The Perspectives That Divide Us

One student's personal journey into the issue of immigration
Go Hawks!

Rockhurst sophomore Amy Lindley (with ball) helped lead the women’s soccer team to a 7-2 homecoming victory over Kentucky Wesleyan College on Sept. 28. Lindley’s team brought home one of three wins for the day; the volleyball and men’s soccer teams won their matches as well.
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ON THE COVER: To many, the fence along the U.S./Mexico border is not only a physical barrier but a symbol of the economic disparity that exists.
HSOM Faculty Share Their Research Abroad

If you think about it, nearly every service-oriented business you know — from hair salons to auto repair shops — transitioned to electronic record-keeping long ago. But the medical field is way behind the curve. Why are health-care professionals across the nation so locked into such an outdated paper-based system?

Two Helzberg School of Management faculty members will tell you the answer likely involves a combination of financial and technical factors. But the most important factor, according to Myles Gartland, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics, and Martin Stack, Ph.D., associate professor of management, is behavioral — a physician’s familiarity with and preference for paper records. When this behavior is locked in with so many individuals, it becomes institutionalized within the entire profession.

The slow adoption rate of electronic medical records is one example Gartland and Stack use to conduct research in an area of study called organizational paths.

“Organizational paths help us explore how historical events either constrain or aid current and future business decisions,” said Gartland. “A business may want to move in one direction, but because of past events, they are locked into an inefficient path they cannot move away from.”

Because of their extensive research in the field, the two were invited in May to speak to business faculty and doctoral students at Berlin’s Freie University, which has a center dedicated to research on organizational paths. Gartland and Stack, who have co-authored several papers on the subject, also have presented their research in Philadelphia, Austria, Denmark and China in recent years.

Strategic Planning Update

How did Rockhurst transform your life? Did you learn how to think critically, to communicate effectively and to appreciate cultural differences? Did you learn how to align your actions with core values and personal goals?

Today more than ever, Rockhurst is committed to transforming lives and forming leaders in the Jesuit tradition. These aspirations comprise the foundation of the University’s new shared vision and 2007-2012 strategic plan, which were approved by the board of trustees in September.

After 15 months of strategic planning involving more than 500 people, the University is now in the process of implementation, which includes continuing to work toward a balanced budget this year. The University also will be raising money to fund the 2007-08 strategic priorities approved by the board in September.

The plan was developed with careful consideration of Rockhurst’s core values, such as finding God in all things and cura personalis (i.e., care for the whole person).
Guided by the strategic plan, members of the Rockhurst community are working to improve the ways in which the University forms men and women for others. This process will involve not only change, but also a renewed focus on our Jesuit mission and values.

Toward this end, Rockhurst created the Office of Mission and Ministry in August and hired the Rev. Kevin Cullen, S.J., as vice president for mission and ministry. In this capacity, Fr. Cullen will provide leadership and direction regarding the University’s shared vision and strategic plan. He also will be responsible for the Office of Campus Ministry.

“The Office of Mission and Ministry will focus its efforts upon helping us to fulfill our mission as a Jesuit university,” said the Rev. Thomas Curran, O.S.F.S., president. “While the articulation and practice of our Jesuit values is a shared responsibility, leadership and direction in this venture are helpful and necessary.”

Before coming to Rockhurst, Fr. Cullen served the provincial of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus as assistant for social and international ministries. He also has been the novice director for the Missouri Province and director of Ignatian spirituality programs for the Mission and Values Office at Regis University in Denver. He has taught at the high school and college levels, served in parishes and retreat houses and been involved in the Jesuit Refugee Service and l’Arche faith-based communities.

“I am impressed by Rockhurst’s commitment to service that offers students and faculty a clear invitation into transformation in the Jesuit tradition,” said Fr. Cullen. “The Finucane Service Project revealed Rockhurst’s commitment to forming women and men in a faith that does justice. The practice of action, reflection and analysis is integrated in both our academic and student development programs, and that way of proceeding reveals that the mission is alive in the University.”

“I’m excited about our future,” says Jane Lampo, Ed.D., vice president for advancement. “Our job is to create a transformational experience for each and every student. The changes we’ll be making in the coming months and years are focused on helping us do just that. I think this is an important step in moving the University forward in a way that is consistent with our mission.”

As the University begins to implement the strategic plan, it also will begin a series of planning, budgeting and accountability cycles.

“In addition to keeping us focused on the shared vision and our four critical issues, this new process encourages responsible stewardship of University resources by evaluating progress, gauging effectiveness and ensuring accountability,” says Bill Bassett, director of planning and assessment.

Fr. Kevin Cullen, S.J.
Soccer Pro Leads Malaria Campaign

In the United States, $10 might buy your morning coffee, pastry and newspaper. But in Africa, where more than 3,000 children die of malaria every day, $10 can be the difference between life and death for families without mosquito nets.

Diego Gutierrez, ‘05, Chicago Fire midfielder and national spokesperson for Nothing But Nets, a United Nations Foundation campaign, is passionate about spreading the message that just $10 can save an entire family from malaria.

That’s the organization’s cost to purchase, distribute and teach a family how to use the nets.

His dedication to the cause led the U.S. Soccer Foundation to honor him as the 2007 humanitarian of the year. Gutierrez, who got involved with the campaign because he felt he was at a point in his life where he could make a real difference, finds himself thinking in “bednet numbers” when he looks at what he spends.

“How many people could I save by not indulging in little stuff?” he often wonders. “It is imperative that I make people understand Africa’s needs and how easy it is to help save lives.”

Gutierrez, a Rockhurst University soccer standout from Colombia, capitalizes on his professional soccer career to raise awareness of malaria.

“For better or for worse, at times people listen a bit more when you kick or throw or shoot a ball for a living,” he says. “The platform that pro athletes have gives me something not everyone has.”

This platform allows him to get others involved in helping the less fortunate. “I am persistent when it comes to making others realize that we are responsible for helping people who were given less,” Gutierrez says. “We are morally responsible for looking out for them.”

French Students Partner with Haitian Community

Traveling to an exotic location to learn a second language isn’t practical for many college students, but students in Kathleen Madigan’s Francophone Cultures class get to visit a Haitian community every week. Her students can practice their French with fluent speakers at the First Baptist Haitian Church right here in Kansas City.

The program, which allows both groups to teach each other through their different experiences, is a partnership between Rockhurst’s Center for Service Learning and Glory House Services, a nonprofit organization focused on diversity and education.
OT Students Help Ecuadorians with Hansen’s Disease

Typically, graduate students in the occupational therapy program conduct their required fieldwork at a local hospital or clinic to complete the hands-on component of their education. In August, seven students had the opportunity to conduct their fieldwork in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where they spent a week offering therapy to patients living with Hansen’s Disease, or leprosy.

Hansen’s, a chronic infectious disease, is among the world’s most feared and misunderstood diseases. It is curable, but if it is not caught early, it can cause irreparable damage to the nerves, muscles, skin and eyes.

The OT students met with patients at the Damien House, a charity-funded hospital and clinic for those with Hansen’s Disease, to assess their needs, then to develop and implement individual treatment plans. Students also led group exercise sessions.

Training and fieldwork teaches students that creativity is essential in occupational therapy. But these students were surprised to learn just how much creativity they needed at a facility such as the Damien House.

