Meet five stellar students who chose Rockhurst

Ready to Compete
Rockhurst cheerleaders entertained the crowd during Regents and Alumni Night in February. It was a great night for the Hawks, who defeated St. Edward’s University 78-65.
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ON THE COVER: Stephanie Bui, a Rockhurst Competitive Scholar, plans to become a doctor.
When Grant Hengst awoke to flames above his bed, he knew he had to remain calm. It was early in the morning of Jan. 7, 2004, and the high school senior was at home with his mother and sister in the house that his grandfather had built.

Hengst, now a freshman at Rockhurst University, was able to grab a cell phone to call for help, lead his mother and sister from the house and save all the family pets. He credits his actions to training he received while working on a merit badge as part of his requirements to become an Eagle Scout. Slightly more than a year after the fire, the Boy Scouts of America recognized Hengst for his heroism at a Feb. 12 ceremony in his hometown of Cape Girardeau, Mo.

“I couldn’t believe how bad the smoke was,” Hengst said. “I got a little and I could hardly breathe.”

Many people die in fires as a result of smoke inhalation, Hengst says, so he knew he had to pull his mother and sister to the floor, below the smoke, to get them safely out. Smoke also can cause people to become disoriented and panic, so having a pre-planned escape route is critical. He had devised written plans for his merit badge, so he was able to kick into action rather than hesitate.

The most important thing to remember is to stay calm, Hengst says. “I can’t believe how calm I stayed.”

Hengst is interested in studying biochemistry as preparation for medical school. He is a member of the Rockhurst Hawks soccer team.

At Your Financial Service

If everything goes as planned, students will be able to take care of most of their financial needs in one convenient location beginning in fall 2006.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will move to the first floor of Massman Hall and will be located in the same area with staff from the business office who handle student accounts. The Office of the Registrar will be nearby. The area will be clearly labeled Student Finances and Registrar.

The new configuration will be made possible when several administrative offices move to new locations, including the space formerly occupied by Jimmy’s Family Restaurant at 5429 Troost Ave. Rockhurst purchased the Jimmy’s property in July 2003 and leased it to the restaurant owner. The restaurant recently went out of business, allowing the University to use the much-needed space.
Students Assist Stroke Survivors

Michelle Gartner spends Fridays monitoring vital signs and helping stroke survivors with exercise equipment at the Stroke Center in Overland Park. Vicky Harak helps them improve conversational skills, expand their vocabulary and practice writing. Jill Sump works with them to improve coordination and flexibility in their arms.

Gartner is a student in the doctor of physical therapy program, Harak is in the master of communication sciences and disorders program and Sump is in the master of occupational therapy program.

Their work is the result of a new partnership among Rockhurst, the American Stroke Foundation and the Research Foundation. The partnership allows students in the occupational therapy, physical therapy and communication sciences and disorders departments to gain hands-on experience while learning the ins and outs of therapy for stroke survivors. But the students aren’t the only ones reaping the benefits — patrons receive the students’ services, and all services at the center, free of charge.

“This is a chance for me to interact with patients who’ve had strokes. I’ve become more educated about strokes and how they affect individuals and their families — especially months and years later,” said Gartner.

Janis Davis, assistant professor of occupational therapy, was involved in writing the grant that brought the partners together.

“This program provides an opportunity for our students to work with people who have suffered stroke, provides the patrons of the Stroke Center with services, and gives their families and caregivers support as they adjust to having a loved one with a disability,” said Davis.

The grant was awarded for the 2004–05 academic year and may be renewed.

Core Skills

What’s one of the most critical areas of competency for a working professional? Effective communication skills, say a number of local executives.

As a result of feedback from alumni and a variety of business community stakeholders, the Helzberg School of Management is working to ensure students encounter at least one component emphasizing communication in each MBA core course taken, according to Craig Sasse, Ph.D., assistant professor of management.

“We want to ensure that MBA students are accountable for communication in all their courses in some form, whether it’s writing, speaking or simply organizing ideas,” Sasse said.

Sasse, who teaches Effective Communication for Leaders, is working as part of the school’s curriculum and assessment committee to identify communication-related learning objectives for each core course that will be implemented by fall 2005.

Physical Therapy student Michelle Gartner knows stroke survivors are more susceptible to problems related to circulation, so she’s careful to lead patrons of the Stroke House, including Hattie Freeman, in warm-ups before their exercises.
High Marks for Rockhurst in National Survey

This time the students were handing out the grades and Rockhurst scored quite well. Seniors who participated in the 2004 National Survey of Student Engagement rated Rockhurst higher in several categories than students who attend similar universities.

Two categories where Rockhurst did the best were those that measured interaction with faculty and collaborative learning.

The survey is co-sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Pew Forum for Undergraduate Learning. It questioned 163,000 freshmen and seniors from 472 four-year colleges and universities. The results allow Rockhurst to compare answers from its students to those from all participating four-year universities, from a consortium of 17 Jesuit colleges and universities and from universities that primarily grant master’s degrees as their highest-level degree offering.

NSSE seeks to quantify student participation in meaningful activities reflective of their educational experience to help universities, students, prospective students and parents gauge the quality of the education students receive there.

In four out of five categories — active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, level of academic challenge and enriching educational experiences — Rockhurst seniors placed the University in the top 10 percent of the 202 master’s-granting institutions surveyed. The seniors placed Rockhurst in the top 20 percent in the fifth category — supportive campus environment. In addition, freshmen placed Rockhurst in the top 10 percent in two of five categories — active and collaborative learning and enriching educational experiences — and well above the national mean in every category.

“We are pleased by the responses of our students,” said William Haefele, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs. “The results confirm our commitment to developing the unique gifts and talents of each student through engaged learning and high-quality faculty-student interaction, hallmarks of Jesuit education.”

Quilt Panel Honors Former Rockhurst President

The AIDS virus has claimed the lives of more than 32 million people, including one of Rockhurst’s own, former President the Rev. Thomas J. Savage, S.J. To commemorate his life, a small group of faculty, staff and students created a panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Members of Rockhurst’s HIV/AIDS Education Committee and others implemented the project, which was initiated in 2000 by former student Adria Edwards, ’00. The quilt-panel displays a drawing of Fr. Savage and the Rockhurst logo.

Marie Pickard, coordinator of donor records, played an integral role in creating the quilt.

“Designing and appliquéing the shooting star and quilting the panel was a way for me to express my appreciation to Fr. Savage for all he did for Rockhurst and the community,” she says.
The quilt was carried during Stations of the Cross, held on the campus quadrangle Dec. 1, 2004, to commemorate World AIDS Day. The panel was sent to join the national AIDS Memorial Quilt, which can be viewed online at www.aidsquilt.org.

