culminated during Pentecost, the Jewish Feast of Seven Weeks, and caused the destruction of Jerusalem.

Board of Trustees Welcomes Five New Members

Rockhurst University welcomes five new members to the Board of Trustees. All five add valuable expertise to the 32-member board.

Ellen Darling, ’00 EMBA, serves as president and chief executive officer of Zimmer Companies Inc., the parent firm of the Zimmer organizations, which includes Zimmer Real Estate Services L.C., Zimmer Development Co., Zimmer Management Co. and numerous real estate investment partnerships and corporations. She is the third generation of the Zimmer family to head the firm. Ellen is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and earned an MBA through the Executive Fellows program at Rockhurst University.

Bob Dunn, ’83, ’90 MBA, has been with JE Dunn since 1987. In 2000, he was named vice president — community affairs. In this role, he provides direction as it relates to the Dunn Family Foundation and philanthropic activities of JE Dunn Construction Company. Additionally, he is a member of the board of directors for the JE Dunn Construction Co. and JE Dunn Construction Group. Bob earned a bachelor of science in business administration and an MBA from Rockhurst University.

Rev. William T. Oulvey, S.J., ’74, recently became rector of the Rockhurst Jesuit Community. Prior to that, he served as the regional secretary for the USA Assistancy, Curia Generalizia della Compagnia di Gesù in Rome and spiritual director for seminarians, priests, sisters and lay people from 2006-2010. Before working in Rome, Fr. Oulvey was stationed in Belize where he taught chemistry, theology and philosophy at SJC Junior College. Fr. Oulvey holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Rockhurst College, now Rockhurst University.
In the material that John added, he acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and encouraged believers not to fear the end of the world because God would be with them and bring the Heavenly Jerusalem.

The book can be purchased through amazon.com or wipfandstock.com.

Faculty member Daniel F. Stramara Jr., Ph.D., wrote about the Book of Revelation.

Rockhurst University Names Key Member of Leadership Team

Rockhurst University has named Sharon M. Homan, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs effective July 1, 2011.

Homan currently serves as vice president for public health at Kansas Health Institute (KHI), an independent, nonprofit health policy and research organization. She holds a Ph.D. in biostatistics and a master’s degree in preventive medicine and environmental health from the University of Iowa. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Quincy College, with a double major in biology and chemistry and minors in theology and mathematics.

Prior to joining KHI, Homan served at Saint Louis University from 1982-2008 in various administrative and faculty roles. Her areas of expertise include statistical methods and evaluation, maternal and child health and mental health. Her mental health research focuses on substance abuse, family violence and homelessness.

“Dr. Homan’s extensive experience in Jesuit higher education, health care and community issues matches well the core values of Rockhurst University,” said Rockhurst University President the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S. “We look forward to her leadership as we seek to provide a superior overall environment for our students.”

The VPAA is a member of the university’s senior leadership team and has oversight of all aspects of the academic experience at Rockhurst. Homan replaces William Haefele, Ph.D., who stepped down from the VPAA position after serving for 10 years to return to teaching.

Madeline Romious, ’95 MBA, is the vice president – external affairs for AT&T Missouri, where she is responsible for community, civic and external affairs activities in Kansas City, Mo. She is also responsible for legislative affairs for AT&T in Kansas City, Mo. Romious holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and an MBA from Rockhurst University. She was appointed to the Rockhurst University Regents in 2009.

Emily Werner, ’08, will serve in one of the two board positions for recent alumni. Werner is a charge nurse at North Kansas City Hospital and also works for the Cerner Health Institute. She earned a bachelor of science in nursing from Rockhurst University. As an undergraduate, Werner was in the nursing honors fraternity Sigma Theta Tau and served as fundraising chair of Alpha Sigma Alpha - Zeta Eta Chapter and vice president of Panhellenic Council.

Sharon Homan, Ph.D.
Freshman Makes Kidney Transplant Possible

Rockhurst freshman Josh Goralski spent his spring break recovering from kidney donation surgery. Although his father, Mark Goralski, was on a national waiting list, he found a new kidney much closer to home.

In January 2010 Mark was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy, a kidney disorder in which antibodies to a protein build up in kidney tissue. By November Mark’s condition worsened and he began receiving dialysis nine hours each week.

Josh knew that he wanted to be the one to donate his kidney to his father and he began undergoing testing last summer to determine if he was a match. After receiving the OK, the surgery successfully took place on March 3 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Both Josh and Mark are doing well.

Josh said that he trusted that God wanted him to go through with the surgery. “God gave me a second kidney for a reason — to grow it, raise it and give it. For the rest of our lives we will be father and son on a whole new level.”

Josh’s actions already have inspired others.

“Rockhurst staff, faculty and students have much to learn from Josh — not only through his self-sacrifice in the kidney donation, but also in his steadfast commitment to understanding the needs of others,” said Matthew Quick, Ph.D., dean of students and associate vice president for student development and athletics.

Revised MBA Program Focuses on Individual Growth

The Helzberg School of Management at Rockhurst University has restructured its master of business administration program to give students a more intensive focus on personal growth. Changes include the addition of a mentorship program, executive coaching and flexible start times.

The Helzberg MBA will still include standard foundational courses in disciplines such as finance, economics and marketing. What sets the new curriculum apart is an integrated approach that includes tools to improve self-awareness and leadership capacity, personalized career coaching, pairing with a mentor in the business community and a host of educational and social events with Rockhurst MBA alumni and other corporate leaders.

Graduates complete the program with an electronic portfolio that demonstrates their development in a variety of areas.

In addition, the new program allows students greater flexibility by offering five points throughout the year to begin the program.

“Our holistic approach to MBA education ensures that graduates leave with the competence and conscience to be strong leaders throughout their careers,” said James Daley, Ph.D., dean of the Helzberg School. “And because our program is grounded in the Jesuit educational tradition, it is strengthened by the components of reflection on what has been learned and the instilled desire to make the world a better place.”