“The experience in Ecuador enabled me to understand how a facility can have few economic resources, but be able to transform their resources into practical solutions for the clients,” said Sarah Werth, a second-year OT graduate student.

Werth learned some clients had trouble getting from their beds to their wheelchairs — a challenge easily solved with a device called a sliding board. With none in sight, she and other students went about making one from scratch using wood and tools found in the facility’s maintenance closet.

When another patient’s hands were getting sore from exercise equipment, a student made some new hand weights from cloth and sand to ease her discomfort. Students also developed a bean-bag-toss game for fine motor skills, and exercise sticks from some old crutches.

“We were told, ‘by stepping into our facility, you have stepped where most will not — not even the family members of our patients,’” said Kris Vacek, OTD, chair and associate professor of OT. “That alone helps heal them, and it’s what made this experience so special.”

Sophomore Ali Burr spends her time on Friday nights teaching piano and improvisational skills to young children, and senior Stephanie Hutcheson teaches computer skills and English to adults. Others, including seniors Eric Thompson and Teresa Scalard, took Madigan’s class in past semesters but continue to volunteer at the church. Thompson fixes computers and teaches computer skills, and Scalard teaches English.

According to Kathleen Madigan, Ph.D., professor of classical and modern languages, the atmosphere at the church can be free-flowing and spontaneous. One student might be teaching piano to a child while another offers an English lesson to some adults. Often the others will crowd around hoping to learn something too. Senior Colbert Root, who teaches English on Saturday mornings, has noted the strong sense of community as part of this exchange.

“Sometimes what is a lesson for one person becomes a lesson for all,” he says.

The goals of the project are to give the students real-world experience with the culture of a Francophone country, to explore the issues facing immigrants and to get to know the Haitian participants through activities centered around learning.

Burr never thought she would find a French-speaking community in Kansas City. What she found was a group of warm and hospitable people and an excellent opportunity to practice her language skills.

“The best part is learning firsthand and being around people from a French-speaking country,” she says.
Program Preps High School Students for College

Nearly two dozen local teens from low-income families are getting a step up in preparing for college through RU College Bound, Rockhurst’s outreach program designed to secure student success.

Offered in partnership with Blue Hills Family Life Center, Operation Breakthrough and Hogan Prep Academy, the 16-week program meets one night per week to provide teens with access to the resources they need to complete high school and to prepare for college.

Several Rockhurst students are helping to provide the teens with tutoring, mentoring, ACT preparation and assistance with selecting and applying to colleges. The students are meeting one-on-one with teens to help them set goals and learn about the college experience.

“This program is important because it not only helps encourage students to pursue a college education, but also helps them learn practical ways to succeed,” said Alicia Douglas, Rockhurst’s director of Community Relations.

Sophomore Named Miss South Sudan

Ayok Monydit has come a long way in her short 19 years. She and her family escaped war-torn Sudan when she was 9 to make a new life in the United States. Today she is a sophomore at Rockhurst and recently earned the title Miss South Sudan 2007.

As Miss South Sudan, Monydit will travel to conferences throughout the United States to discuss current issues in Sudan, especially women’s rights. In December, she will visit her native land to bring awareness to women’s rights there.

Monydit hopes her experience as Miss South Sudan will help to empower girls and women who face discrimination.

“The experience is not just about the title, but what you do with the title,” said Monydit, who volunteers with the Sudanese Women’s Empowerment Network. The organization helps support social and gender justice, human rights and healthy communities.

Monydit is a recipient of the Sieber scholarship, an award made possible by John Sieber, ’56, for students who are highly motivated and demonstrate strong leadership abilities.

“The Sieber scholarship is one of those rare gifts you happen to stumble upon,” she said. “Without financial aid, I would not have been able to attend Rockhurst. My family and I are so grateful to those who have given us so much.”

An active participant in her church community, Monydit cooks, cleans and sometimes makes tea for the women there. Around campus, you might see her studying in the biology lab, hanging out in McGee Hall or occasionally wearing traditional African clothing to class. Monydit is majoring in biology and psychology, and she plans to attend graduate school.

Sophomore Ayok Monydit will travel to conferences throughout the United States.
Tocco Receives NAIA’s Highest Honor

This fall, Rockhurst University men’s soccer coach Tony Tocco received the highest honor bestowed by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Tocco, Ph.D., professor of accounting, is the winningest coach in the history of NAIA men’s soccer. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame Nov. 13 in Olathe, Kan.

“Being part of the NAIA were some of the best years in my coaching career,” said Tocco, who ranks second among active intercollegiate coaches and is third on the all-time coaching list. “I developed some great friendships in the NAIA that have stayed with me over the years. To be part of the NAIA Hall of Fame along with some of the top people I’ve coached against is an honor and a privilege.”

Rockhurst was a perennial power in the NAIA from 1973-1997 under Tocco. The Hawks played in 17 national championship tournaments, advanced to the Final Four 10 times and finished national runner-up four times.

Tocco was a three-time NAIA National Coach of the Year. His teams won 20 or more games eight times, including his past four teams that competed in the NAIA. He had 24 players earn NAIA All-American honors.

Individuals inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame must be persons of outstanding quality, high moral character, fine leadership ability and held in high esteem by their colleagues, former coaches and former athletes.

Known throughout the community as a role model, Tocco is considered one of the best classroom teachers at Rockhurst. He maintains the proper balance between academics and athletics for his student-athletes and is recognized for his deep faith and unwavering commitment to his team.

Grant Helps Rockhurst Women Pursue Science

Did you know that nearly 47 percent of students in Rockhurst’s math, physics, chemistry and biochemistry programs are women? That’s up from only 29 percent a decade ago.

The University’s efforts to close the gender gap in these fields of study received a boost this year when Rockhurst received a $258,000 grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program of the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant will support four undergraduate female juniors and seniors majoring in the sciences. This program is unique in that it seeks to address the national shortage of students in general, and women in particular, who are entering the non-medical fields of science.

The grant will provide scholarships, faculty mentoring, summer research fellowships, regional or national presentation opportunities and the chance for recipients to mentor younger peers.

Annie Lee, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, received a five-year professorship from the Clare Boothe Luce Program in 2001. Now she is serving on the selection committee and will be a faculty mentor to one or more of the scholarship recipients.

“Students who receive these funds will be able to focus on learning science and math year-round,” said Lee, “which will help to ensure they are successful at Rockhurst and that they are prepared to continue their studies in the best graduate schools throughout the country.”

Clare Boothe Luce, the widow of Henry R. Luce, was a playwright, journalist, U.S. Ambassador to Italy and first woman elected to Congress from Connecticut. Her bequest that established the program sought to encourage women to enter, study, graduate and teach in the sciences, math and engineering.
The Perspectives That Divide Us

One student describes her personal journey into the complex issue of immigration.

By Kate Quinn, '09
My interest in immigration really hit me out of nowhere. During my spring break earlier this year, I went on a Rockhurst-sponsored service trip. As I traveled to El Salvador with other Rockhurst students and faculty, I had no idea how the experience was about to change my life.

