Finding Faith
Doers of the Word
Actions speak louder than words for Rockhurst students.

Finding Faith
Rockhurst students find ways to keep the faith after they leave home.

Faith for Life

Knowing One, Understanding None
Studying the world's religions can be both challenging and rewarding. Joann Spillman, Ph.D., explains how her students cope.

Why I Believe
One Rockhurst student shares the story of her spiritual journey.

Rockhurst Report

For Alumni

Class Notes

Advancement Digest

Calendar

on the cover
Lauren Mueller, '02, and Julie Varner, '02.
"Without faith I would be less likely to set higher standards and goals for myself," says Varner.
Rockhurst did not waste any time establishing itself in athletics at the NCAA Division II level. Success in the spring season helped create a promising new beginning for Rockhurst athletics.

An outstanding inaugural season in the Division II ranks was capped by the Rockhurst baseball team's trip to the NCAA Division II championships. The Hawks, led by manager Gary Burns, went 2-2 and two in the championship series, which was good for a fourth place finish in the nation. Rockhurst third baseman Mike Simpson was chosen as a first team all-America and outfielder Tim Dougherty was selected to the all-championship series team. The Hawks completed the year with a record of 37-17.

The tennis team also excelled in its opening season. The Hawks and Lady Hawks, led by coach Kendall Hale, finished with 15th and 17th regional rankings respectively. The doubles combination of Gavin Abraham and Jonathan Baillee was the fifth-ranked team in the region. On the women's side, Megan Berry and Brooke Martin combined for a doubles team that climbed to 12th regionally.

Jonathan Baillee experienced individual success as well and was ranked 43rd nationally in singles at the conclusion of the season.

The Hawks celebrate their NCAA Division II Central Region championship by piling on the pitcher.

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— Bobby O’Connor

If you’ve surfed the Rockhurst Web site lately, you’ve no doubt noticed its new look and structure.

Last year, Web master Scot Snyder created a new design for the site, which included a navigator to help visitors move through the pages with ease. With the Rockhurst name change to University in July came another opportunity to refine the design.

Far from being complete, the Web site is a work in progress, says Snyder.

“With 1,124 pages to maintain in the site and requests for more coming in weekly, we're always working on something new or fine tuning what's there,” Snyder says. "My main project now is creating a version of the site that allows those with the latest browsers to experience the new multimedia technologies, such as Flash, Shockwave and Quicktime movies of events on campus."

When the new system is in place, Snyder says visitors will be able to choose the version their browser can best accommodate. Choices will include text only, 3.0 and 4.0.

To visit the Rockhurst Web site, point your browser to www.rockhurst.edu.

— Katherine Frohoff

Rockhurst education graduates have been making the grade in their own classrooms for the past few years.

Since 1995, eight Rockhurst education alumni have received recognition in the Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award program. The program recognizes the nation's outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers in their first year of teaching.

School districts nominate one first-year teacher annually. From these district winners, a winner is chosen from each state.


In addition, the Missouri Association of Colleges of Teacher Education named Brenda Arensdorf, '98, who teaches at Excelsior Springs High School, Outstanding First Year Teacher. Rich Wilson, '91, recently was named Raytown Teacher of the Year.

— Katherine Frohoff

A native Bostonian, Fr. Savage, 51, returned to Massachusetts after his health worsened in California, where he had worked as a principal in the San Francisco office of William M. Mercer Inc., a human resources consulting firm.

During his tenure as president of Rockhurst College, Fr. Savage quickly made a name for himself and for Rockhurst throughout the city. He had an insatiable thirst for community involvement, resulting in being named to a wide variety of leadership positions.

He also was well known throughout the community for his pithy and insightful contributions to the radio talk show “Religion on the Line,” which he co-hosted with the Rev. Robert Hill and Rabbi Michael Zedek.

“He was a bridge-builder between the rich and the poor, the outsiders and the insiders, the Catholics and the Protestants, Kansas City and the world,” said Hill at a memorial service for Savage. “He blessed all of us by making all of his years count.” Hill is pastor at the Community Christian Church.

Fr. Savage’s visionary leadership of Rockhurst led to a long list of campus improvements and initiatives. He developed a 20-year campus master plan resulting in the construction and renovation of many facilities, including completion of the $7 million Richardson Science Center, a Town House Village for students, a new Jesuit residence and renovation of Van Ackeren Hall. He also created a subsidiary, Rockhurst College Continuing Education Center, which purchased National Seminars Inc., one of the nation’s largest providers of continuing education programs.


— Rosita McCoy

Something Is Different

Change is in the air at Rockhurst. To reflect this spirit of progress, the Office of Public Relations and Marketing is enhancing the way we communicate about Rockhurst.

For the past several issues, we have been moving toward a magazine format for our flagship Rockhurst communications piece. With this issue, you'll notice we've changed the name to Rockhurst magazine. For continuity, we've retained the “Rockhurst Report” name as the title of our general news section. In addition, you can turn to sections devoted to alumni news, class notes and institutional advancement. The main section of the magazine will carry several feature stories, which often will be tied together by a theme — for this issue it’s student spirituality.

We would like your feedback about our new format. Which parts of the magazine do you like? What types of stories would you like to read in future issues? Send all comments to editor Katherine Frohoff, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2561, or e-mail kathy.frohoff@rockhurst.edu.

— Katherine Frohoff

Rockhurst Loses Faculty Member

The Rockhurst community lost a committed faculty member June 3. Richard Hunt, Ph.D., died in his sleep while attending a professional conference in Massachusetts. Hunt, associate professor of management, taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Rockhurst for 21 years.

In addition to teaching full time, Hunt was a member of the Small Business Development Center and the Small Business Institute Directors Association. He had been elected the chair of the Management Division in the School of Management for the next two academic years, as well as the Miller Chair for the 1999-2000 year.

“Hunt had a passion for teaching entrepreneurship,” said Earl Walker, Ph.D., dean of the School of Management. “He was an emerging leader.”

— Rosita McCoy
Say “West Point” and most people think of impeccably high standards. Those standards, in part, have been realized through an honor code based on a shared creed and vision.

Shortly after arriving at Rockhurst in August 1998, School of Management Dean Earl Walker, Ph.D., began to draw on his experience at West Point to help the school develop its own formalized creed and vision.

Walker says that as a division director at West Point, he and his colleagues knew their purpose was to build leaders to serve the common defense and that integrity was crucial to the endeavor. As a result, the cadet honor code and the university motto — “Duty, Honor, Country” — were central to their lives.

Using this philosophy — creating a strong creed to guide the organization — and ideas gleaned from leadership literature, Walker spearheaded a full-scale purpose and values exercise for the Rockhurst School of Management.

“Few academic organizations have undertaken a mission and values effort because the time and resources required can be overwhelming,” Walker says. “But if it’s done correctly, when you’re finished you’ll have a dramatic change in the culture of the school, enriched personal relationships and a clear connection between programs and the direction for the organization.”

The creed, which comprises a purpose statement and short list of values, was developed over a three-month period by a committee that sought several rounds of input from all full-time faculty and staff members. A vision statement, comprising goals and aspirations, was then developed during the course of two retreats.

This year, Walker has planned two more retreats based on portions of the mission statement. For example, one session will cover what it means to be “a driving force in the community.”

Walker says a purpose and values exercise differs from mission statement development in the level and extent of involvement of the organization’s members.

“A purpose and values exercise draws from a variety of perspectives on leadership and ongoing conversations over an extended period of time to embed the developed covenant in the organization.”

— Katherine Frohoff

A group of two Rockhurst students and a recent graduate took a summer trip to the city of light for a first-hand comparison of the work ethic of French and Americans.

As part of the Paris Internship Program led by Michael McDonald, Ph.D., assistant professor of communication and fine arts, the students stayed in central Paris and spent several days a week in class studying models of cultural and organizational communication. Visits to organizations such as UNESCO and the American Consulate supplemented classroom work.