The Helzberg School of Management is the only private institution in Kansas City to have earned accreditation by AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. For more information about the new Helzberg MBA and the Helzberg Executive MBA, call 816-501-4632 or visit www.rockhurst.edu/hsom.
David Wallisch didn’t expect one of his first college classes to turn into a three-year commitment.

The Rockhurst University junior enrolled in an English class taught by Daniel Martin, Ph.D., his first semester freshman year. It was a service learning course that required Wallisch to do 20 hours of service in the community and write a research paper related to the experience. He chose to volunteer at St. James Place, a community kitchen in Kansas City.

When the semester was up, Wallisch just kept going.

David Wallisch, ’12
This ambition and enthusiasm for service and community involvement isn’t unique to Wallisch. The dedication shown by students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners to an astounding number of initiatives earned Rockhurst University the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching earlier this year.

The classification is an elective one that has been awarded to only 311 institutions nationwide. The Carnegie application looked at institutional support, curricular engagement, community partnerships and cultural programs, among many other factors.

Behind each of the endeavors mentioned in the application is a story. Together, they tell the remarkable accomplishments of the Rockhurst community.

At St. James Place, Wallisch often supervises Wednesday night dinner, helping serve the meal, cleaning up and storing leftovers.

“I really enjoy the atmosphere,” he said. “Every once in a while you’ll encounter somebody who really reminds you why you do it.”

Everything was going smoothly when Wallisch got inspired. His 21st birthday was getting close and he decided he wanted to donate $2,100 to St. James Place in honor of the celebration. He ended up donating $2,365. The night he presented the check he brought in 200 homemade cupcakes to serve with dinner.

“Every once in a while you’ll encounter somebody who really reminds you why you do it.”

— David Wallisch
Breaking Out of the Classroom

Student-centered learning is one of the essential tenets of Rockhurst, and students spend a great portion of their time in the classroom. But learning confined to the classroom lacks another central component of a Rockhurst education – contemplation in action. Reaching out into the community often enables students to learn more effectively with the added benefit of enriching our neighbors.

Nancy Donaldson, Ph.D., teaches a course that does just that. When she was approached to teach a physics class for nontraditional students in 2005, she went beyond the norm. What she came up with was a Haunted Physics Lab. Students would attend class regularly, observing and conducting physics experiments, taking quizzes and the like. But a significant portion of their grade would come from their ability to devise a station at the Haunted Physics Lab – something that seemed spooky, but then explained a physics phenomenon.

At the Lab, there is haunted quicksand, a disembodied head, skeletons and a lot of fun. In fact, students return year after year to participate. Last fall, there were 120 student volunteers and nearly 300 community members in attendance.

“Physics has the reputation of being a fearful subject, but students take it, they love it and they get so involved in their project,” Donaldson said. “They enjoy explaining it to the community, and it enhances their self-confidence in science.”

Therapy for the Uninsured

Ten years ago, a desire to serve the community while gaining practical experience with patients led Rockhurst occupational and physical therapy students to canvass local clinics that served low- or no-income clients to see where their services would be most effective. The result was a now decade-old monthly pro bono OT/PT clinic at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic.

The students provide OT and PT consultations to people who are uninsured or unable to pay for those services. Because the structure is more flexible than a typical outpatient clinic, the students are able to spend a significant amount of time with each patient.

“We listen to their complaints, and that’s a component they don’t have anyone else doing,” said Timothy Tracy, ’11 DPT, a physical therapy student and clinic administrator. “The smallest thing helps them out; it’s very rewarding in that regard.”

Samantha Cooper, ’12, walked a Haunted Physics Lab participant through the haunted quicksand station. The substance acts like a solid when the subject walks quickly. If they stop, they will sink in.

“They enjoy explaining it to the community, and it enhances their self-confidence in science.”

— Nancy Donaldson, Ph.D.

Jon Dritley, ’12 DPT, and Molly Alferman, ’13 DPT, worked with a patient in the Kansas City Free Health Clinic.
A Neighborhood Partner

Having strong neighborhoods surround Rockhurst is vital to the University’s success and having a strong University as a community anchor benefits the neighborhoods as well.

Several years ago, Rockhurst began work on a 20-year master plan to guide campus improvements. At the beginning of the process, the University sought community input and unfortunately got off to a rough start. University and neighborhood leaders recognized the need to improve communication and to find ways to work together more effectively. As a result, the Rockhurst University Neighborhood Committee (RUNC) began meeting in 2008.

A large part of the committee’s work has focused on refining the master plan and the plans for the new Rockhurst University North Parking Garage. As those conversations became more productive, the group decided to branch out into hosting events designed to meet community needs.

Last year the group held a back-to-school rally and a block party. About 800 people from the community attended the rally. The committee has a more ambitious vision this year.

“We’re looking at the bigger picture of how we encourage and engage neighborhood children to help them set some higher goals than what they might otherwise set for themselves,” said Eric Duncan, RUNC member and president of the Troostwood Neighborhood Association. “We want to engage more and more of the kids, and the community, for the long term.”

Demystifying the College Experience

The Rockhurst Community Center was established to be a bridge between many of the exciting projects and ideas within Rockhurst and the greater community. Over the years, the Community Center has filled a variety of needs — from providing a place to meet to offering programs and events.

One of these efforts is RU College Bound, a mentor-based program that pairs Rockhurst University students with high school students from the community. They help with homework, study for the ACT, talk about the college application process and more. Two of its student leaders are Annie Brotherton and Abby Mueller, both juniors.

“It’s all about the relationships,” Mueller said of the program. “Sometimes they don’t let us know what it means to them; they try to play it cool. But then they will text us on the weekends and want to come over.”

To help the students, Brotherton has set up an e-mail account for them to use so they can get things like their ACT registration and communicate with colleges online. In doing all of these small things, both women have learned a lot.