From left) Janet Cooper, Ph.D., associate professor of biology; Marie Pickard, coordinator of donor records; and Nina Marsh, campus ministry office manager, display a quilt square created in honor of former Rockhurst president the Rev. Thomas Savage, S.J.

Priest Brings Story of L.A. Gangs to RU

The Rev. Greg Boyle, S.J., bears a striking resemblance to Sean Connery. He’s been featured in People magazine and on “60 Minutes.” His inspirational work is the subject of the 1995 biography Father Greg & the Homeboys, and his story has twice been optioned for a Hollywood movie. But his life is anything but glamorous — he works side by side with gang members in one of the toughest areas of Los Angeles, helping them learn vital skills for the work force and important life lessons.

A nationally renowned speaker, Fr. Boyle will visit the Rockhurst University campus on Tuesday, April 5, to present “Tattoos on the Heart: Empowering Those for Whom Hope is Foreign.”

Fr. Boyle is founder and executive director of Jobs For A Future/Homeboy Industries, an employment referral center and economic development program. Jobs For A Future, whose guiding principle is “Nothing stops a bullet like a job,” helps 1,000 people a month to redirect their lives through counseling, employment opportunities and services such as free tattoo removal.

You may have caught a glimpse of Rockhurst student Joanie Hammes, ’05, in a commercial while watching MTV, UPN or FOX recently. The 32-year-old student and full-time project assistant stars in an ad for the truth campaign, which focuses on youth smoking prevention.

Last summer, Hammes received a hefty package via UPS addressed to her father. Seeing his name on the label surprised her because he had died three years earlier. Tearing away at the tape and paper enclosing the gift, Hammes found a brand new power drill. At the bottom of the box was a card that read, “Congratulations, You’re a Winner” on the stationery of a tobacco company. The note seemed ironic because John Hammes had died of lung cancer caused by smoking.

Hammes immediately called her family and friends, telling her story of the haphazard marketing practices of the tobacco company. Her best friend encouraged her to contact the truth campaign, saying they would make a commercial out of it.

One month later, Hammes received a call from a member of the campaign team. “Lots of red tape” ensued to prove smoking caused her father’s death, according to Hammes. The next thing she knew, she was on a plane to New York to shoot the commercial.

“I feel my dad is being honored. Through his face, the statistic of those other 440,000 who died that year is personalized.”

The ad features Hammes using the same drill addressed to her father to post a large sign that reads “Why do you sell a product that kills your customers?” across from a major tobacco company in Manhattan. She uses a loudspeaker to ask the question, while a poster of her father is hoisted in the background.

“The whole experience is bittersweet,” Hammes said. “I feel my dad is being honored. Through his face, the statistic of those other 440,000 who died that year is personalized.”

The truth campaign was created by the American Legacy Foundation, which was founded as a result of the 1998 master settlement agreement between the tobacco industry and 46 states.

Joanie Hammes, ’05, starred in an antismoking commercial about her father that aired nationally.
Pakistan Trip Promotes Citizenship

Three weeks before his trip to Pakistan, the hotel he’d booked was bombed.

Thomas Vontz, Ph.D., assistant professor of education, decided to go anyway. He had been invited to lead a training conference in November on Project Citizen, a civic education program for middle school students that promotes responsible participation in local government.

Vontz was distinctly aware of the soldiers with machine guns and heightened security as he arrived at the airport in Islamabad. But his apprehension was dispelled immediately upon meeting his hosts. In fact, he described everyone he came in contact with as extraordinarily warm, humble and gracious. He stayed at the safest hotel in the area — the one that had been attacked.

Funded by the Center for Civic Education (CCE) through the U.S. Department of Education, Project Citizen engages middle school students to work cooperatively to identify public policy problems in their communities. Groups of students learn to research the problem, evaluate various solutions, develop their own solution in the form of a public policy, and create a political action plan to have it adopted by local or state authorities.

Vontz addressed 16 conference participants, including local university faculty and professional trainers, who hoped to make progress toward a more democratic system in Pakistan. They would later train the middle school teachers who would implement the program in their classrooms.

“Programs like Project Citizen are fantastic, and they are consistent with my beliefs about what is important for kids to learn about,” said Vontz, who was selected by CCE to present the conference in cooperation with a co-trainer from Malaysia.

Vontz has presented Project Citizen throughout the United States, as well as in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, but his trip to Pakistan was especially meaningful.

“This was the most rewarding experience both personally and professionally of all of my international trips.”

Dodge Ball for a Cause

More than 170 Rockhurst students gathered for a Feb. 3 dodgeball tournament organized to raise money for Jesuit Relief Services to send to tsunami victims.
Fantastic grades might not be enough to qualify you for one of Rockhurst’s top scholarships. Have personality to spare? That alone won’t earn you a top spot, either. We’re looking for the full package — students who have the potential to become great leaders, who have passion and conviction, and who have brains to boot.

Rockhurst’s Competitive Scholars program awards full-tuition packages to six freshmen of exceptional promise each year. The scholarships are designed to bring to campus students who embody “Learning, Leadership and Service in the Jesuit Tradition.” To qualify, students participate in three interviews with two faculty members per session, answering questions about themselves and their leadership and community service experiences. Interview scores are added to a score based on academic records, and the top six students are offered scholarships.

The minimum requirements to receive an invitation to compete are a 3.7 grade-point average and at least a 28 on the ACT, so each student is obviously academically talented. The purpose of the interview process is to go beyond the transcript, says Phil Gebauer, director of admission.

“We want to find out what they truly believe in and what they feel passionate about,” he says.

The Competitive Scholars program was established more than 25 years ago and recently was revised to further emphasize the University mission through selection criteria.

Meet five of Rockhurst’s Competitive Scholars and find out about their passions, their goals, and how they are making a difference at Rockhurst and beyond.
Marquia Anderson

Senior English major
Hometown: Kansas City, Mo.
Fun fact: Admits meeting with college recruiters in high school as an excuse to skip class.

Marquia Anderson dreams of opening her own school one day. Her eyes brighten and her smile grows wide as she describes a place where children are encouraged to express themselves and learning goes hand-in-hand with fun.

A Kansas City native, Anderson graduates in May with an English degree and plans to enter the M.Ed. program this summer. In preparation for her career, she works part-time for the Boys and Girls Club of America, where she leads children’s programs about cultural education, drug prevention and entrepreneurship.

“Service is important because it builds character while helping others,” she says. “It’s a win-win situation.”

Thanks to the Competitive Scholars program, Anderson has received full tuition for each of her four years at Rockhurst.