Jacqueline Barnes, ’01, said she had an interesting conversation with one Frenchman about work habits in that country.

“I asked him how they could work between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. with a two-hour lunch and remain a power center. I said, ‘You basically work half as long as we do,’” Barnes said. “His reply was, ‘We do things right the first time.’”

Barnes said the class learned that French work patterns fall under the “work hard, play hard” model, with employees often traveling for three months at a time. “They value their personal and family lives more than material things and climbing the corporate ladder,” Barnes said. “Their system must work well for employers because it’s pro optimization. The system must work well for employers because it’s more efficient.”

The system must work well for employers because many workers stay with the same organization for 30 years.

The group experienced another side of French employment upon arrival. The city’s Metro workers and the staff of two museums — including the Louvre — were on strike, making city travel difficult and causing popular tourist attractions to close.

The Paris program is sponsored by the Communication and Fine Arts Department. Students with junior or senior status are eligible to join next summer’s June trip.

— Katherine Frohoff
Pick a Hawk

It's an eagle. No, it's a hawk. It's standing up. No, it's flying.

Will the real Rockhurst hawk stand up? Different versions are used throughout campus. Bird lovers say the old Rockhurst hawk (the one painted on the gym floor) is no hawk, but an eagle. The Athletic Department thinks it's time to have one official mascot, a strong symbol that is easy to reproduce in a variety of formats; a proud hawk that accurately represents Rockhurst's strong athletic tradition.

Do you have a strong opinion about this? Then, we want to hear from you. Below are four different versions of the mascot. Which one do you like best? Call the Alumni Office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-756-2586 or 816-501-4025 and vote for your favorite design by Oct. 8.

You'll be able to see the winning design in the next issue of the magazine and at Homecoming, as well as on the athletic page within the Rockhurst Web site.

— Rosita McCoy

Focus on Teaching

Everyone who has attended college probably has at least one thing in common — listening to a classroom lecture. But a lecture isn't necessarily the best format for learning.

Armed with the latest research on the “scholarship of teaching,” university faculty and administrators throughout the country are taking a closer look at how students learn and redesigning their courses based on this information. Rockhurst is at the forefront of this movement.

The Center for Teaching Excellence has been established to help faculty keep abreast of the latest research regarding teaching and to help implement the findings in their own classrooms.

The center's activities include participation in a project sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching — the Pew Scholars National Fellowship Program.

Anita Salem, professor of mathematics, is one of 28 1999-2000 Pew Scholars chosen from outstanding college and university faculty members from all over the United States.

Pew Scholars from a variety of academic disciplines serve for a one-year term during which they investigate and document teaching and learning issues in their field.

A few years ago, Salem noticed that even some of her outstanding calculus students had trouble taking key concepts they had learned and using them in a new situation to solve problems. They lacked conceptual understanding.

As part of her Pew Scholars work, Salem is testing an Internet-based project she has developed to see if it will help improve students' conceptual understanding of calculus.

The Center for Teaching Excellence is not Rockhurst's first initiative to enhance classroom teaching. Each summer the University offers the McGee Institute for faculty who are interested in designing or redesigning a course.

— Katherine Frohoff
Enzymes and Alcohol

Research under way at Rockhurst could solve alcohol problems for brewers and police officers alike.

Dale Harak, assistant professor of chemistry, and several students are working to develop a biochemical sensor that would detect alcohol. Harak says the sensor would be useful for quality-control purposes at a brewery or for law enforcement officials trying to determine the alcohol level in someone’s blood.

The researchers are working with the enzyme alcohol dehydrogenase to create an electrode that would eliminate any interference caused by other substances present in a sample of blood plasma, for example, and detect only alcohol. When the electrode is developed, it will be plugged into electronic instrumentation that will measure electron flow caused by chemical reactions between the enzyme and any alcohol present.

Harak says the idea isn’t new, but the use of alcohol dehydrogenase and the application to alcohol detection are.

If the system works, Harak says it could be less expensive than the method most police departments use today to check for alcohol in the blood. The measurement of alcohol levels would be similar to the procedures now used to measure blood glucose levels and would be much more accurate than the breathalyzer test.

“The breathalyzer test is basically a spectrometric method, which uses light,” Harak says. “But electrochemical instrumentation is much cheaper.”

When the measurement device relies on light, Harak says, the light energy has to be translated into an electric signal to be measured. But with the method that Harak is trying to develop, the signal is already in electric form.

— Katherine Frohoff

College of Arts and Sciences Gets New Leader

The fall semester began with a new dean at the helm of the College of Arts and Sciences — William Haefele, Ph.D. Haefele has been a member of the Rockhurst psychology faculty for 14 years and had served as associate dean since July 1998.

Rockhurst named the Olathe, Kan., native to the position following a nationwide search.

“We’re very pleased with this appointment,” said Rockhurst President the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J. “The College of Arts and Sciences comprises about 70 percent of Rockhurst, so this is a leadership position of critical importance to our mission.”

Haefele’s experience as a psychologist includes work with patients at a psychiatric hospital and at Kansas City’s veterans medical center. Positions where, Haefele says, “The journey is as important as the endpoint. You never get to perfect, you try to get to better.”

Haefele has written in the area of psychology, with recent interests in sports psychology and student and faculty development. He holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and an M.S. in psychology from the University of Memphis, and an M.A.T. in education and a B.A. in sociology from the University of St. Thomas.

The most important issue for the College of Arts and Sciences, Haefele says, is focusing on the college’s mission and consciously making choices to further that mission.

“People are trusting us to be who we say we are,” Haefele says. “It’s our responsibility to live out the mission and to do it with excellence.”

— Katherine Frohoff

We’re Ready, RU?

There was no fanfare, but the enthusiasm could be felt throughout the Rockhurst campus July 1. After all, it’s not every day that an institution that has been around for 89 years changes its name.

At 10 a.m. on a quiet summer day, Rockhurst President the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., welcomed about 100 faculty, staff and students in the Massman Gallery with the words, “Welcome to Rockhurst University.”

Fr. Kinerk unveiled a new eight-foot version of the university seal, which was modified slightly to encompass the new name and highlight the founding date and motto. It also portrays the quarter bars using the historically accurate colors of the Loyola family, which are scarlet and gold, not green and gold as in the old seal.

With the name change come a few other significant changes. A new logo featuring a distinctive “R” icon containing a cross is now being used. It is followed by the words “Rockhurst, A Jesuit University.”

In an effort to develop strong brand awareness for Rockhurst University, an image campaign was launched this summer in Kansas City and St. Louis. The campaign features television, radio and print advertisements. It features the new logo and the phrase, “We’re ready — are you?”

The campaign positions Rockhurst as an institution where “research and real-life experience fuel the passion for learning, a passion to dig deeper and go further.”

— Rosita McCoy
Doers of the Word

By Barbara R. Bodengraven

Why did Marvin Clay, ‘99, kiss his wife and baby daughter goodbye every Friday during his senior year to spend the night at Research Medical Center, holding the hands of dying patients, praying with the sick and lonely and counseling frightened families outside the ICU? Was he simply fulfilling program requirements, or does Clay, as he says, have a “calling?”

Enrolled in the Rockhurst American Humanics certificate program, Clay was required to complete an internship at a human service agency as part of his training to become a leader in nonprofit organizations. A nontraditional student, Clay met the challenge to find an internship that would fit into his overloaded schedule of a full-time job, part-time classes and family responsibilities. What Clay found in his quiet hospital room as he studied and prayed, waiting to be called by doctors to the next patient in crisis, was the power to reorder his own priorities.

“I began my studies at Rockhurst in a hurry to get my degree. I was always needing more time for this, more time for that,” Clay says. “You know, I wanted to be a rich man. But, let me tell you, when you sit next to a dying patient, you enter a different realm. In the face of death, you think about how you are living your own life and how you can make a difference.”