“For us, going to college was assumed,” Mueller said. “This whole experience has been eye opening in that we see these kids whose schools don’t prepare them in any way for college.”
Global Awakening

Each year Rockhurst sends students out on numerous service immersion trips, domestically and internationally. One of these trips, to Honduras, touched students and faculty so deeply they couldn’t shake it.

Rocio Duncan, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, accompanied a group of students to Honduras in 2008 and 2009. Both groups worked and lived at the Copprome children’s shelter. The children really touched many of them.

“I would think they’d feel abandoned, but they were excited to play, happy to be with you,” said Kelsey Weigel, ‘11, who went on the 2009 trip. “They were so open to us. It’s amazing how much love they could have for you.”

After the group got home, the participants felt compelled to make a return trip. So students from both trips — in 2008 and 2009 — came together and raised funds to go back. Duncan was completely on board.

“The process of service, reflection and taking action — that is the Jesuit mission,” she said. “Taking action, that’s what the students were doing.”

Between selling thousands of burritos, holding a car wash and several other fundraisers, they had enough money to make the trip. In December 2010 they went for 10 days, staying mostly at the orphanage.

“It changed my life,” Weigel said. “It sounds cheesy, but I think it really did.”

After the 2010 trip, Weigel and her fellow Rockhurst classmates decided to sponsor two girls from the orphanage until they finish high school. It’s a contribution of $30 per person each year. Additionally, Weigel and her younger sister — a Rockhurst sophomore who was persuaded by her big sister to go on the 2010 trip — have decided they want to try and visit the orphanage once a year to continue the relationship.

Word Travels

Even before the Carnegie Foundation awarded Rockhurst the community engagement classification, service had become part of the University’s identity. From comforting orphans in a country far from home to encouraging high school students to believe in themselves enough to apply for college, Rockhurst is making an impact — one story at a time.

Earlier this year, a staff member received a scholarship essay from a prospective student who had seen the story about Wallisch’s donation to St. James Place on the news and was inspired. He said it was one of the reasons he was interested in Rockhurst. And the story continues.

Service by the Numbers

On average, each year the Rockhurst community contributes 25,000 hours of service.

There were 47 service learning courses in the 2009-10 academic year with 969 students enrolled.

More than 13,000 people crossed the Community Center’s threshold in 2010.

In 2010, more than 50 organizations used the Community Center for a total of 2,805 hours, the economic equivalent of $144,311.

There are numerous opportunities for Rockhurst students to engage in service projects throughout the year, including the annual Finucane Service Project in August and service immersion trips over winter and spring breaks.

“It changed my life… I think it really did.”

— Kelsey Weigel, ’11
Meet a few of our alumni living abroad and learn how they embody one challenge expressed in the University’s strategic plan — to appreciate cultural differences and commonalities and to interact with sensitivity and alertness as citizens of the world.

Gavin Abraham, ’99

B.A. in communications and psychology

New Zealand

Q Where are you from originally and where are you living now?

A I grew up in Auckland, New Zealand, and went to Rockhurst on a tennis scholarship. I am back living in Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand.

Q What is your position and what does it entail?

A Up until a year ago, I had worked for a series of community-based newspapers in the Kansas City area and around the Auckland region. My most recent job was as editor of NZ Catholic, the national Catholic newspaper. I left that role last April and started a company called Icon Media with two friends. We are a communications company with a focus on new media — Internet, social media, podcasting, YouTube, etc. — and I continue to do a lot of work with the Catholic Church and Catholic agencies.

Q How did Rockhurst prepare you for your career and life beyond college?

A The liberal arts education was invaluable in preparing me for life beyond college. Talking to friends of mine who studied in other universities or in other countries, their study was very narrowly focused into their area of expertise. By dipping into the behavioral and natural sciences, history, philosophy, theology, math and English, as well as my courses for my major, I think it made me a more well-rounded, better-educated person.

Gavin Abraham, ’99, returned home to New Zealand to pursue a career in communications.
Kristi (Arend) Thiede, ’01, ’07 MBA
B.S.B.A. in finance and economics
Germany

Q How did Rockhurst prepare you for your career and life beyond college?
A All in all, I think Rockhurst helped me most definitely be where I am at today. I can only stress the importance in further education, such as an MBA. We are living in a world today where so many countries are linked together in business opportunities, and I think that it is important to understand each other culturally and how we can interact together.

Q What are you doing now career-wise?
A Rational AG, headquartered in Germany, is the global market and innovations leader in creating technologies for cooking solutions in all levels of commercial food-service operations. I am finance and administrative director for our Asia region. My job responsibilities revolve around the central financial controlling for Russia, Japan, China, India and South Korea, and projects related to starting up business in new markets. I have the opportunity to work with employees in these countries, as well as with external partners, such as auditors and lawyers.

Q What do you miss the most about Kansas City?
A My family and friends in the U.S. Luckily, I take time to visit once or twice a year and my family also enjoys the pleasures of visiting me in Germany. I have also made new friends, who have done something similar as I, working internationally. Being in Europe, and in Munich, I have taken advantage of visiting other countries, since it so centrally located.

Q What are you doing now?
A I’m working as a research officer, which allows me to use aspects of my two majors as a scientist and also a psychologist. It involves doing HIV research. I work part time, so that I have time for my husband and kids.

Q How did Rockhurst prepare you for your career and life beyond college?
A Professionally, my current job allows me to use aspects of both my majors. Socially, the exposure has allowed me to better adapt to different environments within the Botswana setting.

Q What are your future plans?
A A graduate program in public health or bioethics.
Andrea Essner, ’09
B.A. in English and theology
Nicaragua

Q What type of work are you currently doing?
A Through Jesuit Volunteer Corps, I am living in community with four other volunteers in Ciudad Sandino, a settlement outside of Managua, and working at a center called Pajarito Azul. It is a home to 98 residents from the ages of 3 through 51 with physical, mental and developmental disabilities. At work, I spend my days reading stories, giving massages, assisting in daily routines, listening to music, drawing, dancing, playing sports, doing crafts and learning how to love more fully. At home, my community mates and I share our lives over dinner, in weekly Spirituality and Community Nights, and in opening our home to Nicaraguan friends and family.