“A middle school teacher once told me the best years of my life would be in college, and she’s been so right. That’s what I tell my kids now — get there, and you can make it.”
Matt Wengert

Sophomore physics and math double major
Hometown: Perryville, Mo.
Fun fact: He knows a bargain when he sees one. The comfy green recliner on the front step of his townhouse cost only $1.50 at a thrift store.

Matt Wengert can’t walk 20 feet anywhere on campus without throwing out a “What’s up, Scott?” or “Hey, guys.”

His 6-foot-5-inch, 230-pound frame gives even more credit to his status as a big man on campus. If you’re a Rockhurst student, you’ve either seen him in class, served on a committee with him or met him at a party.

When word came that he’d won a full-tuition scholarship, he was away at his high school senior retreat, where cell phones were not allowed. So his mother had to wait all week with the news. She even created a poster in the form of a check from Rockhurst and taped it to his bedroom door. He was thrilled.

“It was unreal. You hear of kids getting full rides, but I never thought I would get one.”

Wengert is working on a double major in physics and math and plans to pursue engineering in graduate school. He serves as rush chair for Pi Kappa Alpha and is an ambassador in the admission office. As a freshman orientation coordinator, he’s one of the first faces new students get to know on campus.
Melissa Ebone

Junior psychology major
Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.
Fun fact: Says people underestimate the importance of play and that one of her favorite activities is going outside to roll around in the grass.

As a high school student, Melissa Ebone boarded a bus in St. Louis full of other students headed to Rockhurst to check out the campus as part of an overnight-visit program. She decided she would move through the bus introducing herself to everyone to find out where they were from and what their interests were.

A self-professed talker, Ebene’s outgoing personality helped her become involved immediately after arriving at Rockhurst as a freshman. One of her most rewarding roles, she says, has been serving on the Student Senate and helping turn ideas into reality. This year she was elected president.

“During my freshman year, everyone said we needed a new weight room and two years later we had one,” Ebene says. “We’ve redecorated the Rock Room, helped revamp the student disciplinary policy and changed the way funds are allocated to student groups.”

Professor, park ranger, lifelong learner and adventurer are among the varied roles in which Ebene pictures herself.

“I’m going to have a good story to tell at the end of my life,” she says.
Nick Bono

Senior political science, communication and philosophy triple major
Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.
Fun fact: Considers himself the world’s biggest Sylvester Stallone fan.

Nick Bono plans to spend at least the next seven years in school, first to earn a law degree, then a master’s and doctorate in political science. He could be almost 30 before he finishes. What motivates him to pursue such a rigorous course of study?

He hopes this extensive training, combined with his bachelor’s degrees in political science, communication and philosophy, will make him ideally suited for military service. Bono, who is attracted to the idea of giving something back to his country, is strongly considering applying for the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG).

The Army likely will look favorably on his academic pursuits. His leadership record also should improve his odds for this competitive program. During his time at Rockhurst, Bono has served as president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, lead feature writer of the Sentinel, commissioner of intramural football and member of the pre-law society.

Bono not only works hard in the classroom and as a campus leader, he also holds two part-time jobs during the school year. One of his best experiences at Rockhurst has been one of his “summer jobs,” a Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Bono studied presidential rhetoric and the tools of war.

“The harder I work, the better my life will be. I am fulfilling my life dreams and accomplishing the goals I’ve set for myself,” he says. “And I’m making my mom proud.”
Stephanie Bui

Junior biology major
Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City
Fun fact: Still watches TV with the captions on because this was one of the ways she learned English.

Stephanie Bui’s parents left Vietnam in 1993 and moved the family to Kansas City to give her and her brother a different kind of life. She definitely has taken advantage of every opportunity — this biology major works two part-time jobs, is active in a host of campus organizations, and is graduating with honors in just three years with plans to enter medical school in the fall.

This has been quite a feat, considering that 10 years ago, Bui spoke virtually no English. Her proudest accomplishment has been teaching herself the language, and now that she knows English better than most native speakers, she is learning French. She excels in both the humanities and the sciences, and could succeed in any number of careers.

So why medicine? “I grew up in a country where medical care was substandard and the majority of people didn’t get adequate care. Even in the United States, you hear about the high percentage of people without health care,” she says. “The need for physicians is acutely felt in this country. I identify with people who don’t have health care because I was one.”
Artist, S.J.

Gallery Features
All-Jesuit Exhibit

By Katherine Frohoff
“Pied” is a word you don’t often hear these days. But when 19th-century Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote “Pied Beauty,” he used it to conjure images of things made beautiful and unique through their variegated nature.

For Anne Pearce and D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., this idea perfectly captured the essence of what they wanted to convey in an exhibition of works by international Jesuit artists. Pearce, director of the Greenlease Gallery, and Hendrickson, visiting professor of Spanish, curated “Pied Beauty: Contemporary Jesuit Art.”

“Pied means splotchy and some of these artists examine beauty through things that are not particularly beautiful,” Hendrickson says. “For example, when you look at poverty, what can you find that’s beautiful there?”

As they worked on the exhibition, several dominant themes emerged for Pearce and Hendrickson. Among them were the merging of different cultures in the artwork and the idea of priest and artist alive in the same person.

“I was intrigued by the process of making art and the process of being a spiritual person and where those might overlap,” Pearce says.
The Rev. Robert Dolan, S.J., who has been a photographer and artist for more than 30 years, describes this intersection of art and spirituality both in terms of the subject matter of his work and his reason for creating it.

“I seem to have an inner life that needs to be shared,” says Dolan. “All this art is possible because of what St. Ignatius Loyola said, ‘A man enters the Society of Jesus to save his own soul, and by that same grace to save others. That same grace works out to be art.’

Dolan describes his work as “a jumble of things within me that eventually come out on paper.” In his mixed media piece “Retablo of Waiting,” Dolan draws from Scripture and from his everyday life. He says the imagery in the work depicts the parable of the loaves and fishes and the people as he imagines them there that day. To illustrate the crowd, he uses photographs of people from the Los Angeles parish where he teaches art and performs pastoral work.

“The whole image is an expression of what this life — the parish, the neighborhood, my Jesuit community — has done to me,” Dolan says.

The Rev. Michael Tunney, S.J., associate professor of fine arts at Canisius College, says the subject matter of his work is not overtly spiritual but that he makes connections in a broad sense. Likewise, he says being an artist influences the way he performs his duties as a priest.

“Preaching is very much a process that’s an artistic skill — bringing stuff from everyone’s life together with Scripture and making sense of it.”
The Exhibition

“Pied Beauty: Contemporary Jesuit Art,” curated by Anne Pearce, director of the Greenlease Gallery, and D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J., visiting professor of Spanish, comprised work by 16 Jesuit artists. It included sculpture, drawing, painting and photography — both color and black and white. It was on view at Greenlease Gallery from Jan. 21–Feb. 12. The works shown here were part of the exhibition and were reproduced with the artists’ permission.