If the point of a Jesuit education is to shape men and women in service and leadership for others, Rockhurst’s American Humanics Program is one of its most effective tools. During the last academic year, 40 Rockhurst students majoring in a broad range of subjects enrolled in the program. In addition to specific academic courses, these students are required to participate in workshops and seminars throughout the year to help prepare them for nonprofit careers.

“What happens along the way,” says Jenny Rinella, program director, “is the students get hooked on their service assignment and usually end up extending their commitment to the job. I’ve seen it happen over and over again. Volunteer work gets into their blood.”

For Maureen Krueger, ‘00, this is literally true. The 20-year-old from St. Louis has served as both vice president and president of the co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. One of her favorite service projects has been to bring the American Red Cross to campus for blood drives. She serves as the liaison with the organization, sets up the site, prints T-shirts as giveaways, brings in the bagels and PowerAde and promotes the event, usually bringing in 70 or 80 blood donors from her circle of friends and acquaintances alone.

The largest undertaking Krueger has ever championed is the current Habitat for Humanity project to be completed during Spring Break.
2000. As the project coordinator, Krueger is responsible for organizing donations in-kind, raising $50,000, and rounding up a total of 120 Rockhurst alumni, students, regents, faculty and staff for one week of house-raising to take place five blocks from the Rockhurst campus.

“It’s easy to get discouraged if you let things get to you,” says Krueger. “But I try never to look at the whole picture at once. I don't get hung up on having to see the end result of my efforts. I make the assumption that everything I do helps somebody else. But, most importantly, I have faith that my efforts will come to something.”

Often pressured by parents to get a “real” job, many students dedicated to service work tap into such programs as the Miller Grant and Scholarships, administered through Rockhurst’s Office of Campus Ministry. Open to all undergraduate Rockhurst students, the grant and scholarships are awarded to students who want to spend their summer vacations working in volunteer positions. In effect, the program allows students to “volunteer for pay,” relieving them of the burden to find jobs to finance college expenses. As a Miller Grant recipient, Krueger spent the past summer volunteering at the Kansas City chapter of Habitat for Humanity, where she honed her skills in project management as well as plumbing, framing and drywall application for the huge project ahead.

In addition to grants and scholarships, the Rockhurst Campus Ministry Office provides specific outlets for students to express their faith and commitment to others. For the past two years, Brother Glenn Kerfoot, S.J., assistant director of Campus Ministry, led teams of Rockhurst students to Juarez, Mexico.

There they performed a variety of community improvement projects, including the construction of a one-room house for a woman and her four children living in nothing more than a scrap metal shack. Dan Brunnert, ’00, accompanied Brother Kerfoot on both trips.

“The first time we went to Juarez,” says Brunnert, “Maria Therese served us dinner in her makeshift home of scrap metal, lumber, truck tires and pilings. Rain fell in on us as we ate. When we went back to Juarez the next year, we had dinner in the new home we had built. Both meals were delicious, but I’ll never forget the feeling I had during our second dinner. It was one of the neatest experiences of my life.”

Pre-medical student Sara Wisch, ’00, who traveled to Juarez with Brunnert and Kerfoot, agrees.

“After working hard all day, I was glad to come together every evening to share our feelings and experiences about being there, doing what we were doing. It only confirmed what I knew all along. Ultimately, Jesus calls everyone — myself included — to better the world.”

When Wisch returned from Mexico, she applied for a position with the L’Arche Community in Tacoma, Wash., for the mentally and physically disabled. She has been accepted and will spend what would have been her final year working at L’Arche.

“Anything you do to genuinely help someone else — that’s what real service is.” Erika Liliedahl, ’01
semester of senior year as, she says, “being a friend to people nobody wants.”

Erika Liliedahl, ’01, is another who sees promise in people that society largely dismisses. She is a member of the service committee for Alpha Sigma Alpha, a sorority dedicated to philanthropy whose national focus is the Special Olympics for mentally and physically disabled athletes. She is also the student coordinator for Kansas City’s Promise to Youth, the nationwide volunteer organization launched by Colin Powell and four former U.S. presidents in 1997, which requires hours of volunteering on behalf of America’s children.

Liliedahl initiated a community service program on the Rockhurst campus for at-risk neighborhood children known as Building Urban Children’s Knowledge and Skills, or Block BUCKS. Several Rockhurst students meet with neighborhood kids on a regular basis for planned activities, field trips and mentoring. Liliedahl’s volunteer work won her the recognition of the 1999 Rockhurst Regents Award for outstanding public service as well as admission into the Institute on Philanthropy and Voluntary Service at Indiana University, where she spent the past summer.

“I guess I really have a selfish reason for doing service work,” she says. “I love it. It doesn’t have to be planned to be considered ‘service’ either. Anything you do to genuinely help someone else — that’s what real service is.”

When a staggering 85 percent of all Rockhurst students participate in service projects, there are bound to be at least as many expressions of faith as there are participating students. In Juarez, Mexico, the physical reminder of the faith that brought together several Rockhurst students in the spring of 1998 is a solid stucco house embedded with a cross fashioned from fragments of broken bottles and discarded dishes by Rockhurst student Amy Berry, ’98.

Maureen Krueger hopes the Habitat for Humanity house constructed entirely by the Rockhurst community will be a powerful symbol of faith. As she says, “maybe it will hit home in the larger community what we really do here.”

Angela Heaton, ’98, a 1998 Miller Grant recipient and summer volunteer at a camp for five- and six-year-old girls from broken homes, writes in her service reflection paper that faith means “sometimes ignoring the rules to help someone else.” This can be as simple as allowing certain little girls to hold her hand when they should have been in line with all the others.

At the end of his hospital ministry, Marvin Clay summed up his idea of faith in one short verse of scripture — Philippians 1:6. “For I’m confident of this very thing that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Spring Break 2000

Help build a Habitat for Humanity house for a low-income family near Rockhurst University. Join Rockhurst students, faculty, staff and alumni during spring break, March 6-10, 2000. No prior construction experience is necessary — just a desire to pitch in and help. For more information, call the Rockhurst American Humanics office at (816) 501-4545.

“Ultimately, Jesus calls everyone — myself included — to better the world.”

Sarah Wisch, ’00
Finding Faith

When students pack to leave home for college, they usually take their favorite music, clothes and books, a few things to remind them of home and a new sense of freedom and independence. Some Rockhurst students are bringing along something else — a desire to strengthen their faith and establish their own religious identity.

More than 200 college students sit quietly in the late-night shadows of the large church. Dozens of candles line the aisles and ring the altar, providing the only light. Water splashes down the multi-tiered baptismal font, softly echoing through the semi-darkness. A live tree sits at the front and flowers of all kinds add color throughout the sanctuary.

It’s the second Sunday of Easter at the 10 p.m. Mass celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Church each week for Rockhurst students. Brother Glenn Kerfoot, S.J., assistant director of campus ministry, speaks about doubting Thomas, inter-weaving stories from popular culture and everyday life.

“Will we continue to struggle with our faith?” he asks at the conclusion of his remarks. “Yes. Will God continue to be with us? Yes.”

At a time when they are learning to forge their own religious identity, apart from their parents, this is a message many college students seem to welcome. And many are happy to talk about the presence of God in their lives.

“One of the turning points in my life was when I was really down and I said ‘Well, maybe I should pray,’” says Libby Lally, ’99. “The next day I felt better.”

Lally isn’t an anomaly among her peers. In addition to cultivating active prayer lives, today’s Rockhurst students are putting their faith into action. They’re participating in church life, forming Bible study groups, attending retreats, going on mission trips and volunteering in the community.

“Their idealism and energy are boundless,” says the Rev. Luke Byrne, S.J., director of campus ministry. “They think, ‘We can do it. We can make things better.’”

For one student, making things better meant taking the initiative to start a non-denominational Bible study group on campus.

A Common Bond

“I was drawn to Rockhurst by its Jesuit tradition, especially service learning,” says nursing student Kara Holz, ’01. “But since I’m from a Lutheran background, I asked Campus Ministry if there was anything for people of other faiths.”