Q Did Rockhurst play a role in your choice to live abroad?
A I would absolutely say that Rockhurst played a role. My college experience was holistically formational. Reflection and discernment discussion both in the classroom and extracurricular activities, along with the encouragement and enjoyment derived from Rockhurst’s community, led me to accompanying the poor in Nicaragua and living intentionally, simply and communally.

Q What are the main differences you have noticed between Kansas City and your current home?
A The most obvious and biggest difference would be that Nicaragua is an impoverished, developing country, while the United States is just the opposite. The pain and challenge of poverty and limited resources runs deep in Nicaragua, as it is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. However, the humility, hospitality, and love that the people have are incomparable to any that I have ever seen or known before and results in a different pace of life and a more communal way of living.

Andrea Essner, ’09 (wearing blue scarf), lives in community with fellow Jesuit Volunteer Corps volunteers in Nicaragua.
Eileen Bell, ’82
B.S.B.A.
Ireland

Q Where are you from originally?
A Kansas City, Mo.

Q What led you to Ireland?
A My father was from Dublin and my mother’s parents were from Wexford. As a child my parents regularly took our family to Ireland to visit our uncles, aunts and cousins. My intention when I went to Ireland was to spend six months experiencing living abroad.

Q What do you miss the most about Kansas City?
A I miss family and good friends. I remember with great happiness growing up in Kansas City. After living abroad (Dublin & Amsterdam) and traveling internationally, my appreciation for Kansas City has grown. It really is a great place to live, with friendly people, lovely surroundings and four beautiful seasons.

Q What are the main differences you have noticed between Kansas City and your current home?
A The main differences are weather (lots of rain here!), cost of living (not as affordable as KC) and European culture.

Gregory Frye, ’06
B.A. in English
Greece

Q What are you doing now?
A I live in Athens and I teach at an English tutoring school, preparing kids, teens and adults for the language certificate exams. Everybody wants and needs to learn English. One of my main areas of focus in this setting is writing. Even though everybody gears their efforts toward these big English exams, I try to transcend this dynamic wherever I can. I try to show the students that while English is a valuable language, writing is even more valuable.

Q How did Rockhurst prepare you for your career and life beyond college?
A Rockhurst prepared me in so many ways. It is such a powerful education, which can really give one a sense of ownership in any path they choose to pursue. My primary occupation is creative writing, but I’m sure, because of what I learned at Rockhurst, I could be successful at anything else I choose to do. It’s a matter of working hard and knowing where to go to learn or cultivate new skills.

Q What are you doing now?
A I’m a business development adviser with the Irish trade and technology development agency Enterprise Ireland. Headquartered in Dublin with 34 overseas offices, Enterprise Ireland supports businesses to start-up, innovate and ultimately, to achieve global success. We work with our clients by stage of growth and sector. I work on established companies in telecommunications, Internet, media and entertainment.

Q What do you miss the most about Kansas City?
A I miss the barbecue, the jazz. I miss good conversation over wheat beer, or picking up a crisp newspaper on any given morning. I miss Prospero’s Bookstore and McCoy’s Pub. I miss libraries the most.
McGovern, White Earn Postseason Honors

McGovern was the conference leader in kills (3.80 per set) and points (4.50 per set) in 2010. She has amassed 1,158 kills in her first three seasons while posting a .263 hitting percentage. She earned All-GLVC First Team and All-Midwest Region First Team honors for the second year in a row. She was also named to the Daktronics All-Region First Team.

Rockhurst senior defender Patrick White of Overland Park, Kan., has been selected to the eSPN College Division Academic All-America Men’s Soccer Third Team. An accounting major with a 3.97 GPA, White was named to the Academic All-GLVC team last year. He was on the Dean’s Honor Roll and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma business fraternity.

White scored seven points on two goals and three assists in 2010. He finished with 24 shots, eight shots on goal and two game-winning goals. In his two seasons at Rockhurst, White amassed 16 points on five goals and six assists. He was named to the All-GLVC Second Team this year and has received Daktronics All-Region honors the past two years.

Heinemann Signs With Columbus Crew

Former Rockhurst All-American forward Tom Heinemann, ’09, signed a multiyear contract with Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew. He joins the Crew after spending the last two seasons with the Charleston Battery of the United Soccer League and Carolina RailHawks of the North American Soccer League.

“We are happy to bring Tommy back,” said Crew head coach Robert Warzycha. “He went and played in the USL for the last two years and developed into a proven goal-scorer. He will be a great addition to the roster.”

Heinemann was named to the NSCAA/Adidas NCAA Division II Men’s All-America team following his sophomore and junior seasons at Rockhurst in 2007 and 2008 while combining for 25 goals and 61 points. As a rookie with the Charleston Battery of the USL First Division in 2009, he scored two goals in 21 games.

The 23-year-old native of St. Louis had his breakthrough year in 2010. He scored eight goals and recorded seven assists for the Battery as Charleston won the USL Second Division title. Heinemann then joined the Carolina RailHawks of the USSF D-2 Pro (now NASL), scoring six goals in 12 games.

“I am thankful to God for putting me in the place I am now,” Heinemann said. “I am very happy to come back to a team that has so much credibility and history. I was here once before and look forward to working with the awesome staff and players.”
Ryan Porter entered his junior season in 2010 coming off one of the best seasons in the history of Rockhurst baseball. The first baseman from Blue Springs, Mo., earned Third Team All-American honors from the American Baseball Coaches Association after hitting .417 with 16 home runs and 65 RBIs.

“I had a good freshman year and everything clicked last season,” said Porter, who was named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Freshman of the Year in 2009 and First Team All-GLVC last year. “I worked hard in the off-season and got in shape. I lost 20 pounds and added strength. I pride myself on putting the ball in play.”