I’m a political science and economics major, so I was particularly interested in learning more about the political and social situations there. We stayed at a Catholic volunteer house in the capital city of San Salvador and traveled to two other cities to work on service projects that were already in progress. We helped build a concrete foundation for a dental clinic in one town and an elderly care center in another. Most of our time was spent working, but we also had the chance to take in the culture of the area. We hiked into the city’s market, to the university and to several religious sites.

An eye-opening experience

While taking everything in was a bit overwhelming, I was amazed at what I learned. The economy was weak and unemployment was high. I saw the lasting effects of El Salvador’s civil war, which took place from 1980 to 1992. Even with a fair amount of arable land, the agricultural sector looked bleak. One of the villages we visited had a single well as a water source for more than 1,000 people. Basic necessities like water, shelter and clothing were not available for everyone in the village. Children had rotting teeth as they had no chance to see a dentist. Before my trip, I was unfamiliar with life in Central America. It was truly eye-opening.

In the months before leaving for spring break, I had become an orientation coordinator and was responsible for planning freshman orientation with 11 other students. Orientation is a week-long event for freshmen to become acquainted with Rockhurst’s campus life and culture. Every year, the freshmen are asked to read a book over the summer in preparation for a discussion, and I was on the committee that would select the reading. Themes for the book are chosen in advance, and our theme was immigration. Before I left for my service trip, I was asked to review Enrique’s Journey, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Sonia Nazario. The book discusses a boy from Honduras, which is a neighbor to El Salvador, so I thought that it would be a great read on the plane and during my free time.

The author pulls water from the only well that serves an entire village. Many who use the well have to carry water several miles to their homes.

In El Paso, Ruben Garcia, ’69, knows what it’s like to stand with those who are least among us. As co-founder and director of the Annunciation House, Garcia leads an organization, established in 1978, that provides hospitality to immigrants, refugees and undocumented people from Mexico, Central America and other countries.

Today the Annunciation House helps the economically vulnerable people of the region through hospitality, advocacy and education. According to its mission, it seeks to transform our understanding of relationships between peoples, countries and economies.

Garcia, a native of the border area, visited the Rockhurst campus in October to speak about the economic disparities that encourage migration and the importance of getting involved in the immigration debate.

“You are a critical component of the national dialogue,” he told a group of freshmen in Mabee Theater.

His visit was part of the freshman seminars curriculum, which involves classroom discussion, guest speakers and a service project.
The boy who was left behind

*Enrique's Journey* tells one small but powerful story. It's about a boy named Enrique whose mother leaves him and his sister in search of better wages in the United States. Because of the money she sends, Enrique has new clothes every year and is able to continue his education. But nothing can make up for his mother’s absence, so he decides to go find her. With just a phone number, he embarks on a difficult and emotional journey.

Reading the book during my trip was phenomenal. I was blown away by the descriptions in the story that paralleled exactly what I was witnessing in El Salvador. The dire economic situations in Central American countries leave citizens with few options to make a living. I realized that conditions made it basically impossible for them to have anything close to the lifestyle I was living. In El Salvador, I found out with my minimal Spanish that almost everyone I met had a family member living in the United States. They all expressed wishing to make the trip themselves someday. It was bizarre to hear about the high wages in United States, when I know the uneducated Salvadorans are going into my country to make minimum wage — less than I make as a student.

In El Salvador, our group visited the Jesuit university in San Salvador, where we met several Americans. One of them was Tom Gill, a Saint Louis University graduate who runs the study abroad house for American students. He told us about his recent trip that followed the migration of Salvadorans into the United States, an experience similar to the one described in *Enrique's Journey*. Tom went on buses through El Salvador to Guatemala and then into Mexico. While he traveled legally with passports, he watched many Salvadorans struggle to make the trip without such luxury. As he told us his amazing story, I thought of the book I was reading. What a coincidence between Sonia Nazario and Tom Gill and the experiences they shared.

After talking with the other coordinators, we decided *Enrique's Journey* should be the book that we'd ask freshmen to read, and Tom Gill should be invited to campus to lead the book discussion. Tom agreed and came to campus in August. While speaking with the freshmen, he used his experience and Jesuit education to paint a picture of the dire situation in El Salvador. His passion for the issue was clear as he explained why people leave and described the horrific human rights violations that occur on their trips through Mexico toward *el Norte*. 
No easy answers

I’ve learned immigration is an issue of both policy and social justice. But I still have so many questions. What makes people leave their countries? Why are they subjected to human rights violations on their journeys? How are they treated in the United States? Do they like it? Or do they hope to return to their home country? Can they afford to?

But immigration has no easy answers. This became apparent to me this summer during the senate’s debate over the proposed immigration bill. I interned for a Nebraska senator and heard many opinions on the bill and immigration in general. This experience left me more confused than ever, but it motivated me to educate myself. I couldn’t be happier that it has become a theme for this year at Rockhurst. This important topic will not only be a huge issue in the next election, it will be a major issue throughout my lifetime.

I am committed to using what I’ve learned about immigration for the rest of my life, and I’ll start by voting for political candidates who have good ideas for solving the problems that exist. As a student in a Jesuit university, I believe that everyone deserves equal rights as human beings. I’ll never forget my spring break trip and how it has forever changed my perspective on the world.

Kate Quinn is a junior from Omaha, Neb. She is pursuing majors in economics and political science and a minor in nonprofit leadership studies.

El Salvador, home to two mountain ranges and several volcanoes, has nearly 7 million people. A third of them live in poverty.

Immigration by the Numbers

• Of the 35.7 million foreign-born people in the United States in 2004, 10.3 million are undocumented.

• Every year, more than 1 million come legally and illegally from all regions of the world.

• 81 percent of the undocumented population is from Latin America.

• Nearly half of the undocumented population is concentrated in three states: California, Texas and Florida.

• About 7.2 million undocumented migrants were employed in March 2005, which represented about 4.9 percent of the civilian labor force.

• Median earnings of Mexican migrant workers are $300 per week.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center. pewhispanic.org

The Jesuit Response

The Jesuit Conference has joined the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in calling for comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to legalization for the undocumented, reunites families and focuses on developing the countries from which they come. Learn more at www.jesuit.org.
Nothing Soft About These Skills

As the contemporary business landscape evolves, employers are placing an increasingly higher value on people with strong communication, teamwork and leadership skills. The Helzberg School of Management is well aware of the trend and implementing changes to meet the demand.

By Jamie Sievering, ’06 MBA

“This is where you all went wrong, causing my plan to fail.”
Have you ever worked with someone who was excellent at the specific requirements of his job but who had a hard time dealing with people? Whether it was a problem with communication, working in a team or something else, the person likely impacted the organization’s efficiency and culture.

These are called the soft skills, those personality traits and social instincts that influence not only how well you work with people but are an increasingly important determinant of how far up the organizational ladder you rise.

Traditionally, business school students graduated with a degree in accounting or finance or marketing, and that was enough to land them a solid job in the business world.

But things are changing. The economy is shifting. Companies still need accountants and marketers with specialized skills, but today they expect more. Human capital is the new priority; the quality of your people is of utmost importance if you want your company to succeed. Organizations now are seeking employees who have a strong grasp on language, negotiation skills, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, coaching and social graces.