Holz sought out other students who had similar interests in gathering to pray and talk about their faith. The group began meeting last
semester and Holz says about five or six gathered weekly to pray and share Bible verses and stories from inspirational books. She says she hopes that number will grow this semester.

Attendees represent a variety of religious traditions, including Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist and nondenominational.

“It’s not about trying to change anyone to another’s beliefs, it’s about what we have in common,” says Holz.

The group chose the name Crossroads, which Holz says works on several levels. “This is where different paths cross. Our group is where a lot of different people meet to see how our beliefs and Rockhurst’s come together.”

Crossroads serves as a support group, Holz says. The members know they have friends they can turn to for prayer and understanding.

Libby Lally, the recent graduate, found similar support during her senior year through another small group — Fourth Day.

**Looking Within**

Fourth Day was formed for students who have attended retreats called Karios as a way to help them incorporate what they learned into their everyday lives. Karios retreats often are sponsored by Jesuit high schools and colleges to provide an opportunity for people from all faiths to get to know God and be known by God, says Bro. Kerfoot. Kerfoot says the word Karios actually means “time of opportunity.”

Lally says when she attended Karios last fall the retreat was an opportunity for her to take a look at herself “past what’s in the mirror.” She says the experience shows participants their strengths and weaknesses and how God guides who they are.

“I try to see God in myself and others,” Lally says. “It’s part of who I am, but it’s hard to say that to people.”

Lally says she sometimes thinks it’s hard to talk about faith in today’s society, especially with young people. She’s even developed her own theory about why some teen-agers shy away from church.

“I think self-worth — how you view yourself — plays into your faith and religion. Anyone can believe. But when you have low self-worth and hit low points in life, where will you turn?”

“You’re not going to say, ‘I believe in God,’” Lally says. “You’re going to say, ‘Why is this happening to me?’”

Because teens often experience problems with self-doubt, Lally says efforts to build self-esteem — and faith — in young children can pay off later.

“I can’t imagine not having faith,” she says. “It was such a strong element in my family life.”

Growing up with parents who are heavily involved in church life and community service also has inspired Michelle Hipp, ‘00, to play an active role at Rockhurst.

**Following the Call**

Hipp stays involved with a variety of religious and service activities. In addition to serving as a Eucharistic minister and heading the local chapter of a pro-life club, she is president of the American Humanics Students Association and the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

She was awarded a Miller Grant through Campus Ministry (see Doers of the Word, page 19) that enabled her to work with the activity coordinator at a retirement center. She says she enjoyed the experience immensely and that everyone should have the opportunity to volunteer at some point.

“I’m Catholic, so it’s been part of my life ever since I can remember,” Hipp says. “You’re taught to give back. It’s self-motivating for me because I see the effect it has on people. It’s the little things you do to put a smile on people’s faces.”

Providing opportunities for students to grow spiritually through service is only one dimension of the work of the Campus Ministry Office. In addition, the office sponsors retreats, plans Masses and spiritual development.

“Faith is an unspoken inner understanding that things will turn out the way they’re supposed to.”

Kara Holz, ’01
programs for the campus community and organizes mission trips.

Campus Ministry Director Fr. Byrne says one of his colleagues defined the purpose of a campus ministry office in a way that he particularly likes — “calling the campus community to deeper prayer and intensified discipleship.”

“That means our mission is to call people to follow Christ in their lives and then help them follow the call,” Byrne says.

Throughout the past year, the Rockhurst Campus Ministry Office explored possibilities for accomplishing this charge.

Bro. Kerfoot has focused on strengthening the retreat program and expanding mission trips. In addition to Kairos, he offered a Busy Person’s Retreat to all members of the Rockhurst Community who could commit to spending one hour each weekday in prayer, meditation or writing in a journal and talking with a spiritual director.

He is planning a freshman retreat and says he also would like to develop retreats tailored to specific groups, such as couples preparing for marriage or people experiencing grief.

“The question for Campus Ministry,” Bro. Kerfoot says, “is ‘How do we make opportunities available for people to find God’s presence in their lives?’”

Starting the Journey

Chris Bauer, ‘00, says he has found God’s presence and a way to share it with others.

“Everything I do with Campus Ministry gives me an opportunity to reflect on my own faith life,” Bauer says. “When I talk about why I go to church, maybe I can help others the way people — my parents and teachers — helped me. It’s my obligation.”

Bauer agrees that some students fall away from the church during their college years, but he says that hasn’t been an issue for him.

“Everyone is at a different point in their faith journey, no matter how old,” Bauer says. “During the last two years of high school, I talked with others about my faith journey and why it was important, and that was enough to keep me going.”

One thing that pleased Bauer last year, he said, was the level of freshman involvement. He says he would like for everybody to think about how Rockhurst is Jesuit and Catholic and what this means.

“It’s more than just having to take theology,” Bauer says.

Keeping the Faith

For the 150-200 students who attend on average, the Sunday night Mass is a weekly opportunity to practice their faith as a college community in a setting geared toward the concerns of their age group.

Mary Taylor, ’00, who serves as cantor, says she enjoys the change.

“Our 10 p.m. Mass is different than most churches because the priest tries to direct his homily toward student life and what we encounter daily,” Taylor says. “I like the energy because it’s student focused.”

Maureen Henderson, who just completed her first year as associate director of campus ministry in charge of planning music and liturgy, says she feels blessed by her work with the students.

“I’ve been inspired by their commitment, their enthusiasm and the depth of their faith,” Henderson said. “It’s not something I would have expected from this age group.”

Fr. Byrne says he hopes the work his office does can inspire the students to maintain this level of commitment when they graduate and return home or to a new community. He says the greatest compliment a student could give his staff would be to say “I’m ready and eager to make a contribution at my home parish, to spend my gifts in the community.”

“Faith is a belief or hope in some higher power that helps you in a time of need, or cares for you — faith that there’s something better to come.”

Libby Lally, ’99

“Faith is a belief or hope in some higher power that helps you in a time of need, or cares for you — faith that there’s something better to come.”

Libby Lally, ’99
“I’ve always thought it was important to take time out and focus on spiritual life. It gives people an opportunity to reflect on past experiences and think about what they would like to change in the future.”

Chris Bauer, ‘00

Faith Facts

96.2 — Percentage of the 1998 Rockhurst freshman class who said they had attended a religious service in the previous year

59.4 — Percentage of 1998 Rockhurst undergraduates who reported their faith as Catholic

14 — Percentage of 1998 Rockhurst undergraduates who reported their faith as Protestant

150-200 — Average number of students who attend Sunday night Mass for students each week at St. Francis Xavier Church

85 — Approximate percentage of Rockhurst undergraduate students who volunteer in the community
These are some of the most dangerous words in the gospel. Yet, if one follows them, they are also the most courageous words.

To believe in the gospels as a living daily reality can be dangerous, requiring courage. Dangerous, for in believing them, we are required to let them change our lives. Opening ourselves to change, to alter the way we have been thinking, feeling and acting, will lead to new ways of interacting with God and with one another. To develop new ways of having relationships can be scary and unnerving.

Consequently, to seek this risky course requires the divine grace of courage and hope. Through the various stages of our lives, new issues, challenges, opportunities and dreams confront us. How our faith and our prayer life interact with these natural life stages is a continual challenge.

When I was in my youth, I had two persistent petitionary prayers: to be able to beat up my identical twin brother just once and to be able to speak comfortably with people. The latter petition grew out of frequently stuttering and, consequently, being fairly shy. As my life has progressed I have been able to see in these two prayers the fulfillment of Our Lord’s words. Prayers are answered. Rather, those prayers that are from the Spirit are answered. I never had my first prayer answered. Thank God. That desire was from the weakness of the human spirit, rooted in our natural tendency of seeking happiness in the domination of the other.