“Golgotha”  
Sammy Chong, S.J.  
Oil on canvas, 2004  
24” x 30”

“One Afternoon”  
Trung Pham, S.J.  
Acrylic on panel, 2004  
30” x 24”
¡Buen camino!

A pilgrimage to Santiago de Campostela

By D. Scott Hendrickson, S.J.
Visiting professor of Spanish
“¡Buen camino!” shouted the woman as she swept the dust from her stoop. “¡Buen camino!” echoed a cyclist as he zoomed by us. And yet another ¡buen camino!, this time with a thumbs up from a truck driver speeding by. Little did I know how important these words — good journey — would become to me over the next several days as I walked toward the still far away Santiago de Compostela.

The cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Northwestern Spain looms high in the city’s medieval center. Many towers, including an oddly placed clock tower, invoke a timeless upward journey, raising bells and statues above the plazas and buildings surrounding the church. A giant Renaissance façade masks the older Romanesque cathedral, whose arches remind the onlooker of the earlier Roman colonizers of the Iberian Peninsula. Indeed, each step through these porticos of stone peels away the layers of time — like going backwards on a journey from the modern to the ancient.

This church is all about journey. In fact, for centuries people have been making pilgrimage to this place from not only throughout Spain, but from all over Europe and beyond. The first pilgrim was St. James the Apostle, according to tradition. He came in the first century, sent on a mission to spread the news of Christianity. Now his remains lie in the crypt of the cathedral built in his honor, and since the year 813 people have walked the European continent to pray here.

Saint James, or Santiago, is said to have been originally buried not far from the edge of the earth, a place the Romans called Finisterre, the end of the world. Ever since the ninth century, when a star over an open field — campus-stella — illuminated the final resting spot of the Apostle to a hermit, Santiago de Compostela has been a sacred place of pilgrimage.

As a college junior studying abroad in Spain, I became interested in this pilgrimage route, the Camino de Santiago, which pilgrims have walked for the last 1,200 years. Last summer, more than 10 years since that fateful year in Spain, I was finally able to walk part of the camino.

And so it happened that two other Jesuits and I set out from the city of León in North Central Spain to make a 250-kilometer trek along part of the camino. Due to time constraints and distances, we chose to begin near León, which is host to one of Europe’s finest gothic cathedrals. That first day, as we took in the sights of the city, I couldn’t help but notice the scallop shell images that dotted the walkways, streets and buildings. An image evoking the coastal region of Galicia where Santiago de Compostela is capital, the shell is posted as a sign to lead the pilgrim onward. Where there are no shells, simple yellow arrows painted on stones, trees and houses point the way.

Yet another image from that first day in León remains just as vivid to me. I remember seeing among the shells high on a wall a fresco of Saint Martin of Tours typically ripping his cloak in half, part for him, the other for a beggar. But what did this French saint have to do with the camino? I soon found out.
My companions and I began walking the next morning from the city of Astorga, and we were prepared. Back packs, hiking shoes and provisions, all kept to a minimum for the least amount of weight possible. That day and the days that followed we would journey together toward Santiago de Compostela. I was in for one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life. Never really having backpacked or camped before, it didn’t take too long to realize that even a small amount of food and clothes becomes heavy on the back.

For stretches at a time the three of us would walk together, at other times we would drift apart and walk at our own individual paces. And for long stretches we would find ourselves walking and talking with other pilgrims, complete strangers. On the path I met people from all over the world — Poland, Italy, Colombia, Canada — of many different languages and cultures. We all shared the same destination.

Some of my favorite moments on the camino were the times when I could walk along in silence and simply take in the sights. The camino is everything: enchanting forested pathways; hot, beaten-down tracks through farm fields; steep, rocky slopes affording beautiful vistas; treacherous stretches along national highways; even cow paths, with both the cows and what they leave behind.

But in the peace and calm of the silence with only the footfalls keeping beat, the pilgrim is never alone. The camino nurtures a type of symbiotic relationship by which strangers become fast friends. And after a few days on the camino I began to understand that image of Martin of Tours from the first day. We too began to cast off some of our belongings, only wanting to carry that which was essential.

Even more, our newfound friendships generated among us a generosity like that of Martin’s. I was given superglue for a broken shoe, ointment for blisters, extra soap for washing clothes. Pilgrims shared even the smallest of items, such as safety pins — great for hanging wet socks to dry on the backpack. And there also were
gifts of greater value: water when bottles ran dry, food when resources were scarce and lodging when other doors were locked.

Brazilian theologian Dom Helder once wrote, “It is possible to travel alone. But the good traveler knows that the journey is human life and life needs company. Companion means the one who eats the same bread. Happy are they who feel they are always on the road and that every person they meet is their chosen companion.” For several days this was our life. Put succinctly, Nancy Rhoades of Kansas City, who made the pilgrimage last spring, says, “The camino is life.” There are the ups and the downs, joy and pain, even the occasional dung pile that you hit or miss. You face it all on the camino. And we made it to our destination, but only by ripping our cloaks in half.

Our walk through history from the later gothic cathedral in León to the earlier Romanesque churches along the way only intensified as we walked through the doors of the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Just as the centuries peeled away upon reaching the remains of the first-century Apostle, the pilgrim arrives at his or her own core, tapping into the font of friendship and generosity.

That final day, with a bit of time to spare, I was happy to explore the cathedral that so many pilgrims have sought over the centuries, and I found a curious carving over yet another entrance to the church. While we are accustomed to hearing the appropriate order of the letters Alpha and Omega, such as in Scripture, I spied the opposite. In large stone letters I read Omega and Alpha. Did the Medieval mason get it wrong, etching the letters in reverse? I doubt it. This is what our journey was all about, arriving to the Alpha, going back to the beginning, the core. Indeed, it had been a ¡buen camino!
RU Ready for Women’s Softball

When Galen Struve started as Rockhurst’s first women’s softball coach Aug. 1, he was long on experience and extremely short on time.

A former head coach at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Avila and William Jewell, Struve began his Rockhurst job by lining up student players.

“Because I had coached summer ball for 20 years in Johnson County and Blue Springs, I knew a lot of players, so I began contacting them.

“As soon as word came out that I was going to be the coach of Rockhurst’s new softball program, I started hearing from players from all over. Right away I learned Rockhurst has a lot of drawing power.”

Struve, who is a graduate of the Kansas City Art Institute and an illustrator by trade, will send Rockhurst into its first season on a brand-new field with only 11 players, including two pitchers and two catchers.