If employers are talking, Rockhurst’s Helzberg School of Management is listening. Administrators have been studying this trend and are adjusting the school’s approach to keep up with the times and meet the demands of business.

“Employers are looking for people who can get things done, to create results through other people,” says Sylvia Dochterman, director of executive and professional programs in the Helzberg School.

Pat Mosher, ’04 EMBA, director of corporate communications for HNTB Companies, agrees.

“Being a good communicator and having good interpersonal skills to engage your employees and clients is just as important as being able to book a sale,” she says.

While Mosher was in the program, she and her team conducted a project that looked into what skills area employers were seeking in the students they were sponsoring. According to her team’s survey of 16 firms, Mosher found leadership development was ranked the No. 1 focus area they were looking for, followed by financial acumen, strategy development and implementation and change management.

“As for my own organization, we are first looking for technical skills for the desired position,” says Mosher. “But we also screen candidates to see how they would fit within our culture and exhibit our brand. That means we look for people who have excellent interpersonal skills that can be applied both internally and outside our firm.”

Pat Mosher, ’04 EMBA, is director of corporate communications for HNTB Companies.

The Helzberg Executive Fellows MBA program is in a perfect position to adjust to meet the demands of the market. Earlier this year, Rockhurst redesigned its curriculum to better prepare executives with the soft skills employers are seeking.

Since its inception in 1978, when it was one of the first executive MBA programs in the nation, the program has helped prepare senior managers and corporate officers from local and regional firms for top leadership roles in their organizations. Students, on average, have about a decade of management experience.

Human capital is the new priority.

In the new program, students begin with a formal, comprehensive self-assessment and 360-degree feedback that provide insights about their leadership strengths and weaknesses.
“We can’t help them become more effective leaders and managers if they don’t know where they are on the spectrum,” says Dochterman. “Our new curriculum has expanded the emphasis on professional development skills and focused on building self-awareness.”

Students work in cohort teams of six or so on assignments and projects, and each individual is paired with an established executive from the business community who serves as a mentor. The assessment results, along with the student’s specific goals and objectives, are used to carefully tailor a personal and professional development plan. Mentors offer support and practical insights along the way.

“Those so-called ‘soft skills’ aren’t so soft at all, are they?”

This focus on self-awareness and soft skills development doesn’t mean students get to cut back on the quantitative disciplines. The program still includes the spectrum of traditional MBA courses such as supply chain and logistics management, finance, accounting, marketing and economic and competitive analysis.

“You have to understand the marketing and finance, but those alone are not going to get things done,” says Dochterman. “You have to have social intelligence.”

When offered along with a practical executive development curriculum, the program’s specialized mentoring program allows participants to develop a self-awareness that helps them become more confident and effective leaders.

“Those so-called ‘soft skills’ aren’t so soft at all, are they?” says Mosher. “They are absolutely essential in business today. It’s one thing to develop a great strategy to grow your business, but ultimately the successful implementation of that strategy will hinge on your people’s behaviors and their engagement with the business.”

Dan Solito, who entered the program this fall, has faced this challenge in his own professional experience. In a company he recently joined as part of a turn-around team, he noticed most of the managers had never received training related to issues such as hiring, team building, employee motivation and working across boundaries.

“We saw a tight connection between training them and executing on the vision,” he says. “Companies that recognize this and invest in the right kind of training build loyalty in their employees and can also create a competitive advantage through their people.”

Just as the managers saw value in the training, students have found the cohort format of the Executive Fellows program useful for their personal and professional development.

“The team-oriented approach is a critical component of the program,” says Solito. “Where else would people from such diverse industries and functions come together to discuss a business issue and the potential ways of solving that issue?”

Because these cross-functional collaboration skills are increasingly in demand, Helzberg School administrators also are working to make some adjustments to the traditional MBA program.

“People don’t work in silos,” says Al Hawkins, Ph.D., assistant dean for academic affairs. “Our MBA program is moving toward an interdisciplinary approach that will prepare students to work in cross-functional teams and take a systems approach to problem solving.”

According to Hawkins, the changes will prepare MBA graduates with not only a broad-based understanding of contemporary business but the knowledge and skills needed to deal with problems the way they are handled in organizations across the nation and around the world.

“You have to have skills not only to do your job but to communicate well,” says Joe Parrish, who completes his MBA in December.

Parrish, a business analyst for Midland Loan Services, says he’s developing the skills to manage both people and situations and gaining a well-rounded view of the business landscape.

While that business landscape continues to change, soft skills are expected to play an increasingly important role in organizations everywhere. Many stakeholders of the Helzberg School, where leadership isn’t a course but a cornerstone, believe recognizing and capitalizing on the development of these skills will give future graduates an edge.

“These skills are an essential part of leadership,” says Mosher, “and I don’t consider what I do be soft at all.”
Endless Summer

The weather has cooled, but four Rockhurst students continue to find meaning in the enriching experiences they had last summer.
On a Rockhurst University mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, two years ago, Allison Rank helped build a cinderblock house with no running water for a family that struggled to get the basic necessities of life. When she returned to the country as a senior during the summer of 2007 for an internship with the National Chamber of Commerce of Guadalajara, she lived with a host family that had a cook and a maid.

“Some people have a preconceived notion that Mexico is poor and people are uneducated,” said Rank, “and they’re surprised to learn how many rich people live there.”

As a summer intern, Rank helped translate documents and Web pages into English, and made conference arrangements.

The monthlong experience allowed her to learn about cultural differences between Mexico and the United States in business practices and society at large. Those differences became apparent her first day on the job when she reported to work and had to wait for the rest of the staff to arrive. Later she learned about the coffee breaks and two-hour lunches to accommodate the biggest meal of the day.

“There didn’t seem to be as much of a sense of urgency,” Rank said.

Another surprise came when her boss demonstrated a genuine curiosity to know her as a person, beginning the first day with a 30-minute get-acquainted conversation.

With a double major in business administration and Spanish, Rank hopes to work in an international business setting some day. In addition to studying Spanish, she supplemented her language skills with a course in Chinese at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

But first she needs to make it through all the requirements of a busy senior year at Rockhurst. In addition to serving as Student Senate president, she’s working to complete her senior capstone project — a study of the differences between the rich and poor in Mexico.
Ana Cimino

Senior Ana Cimino spent last year studying in Paris. But her passion for sustainable development and fair trade soon left her feeling out of place in the fashion capital of the world.

A month later, she was living in a mud hut with no electricity and no running water in a small farming village in Kenya. And she felt at home.

While the French major valued her time in France, she felt a calling to be with those on the other end of the economic spectrum. So she partnered with an organization called Foundation for Sustainable Development and served an eight-week summer internship in Lubao, Kenya.

After getting to know the area and the people, Cimino was charged with conducting a needs assessment to see how she could contribute.

“You don’t want to step on their toes,” she said. “You want to help out but not take over.”

The area’s three-year-old peace center offers community education on topics such as alternatives to violence and reconciliation among communities — topics that are especially relevant to residents of that region. Cimino decided on a project that would promote participation in the center’s programs and help the center generate revenue.

Her project? To offer a sign of peace to the residents of tiny Lubao. Literally. With the help of some hard-working local volunteers, she designed and built a garden in the shape of a peace sign. This peace garden will allow residents to grow and sell vegetables and earn revenue to help the center become a sustainable community resource.