Fortunately, such prayers are not answered. The earthly life of Christ himself demonstrates God’s answer to the human desire to dominate the other. The Father freely offered his innocent Son into the hands of sinful man. The Son responded to this oppression through prayerful
acceptance. Through that act of faith and prayer, He destroyed the arrogant desire to dominate the other and provided the greatest human gifts: forgiveness of our sins and the offer of eternal life.

Thus, the sinful desires of humans are not answered, through the grace of God. However, as demonstrated through the fulfillment of my second childhood prayer, God does provide what we seek. He has answered this second prayer in multiple ways, to the point that people do not believe that I was shy and insecure speaking. (Jokingly, I suggest that people may have regretted that the Lord has loosened my tongue.) In answering that prayer the Lord opened new possibilities, which led to my vocation as a Jesuit priest.

My priesthood is fundamentally a service in preaching the good news, through my sacramental ministry and my ministry as teacher. In both cases the grace to communicate freely and persuasively flows from the graces of those childhood prayers. I had no idea at that time of the consequences of that petition. Yet, by opening myself up to the faith of God in my life, he transformed me and provided new opportunities from which I could further serve Him through serving others.

One key feature of a lifelong relationship with God through prayer concerns the way the past sustains the present and encourages the future. Whatever situation I find myself in, however skeptical I am about my faith at times, or whether I have other doubts about what my life is currently like, I can always refer back to my past experiences for strength and encouragement. In addition, because God has transformed my life before, the past also can be a source of anxiety. If he has done it in the past, what will He do in the future? That uncertainty can be challenging to the continual need to be open to God’s graces.

Underlying this discussion is the presumption that we have a relationship with God that includes a prayer life. By being creatures of God, made in His image, we are always in relationship with Him, irrespective of whether we are conscious of it or not. This relationship does not start from our effort. On the contrary, it is an utterly free gift from God. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been given the revelation of a very personal relationship: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What we are asked to do is to respond to this offer of the trinitarian love in our own life. In prayer, we meet in a special way this offer of love and can respond, however feebly, in faith. The more we consciously become aware of this offer within prayer and seek to respond in prayer, the more this relationship can affect our lives.

To grow in awareness of this relationship requires grace itself. Seeking this grace of insight should be one of our continual petitions in prayer. However, when that grace is given, when one can identify God’s presence in one’s life, that grace can become the foundation for any future relationship with God. We do not interact with God from an empty slate, every time we pray. Rather, we bring our whole past and previous interactions with God. We enter into a real relationship from which the future emerges out of the interaction of the past with the present.

Therefore, as we enter different stages of our lives, the previous life stages follow with us. As we discover the new challenges of life, new fears and anxieties, or new opportunities, we do not engage our God independent of our past. Now that could be a frightening thought. “My God,
how inadequate my responses have been in the past, do not hold the past against me.” Yet, it is in remembrance of the past that God can often redeem the present. If, in the past, we have turned away from God in certain areas of our lives or even in a very fundamental way, the experience of being welcomed back by God, like the prodigal son, can be one of the most life altering experiences. Anyone who has experienced such a conversion confronts the present with the personal knowledge of God’s faithfulness. In addition, if we have received graces sought in prayer, the memory of such graces encourages one to seek further guidance.

God welcomes a deepening in our relationship with Him throughout our lives. No time is too late, as represented by the ‘good’ thief who was crucified along with Christ. Nevertheless, the sooner one gains recognition of this continuous relationship with God through prayer, the more opportunities we have to cooperate with God in our lives. Consequently, a traditional focus of Jesuits has been to educate young adults. When young people become skilled and experienced at recognizing God in their lives and develop a prayer life, they can positively affect the world long after the Jesuits they knew have died.

To enter consciously and faithfully into the relationship God seeks for each and every one of us will alter all of our lives. The uncertain consequence following freely giving ourselves over to Him in prayer creates the danger that we will be shaken out of the comfortable reality of today. Nevertheless, through the grace of courage, the future, uncertain by its very nature, can be made full by the opportunities of life offered by God.

This pilgrimage through life remains the same yet ever different. Same, in that God continually seeks and offers us His trinitarian love so as to fulfill His will for each of us to be united with Him in service of one another. Different, in that at each stage of our lives, we have a continuous challenge to engage God anew. We need to remain open within the relationship, not restricting Him to the actions of the past. The past experiences provide the foundation to seek the wonder of the new in the present, whatever age we are. •
Although unaware that Max Mueller is one of the founders of the modern study of religion, many of the students in my classes at Rockhurst sympathize with the sentiment behind Mueller’s aphorism.

They come to the study of religions with a recognition that the majority of people in the world have religious backgrounds different from their own. They take for granted that they live in a world where their neighbors and friends are from other and divergent religious groups. They expect to work in contexts where their clients, patients, and customers will be from all over the world. Such thinking influences not only the religiously committed but also the uncommitted and skeptical.

Today’s students bring this awareness to all their classes in theology and religious studies. They may begin a World Religions course full of curiosity, especially concerning Asian religions. Their global awareness impacts their study of Christianity as well.

Many students are not content to study Christianity in isolation but rather insist upon seeing Christianity in the broader context of the world’s religions. They ask pointed questions about the similarities and differences between Christianity and other religions and about the often-tragic history of the relationship between Christianity and other religions.

Some enter classes not just with questions but with solid knowledge. In recent years, I have come to count on having at least a few students in my classes who have undertaken serious study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Native American religious traditions or African religions. They may have traveled widely and encountered the great religious traditions of other continents on their home ground. A few years ago, students might have described visits to Buddhist centers in California and Hawaii — now, they add accounts of temples in Thailand and Japan. Students have visited not only mosques in the United States but also in Egypt and Morocco.

Moreover, the world’s faiths have found a home in Kansas City, which now has Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim religious centers along with the more numerous churches and synagogues. Recently a student in my World Religions class illustrated his explanation of a type of Hindu worship with a description of the home shrine of his Hindu neighbor here in Kansas City, and another student described the morning devotions of a Hindu roommate.

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art has a world-renowned collection of Asian art, including many stunning examples of Hindu and Buddhist art.
Buddhist art. Museum curators are eager to discuss their religious meaning as well as their artistic merit.

The Kansas City Star regularly runs a column in which local religious leaders respond to a particular problem or a question. A generation ago, such columns would have commonly featured the comments of a Protestant, a Catholic and a Jew. In today's Star, the comments come from across the religious spectrum.

Similar situations exist throughout the Midwest, in other large cities and even in smaller towns. This summer, a student repeatedly drew on her experiences while growing up in a very culturally and religiously diverse city. She grew up — not in Tokyo, New York or London — but in Garden City, Kan., where the meat packing industry has attracted workers of many different backgrounds.

Today's students want to know what beliefs and ideals inspire millions of Hindus and Buddhists to lives of devotion. They want to understand what it means to see the world as a Muslim. Often this intellectual curiosity is joined with pragmatic concerns.

At the suggestion of a local physician, a pre-medical student researched religious attitudes towards disease and wellness. The physician's recommendation grew out of his own disturbing experience while treating a patient with religious beliefs unfamiliar to him. Quite unintentionally, the physician offended his patient's sensibilities, thus leading the patient to seek care elsewhere that, as a result, delayed needed treatment.

A recent graduate called me to recount the story of the failure of a marketing effort by her company in Korea because the company representatives unintentionally "offended every Buddhist in sight." She was looking for a consultant to brief the next delegation on avoiding such mishaps. As she ended the conversation she mentioned that the head of her marketing department now recommended courses in religion to all employees.

A finance major became fascinated by Muslim ethical teaching regarding banking and investment. He is convinced that he can help develop a system of mutual funds that would benefit the local economies of countries in the Middle East, while respecting Muslim teachings on commerce.

One of the greatest problems confronted by students who seriously study a variety of religions is when they realize that religions differ, fundamentally, about the nature of Ultimate Reality. They are often shocked to learn that religions may agree that there is an Unconditioned or Supreme and still disagree about what such an affirmation means and implies.