“We have some versatile players who can play several positions,” said Struve, who has carved a 35-game schedule, including five home-field double-headers.

“I’ve signed seven more players for 2006.

“Once I got the students together this fall I asked them what they wanted in uniforms,” Struve said. “I believe in nice uniforms. Often, you play the way you look.”

The Lady Hawks play their first home games on the new softball field at Loyola Park in March. For schedule and team information, visit the athletics site at www.rockhurst.edu.

Teammates, Roommates, Friends

On the basketball court Terrance Dopson and Joel Sobanski combined for some sparkling plays for the Rockhurst Hawks. Off the court, they are roommates, close friends and solid students with the same field of study.

Both are four-year starters for the Hawks following a season of redshirting and both are from the North. Dopson’s home is St. Paul, Minn., Sobanski is from Kenosha, Wis.

“We played together so long, we always knew where the other guy was or what he could do,” said Sobanski of their work in basketball.

“On our first day on campus, Joel came to my room and introduced himself,” Dopson said. “So we decided to be roommates.”

The 6-foot-4 Sobanski starred at forward, while the 6-foot Dopson excelled as a guard for the Hawks.

“They won a lot of games for us,” coach Bill O’Connor said. “And you couldn’t find two nicer people, on or off the basketball court. And, of course, both are great students.”

Both graduated with a degree in marketing last spring and are working on master of business administration degrees this year. This summer Dopson will work for Target Corp., in Minneapolis, Sobanski for Abbott Pharmaceutical in Chicago. Both intend to return to Rockhurst to complete their MBA work.

Dopson said that he and Sobanski will carry on their friendship.
This has been a remarkable year for Kecia Jennings, a true student athlete.

A 5-foot-8 setter in volleyball, Jennings was voted the Heartland Conference Player of the Year while helping her team advance to the NCAA II national tournament for the third consecutive year.

“Kecia is very athletic, moves well and makes saves that others can’t make,” coach Tracy Reitze said. “She’s a smart, competitive player and a great student.”

Jennings, who starred in volleyball and basketball at Leavenworth High School before coming to Rockhurst, has earned a 3.97 grade-point average majoring in biology and Spanish. As a result, she gained third-team national academic All-America honors after being selected first-team academic All-America in the region.

“Biology is a tough but interesting field,” Jennings said. “I’ve always tried to do well in class, in high school and college.”

After red-shirting as a freshman, Jennings had three solid seasons with the Lady Hawks. She hasn’t finished.

“I plan on coming back for another season,” Jennings said. “As long as I can play, I’ll play.”

Before this year, Jennings also played basketball for the Lady Hawks.

“I’m glad I decided to concentrate on volleyball,” she said. “Playing both sports pooped me out. Practicing and playing basketball and volleyball became a grind for me.”
Get Jazzed at the Gala

Now would be the perfect time to schedule those dancing lessons you’ve always wanted to take. Then you’ll be ready to cut a rug at the Rockhurst Gala, which promises to be better than ever this year in celebration of the event’s 10th anniversary.

This year’s gala, “Rockhurst is Jazzed,” will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, in the Imperial Ballroom of the Muehlebach Tower, Marriott Downtown. The evening will include cocktails, dinner, dancing and music by jazz singer Angela Hagenbach. Plans are under way to include a raffle for a car as part of the event. This year’s co-chairs are Bill and Betty George and Michael and Barbara O’Flaherty.

Get your friends together and reserve a table for this special event, or fly solo and meet some new people. Tickets are $200 per person or $100 for alumni from the classes of 1995–2005. The event will raise funds for scholarships and student services. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or (800) 756-2586.

Cuba Unmasked at Library Guild Event

Cuba is a vibrant country of exquisite beauty and rich history. While most Americans may never visit this forbidden island, the country came alive for those alumni and friends of the University who attended the 40th Annual Library Guild Critique Luncheon, held Thursday, March 10, in the Thomas More Dining Room.

Maria Finn Dominguez, Kansas City native and editor of the 2004 anthology Cuba in Mind, was scheduled as this year’s speaker. A former teacher and writer in Cuba, Finn Dominguez assembled this richly varied collection of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Contributors to the book include such famous visitors as Langston Hughes, Ernest Hemingway and Graham Greene.

The Rockhurst University Library Guild was established in 1968 to benefit the Greenlease Library. Since its inception, the group has raised more than $1 million. The chairwoman of this year’s critique, co-sponsored by Country Club Bank N.A., was Mary Brenneman.

The Library Guild is currently seeking new members. To find out how you can become involved with this organization, call Tori Snowden at (816) 501-4607 or e-mail tori.snowden@rockhurst.edu.
Research College Celebrates, Reminisces

It’s a big year for Research College of Nursing. The college is celebrating its 100th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of its partnership with Rockhurst University. The centennial celebration, billed as “Shaping the Future of Nursing,” began in January with a welcome ceremony for 65 sophomore nursing students.

Celebration of these historic milestones will infuse all traditional activities and programs throughout the year. Check the Research College of Nursing Web site (www.researchcollege.edu) frequently for news of upcoming events.

Saturday, May 14, will be a day for both reminiscing and looking forward. That’s the date when alumni will be invited to take a last look at the building that’s been home to nursing faculty and staff for more than 15 years. The former student residence, located at 2300 East Meyer Boulevard, will be torn down to make room for Research Medical Center expansions. The College of Nursing will be relocated to the former church south of Research Medical Center, located at 2525 East Meyer Boulevard. The move will take place in late May and the demolition will occur in June 2005. The Student Village will continue to offer housing to nursing students enrolled at Research.

Plans are under way to offer alumni opportunities to say goodbye to the building, including tours, an open house and reception following the May 14 pinning ceremony.

Alumni can say goodbye May 14 to the Research College of Nursing building.

Celebrity golfer Amber Krumholz, ’02 (former Lady Hawks basketball player), joined Jim Donahue, ’75; Greg Larm, ’75; John Donahue, ’76; and Rick Ratz, ’75, at the ’04 Celebrity Golf Classic.

It’s Tee Time

Looking for an excuse to take the afternoon off? You just found one. Register now for the third annual Fr. Joseph M. Freeman, S.J., Celebrity Golf Classic, scheduled for Monday, June 27, at the Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate.

Each foursome entered will choose a celebrity team member from a group of 36 local professional athletes, comprising past and present Royals, Chiefs and Wizards. A pairing party will be held Sunday, June 26, at the Chiefs Pavilion at Arrowhead Stadium, where each team will draw a number and select a celebrity in that order.

Chiefs defensive end Jared Allen and Al Fitzmorris, Royals broadcaster and former pitcher, are honorary chairmen for the event. Title sponsors include McBride & Son Homes and ThreeSixty Architecture.