Cimino found the experience very meaningful.

David LeFebvre

David LeFebvre spent his summer on the 19th floor of a downtown office building as an intern for American Humanics. AH is a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofits dedicated to preparing the next generation of nonprofit leaders.

As an intern, LeFebvre’s job is to coordinate a three-day American Humanics Management Leadership Institute in January, so his internship actually will continue until the event. He has been busy coordinating staff members, guiding committees and preparing to host a conference that will bring together more than 800 students and nonprofit professionals from around the country.

“It’s intense, but it’s an awesome opportunity to network with board members and others in the nonprofit sector,” he says.

In recognition of his dedication to the nonprofit sector, the organization selected him to receive the American Humanics NextGen Leader award, which includes a scholarship to help cover living and educational expenses during his internship.

LeFebvre is a junior majoring in communication and nonprofit leadership studies. He’s also earning a certificate in American Humanics. After graduation, he plans to continue his work with nonprofit organizations, but probably not on the 19th floor of a downtown high-rise.

“I want to work on the ground level — something in volunteer management or a community organization,” he says. “I want to work with people in an organization that serves young people. That’s where my passion comes from.”
The Rockhurst women’s basketball team raised the bar academically last year. The Hawks finished 25th among NCAA Division II schools with a 3.315 grade-point average. Chelsea Barnett led the Hawks in the classroom in the 2006-07 school year. The senior from Emporia, Kan., finished with a 4.0 GPA in her junior year and held a 3.9 cumulative GPA.

“Being ranked academically makes us all feel good,” said Barnett, who is majoring in philosophy and political science with a pre-law focus. “We hope to raise it this year.”

Barnett hopes to begin law school in fall 2008. She credits Rockhurst for giving her an excellent education and preparing her for a legal career.

“It has been very positive academically,” Barnett said. “You get to know all of your professors. It demands that you are organized. This has been a beneficial experience.”

One year after having surgery on her knee, Barnett started 15 games for the Hawks last season. The 5-foot-7 guard was fourth on the team in scoring, with 6.7 points per game, and second in three-point field goals made, with 38. She scored a career-high 25 points in leading the Hawks to a road win at Upper Iowa.

Barnett came to Rockhurst on a soccer scholarship in 2004. She was the starting goalkeeper in her freshman year, posting 67 saves and five shutouts. The same year, she was also the starting point guard on the basketball team.

“I always preferred basketball over soccer,” said Barnett, who tore the ACL in her right knee during preseason soccer workouts in 2005. “I wanted to continue with soccer until I hurt my knee. I would not have come to Rockhurst if it hadn’t been for the confidence that Coach Greg Herdlick showed in me.”

Frank Diskin and Andrea Tinsley were inducted into the Rockhurst Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming ceremonies on Sept. 28 at Bourke Field.

Diskin served as athletic director at Rockhurst from 1985-2007. During his tenure, Rockhurst athletics grew from four to 11 intercollegiate sports. He directed the Hawks into joining the NCAA and becoming a Division II member while assisting in the formation of the Heartland Conference in 1998.

Diskin also spearheaded the school’s move into the Great Lakes Valley Conference in 2005. Six of the athletic programs qualified for NCAA national tournament competition behind his leadership. He served as Rockhurst’s men’s basketball coach for six years and volleyball coach for three years.

Tinsley was an NAIA and Kodak All-American in 1992 and 1993. As the team captain in 1993, she led the Hawks to a 30-2 record and a district championship. She also lettered two years in volleyball as a middle hitter.

Tinsley was an NAIA and Kodak All-American in 1992 and 1993. As the team captain in 1993, she led the Hawks to a 30-2 record and a district championship. She also lettered two years in volleyball as a middle hitter.
Senior Garrett Fischer, one of Rockhurst’s top tennis players, began the year with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.
On Dec. 15, 2006, Megan Barnett had just completed her first off-campus clinical rotation as a second-year student in Rockhurst’s doctoral program in physical therapy. During a phone call with her parents, Mark and the Rev. Patty Brown-Barnett, she told them she was pleased with the experience and excited about the possibilities.

Shortly after that call, Barnett was killed in a car accident. In her honor, Megan Barnett’s family has established an endowed scholarship fund to benefit students in the physical therapy program. Her father said Megan was becoming a “consummate professional” while in the Rockhurst program.

“The rotation site reaffirmed to Megan that she was exactly where she should be, doing what she should do,” he said. “The preceptor at the program said compassion toward patients was his No. 1 criteria for physical therapists, and Megan had that.”

Barnett’s talents were also recognized, and are missed, on campus.

“Megan was a great young lady who was growing in terms of competence and confidence as she progressed in our curriculum,” says Brian McKiernan, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of physical therapy. “Students who apply for the Barnett scholarship will need to articulate how they have grown and changed by participating in the PT curriculum, and how they view themselves providing service to the community after graduation.”

If you’re interested in making a contribution to the Megan Lynn Barnett Scholarship fund, donations may be made online at www.rockhurst.edu/giving or sent to Rockhurst University Office of Advancement, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Designate the name of the scholarship when making your gift.

Make a Critical Investment

Supporting a scholarship program is a classic way to invest in the future, and in the future of deserving students. A classic example? Rockhurst’s Critical Investments Scholarship Program, established to provide a high-quality education for women who have experienced barriers and disadvantages in the pursuit of their education.

Amanda Hoznor, a senior working toward her bachelor’s degree in psychology, is one of those women. When a difficult family situation led to an unexpected change in her economic status, Hoznor turned to staff members in the financial aid office at Rockhurst.

“I told them I would push hard to continue with school — I would do anything possible to continue going to Rockhurst to enhance my education,” Hoznor says.

“I wouldn’t give up hope.”

After reviewing her financial situation and discussing her goals, staff members encouraged Hoznor to apply for the Critical Investments Scholarship Program. Scholarship recipients must be focused on a vision of achievement, have the endurance and perseverance to realize their dreams, and are expected to “invest in” or give back to their community.

“I’m planning on becoming a nurse, and eventually going into neonatal nursing,” Hoznor says. “This scholarship makes that possible. I want to say ‘thank you very much’ to the donors and to Rockhurst. Without this scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to finish.”

The scholarship was established in 1995 by Catherine B. Allen, Mary Shaw Branton, Edith M. Evans, Janice C. Kreamer, Vivian J. Sosland, Deborah Sosland-Edelman and others. Rockhurst extends its gratitude to the many alumni and friends who have contributed to the success of the Critical Investments Scholarship Program.

If you are interested in offering your support, donations may be made online at www.rockhurst.edu/giving or sent to Rockhurst University Office of Advancement, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110. Designate that your contribution is for this fund.
Rockhurst Celebrates Carnival Brazilian Style

Lively Brazilian music filled the air at Rockhurst’s 12th Annual Gala on Saturday, Oct. 27. Inspired by the festivities of Carnival, alumni of all ages enjoyed the delicious fare and Rio-style music and dancing. A highlight of the evening was the Grupo Axe Capoeira, who performed a fight-dance style of Brazilian martial arts.