Most Rockhurst students — whether believers or not — are at home with the concept of God as the Supreme Being envisioned as a personal being. They are disconcerted to discover that some religions teach that the Ultimate Reality is not personal, but is "above the personal."

Now the question of religious commitment becomes vastly more complicated. No longer is the religious decision simply the decision to believe in God or not, but rather the more complex decision to believe in God or Nirvana or Brahman or the Tao or not.

Appreciation of religious diversity poses problems not only for the religiously committed but also for those uncommitted or simply uninterested. Of what sort of God is one skeptical? Which religious practices does one reject? Toward which vision of Ultimate Reality is one indifferent? Imagine the frustration of a student atheist who learns there are religions that do not believe in a supreme personal being. In this situation, atheism does not settle the religious question. Their religious choice is far more complicated than it was for their counterparts at Rockhurst a generation ago.

The challenges many students face in studying Eastern religions are more obvious than those posed by the study of Western religions. They are not necessarily greater. When students study the three religions of Abrahamic origin, they should be on familiar ground.

Sadly, they often are not.

The words are familiar; sometimes deceptively so. For all their substantial agreement, the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities are sometimes three communities of faith using the same words to speak of different things. It takes great effort to appreciate this.
Most students come to college with some background in the history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Often they only know the history of the interaction of the religions. Frequently that history has been taught to them, intentionally or unintentionally, only from the Christian perspective. No one has presented the Jewish or Muslim views. For example, students find that the Crusades look very different from the other side.

In my World Religions course, some students admit they approach the study of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam with trepidation, aware of the gaps in their knowledge, especially of the history of these religions. They have fewer concerns when they begin the study of Judaism. After all, many have studied some of the history of Judaism. Most students know parts of the Jewish Bible.

However, they quickly realize they are familiar with the history of Judaism only until the beginning of Christianity. Often the history they were taught was presented, not as the history of Judaism, but as a prologue to Christianity. They are familiar with the Jewish Bible but not with the Jewish understanding of that Bible. Many have never heard of the Talmud. In their World Religions course, they focus on Judaism “in the Common Era (the time shared by Judaism and Christianity),” thus concentrating on the history of Judaism after the time when their previous studies stopped.

They do this and so much more because they acknowledge they are living in a world where the majority of people belong to other and divergent religions. They recognize their studies enrich their education and improve their career preparation. It’s good education and good business, but it is also a tribute to their determination to be full citizens of the world. Despite the difficulties, Rockhurst students rise to the challenge of studying the world’s faiths. They are determined to understand more than one religion, so that none is beyond their knowing. Max Mueller would be proud.

Artist John LaFarge created this stained glass window, which features Hebrew letters for “faith,” in 1908 for Temple B’Nai Jehudah in Kansas City.
I grow up in a strong Catholic family with a mother who is a pastoral associate, a grandmother who is a parish secretary and numerous other relatives whose lives revolve around the Church, it would be hard for me to be apathetic about my faith. I suppose I could be a dissident, but these people — and consequently their faith — mean too much to me to be rebellious. Through their nurturing love for me, their generous example of caregiving and service, and their solid moral fiber, I have experienced the love of God and the beauty of faith. Their faith-filled example has made all the difference in my life, and inspired me with the desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

In sixth grade, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. The earlier experience of watching my two grandfathers degenerate and die of cancer fed my terror as my mother battled this same disease. Wanting to protect me, my parents did not share all of the details with me. I remember feeling lonely and lost. At that age, I had not really analyzed my faith in God. I suppose I had followed what I had been taught. In school we had routinely been told to pray the Hail Mary or the Our Father. During the crisis of that year, I learned to pray from my heart. I experienced first-hand the power of prayer and its capacity to bring me peace.

My mom had always been a giving person, involved in every aspect of church life. During the emotional year of chemotherapy, people showered us with dinners, cards and prayers for Mom’s recovery. Mom had naturally been a central figure in my life, but it was during her sickest time that I realized how important my mom was to so many people. I witnessed the value of loving sacrifice for others.

Even though my father’s generosity to others is often done quietly behind the scenes, he is a convincing model of his beliefs. I have been known to roll my eyes and groan when he tries to articulate his strong moral standards. Yet I hear his voice loudly in my conscience when I am tempted not to do my best or to violate another of his unbending principles. God’s voice sounds very much like my father’s voice. In it I hear stability, security and solid direction.

Two summers ago, when I was looking forward to the privileges of my senior year of high school and eagerly anticipating the independence of college life, I believed that I was invincible. I had the cocky teen-age notion that I did not need anything or anyone. Then God literally knocked the wind out of my sails. I awoke one night with the terrifying sensation of not being able to breathe. I staggered to my parents room.
groping for air. With a lung capacity of 30 percent, my asthma had reached a severe, life-threatening stage.

My carefree senior year turned into a year full of sickness, medicine and restraint. I wasn’t allowed to do all the things that my friends were doing, because my body was debilitated. Instead of treating me more like an adult, my alarmed mother smothered me like a little child. I experienced an overwhelming sense of anger and helplessness. Feeling utterly powerless, I turned to prayer. I was no longer the invulnerable teenager, but rather a clinging child placing her trust and life in God’s hands. In my desperate need, I finally grasped how totally dependent I was on God. Even now, I need God for the strength to be responsible, to say no when my friends are doing something that I know my body cannot handle.

When I was feeling sorriest for myself, my grandmother asked me to play the piano to entertain the residents of a family lodge for the homeless. After my performance, a mother and her toddler affectionately approached me. When the toddler climbed into my lap and began banging on the keys, her mother wistfully expressed her desire to be able to one day afford piano lessons for her child. My years of piano lessons, which I had taken for granted and even sometimes resisted, took on a whole new meaning. Suddenly I realized that this mother had the same hopes and dreams for her child that my parents had for me. I had not earned the right to follow my dreams. Rather, God had provided me with the means to develop my gifts, and it was my responsibility to use them for the good of others.

Volunteering has always just been a way of life for me. Ever since I can remember, I have been helping out at church for my mom or fulfilling required service hours for school. When I entered college, volunteering became my choice, and in that freedom, I began to appreciate how much service to others feeds my spirituality.

I became involved with the children’s program at a transitional homeless shelter called L.I.N.C., Living in New Community. One night, when I drove into their apartment complex, the children checked out my license plate. Fascinated, one little girl investigated. “You live in Johnson County! Are you rich?” Quickly setting them straight, I let them know that we did not live in the rich part of Johnson County. Catching me off guard she probed, “But you do have a house don’t you?” Connecting with these homeless children, I suddenly felt very rich. Humbly and gratefully, I once again became aware of how much God has blessed me.

All of my life, God has surrounded me with loving and caring people who have shared God’s love with me. Through some heart-rending situations, I have learned not to take those people for granted and to see them as gifts from God. They have helped me achieve my God-given potential, and now I hear in their voices God’s challenge to use my giftedness for the good of others. I know how much I need God, and I also believe that I can accomplish anything with God.
A young man decides to enter the priesthood, is assigned to an inner-city parish and finds his work both challenging and rewarding. Fact or fiction? For the Rev. Don Farnan, '81, it's both.

Fr. Farnan is pastor of two Kansas City urban churches — St. Louis Church and St. Therese Little Flower. And, he is author of At the Crossroads of Hope, a fictional account of a priest who serves a parish in the inner city.

“It’s about life in the urban core and the vocation of the priesthood,” Fr. Farnan says.

The idea for the book came about when Fr. Farnan encouraged members of his congregation at St. Louis Church to use their creative talents to raise money for a renovation project. In an effort to practice what he preached, Fr. Farnan decided to do the same.

Although he had never published a book, Fr. Farnan said he has kept a journal since his seminary days. He loved working on the book, he says.

“For three months straight I wrote whenever I had the time. Some nights I would realize it was 3 a.m. and I was still writing.”