The cost is $275 per golfer, and several sponsorship levels are available. All tournament proceeds will benefit the University’s athletic department. For information, call Tori Snowden at (816) 501-4807 or e-mail tori.snowden@rockhurst.edu.
Alumni of the Year Honored

Each year, the Rockhurst University Alumni Association presents awards to honor outstanding alumni.

Individuals may be nominated for awards in the areas of achievement, service and scholarly work, as well as for induction to the athletic and science halls of fame. One award may be presented to an individual, though not a Rockhurst graduate, who has shown outstanding service to the university.

The 2004 Alumni of the Year recipients were honored at an award dinner in St. Louis.

Scott and Kathleen Hummel are co-founders of Our Little Haven in St. Louis, which provides care for babies and children through 7 years old who have been abused, neglected or affected by drugs.

Scott and Kathleen Hummel, both ’86, Alumni of the Year for Outstanding Service

When they talk about the amazing and important work that goes on in the haven, they are quick to pass on any credit.

“It’s not about Scott and Kathleen,” says Scott. “It’s God’s hands pushing us. We’re just a pencil in his hand. He’s writing the story.”

They are also very grateful for the support they’ve received from Rockhurst.

“The founding board of Our Little Haven was made up solely of Rockhurst alumni, and the Hummels still enjoy a close relationship with their Rockhurst University friends.

“We’ve seen an outpouring of generosity and resources,” says Kathleen. “If they can’t do it, they call someone who can.”

“Rockhurst’s influence has gone far beyond our expectations,” says Scott.

Since opening their doors in 1993, the Hummels have seen Our Little Haven grow tremendously, now offering services for the whole family.

“It’s a blessing and a curse,” says Scott. “Unfortunately our growth continues because the need continues to grow.”

Scott and Kathleen Hummel, both ’86, were honored for outstanding service.
How does an Augustinian priest from Panama become a bishop in Quiché, Guatemala? If you are Mario Alberto Molina Palma, O.A.R., '72, your journey took you through Kansas City, Spain and Rome before being consecrated as Bishop of Quiché Jan. 22, 2005.

There were no Augustinian Recollect Order seminaries in Panama, so Molina began his formation at the Monastery of Saint Augustine in Kansas City, Kan. In September 1968, after a year of novitiate, he started his college studies at Rockhurst.

“Rockhurst taught me to ask and to seek answers, to try to understand,” Molina said. “I have found that even pastoral work is best developed when you have the capacity to ask and to conceptualize resources from which to create guidelines for action.”

After graduating from Rockhurst in 1972 with a bachelor of arts in psychology, Molina continued his theological studies in Spain. After his ordination in 1975, he went to Rome for postgraduate studies in sacred Scriptures at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, later returning to Spain for a period of pastoral work. By 1981 he was in Rome once again, where he completed his doctoral research at the Biblical Institute. Since 1985 Molina has taught theological and biblical studies in Guatemala at a Jesuit university.

Quiché was the scene of the cruelest violations of human rights during the Guatemalan war in the ‘80s. Repercussions still are felt, according to Molina.

“I want to offer hope and motivation to everyone, so that through belief in Christ and as members of the Christian community, people take ever greater awareness of their dignity as persons and children of God.”

Rick Sullivan, '73, Alumnus of the Year for Outstanding Achievement

Rick Sullivan joined McBride and Son, a construction and real estate development firm based in St. Louis, as an assistant property manager one week after receiving his accounting degree from Rockhurst in 1973. Today he is the CEO.

Sullivan applies his background in accounting, construction and the real estate industry to lead this successful and growing company. McBride and Son has offices in Kansas City, St. Louis, Louisville, Chicago and Atlanta.

Sullivan holds several leadership positions, including one as a director for the National Association of Home Builders. He is also a director and executive committee member of both the Regional Business Council and Regional Commerce and Growth Association in St. Louis.

Sullivan credits his Rockhurst experience with teaching him skills he’s carried throughout his career and his life.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Rockhurst,” he says. “I learned how to think, how to look at things philosophically and how to get along with people from all walks of life.”

Sullivan lives in the St. Louis area with his wife, Susan, and seven children.

Rick Sullivan, '73, was honored for outstanding achievement.

Alumni Leaders

Rockhurst Alumnus Appointed Bishop

The Rev. Mario Alberto Molina Palma, O.A.R., '72

Would you like to help spread the word about all the great things happening at Rockhurst University? If you have a place of business with a public waiting room or service counter where you would be willing to place a few copies of Rockhurst magazine, send a note with your address to katherine.frohoff@rockhurst.edu.

Share the News
'58
Frank Janner has been re-elected to the John Knox Village board of directors and serves on the finance, pension and board development committees. He also was elected board member and treasurer of Community Link, a not-for-profit organization serving the homeless.

'65
James P. Linehan, who lives in Chatham, N.J., is president of the Milburn Rotary Club. He’s received several awards since starting his own business in 1999 and travels to Japan to see his three grandchildren.

'66
Dave Tholen retired as president and chief executive officer of Hycor Biomedical in Garden Grove, Calif. He and his wife, Kathy, will reside in Atlanta, Ga.

'67
Paul Smith, Ed.D., and wife, Susan, now have four grandchildren. They are Carson, 7, Ava, 2, Hunter, 1, and Zachary, 9 months. Both of their children, who each have a boy and a girl now, are college graduates. Their son, Bob, works in research at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science (UAMS) and their daughter, Caroline, works at the Arkansas Pediatric Clinic in Little Rock.

'71
Franco Gamero is a highway safety expert in Royal Oak, Mich. He serves as the vice president of research and development for PC-Brake Inc. He is also a vice president and minority liaison for Kids and Cars. Gamero is president of Futsal-Michigan indoor soccer and a national futsal referee. He holds certifications in scuba diving and piloting single engine planes.

'74
Amy Bode left the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to join the public health department serving Seattle and King County, Wash.

'75
Kenneth Mueller was promoted to western regional president of Metal Management Inc. in Chicago, one of the country’s largest scrap metal processing companies. His office is based in Phoenix and his newly expanded region includes Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, Southern California and Northern Mexico.

'77
August Vincent Spallo Jr. published his first novel, The Book of Legends: Hallowed Ground. It is an adventure mystery, a tale of friendship, honor and courage in the face of difficult decisions. Author-House publishing the book.

'78
Mark Randall, city administrator in Pleasant Hill, Mo., received the 2004 Jay T. Bell Professional Management Award by the Missouri City Management Association. The award is given to a city manager/administrator who displays high standards of accomplishment, professionalism and ethical conduct.