Porter led the GLVC in home runs, total bases (161) and slugging percentage (.782). He also ranked among the conference leaders in batting average, RBIs, doubles (23) and on-base percentage (.485). He garnered First Team All-Midwest Region honors from the ABCA, Daktronics and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

“I don’t think I would have had a chance anywhere else. Coach (Gary) Burns gave me a great opportunity to play at Rockhurst,” said Porter, whose brother, Jeff, played one season at Rockhurst in 2003.

Porter’s ultimate dream is to be drafted by a major-league team and play professional baseball. His father, Darrell, was a major-league catcher with Milwaukee, Kansas City and St. Louis, and was the 1982 World Series MVP with the Cardinals.

Freeman Golf Classic Set for June 13

The ninth annual Fr. Joseph M. Freeman, S.J., Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 13, at the Milburn Golf & Country Club in Overland Park, Kan.

Proceeds from last year’s Freeman Classic assisted the Rockhurst Athletic Department in purchasing new scoreboards and baskets in Mason-Halpin Field House.

The format is a four-person scramble. Registration, lunch and a silent auction will start at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. There will also be a morning session with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. A dinner and live auction will start around 6 p.m.

The fees for the afternoon are $250 per person and $1,000 per team. The morning fees are $125 per person and $500 per team. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Golf registration includes green fees, cart and range balls, lunch and dinner, a gift bag for each player, one mulligan per player and contest entry for putting, closest to pin, long drive and “ bogey” as a partner. There will be prizes for each flight and individual special events.

The Freeman Classic pays tribute to a beloved Jesuit priest whose ministry at Rockhurst was 42 years in duration. Fr. Freeman was a philosophy and theology professor, and a highly respected mentor to scores of Rockhurst students who remember him fondly for the impact he made on their lives.
Academic Challenge Inspires Endowed Scholarship

John Seiber, ’56, majored in economics at Rockhurst. But he didn’t apply himself diligently at first. “Rockhurst gave me a chance when I was struggling in school,” he said. “They said, ‘Hey, you’re smarter than this.’”

The encouragement was enough motivation to get Seiber to focus on his classes. After Rockhurst, he served in the Navy as an officer and pilot for five years. He is currently a senior vice president at UBS Financial services in San Diego.

Seiber wanted to encourage current students to dedicate more time to their studies, so he funded an endowed scholarship.

As a result of his own experience, Seiber decided he didn’t want his scholarship to go to the head of the class academically — “they get all kinds of scholarship opportunities,” he said — but to a talented student who needed more financial resources so their time could be spent focusing on their classes.

“We’ve been very gratified that our students have performed academically much better than their sponsor,” Seiber said.

This year Kayla Hamblen, a sophomore from Kansas City, is the Seiber Family Scholarship recipient. She is majoring in exercise science and wants to be a physical therapist. She works three days per week at Boost Physical Therapy and Sports Performance and takes out loans to help fund her education.

She chose her major because she experienced the benefit of physical therapy firsthand after suffering a shoulder injury playing softball.

“I want to help people like he helped me,” she said. “It’s about giving back what I received.”

For more information about how you can start an endowed scholarship, contact the Advancement Office at 816-501-4239 or Edward.Fredenberg@rockhurst.edu.

New Scholarship for OT, PT Students

Rockhurst University and RehabCare Group Inc., headquartered in St. Louis, have partnered to offer a scholarship and clinical experience for physical therapy and occupational therapy students.

The RehabCare Geriatric Scholarship will provide $2,500 to four students each year. Students must have good academic standing, a passion for therapy, an interest in geriatrics and a desire to provide service in rural, underserved areas. Rockhurst is one of only four institutions to have this scholarship opportunity from RehabCare.

As part of the scholarship, Rockhurst students will complete a 12-week field experience in one of RehabCare’s 1,270 facilities. The students will also be featured guest writers on the RehabCare student blog and will have the opportunity to network with professionals in their field.

“They are gaining access to one of, if not the largest, organizations in the industry providing a very diverse set of opportunities to gain the experience they need as part of their program,” said Kirk Ross, assistant vice president, campus relations, at RehabCare.

Rockhurst was chosen for several reasons. RehabCare looks for schools where they have a good relationship with the faculty and administration.

“We are excited about this new partnership,” said Amy Drouin, director of foundations and corporate relations at Rockhurst University. “It’s a great opportunity for our students, but it’s also a great opportunity for RehabCare, who benefits from quality future employees thanks to their Rockhurst education.”
True Blue Rockhurst Parents Support University With Gift

According to William O’Connor, his family has a “Jesuit gene.” Between William and Patty O’Connor and their three sons, they have attended Fordham, Holy Cross and Rockhurst University. The youngest O’Connor, Rory, just finished his freshman year at Rockhurst.

Coming from Pelham, N.Y., a suburb of New York City, Rockhurst University wasn’t originally on the map for Rory. But when a trip to Kansas presented the opportunity to visit Kansas City’s Jesuit university, the family took advantage. After an interview and tour, the O’Connors were sold.

“We’ve really fallen in love with the school, starting with Fr. Curran all the way down,” William O’Connor said. “The individual approach, the mentoring, the size of the classes, the attention to detail, it’s unique.”

Like all parents, the O’Connors are making the investment in their son through tuition, room and board and various other expenses. They have also decided to invest in the University by making a gift to The Rockhurst Fund.

“We really like what the school is doing, and we thought that one way to continue to encourage that would be to supplement our support beyond the tuition and the housing,” William O’Connor said. As donors, they will continue to keep an eye on Rockhurst as it grows its facilities and offerings.

“Rockhurst has an intimate feeling of community that I think makes it a very special place,” William O’Connor said. “I hope it keeps that as it grows and expands. It makes it very different from other places.”

Local Leader Joins Rockhurst as Vice President for Advancement

The Rockhurst University leadership team welcomed a new member on May 9 with the addition of Bob Grant as the new vice president for advancement.