After Fr. Farnan graduated from Rockhurst with a degree in psychology and secondary education, he says he had decided that — unlike many of his classmates — he was not interested in a career in business. Instead, he entered the seminary. At the age of 27, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The project at St. Louis Church that was the impetus behind Fr. Farnan's book is nearly complete. It is the renovation of the top floor of the church, which is located in a former Masonic temple. The space, to be called the Upper Room, will be used for a variety of community service programs sponsored by the church and nonprofit groups such as Boys and Girls Clubs and the American Red Cross.

“We will have 10,000 square feet of space available for community programming in an area that's underserved,” Fr. Farnan says.

In a recent conversation with the pastor of a suburban parish, Fr. Farnan said the two compared their roles.

“At a suburban parish, they've bought into the American dream, but many still can't find happiness. They think they've done all the right things and they're not sure what they're searching for.

“My job is easier, in a way. When people come to me, they express an immediate need — food, clothing, shelter, transportation.”

But what is amazing about Kansas City, Fr. Farnan says, is the unique generosity of the suburbs and the way an army of volunteers can come from all over to help when needed.

“When people from diverse economic backgrounds work together, they can accomplish so much,” Fr. Farnan says. “I've seen it.”

— Katherine Frohoff

**Priest Writes New Plot for Fund Raising**

Whether you graduated from Rockhurst one year ago or 50, you'll want to come back to campus Oct. 18-24 for the annual celebration of homecoming, class reunions and alumni awards.

Homecoming offers something for everyone this year, from karaoke and comedy, to men's and women's soccer games and a dance.

Six distinguished graduates and friends of the University will be honored at the annual Reunion and Awards Banquet following the class and all-alumni receptions.

This year’s honorees are:

**Blake Mulvany, ’57**, Alumnus of the Year for Outstanding Achievement

Currently Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, Mr. Mulvany has built a distinguished career in education. His honors include selection to the Midwest Education Hall of Fame.

**Maurice McNellis, ’49**, Alumnus of the Year for Outstanding Service

McNellis left a successful Wall Street career, returning to Rockhurst in 1970 to help build lasting financial support for the University. He has continued his service to the University since his retirement in 1987.

**Rev. Jules Brady, S.J.,** Honorary Alumnus

Fr. Brady has long been known on the Rockhurst campus as priest, teacher, scholar and friend. He has introduced hundreds of students to the study of philosophy and has received a total of six awards for excellence in teaching.

**Anthony Tocco, Ph.D.,** Athletic Hall of Fame

Since 1969, Tocco has been known in the classroom as a demanding and colorful teacher. He has been no less so on the soccer field. Rockhurst teams under Tony’s direction have achieved 450 victories, numerous district titles and regular appearances in national championship play.

**Craig Stahl, ’81**, Athletic Hall of Fame

Stahl's outstanding play on the soccer field gained him All-America honors three years running. He was voted MVP of the NAIA National Tournament his junior year and set Rockhurst scoring records that stood for many years.

**John Soden Sullivan**, Honorary Degree (posthumously)

Suddenly struck with a debilitating eye condition in his senior year at Rockhurst, Sullivan was unable to finish his degree program. However, he remained involved with Rockhurst throughout his years until his death in 1998.

After the banquet, all alumni are invited to put on their dancing shoes and head for Bartle Hall for the traditional homecoming dance.

For a complete schedule of events, call 816-501-4025 or 1-800-756-2586.

— Katherine Frohoff

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Phillip L. Accardo, D.O., is retiring after nearly 40 years in practice. His plans for retirement include travel in September to the Italian Riviera. He plans to stay active and help his wife with her imaging consulting business.

Jim Mendenhall, has been appointed assistant special agent-in-charge for the Kansas City Regional Office of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Office of Inspector General is the federal law enforcement arm for the USDA.

David W. Caffrey, president and chief executive officer of Premier Bank, was elected chairman of the board at the April board of directors meeting. Premier Bank is a locally operated and managed, independent bank with more than $116 million in assets and locations in both Kansas and Missouri.

Jill M. Farmer has been named principal of Ziercher & Hocker P.C., St. Louis County's oldest law firm. Her expertise fortifies the firm's corporate law, construction and trial practices.

James M. Rowland was elected to the Kansas City City Council.

Jennifer F. Wood is a candidate for the degree of doctor of philosophy in interpersonal communication at Bowling Green State University.

Richard Shaw Jr., recently participated in the Executive Development Program at Northwestern University. Also, Shaw was recognized by AT&T for achieving 1998 top results in selling data and Internet solutions to businesses in his 10-state Southern region.

Theresa A. Otto has been elected a shareholder at the law firm Field, Gentry & Benjamin P.C. She currently serves as chairman of the Kansas City, Mo., Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Patricia Wiltz completed her master's in nursing from the University of Washington, and is now a family nurse practitioner in the Seattle, Wash., area. She was awarded the Master's Oustanding Scholar Award, in part for her research titled "Nurse Practitioner Authority to Request, Receive, and/or Dispense Drug Samples: A State-by-State," which has been published in two national nursing publications.

Timothy J. Reed was named chief information officer at Baltimore AirCoil Company in Baltimore, Md. The appointment is effective immediately.

David Christian II recently joined Husch & Eppenberger LLC as an associate in the Kansas City office. Christian will focus his practice in the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Practice Group of the firm.

Jeffrey D. Buhl was elected president of Alpha Sigma Nu at The Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif.

Molly (VanDyne) Maassen has a new position as the community relations director for the Heart of Missouri Girl Scout Council.

Christina DiGirolamo attends the School of Law at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she is a member of the UMKC Law Review and has been included on the Dean’s List. She served as a summer associate at the law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon.

Marine Capt. Steve J. Schmid completed sustainment training in Hawaii while assigned to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the ships of the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group. Schmid's unit is an expeditionary intervention force with the ability to rapidly organize for combat operations in virtually any environment.

Edward H. Hart was accepted to Johns Hopkins University and given a research assistantship in biology for the fall.
In Memoriam

'28  Dr. John C. (J.C.) Egelhoff — Nov. 23, 1998

'31  Daniel B. Liston — June 25, 1999

'34  John Thomas Murphy — Feb. 6, 1999

'36  John H. Mayer, Jr. — April 7, 1999

Eugene Paul Mitchell — March 9, 1999

'47  Roger John Walsh — Dec. 17, 1998

Leo M. Michaelis — April 5, 1999


George T. O’Laughlin — Jan. 8, 1999

Jack R. Curry — Feb. 11, 1999

'48  Dr. H. Norton Hirsch — March 16, 1999

Lawrence E. Graham — March 27, 1999

Richard E. Donahue — Nov. 21, 1998

Dale F. Blount — June 15, 1999

'59  Dr. Edgar D. “Cookie” Cook Jr. — May 18, 1999


'64  Philip F. McKimmey — Jan. 25, 1999

'66  Ward Sherwood Barnett — June 21, 1999

'67  Don Gilbert Stewart — Jan. 10, 1999

'72  Hazel J. Haupt — July 12, 1999

'74  George G. Perez Jr. — March 1999


'82  Eva Marie Monaghan — Feb. 12, 1999

'94  Joyce Ann Sedorcek — March 4, 1999

'97  Tracy Lynette Stowers — Dec. 25, 1998

MBA

Alumni Marriages

Patricia M. Bannister, ’90, will marry Dwight Gilbert in Boulder, Colo., Sept. 25.


Births

Ted M. Powers, ’84, and wife Leslie announce the birth of their daughter, Erin Elizabeth.


Brad O’Neal, ’91, and wife Kim announce the birth of their baby girl, Fiona Colleen, born on March 10, 1999.

Aaron, ’94, and Colleen Oge announce the birth of their son Thomas Glennon.
Mary Sue Karl has come full circle in her involvement with the Rockhurst Honorary Directors. Thirty-five years ago, she and other directors' wives made appetizers and served dinner at the organization's annual event.