Congratulations to the volunteers who created such an exciting event to help raise funds for scholarships, community service projects, student development initiatives and other critical needs. Gala co-chairs were Mark, ’82, and Donna Teahan; and Michael, ’98 EMBA, and Theresa Osredker. Honorary chairs were Lloyd, ’95 EMBA, and Sue Ann Hill. Andre, ’94, and Jennifer, ’97, Smith were the 2007 young alumni co-chairs.

Among those celebrating at the gala were, from left, Shannon (Shaw) Coleman, ’92, Dick and Daffy Shaw, Fr. Tom Wiederholt, and Rich, ’88, ’92 MBA, and Susan Shaw.

Become a Regular Investor in Rockhurst

Are you a loyal Rockhurst graduate, parent or friend who makes consecutive annual gifts to the University? If so, you’ll be invited to join an exclusive group of loyal Rockhurst supporters. There’s no specific dollar amount and no specific giving category required for joining. Rather, it’s your consistent support of Rockhurst that is deeply valued by the Regular Investors in Rockhurst (RIR) group. Donors who give consecutively for five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 or more years will be recognized in the annual Honor Roll of Donors as Regular Investors in Rockhurst.

While there’s no particular category of giving required for RIR, the Rockhurst Fund may be the perfect spot for your donation. The Rockhurst Fund — the new name for Rockhurst’s annual fund — has enormous impact, because it targets Rockhurst’s most pressing needs. Whether those are scholarships, faculty development, service trips or classroom technology, you can rest assured knowing your donation goes to help Rockhurst fulfill its shared vision of transforming lives and preparing leaders.

With the end of the year approaching, now is the perfect time to consider Rockhurst University in your giving. For details about the Rockhurst Fund, Regular Investors in Rockhurst or to make a donation, visit www.rockhurst.edu/rockhurstfund or call (816) 501-4431.

The ROCKHURST FUND

Same Fund, New Name

What’s in a name? At Rockhurst, we take pride in our name, which is why the annual fund has been renamed the Rockhurst Fund. It is still the same fund that provides dollars for the University’s greatest needs, and it is a significant part of Rockhurst’s overall giving programs.
Alumni, Students Celebrate Rockhurst Day

Friday, Sept. 28, brought picture-perfect weather and a record crowd for a Rockhurst Homecoming celebration with alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the University.

Lower Bourke Field transformed into a mini-carnival for Rockhurst Day, with attractions ranging from an inflatable playground to a balloon artist. A photo booth, concession stands and temporary tattoos added to the festivities for both the young and the young at heart.

Those in attendance had more reason to celebrate as the Hawks and Lady Hawks soccer teams defeated the Panthers from Kentucky Wesleyan College and the Rockhurst volleyball team turned back the University of Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers.

Rockhurst Day also included a golf cart parade, with more than 20 student organizations competing, and the Great Baby Race, won by record-fast crawler Abigail Meiers. Abigail is the daughter of John Meiers, ’94, alumni board member and adjunct faculty member in the political science department.

A golf cart parade kicked off the festivities for Rockhurst Day on a beautiful September afternoon.

Young Alumni Spotlight

Name: Melissa Ebone, ’06
Degree: Bachelor of arts in psychology, minor in communication
Hometown: St. Louis
Position: Backcountry guide

Melissa Ebone loves being outside, but she isn’t letting any grass grow under her feet while she’s there. Since graduation, Ebone has lived in Colorado, Missouri, North Carolina and Wyoming. Now, she’s back in Colorado, wrapping up a stint as an outdoor educator. This past summer, she served as a trek leader with highly motivated, low-resource youth in a college-oriented leadership program.

Like the students she coached, Ebene is motivated by the joy of learning:
• “I learned you don’t have to follow the ‘supposed to’s’ in life in the ‘right’ order.”
• “For me, it’s been best to explore, go where I knew no one, and be in a constant state of learning.”
• “It’s important to enjoy where you are and what you’re doing at that time.”

As her explorations continue, Ebone embodies one more lesson, as explained on her Facebook page: “Not all who wander are lost.”
Mark Your Calendar for Game Nights

Do you prefer “Sports Center” or “Jeopardy!”? Whatever your guilty pleasure, Rockhurst has you covered on either front in February when the University presents back-to-back nights of fun and games.

Regents and Alumni Night at the Ballgame, held Thursday, Feb. 21, is the perfect opportunity for you to check out the Rockhurst basketball teams. Join us for the Lady Hawks game at 5:30 p.m., attend a special reception between games and then cheer on the Hawks at 7:30 p.m. Your entry fee, either three nonperishable items or $5 per person, will benefit St. Francis Xavier Social Ministries.

Alumni Trivia Night will be held Friday, Feb. 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Put that Rockhurst education to good use and assemble a four-person team or register as an individual to vie for cash prizes. Tickets are $20 per person and include beer and snacks.

For reservations or more information about either event, contact the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or alumni@rockhurst.edu.

Alumni Leaders

Retired Executive is a Champion for Kids

As a member of Rockhurst’s 1964 NAIA basketball championship team, Jim Selzer, ’64, knows what it’s like to win. Now, the retired AT&T executive is helping students in need enjoy their chance for success.

Selzer is the volunteer executive director for the Guardian of Dreams, a Jacksonville, Fla., organization that provides the financial support needed to keep two Catholic schools — Holy Rosary and St. Pius — open in the inner city.

Patricia Tierney, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of St. Augustine, says Selzer is a vital volunteer and a wonderful role model.

“Jim walks the walk,” Tierney says. “The children at Holy Rosary have seen him making their breakfast along with a group of men who come every day. They have seen him coach the basketball team when no coach could be found. And above all, they have seen him passionate about Catholic education in the inner city, as he goes about raising money for scholarships and for new early childhood centers at both St. Pius and Holy Rosary.”

Jim Selzer, ’64

Selzer says lessons he learned at AT&T have been essential when communicating the vision and plan for the schools. He also says he is “standing on the shoulders” of those who influenced him during his early years — and he is grateful for this opportunity to give back to the community.

“The impact of his efforts has been the saving of our two inner-city schools,” says Tierney. “Jim is someone who takes his faith seriously and sees the connection between love of God and love of neighbor.”

Selzer was recently recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the Annual National Day of Philanthropy Luncheon, and has been selected by WJCT-TV in Jacksonville as one of the station’s “12 Who Care” honorees. He and his wife, Mary Louise, a graduate of Saint Louis University, have three daughters and three grandchildren.
Start Saving For Your Children’s Tuition

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

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

Plus, your children will have the flexibility to choose from a variety of top schools around the nation. Rockhurst is one of more than 260 private colleges and universities participating in the plan, and more are joining every year.

To learn more, visit www.independent529plan.org.

Rockhurst Blogs

Want to hear what’s happening on campus? Get the real scoop when you read Rockhurst’s faculty and student blogs at www.rockhurst.edu/blogs.

Michael James Brosnahan was added to First Community Bancshares’ Board of Directors. He also is a member of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph finance committee.

James C. Wirken was voted a Missouri Super Lawyer for the second year in a row. This honor is reserved for the top five percent of Missouri lawyers. Wirken also was named the Best of the Bar 2007 by the Kansas City Business Journal and was re-elected to the Board of Governors of the Missouri Bar for the 2007-08 term. He hosts a two-hour segment of the KMBZ 980 AM Radio program, Kansas City’s Morning News – Sunday Edition. He continues to be the coordinator of the Trial Advocacy Program, now in his seventh year at UMKC School of Law, and teaches legal modules in the Helzberg Executive Fellows MBA program.