Before coming to Rockhurst, Grant was director of controlling and planning at Bayer HealthCare – Animal Health. Prior to that, he was senior vice president for business growth at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. While at the Chamber, Grant led efforts to grow membership to unprecedented levels and led the sales team to record performances. This experience, and his familiarity with the Kansas City community, will be a great asset to the University, according to the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S., president of Rockhurst University.

“I am excited about Bob becoming part of our University leadership team,” he said. “His experience, enthusiasm and skill set will assist us significantly in our efforts to strengthen our University and our community.”

Grant is an alumnus of The Pennsylvania State University where he studied accounting.

He is president of the board of directors for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City and is a former director for the Minority Supplier Council of Greater Kansas City. Previously, he served on the board of directors for the Greater Kansas City Foreign Trade Zone.
Groups Help Students Become Active Alumni

As soon as graduates move that tassel from right to left during the commencement ceremony, they leave the student world behind and become alumni. But how can they maintain strong ties to Rockhurst that will benefit them and the University?

Rockhurst offers two programs that bridge this life transition and promote leadership at the same time — the Kansas City Young Alumni Advisory Council and the Student Alumni Association.

The Student Alumni Association is a selective organization consisting of 21 highly motivated and personable students who attend alumni events as representatives of the student body and who promote the Alumni Association to other students through their presence at campus events. SAA strengthens the connection between alumni and the University by allowing students to interact with alumni as a way to develop future alumni leaders. The organization’s events include Dinner With 10 Strangers and the Student/Alumni Meet and Greet.

“Through SAA I have had the unique opportunity to learn from the alumni themselves about the many opportunities alumni currently have, and how I can become an active alumna after I graduate,” said SAA member Marie Krause, ’13.

The Kansas City Young Alumni Advisory Council offers events and programs for Kansas City’s 2,850 graduates from the past 10 years who are under the age of 35. Consisting of 15 members, the council sponsors several events every year, including Santa in the Rock Room, Hawk Walk Young Alumni Campus Crawl and Young Alumni Mid-Summer.

“It is important for us to bridge the gap between someone’s experience as a Rockhurst student and his or her life as an alumnus. We rely heavily on the Student Alumni Association to help us stay in touch with students and gain attention with future alumni,” said council member Kara Bemboom Grefrath, ’02.

Come Home to Rockhurst in September

What’s better than a weekend packed with sports, food, friends, educational opportunities and all things Rockhurst? Nothing — and that’s why you should mark your calendar now to attend Family & Alumni Weekend Sept. 22-25.

The campus will be decked out and ready for alumni, parents and friends who head back for this annual event. You won’t want to miss the exciting renaming of the Science Center. (Look for details this summer.) Additional festivities include soccer, volleyball, the class of 1986 25th reunion, the Golden Hawks induction ceremony for the 50-year class of 1961 and the popular Hawk Fest, which features a hospitality tent and carnival atmosphere on Lower Bourke Field. All are encouraged to join in a recent tradition — the Saturday morning family and alumni service project — which will be at Harvesters.

For more information and to register, visit www.rockhurst.edu/weekend.
Alumni Support
Nationally Televised Game

Plenty of Rockhurst alumni gathered to cheer on the Hawks in their first nationally televised basketball game Feb. 20 when the team took on Drury University in Springfield, Mo.

The Rockhurst University Alumni Association sponsored watch parties throughout the country, including events in Kansas City, St. Louis, Denver and Washington, D.C., as well as a pre-game party in Springfield for the 22 alumni who attended the game. They, along with two busloads of Rockhurst students, filled the stands with blue.

“Having so many alumni join current students at the Drury game created a unique atmosphere that truly showcased the immense pride we share in Rockhurst’s great history and promise of the future,” said Tess Hart, ’13.

While the Hawks lost that day, viewers in the television audience had opportunities to learn more about Rockhurst through announcer comments, a public service announcement produced by the University and views of enthusiastic fans in the stands.

To find pictures from the watch parties, visit www.rockhurst.edu/alumni and look for the left link to the photo galleries.

Alumni Leaders

Alumna’s Passion for Serving the Homeless Begins With Scholarship

Melissa Kempf, ’03, spent the summer before her senior year volunteering at Community LINC, an organization that provides transitional housing for homeless families in the Kansas City area. That experience, made possible by a Miller Service Scholarship, gave her a lifelong passion for serving the homeless in her community.

During her time with the organization, Kempf said she learned more about the variety of reasons people find themselves without a home.

“Homelessness isn’t just the person you see living on the street. There is a whole population of people with short-term single episodes of homelessness who just need short-term resources.”

Not only did her scholarship shape her passion for service, but Kempf said that Rockhurst did as well.

“The values of Rockhurst were just like the ones I grew up with. Work for others, speak up for those in the community, etc. Rockhurst’s values strengthened the beliefs my family had already fostered in me.”

Kempf now works as the relationship officer for the Community Shelter Board, an organization that invests in programs to end homelessness in Columbus, Ohio. The Community Shelter Board is nationally recognized for its work, but it remains community focused and helps people in their own back yard.

Through her work, Kempf said that she has learned more about homeless people’s wishes.

“People who are homeless just want to be a part of society and their community.”

Rockhurst alumni cheer on the Hawks at Charlie Hooper’s Brookside Bar and Grille in Kansas City. (From left) Tom Coppinger, ’58; Jerry Haake, ’70; Gary Vontz, ’69; Mo Haake; and Karen Haake.
’63
Ed Biersmith was named a Catholic Climate Ambassador by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Robert “Bob” Watson received the Charles S. Rhynie Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Municipal Lawyers Association, an honor reserved for “a truly uncommon individual.”

’67
Ed McKee was named director of Athletic Alumni Programs at George Washington University, Washington, D.C. McKee is currently in his 25th year at the University. He spent 22 years as an athletic department staff member before becoming director of Athletic Development in 2008.

’72
Edward W. Dinan III was named one of the three 2011 Liaison Vice Chairs to The Counselors of Real Estate, a Chicago-based commercial real estate organization comprising members who are national leaders in their areas of commercial real estate. In his new role, Dinan will lead the organization’s chapter activities, invitation, member liaison, invitation advisory, and membership development and retention committees in 2011. Dinan has almost 40 years experience in the real estate consulting and appraisal industry.