Today, she is the first woman president of the Honorary Directors with no more food to make or serve. Now she's the head of the organization, whose goal is to raise money for student scholarships. And, in just one year, Karl and the Executive Board have increased membership to 899, an all-time high for the group.

Karl is passionate about the Honorary Directors, but when first asked to take the helm of the organization, she turned it down. With a career, a family (including 16 grandchildren) and a home to manage, she said she has had to learn to say “no.” However, after thinking about it overnight, she changed her mind.

“I felt this was something I could undertake, something where I could make a real difference,” Karl said.

One of her goals is to get more women involved and, of course, to raise money for a worthy cause. Attracting well-known speakers for the annual luncheon has helped re-energize the group. Last year, prospective Kansas City Royals owner Miles Prentiss delivered the keynote address.

The Honorary Directors endowment has grown to $1,144,551. The group awards student scholarships ranging from $500 to $2,000 per year.

The Honorary Directors was founded in 1931 by a group of civic business leaders interested in helping Rockhurst. The majority of its members were not alumni of the institution, and are not to this date. In fact, the organization's goal is for alumni to comprise no more than 35 percent of its members. The idea is to reach out to a broader circle of constituents — business and civic leaders.

While Karl meets this profile, her ties to the institution are ubiquitous. Her husband, the Hon. James Karl, is an alumnus. Four of their children attended Rockhurst, as did four of their children's spouses. Four of her brothers and her husband’s brother are also alumni.

“We do have a rich heritage with Rockhurst,” Karl said. “With me, of course, it’s by osmosis.”

— Rosita McCoy

Golden Hawks Class Soars to 193

Before they even graduated, members of the Rockhurst class of 1949 had made their mark. Their ranks included a New York Yankees pitcher (Al Colaw), the recipient of four bronze stars and a Purple Heart (Walter Puhr) and the survivor of an SS capture during the Battle of the Bulge (John O’Connell).

Following graduation, they continued to do great things. At least 40 earned graduate degrees, five became priests or religious brothers and others pursued careers in education, public service, sales and construction.

During Alumni Weekend, Oct. 22-24, they all will be honored again — as the largest class to be inducted into the Golden Hawks society. The society was established for 50-year Rockhurst reunion classes several years ago when the entire living class of 1945, Bill Breen, coined the term.

The class of '49 was so large because it included veterans returning from combat in World War II and men graduating from high school who were able to enter college immediately rather than serve in the military first — something that hadn't been possible since 1940.

Throughout the years, the class of '49 has shown its Rockhurst pride through financial gifts, having given more than $1 million in...
the past 20 years alone. This year, the class plans to recognize another alumnus — Rockhurst President Edward Kinerk, S.J. — with the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., Presidential Fund, which has a goal of $100,000.

The Golden Hawks will be honored with several special events during Alumni Weekend, including a reception, a Mass and an induction ceremony. For more information, call Thomas Audley at 816-501-4551.

— Katherine Frohoff

Gala of the Century

Celebrating the Century is the theme for this year’s Rockhurst University Gala, slated for Oct. 30. The gala steering committee has been busy planning the university’s largest fund-raising event, which promises to meet guests’ highest expectations.

The black-tie gala will be held at the Westin Crown Center, and will feature fine dining and dancing to the Stephens Swing Sensation. More than 600 people attended last year’s gala, which raised more than $200,000 for the university and its students. The attendance goal this year is 700.

Not much has been left to chance, thanks to able planning by this year’s steering committee, led by co-chairs John and Betty Novak and Cynthia and Hugh Andrews. Honorary co-chairs are John and Jean Hayes, ’59.

Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy the company of friends and supporters of Rockhurst while enjoying top-notch entertainment and a gourmet feast. The gala is open to the public, but tickets are selling fast. For more information, contact Director of Constituent Relations Patricia Kern at 816-501-4807.

— Rosta Mccoy

Grant Benefits Youth Program

Rockhurst’s plans to host an international educational youth program that will bring a Nobel laureate to campus in November recently received a boost in the form of a $100,000 grant from the Louetta M. Cowden Foundation, administered by NationsBank.

PeaceJam, based in Denver, has sponsored conferences throughout the world where Nobel Peace Prize recipients work personally with youth to pass along the spirit, skills and wisdom they embody.

The Rockhurst PeaceJam, which is co-sponsored by the YMCA Promise Project, is scheduled for Nov. 6-7 and will be built around the work of Jody Williams. Williams earned a Nobel Prize for her international campaign to ban landmines.

Before the November conference, Kansas City-area students will participate in a 10-week curriculum based on Williams’ work. As part of the curriculum, students develop service learning projects that will be implemented after the conference.

During the conference, students will spend two days at Rockhurst working side-by-side with Williams on projects. Rockhurst students will serve as volunteers, helping the younger students with conference activities.

In addition, Williams will deliver a Rockhurst Visiting Scholar Lecture, Friday, Nov. 5.

— Katherine Frohoff
September

Continuing
22 ○ Fall Film Series, Lost in America, 7 p.m., Mabee Theater.
30 ○ Massman Gallery opening reception, “Rockhurst's Own,” arts, crafts, hobbies and performances by Rockhurst faculty and staff; 3-5 p.m. Exhibition continues through Oct. 31.

October

5 ○ Midwest Poets Series, W.S. Merwin, 8 p.m., Massman Gallery.
7 ○ Rockhurst University Theatre, All My Sons, by Arthur Miller. Continues through Saturday.
18 ○ Homecoming '99, Hypnotist; 9 p.m., Convocation Center.
19 ○ Homecoming '99, Karaoke contest, Rock Room. Judging at 9 p.m.
20 ○ Pool and Dart Tournament, 5 p.m., the Pub.
21 ○ Homecoming '99, Comedian, location to be announced, 5 p.m.
22 ○ Golden Hawks buffet, quadrangle, 7 p.m.
22 ○ Class of 1959 buffet, 7 p.m.
23 ○ Soccer and Tailgate, 11 a.m.
23 ○ Golden Hawks Mass and Induction, 4 p.m.
23 ○ Silver Hawks Induction, 5 p.m.
23 ○ Reunion/Awards Reception, Massman Hall, 5:30 p.m.; Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
23 ○ Homecoming Dance, Bartle Hall, 8 p.m.
24 ○ Reunion Mass, Massman Chapel, 9 a.m.
24 ○ Brunch, Thomas More Dining Room, following Mass.
27 ○ Community Forum, The Last Emperor, 6 p.m., Mabee Theater.
30 ○ Rockhurst Gala, “Celebrating the Century,” Westin Crown Center, 6:30 p.m.

November

1 ○ Mass of Remembrance, 12:05 p.m., Massman Chapel
3 ○ Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, Richard Bernstein; 8 p.m., Mabee Theater
5 ○ PeaceJam, Jody Williams, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize winner; 7:30 p.m., Convocation Center. Sponsored by the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series.
5 ○ Massman Gallery exhibition, “Landscape Beauty in Winter,” paintings by John P. Carroll. Artist's reception, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.
7 ○ Musica Sacra, works by Fauré and Bach, 3 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Church.
9 ○ Return to the Classics, The Idea of a University, by John Henry (Cardinal) Newman; discussion led by Curtis Hancock, Ph.D.; 7 p.m., Massman Hall, Room 248.
Call the Alumni Office at 816-501-4581.
18 ○ Rockhurst University Theatre, The Day Room, by Don DeLillo; 8 p.m., Mabee Theater. Continues through Saturday.

December

1 ○ Plays-in-Progress Workshop, 7:30 p.m., Sedgwick Hall, Room 115.
2 ○ Midwest Poets Series, Marilyn Nelson; 8 p.m., Massman Gallery.
4 ○ Ceremony of Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Church
5 ○ Black Alumni Club Potluck and Tailgate, 2:30 p.m.

The public is invited to all Center for Arts and Letters events. Call (816) 501-4828 for information and ticket prices. Some events are free.
All alumni are invited to Homecoming and Alumni Reunion events. For more information, call 816-501-4025 or 1-800-756-2586.
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