'79
Jim Tiehen is celebrating his 10th year of operating The Tiehen Group, a commercial real estate firm located in Overland Park, Kan.

'80
Michael Boland was named chairman of the City of Ballwin, Mo., planning and zoning commission. Before that, he served two terms on the Ballwin Board of Aldermen.

'81
Patrick Brink was named to lead the communications efforts for the city of Eden Prairie, Minn. Before taking this position, he ran his own public relations company.

'83 MBA
Edward F. Mickells started his own marketing consulting firm, Thermopylae Marketing LLC.

'85
Shannon (Thompson) Freise is the vice president of operations for Sager Electronics and oversees the company’s information technology department and warehousing capabilities, including its world-class distribution center and third-party logistics. Before joining Sager in 1998, she managed extensive applications development and deployment projects at KAO InfoSystems. Freise, who resides in Marshfield, Mass., is the proud parent of two children, ages 13 and 7.

'86
Maj. Larry Groves has returned home to accept an assignment as the physical therapist at Whiteman Air Force Base. Groves recently completed a three-year tour of duty as the health promotion manager at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota and was awarded his fourth Meritorious Service Medal.

'90
Anne (Gladbach) Lister resigned from her position in July 2004 when her husband, Brent, accepted an employment opportunity in Jacksonville, Fla. Lister reports that she’s enjoying relief from “corporate
America” to spend more time with Zach, 6, and Bryce, 1.

Angela (Buckelew) Coyle has continuously worked in broadcast journalism (in Oklahoma City, Jefferson City, Columbia, then back to Oklahoma City) since graduating from Rockhurst. She married her husband, Sean, in 2000. They have two children, Andrew and James.

‘92

Mickey (Karlin) McGinness and her husband, Steve, live in Lindsborg, Kan., with their two children, Madison, 7, and Jameson, 4. McGinness works for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation as a forensic scientist in the Biology/DNA unit at the Great Bend regional laboratory. Her husband teaches and coaches in the McPherson School District.

‘92 XMBA

John Dick retired as vice president of management services from the Trammell Crow Company in July 2003 and has moved to Florida.

‘95

Jana (Whittaker) Friedrichsen married Sam Friedrichsen, a perfusionist, in July 2000. The couple met in graduate school in Houston. Jana and Sam, who live in the St. Louis metro area, are the proud parents of a son, Parker, born May 2004.

P. J. O’Connor left the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office and accepted a position as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Missouri.

Katherine Roth-Johnson was promoted to executive producer for the upcoming TV show, “My Girlfriend Gina.” The show is launching from St. Louis and is targeted to be broadcast this spring. She and her husband live near St. Louis, where she works as a director for an early childhood education program that promotes inter-generational relationships through daily activities with senior citizens.

Riza (Ernest) McCoy graduated with a master’s degree in industrial hygiene and environmental management from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 1998. McCoy is the associate health and safety director, industrial hygiene, for the OSHA Consultation Division, Oklahoma Department of Labor. She married Sean McCoy on Aug. 30, 2003, and gave birth to a baby boy on Aug. 2, 2004.

‘95 MBA

Jeanne Sheehy was appointed chief marketing officer of Bostrom Corp., a Chicago firm that provides consulting, outsourcing and comprehensive management services to associations and not-for-profits. Prior to her appointment, she served as director of marketing and alliances for the company.

‘95 BS, ‘97 MPT

Jacqueline (Prosperi) Gunn married Robert Gunn (’93 B.S. in math, ’94 B.S. in physics) in 1998. They welcomed twin sons, Anthony and Charles, in September 2004. He received a master’s degree in civil engineering in 1996 from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a project construction manager for the City of Maryland Heights. Jacqueline, a physical therapist for the Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis, works with patients with spinal cord injuries.

‘96 MBA

Scott Webb joined Bank of America as an account executive working in residential lending. The majority of his work is focused on first-time home buyers.

‘97

Sean McGraw and his wife, Michelle, have moved back to the area. He works for Chrysler, and she works for United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Kansas City. They have one son, Brennan, who is 3 years old.

‘99

Christina Layton Schriner taught for five years in the Fort Zumwalt School District in St. Peters, Mo., where she coached both boys and girls soccer teams. In April, she married Mike Schriner in Winter Park, Colo., then moved to Chicago, in June to be near her husband. She currently teaches science and coaches girls soccer at Luke Zurich High School.

‘99, ‘01 MPT

Sr. Laurie Kertz pronounced first vows with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kan., in August before her family, friends and community members. Kertz spent her postulant year in El Paso, Texas, where she worked as a physical therapist. Her
All in the Rockhurst Family

When Karen Moran, ’01, and David Redlich, ’00, married July 10, 2004, so many wedding party members were Rockhurst alumni or current students, they came to campus following the ceremony at St. Thomas More Catholic Church to pose for photos. The two met in an English composition class during their freshman year. Moran is the daughter of Charles Moran, Ph.D., professor of political science. She is a Spanish teacher at St. Teresa’s Academy in Kansas City and David works for consulting firm Accenture. (From left) Teresa Vondrak Doty, ’99; Kelly Hillebrandt, ’00, Alex Moran, ’05, brother of the bride; Mark Moran, ’04, brother of the bride; Susie Moran, ’06, sister of the bride; David Redlich, ’00; Karen Moran Redlich, ’01; Brianna Mungall, ’00; Matt Crites, ’00; Dan Novascone, ’00; Ted Toczyloski, ’00.

’03


Lee Urban spent the past summer as research and policy intern for the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In addition to being a second-year law student at Creighton University School of Law, he is writing a book titled Fighting Terrorism by Meeting Your Neighbor and Eating at McDonalds.

’02

Greg Lee and wife, Lisa, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on Sept. 1, 2004. Greg was promoted to plant manager, Montrose Station, for Kansas City Power and Light in October 2004.

Colleen (Burke) Davis will graduate from University of Texas School of Law this spring. Davis, the senior editor of the UT Journal of Criminal Law, has already taken a position with the William A. White P.C. law firm.

’01

Collin Larkins was hired by Walt Disney Feature Animation to work on Disney’s latest animated movie, “Chicken Little,” which comes to theaters this November.

’00 MBA

Bruce M. Zungu moved to New York and worked for CIT Merchant Bank after earning his MBA degree. He returned to South Africa in 2002 to work in investment banking for companies such as Rothschild and HSBC. He currently manages a private equity company. Zungu and wife, Clara, have a daughter, Aikah, born July 2004.

Sarah Rotter received an M.S. in audiology in May 2002 and an Au.D. (Doctorate in Audiology) in May 2004, both from Vanderbilt University. She works at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis.

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Marriages

'95
Maria Aranda married Carlos Corredor in September 2002.