Raymond W. Sonnenberg has been selected as the 2007 alumnus of the year for Rockhurst High School by the Rockhurst High School National Alumni Association Board. This award is given annually to an alumnus who honors the spirit, mission and vision of the Society of Jesus in his work as a “man for others.”

Rick Sullivan was nominated to head the St. Louis Transitional School Board. He is also on the boards of Lindenwood University and the Regional Chamber and Growth Association (St. Louis). Sullivan founded “Read, Right and Run,” a local program that encourages children to run a mile a week for 26 weeks, read 26 books and do 26 acts of kindness.

Kenneth “Mulls” P. Mueller is president of the Phoenix-based Metal Management Arizona, the largest scrap metal recycling company in the state, and president of Metal Management West, one of the largest in the Rocky Mountain region. Mueller is also secretary/treasurer and a member of the executive board of directors of the Arizona Association of Industries. He and his wife, Denise, reside in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Major James P. Reinhart (Ret.) and his wife, Diane (Armstrong), have two sons, Andrew and Benjamin, and have been married for 32 years. Jim is retired from the Defense Finance and Accounting Services and is a retired major of the U.S. Army Reserves where he served for 22 years. They reside in Kansas City, Kan.
‘79 MBA
Glen Gabert was named “Educator of the Year” by Hudson County Community College, in Jersey City, N.J. He currently serves as president of the college.

‘83
John C. Esser recently was promoted to retail sales director for Anheuser-Busch. His region includes Minnesota, Iowa and North Dakota. Esser currently resides in Des Moines, Iowa, with his two children Chris, 19, and Megan, 17.

Tim McDaniel served as a visiting professor of political science at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden, from January through June 2007. He and his wife, Kathleen (Armato), ’83, are faculty members at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, and have three daughters.

‘85
Michael T. Smith is manager of student financial aid at St. Louis Community College Meramec Campus. He was formerly associate director of financial aid at University of Missouri-St. Louis.

‘85 EMBA
Ronald A. Rittenmeyer was recently elected president and chief operating officer of EDS. He also now serves on the board of directors.

‘86 MBA
Jeri Bartunek is the CEO of Bartunek Technology Group Inc. She recently received an appointment to the City of Kansas City Fairness in Contracts for Women and Minorities board.

‘89
Terri Lynn Smith graduated in May 2006 from Regis University with a master’s degree in business administration. She works as a chemist for Intertek and makes her home in Pearland, Texas.

‘89 MBA
Lawrence “Larry” G. Ehren is director of mission services at St. Jude Medical Center in the St. Joseph Health System in Fullerton, Calif. His wife, Christy, is an Episcopal priest serving in Huntington Beach, Calif. They have two children, Lia, born in Hunan Province, China, in 1998, and Caroline, born in Hubie Province, China, in 2002.

‘89, ’94 MBA
Steven M. Steinkamp was called up from his reserve unit to active duty for the invasion in Iraq. He was deployed earlier this year for the second time in support of the Iraq war.

‘90
Michelle Dew graduated from the UMKC School of Medicine. She completed a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Arizona and joined a practice a year ago. She and her husband, Ron Gregg, reside in Parkville, Mo., and have a 1-year-old son, Griffin.

‘90 EMBA
James Dawson joined Truman Medical Centers as vice president of strategic business development.

‘92
Steven W. Hodges graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1998 and Northwestern University School of Medicine-Emergency Medicine Residency program in 2002. He serves as one of the Chicago Cubs team physicians. He qualified for and finished the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii, in 2005. Hodges works primarily as an emergency M.D. in Chicago.

Jeffrey T. Lodermeier currently serves as vice consul in the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique. He was assigned to become public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg effective April 2008.

‘96 MPT
Kristi Kliebert has joined the staff of RVC Rehab Services at the Chrissie Tomlinson Memorial Hospital in George Town, Grand Cayman.

‘96 EMBA
Bernardo Ramirez has been named the executive director of the Hispanic Economic Development Corp.

Submit a Class Note
Have you sent us an update lately? We’d love to hear from you. Visit www.rockhurst.edu/classnotes to submit it online. You can even e-mail a photo to accompany your class note in the next issue of Rockhurst.
‘97
Kyle Ernst recently accepted a different position within Citibank, with whom he has been employed for nearly 10 years. His most recent hobby has been anything related to his house, which he purchased two years ago in Shawnee, Kan.

Richard Alan Heck recently was named medical director of the Baptist-Springhill Weight Loss Clinic. He and his wife, Belinda, announce the birth of a daughter, Emily Rose, born Jan. 6, 2007. Emily joins sisters Cassandra Alexis, 9, and Samantha Madeline, 5.

LaTonya Lavette Myrick works as a nurse in business services with Baylor Health Care System in Dallas, and completed her MBA this fall.

‘97 M.Ed.
Renee Wilson is a sixth-grade math and science teacher in the Smithville school district.

‘98
Catherine E. (Bird) Fuhrman recently joined Advan LLC as a product manager to help drive the introduction and management of new third-party crop protection products. An active member of the National Agri-Marketing Association, Fuhrman is a board member of the association’s MO-KAN chapter.

Christopher Schloeman recently was named Executive Marketing Director MVP for the World Financial Group. This award is one of the company’s highest honors. Schloeman currently resides in Chino Hills, Calif.

Sherry Payne is the CEO of CPR Lady, which was honored this year as a nominee for Small Business of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband, Charles, have six children and reside in Overland Park, Kan.

‘99, ’07 CSD
Rebecca Miles will be working for the Kansas City, Mo., School District as a speech-language pathologist.

‘00 MBA
Damian Gerstner was conferred a Certified Pharmaceutical Industry Professional credential by the ISPE Professional Certification Commission. He is one of the first four professionals in the world to be awarded this new certification.

Andrew “Andy” G. Axsom was named the 2006-07 Chapter Advisor of the Year for the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Axsom advises the chapter at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he works as a student development specialist in the College of Business Administration.

Megan Renee (Galhouse) Perez is married to Frank Javier Perez and has a daughter, Kaylee Alexandra, born in November 2004. Perez teaches third grade in the inner city of Bakersfield, Calif. She completed her master’s degree in June and plans to pursue her Ed.D.

Jo Anne (Aquino) Cabantac married Christopher A. Cabantac on June 5, 2004. They have one child, Aniston Aquion, born Oct. 24, 2006. They live in Little Rock, Ark. Jo Anne received a BSN in 2004 and is an RN at UAMS Hospital. She was awarded UAMS nurse of the month for September 2006.

Bobby O’Connor passed the bar examinations in Missouri and New York. He lives in New York.

Go Online to Give
It is faster and easier than ever to make a contribution to Rockhurst University. Just visit our online giving page at www.rockhurst.edu/onlinegiving, make your gift through our secure server, and we will mail you a receipt. Want more information about giving to Rockhurst? Contact Jody Burgard, director of advancement services, at (816) 501-4629 or jody.burgard@rockhurst.edu.
Births

'93

'93 MBA
Marq Reeves and his wife, Kathy, proudly announce the birth of their first child, Noah Marquin, on March 19. Marq works for the Bemis Company as a strategic account manager. They live in Shawnee, Kan.