’73
James G. Castellano, chairman of RubinBrown LLP, was included in a list of the most influential St. Louis business professionals in the Feb. 18 issue of the St. Louis Business Journal. He also serves as the chairman of the Rockhurst University Board of Trustees.

’80
Mike Boland has been teaching finance for the past six years at Webster University’s graduate school of business. Boland said, “It has been a great experience for me as I have discovered the ‘professor’ side at this point in my life. I have been channeling the spirit of Fr. Nick Rashford and other Rockhurst professors that left an incredible mark on me.”

’81
Patrick Bira was appointed to the Council of Regents, the legislative body of the American College of Healthcare Executives, based in Chicago, Ill. The council serves as the vital link between ACHE and affiliates by providing governance and membership regulations as well as promoting ACHE programs, services and activities. Bira is board certified in health care management and an ACHE fellow. He has presented lectures at hospital and vendor conferences and has written several published articles.

’83
William P. Luster is president of the 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis, an international coalition focusing on creating educational opportunities, promoting economic empowerment, addressing health disparities and creating positive mentoring relationships. He is also the market development manager at Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Professional Division.

The Rev. David J. Suwalsky, S.J., has been named the next president of Jesuit High School in Sacramento, Calif. He will begin his duties July 1. Fr. Suwalsky currently serves as treasurer and chief legal officer of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus and Minister of the Bellarmine House of Studies.

’85 MBA
David W. Caffrey was appointed a regional president for Country Club Bank in Kansas City.

’87 MBA
Jeff Riesberg has been named chairman of the board of the Builders’ Association. He has been a member of the association’s executive board since 2007 and is regional manager of Ceco Concrete Construction’s Midwest Region.

’88
Pamela Farwig was appointed the new deputy director for franchise and asset marketing in the Division of Resolutions and Receiverships for the FDIC.
Paul Leuschen, wife Tamatha, ’95, and daughters Rebecca and Allysa were selected by Price Chopper and St. Luke’s Health System to participate in a 12-week nutritional/fitness makeover.

’97 MBA
Patricia Brown-Dixon was appointed regional administrator for Region VII of the U.S. Small Business Administration, which encompasses Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. Brown-Dixon has worked for the U.S. General Services Administration for more than 25 years. She has won numerous awards for small business advocacy, including the SBA Kansas City District Office’s 1995 Minority Business Advocate of the Year award, and Advocate of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Minority Enterprise Development Week Committee in 2009.

Steve Walensky was hired as Cassville’s Public Works Director. Walensky and his wife, Cindy, are business owners in Cassville, Mo.

’99 MBA
Christopher Gentile is the new president of Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies, the firm that manages and operates the Kansas City nuclear weapons parts plant for the federal government.

Diego Gutierrez, former Major League Soccer All-Star for the Chicago Fire, was named the recipient of the 2010 Jerry Yeagley Award for Exceptional Personal Achievement by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. The Yeagley Award, named in honor of the legendary men’s soccer coach at Indiana University, recognizes a current or former collegiate soccer player who has achieved extraordinary accomplishments and has demonstrated the qualities of sportsmanship, integrity and strong work ethic.

Start Saving for Your Children’s Tuition
If you want to send your children to college, then you need a plan. The Private College 529 Plan can help Rockhurst families save for their children’s college tuition in a way that allows you to lock in today’s lower rates — even if college is years away for your youngsters.

The plan lets you prepay college tuition at today’s tuition rates. As tuition increases, the value of your investment grows. There are no fees and the amount you use toward tuition will be free from federal income tax.

Plus, your children will have the flexibility to choose from a variety of top schools around the nation. Rockhurst is one of more than 270 private colleges and universities participating in the plan, and more are joining every year.

To learn more, visit privatecollege529plan.com.

Presidential Honors
Rockhurst President the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S., recently was honored with a 2011 Alumni Award from the Catholic University of America. Fr. Curran holds a J.D. from CUA. Presenting the award was Guillermo Garcia, president of the CUA Alumni Association Board of Governors (left).
’05 MBA

Bret Rhodus was hired as managing director of Resources Global Professionals’ Kansas City office. Rhodus is a 13-year veteran of management consulting businesses.

’06

Lindsay Hacker opened an off-off-Broadway show, “Proof,” by David Auburn, at The Shell Theater in New York City’s Times Square. Hacker both starred in and produced the play.

Lindsay Hummer, director of development for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, was selected by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation and the Center for Creative Leadership, in collaboration with the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, to participate in the Ladder to Leadership: Developing the Next Generation of Community Health Leaders program. As one of 30 participants, Hummer will participate in the 16-month program, which aims to boost the skills and capabilities of professionals working in health-related nonprofit organizations.

’06 MBA

Christine Pierson has joined UMB as executive vice president responsible for all facets of consumer banking. She also serves on the board for the Kansas City Area Development Council, the Industrial Manufacturing Systems Engineering Advisory Board and the Lee’s Summit Educational Foundation and Advisory Board.

’07 MBA

Army Maj. Craig C. Colucci graduated from the Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands Program at the Defense Language Institute. As part of their training commitment, graduates are deployed to Afghanistan where they receive additional language and counterinsurgency training.

’09 MBA

Nicholas Bosilevac was hired as staff auditor at Cochran Head Vick and Co., where he will perform governmental, employee benefit plan and commercial entity audits.

Marriages

’51

Robert E. Cox and his wife, Millie, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary June 2, 2011. They have six children and seven grandchildren. They currently reside in Kansas City, Mo.

’57

James Murphy and his wife, Susan, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 3, 2011. They have five children and 16 grandchildren. Jim and Sue currently reside in Carmel, Ind., and are active in their church, St. Louis de Montfort. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their family.