'96
Julie Pickman married Travis Domann on May 6, 2000. Their daughter, Sara Elizabeth, was born July 4, 2002. Domann currently works for a catalog company called Peruvian Connection, located in Tonganoxie, Kan., as the senior-level accountant focusing primarily on the company’s foreign locations.

'99

'00

'01
Jacqueline Barnes married William Greer Almquist on June 19, 2004. She is a graduate assistant in the department of communication and assistant forensics coach at Central Missouri State University, where she is working on her master’s degree in speech communication. In February she traveled throughout Great Britain to compete in the Montgomery Cup Parliamentary Debate tournament. The couple lives in Sedalia, Mo.

'02

Births

'91
Kelcey (Marr) Grandsire and husband, Thierry, announce the birth of their first child, Tristan Brian, on May 8, 2004.

'92
Daniel Bybee’s family doubled this year. A son, Javan James, was born April 30, 2004. The Bybees moved to Lethbridge, AB, Canada, in July to adopt a 6-year-old girl, Sarah Nicole. The couple is taking pre-adoption classes and hope to finalize the adoption within a year.

'93
Tiffany (Wylie) Hamm and her husband, Scott, welcomed their third daughter, Amelia Cate. She is joined by sisters Natalie and Amanda.

Mary (Schlautman) Homburg and husband, Timothy, announce the birth of a daughter, Hannah Kathleen, on May 11, 2004.

'94
Hope (Meyers) Mazzeo and husband, Andy, had their second child, Jane Susanna, on Oct. 9, 2004. She joins a big sister, Clare, who is 4.

'98
Dawn (Childers) and husband, Bryan Menges, announce the birth of their daughter, Hannah Grace, on Aug. 2, 2004.

Shandin (Fiskin) and husband, Dominic Klobe, announce the birth of their first child, Colin, born March 2004.

'98, '00 MPT
Tiffany (Tibbetts) Bohm and husband, Matthew, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Jackson Patrick, on October 12, 2004.

'02 MBA
Craig Peterson and wife, Sally, announce the birth of their second child, Anna Elise, born Nov. 3, 2004.

Update your bio or send a class note at www.rockhurst.edu/mag
In Memoriam

Francis X. O’Brien (’38) Sept. 8, 2004
Paul Dixon Shrewsbury (’39) Sept. 28, 2004
Thomas Michael Donahue (’42) Oct. 16, 2004
James R. White (’45) June 2, 2004
Claude Wilbur Fry (’46) Nov. 6, 2004
Francis George Carroll (’47) Nov. 2, 2004
John Robert McConnell (’47) Nov. 27, 2004
Joseph A. Baska (’48) Oct. 6, 2004
Michael K. Wirtz (’50) Sept. 20, 2004
John D. Hensley (’50) Nov. 11, 2004
Clinton L. Glaspy (’54) Dec. 18, 2004
David M. Hake (’55) Sept. 12, 2004
Joseph P. Gravino Sr. (’56) Dec. 3, 2004
Henry James Kolenda, Jr. (’58) Oct. 1, 2004
John E. Meehan (’58) Nov. 19, 2004
Kenneth Joseph Lang (’59) Sept. 12, 2004
John Henry Cissell (’59) Nov. 27, 2004
Phillip Michael “Mick” Keller (’60) Oct. 26, 2004
Harold E. Meyer (’61) June 26, 2004
Ronald A. Zupon, Sr. (’68) Nov. 3, 2004
Richard Paul Todd (’70) Feb. 4, 2004
Charles Vernon Ferry (’73) Oct. 14, 2004
James Hall Stanton (’77) Dec. 10, 2004
Denise Lynn Barnes Tridle (’90) Jan. 12, 2004

George O’Connor, Ph.D., beloved biology professor whose Rockhurst career spanned 35 years, died Friday, Dec. 17. He was 64.

Many colleagues and students remember him for his deep devotion to family.

“He was the model of a family man,” said Marshall Andersen, Ph.D., professor and chair of biology. “His family was his first love, and teaching was his second love, a very close second.”

He was an extremely popular instructor. On several occasions, O’Connor was named Teacher of the Year, a distinction awarded by students, at Rockhurst and Research College of Nursing.

Edward Kos, Ph.D., professor emeritus of biology and University archivist, George O’Connor, Ph.D., professor of biology, and Reva Servoss, Ph.D., professor emerita of chemistry, at a 1996 retirement party for Servoss.

“He allowed us to see him as a person and a friend and not just another one of our professors,” said Maureen O’Dowd, ’06. “I will never forget all of the silly anecdotes of the great life he led. Rockhurst will never be the same without him.”

The Rockhurst community gathered Jan. 25, along with members of O’Connor’s family, for a memorial Mass in packed Mabee Chapel.

O’Connor received his bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and Ph.D. in biology from Saint Louis University. In his years with Rockhurst, he taught courses such as Honors General Biology, Evolution, Invertebrate Zoology and Anatomy and Physiology.

To continue O’Connor’s legacy at Rockhurst, his family established the Dr. George M. O’Connor Scholarship Fund. To make a contribution, contact the advancement office at (816) 501-4300.

The Rev. Donald J. Murphy, S.J.

The Rev. Donald J. Murphy, S.J., who taught theology and religious studies at Rockhurst from 1978 to 1994, died in St. Louis Dec. 27, 2004. He was 74.

Fr. Murphy was born Nov. 13, 1930, to Patrick J. and Hester T. (Sullivan) Murphy.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 31 at St. Francis Xavier (College) Church in St. Louis. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the Jesuits of the Missouri Province, 4511 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO, 63108.
For your future, for the future of Rockhurst.

www.rockhurstmagis.org

Rockhurst’s planned giving Web site now features useful information to help you plan for a secure financial future. Visit www.rockhurstmagis.edu to subscribe to our weekly financial e-newsletter. A variety of experts will help you keep current on tax deductions, wills and trusts, income-producing gifts and more. You’ll also learn how your gift to Rockhurst can benefit you and our students at the same time. Why not log on today?
Rockhurst Day 2005

Mark your calendar now and plan to cheer the Hawks on to victory during Rockhurst Day, scheduled in conjunction with the Homecoming soccer game, Friday, Sept. 30. This action-packed evening promises fun for all ages, from carnival games for the kids to a beer garden for adults. Watch your mail for an invitation. (From left) Matt Quante, ’05, Molly Wiman, ’05, and the Hawk helped dedicate the new soccer field at Rockhurst Day 2004.

C A L E N D A R

APRIL
5 Lecture: The Rev. Greg Boyle, S.J.

MAY
3 Regents Spring Gathering
19 Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

JUNE
10-12 Alumni College
27 Celebrity Golf Classic

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