'96, '98 MPT
Ryan Moore and Courtney (Lane) Moore, '97, '99 MOT, announce the birth of Lane Kelly on Jan. 31. He joins his 5-year-old big brother, Ryan Moore Jr.

'96, '00 MBA
Jason Patrick Rogers and Valerie (Drunert) Rogers, '97, announce the birth of their second child, Aiden Jackson, born April 18. Aiden joins big sister, Madison Elizabeth, 6.

'97
Kristin (Bergner) and Matthew Muckerman '99, '03 MBA, are pleased to announce the arrival of their new baby girl, Megan Rose. Megan was born on April 14 and joins big brother Shane Matthew, 2.

Sara (Hoagland) Hart and Edward Hart are pleased to announce the birth of Annamarie “Annie” Christina, born on April 24.

'97, '02 MBA
Jared Danilson and Alivia (Sells) Danilson, '98, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Ainsley Morgan, who was born April 27, 2006.

'98
Elizabeth (Scheibel) Noland and her husband, Quint, became the proud parents of their first child, Madeline Ragan, on Feb. 20.

Marriages

'98
Chandra D. (Waters) Robinson and Richard Robinson were married on May 26. Chandra works for Walgreens. The couple lives in Lee’s Summit, Mo.

Lindy (Huntington) and Mark Landzaat '01, '03 MBA, were married on March 31, in St. Louis. The wedding party included several Rockhurst alumni.

'04

From Left: Brian O’Neal, '01, Lynn Hanke, '01, Brian Landzaat, Lindy Huntington, '01, Mark Landzaat, '01, '03 MBA, Cheryl Landzaat, Corey Neidel, '02, and Adria E. Hinkle, '00.

02 EMBA
Eric Hiebert has joined Treanor Architects as chief information officer.

‘04
Joan “Joanie” K. (LaFayette) Bailey moved to Arizona, where she is a sixth grade language arts teacher. She passed her third state examination to be a teacher.

'00
Gina (Todd) Pasalich and her husband, Stephen, announce the birth of their first child, Blake Stephen, born on March 16, 2006.

Christopher Igoe, his wife, Dana, and son Preston welcomed Jackson Spencer on July 27, 2006.

'01
Thomas F. McGuire and his wife, Lisa, announce the birth of their first child, Katherine Colleen, born Nov. 26, 2006.

'02
Aaron and Carla (Heitmann) Reisman, '02, announce the birth of their first child, Aaron Zachary, born March 26.

'03 MPT
Jason Camblin married Shana Lyn Jarmer in December 2005. Their daughter, Sadie Lynn, was born April 7. They reside in Wichita, Kan.

'04
Erin (O’Dell) Markley and her husband, Shawn, announce the birth of their first daughter, Ella Shea, born Sept. 19, 2006.
In Memoriam

G. Leslie Muehlbach ’38 – March 5, 2007
James V. Sarcone Sr. ’39 – Feb. 27, 2007
Joseph A. Damiaco ’40 – May 8, 2007
Eugene E. Klecan ’40 – Feb. 21, 2007
Dr. William J. Koehler ’40 – June 23, 2007
Marshall S. Garry ’42 – April 16, 2007
John E. Byrne ’44 – June 2, 2007
John Redmond Cunningham Jr. ’44 – April 28, 2007
Dr. John E. Linville ’46 – July 4, 2007
George E. Sweeney ’48 – Sept. 6, 2007
Philip C. Froeschl ’49 – May 16, 2007
Dr. James F. Ragan ’49 – Feb. 10, 2007
Ambrose M. Walsh ’49 – March 2, 2007
Robert T. Ingino ’50 – June 9, 2007
Richard Laird ’50 – Feb. 11, 2007
Paul E. Panek ’50 – July 3, 2007
James Adolph Thomson ’50 – May 2, 2007
Harold E. Brewer ’53 – March 11, 2007
Jack Henry Kersting III ’53 – March 8, 2007
Henry Joseph Strick ’53 – July 6, 2007
Kenneth Leo Growney ’56 – May 2, 2007
George A. Jensen Jr. ’57 – March 27, 2007
Dr. Thomas G. Johnson ’59 – May 12, 2007
James R. Holmes ’62 – April 5, 2007
James E. Powell ’64 – May 19, 2007
Philip B. Curls Sr. ’65 – May 4, 2007
Dr. John W. Emo ’68 – April 6, 2007
William W. McLellan ’68 – June 12, 2007
Michael Reed Hixson ’72 – Feb. 26, 2007
Anacia C. Heleblen ’74 – Sept. 16, 2007
Robert E. Romdall ’74 – August 31, 2007
Leta Cathryn Frazier ’75 – June 4, 2007
Milton Thomas “Bud” Dean ’76 – March 31, 2007
Joanne M. Giese ’89 – July 5, 2007
Donald Lee Buck ’90 – March 21, 2007
Marina A. Bouchard ’94 – Feb. 2, 1007

Campus Mourns Loss of Beloved Professor

Ricard “Rick” Downing, Ph.D., assistant professor of management information systems, died Wednesday, July 11, at St. Luke’s North Hospital. He was 52.

He will be remembered as a caring professor, mentor, colleague and friend. He challenged his students and showed great passion for teaching.

Students will remember his great stories and the enthusiasm he showed in the classroom. He served as the advisor for Delta Sigma Pi, Rockhurst’s business fraternity, and he received the 2004-05 Perfect Professor Award from the HSOM Dean’s Student Advisory Board.

Michael Nigro, ’05, ’07 MBA, spoke at Downing’s funeral.

"Rick taught us not what to think, but how to think," said Nigro. “He believed that his role in our lives was not to answer questions; it was to question answers. After talking with Rick about education for just a moment or two, Rick would pause, smile at you, and begin to tell a story, one of his famous stories. ‘You know what I love, Michael,’ he would say. ‘I love the gray place where we can’t quite tell who is teaching and who is learning.’”

Downing received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1998, a master of education degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2001, and a Ph.D. in educational technology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2003. He came to Rockhurst in 2002.

A memorial service for Downing was held on campus at the beginning of the fall semester.

Ricard Downing, Ph.D.
Your donations to the Rockhurst Fund target the University's most pressing needs, whether those are scholarships, resources for faculty development, student research projects, service trips, technology for state-of-the-art classrooms or maintenance for clean and safe facilities.
Your annual gifts fuel the success of this University and touch every aspect of our students' experience.

Learn how you can make a difference in the life of a student at www.rockhurst.edu/rockhurstfund.
Rockhurst Remembers

A display of American flags stood on Kinerk Commons on the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11. The 2,977 flags, each symbolizing someone who died as a result, were part of Rockhurst’s commemoration of the tragedy.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

30 Visiting Scholar Lecture: Lt. Cmdr. Charles D. Swift (Ret.)

FEBRUARY

21 Regents and Alumni Night at the Ballgame
22 Alumni Trivia Night

MARCH

5 Return to the Classics: The Koran

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A Jesuit University

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Kansas City, MO 64110

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