’73, ’84 MBA

Lowell Tawney and his wife, Carol, of Shawnee, Kan., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 3, 2010. They were married at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Kansas City, Kan., in 1960. Their children honored them with a celebration at the Shawnee Town Hall before the couple departed for a four-week trip to New England.

’09

Aaron Hill, ’10 MBA, has been signed with the Ringwood Hawks in Australia’s Big V League (basketball).

Laura Robeson earned two awards in her first full year of teaching at Ray Marsh Elementary School. She was presented the Horizon Award by the Kansas State Department of Education for her outstanding work as a first-year teacher and she has also been awarded the Brass Bell award from the Shawnee Mission Medical Center and Shawnee Mission Education Foundation.

’02

Denise Tien (Schaeffer) Sharp and Eddie William Sharp were married on Oct. 10, 2009, in Kansas City, Mo. Denise currently works in Overland Park at Quintiles and Eddie is attending nursing school. Two Rockhurst alumni were in the wedding party: Ami Schwarten, ’00, ’02 MPT, right of bride; and Jennifer Taylor, ’01, third from bride.

’03

Ellen Christ married Daniel Salmo on Sept. 4, 2010, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Clayton, Mo. The couple honeymooned for two weeks in Greece and Italy.

’04

Ryan Thomas Blay and Michaela Marie Walter exchanged wedding vows Sept. 25, 2010, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Mo. After a honeymoon in Mexico, the couple resides in Phoenix, Ariz.
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 log-in.

Births

‘96, ’98 MPT
Michael Vogel and his wife, Molly, announce the birth of their son, Cale McKimson Vogel. Cale was welcomed by siblings Claire, Will and Xavier.

‘99
Steve and Ellen (Helmsing) Wunderlich are proud to announce the birth of their son, Charles “Charlie” Thomas, born Dec. 18, 2010.

‘00

In Memoriam

James P. Aylward Jr., ’36 – April 17
Robert L. Kinerk, ’39 – Jan. 10
James J. Flanagan, ’41 – April 18
John F. McDonnell, ’42 – Jan. 31
Frank M. Pruett, ’44 – Dec. 18, 2010
Michael D. O’Connor, ’47 – Feb. 26
John D. Cummings, ’49 – Nov. 24, 2010
Thomas E. Sullivan, ’49 – Dec. 25, 2010
Joseph C. Vandergriff, ’49 – March 23
Frank A. Sosna, ’50 – Dec. 4, 2010
William J. Stone, ’50 – Feb. 3
John D. Quinn Jr., ’51 – Feb. 9
Charles E. Dumsky, ’54 – Feb. 6
William F. Reichmeier, ’55 – May 1
Robert V. Lewellen ’58 – May 14
Ronald E. Stout, ’61 – Feb. 15
Clarence L. Buehne, ’63 – Feb. 2
Gerald E. Kelly, ’64 – Jan. 15
Robert L. Lathrop, ’64 – April 4
Ernest O. Lewis, ’64 – Nov. 5, 2010
David J. Thoennes, Ph.D., ’64 – Jan. 14
James L. Kies, ’65 – Jan. 29
Lewis M. Miles, ’66 – April 5
Thomas R. Mura, ’68 – April 14
Charles H. Rhodes, ’69 – Feb. 2
William B. Hellige, ’70 – Jan. 9
Andrew M. Lynch, ’70 – Nov. 23, 2010
Robert E. Lasher, ’73 – Feb. 9
John “Mike” Rundle ’74 – May 2
Larry E. Newman, ’81 – May 1
Joseph V. Sears, ’81 – Dec. 11, 2010
Gwen S. Berry, ’82 – Jan. 20
Michael G. Brice, ’83 – Jan. 16
Mary M. Kutchko, ’85 – Jan. 4
Virginia L. Brown, ’88 – March 28
Sandra J. Shaw, Ph.D., ’91 – Nov. 6, 2010
Brett Ballard, ’10, MBA – Jan. 24

‘08
Katherine (Goessler) Gerwel married Kevin Gerwel on May 8, 2010, in St. Charles, Mo. The couple resides in South St. Louis County.

‘08 MBA
Gary O’Dell and Shea Evens were married Oct. 2, 2010, at Redeemer Fellowship in Gladstone, Mo. Following a honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii, the couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

‘09 MPT
Michael Vogel and his wife, Molly, announce the birth of their son, Cale McKimson Vogel. Cale was welcomed by siblings Claire, Will and Xavier.

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Join Us for Family & Alumni Weekend!

September 22-25, 2011

Come celebrate Rockhurst University with friends, alumni, parents and students.

The weekend is packed with:
- Men’s and women’s soccer games
- Volleyball games
- Carnival games at Friday night’s Hawk Fest on Lower Bourke
- Athletic Hall of Fame inductions
- The first-ever Rockhurst Idol competition with prizes and giveaways
- Family & Alumni annual service project at Harvesters
- Classroom Experience
- The Golden Hawks, Class of 1961, 50-year reunion
- Sunday brunch with Rockhurst president the Rev. Thomas Curran, O.S.F.S.
- A special renaming of the Science Center — more details to follow!

To get all of the details and RSVP for the weekend's events, visit www.rockhurst.edu/weekend. We hope to see you there!
How Do You Want to Be Remembered?

Your lifelong philanthropy expresses your values and your vision. It continues the work of those who came before you and prepares the way for those who will come after. Become a part of the Rockhurst University tradition with your planned gift.

To discover how your planned gift can have an impact on the lives of students, call 816-501-4239 or visit www.rockhurst.edu/plannedgiving.

You will be under no obligation by requesting information.
Upcoming Events

June 13
Fr. Joseph M. Freeman, S.J., Golf Classic
Overland Park, Kan.

June 25
Sporting Kansas City Soccer Game
Livestrong Sporting Park

July 16
Young Alumni Mid-Summer
Kansas City

Aug. 6
Washington Nationals vs. Colorado Rockies
Coors Field

Sept. 22-25
Family and Alumni Weekend
Rockhurst University