Scholarships Make a Difference
Though they both died at a young age, the memory of two former Rockhurst students is kept alive through the generosity of their families.

Rock Refined
Big changes are in store for Rockhurst this year. A new name and a new look may redefine the campus.

Excellence in the City
With prayers and pageantry, Rockhurst officially welcomes a new president.

Gail Smith
Not content to sit on the sidelines, this 1983 Rockhurst graduate remains involved with the College, working for change.

on the cover
The medallion on the cover is the quintessential symbol of the presidency of Rockhurst. A silver-plated College seal encircled with the Latin motto “Wisdom has built herself a house” occupies the center. It is set in a sterling-silver, custom-designed mounting and is connected by a matching bail to the 30” sterling chain.

in every issue
famous rocks 11
alumni accomplishments 17
calendar 19
U.S. News & World Report confirmed what many in the Rockhurst community already knew — Rockhurst is one of the best places to attend college in the Midwest.

The publication ranked Rockhurst in a tie for 14th place in the 1999 Top 15 Regional Universities in the Midwest category. No other Kansas City-area institutions were included in the top 15.

The magazine bases rankings on its higher education reporting experience, consultations with experts in the field, academic reputation and statistics such as graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity and class size.

Institutions in the regional universities category offer a full range of undergraduate programs and provide graduate education at the master’s level. Both public and private colleges are included. More than 120 institutions comprise the category.

Rockhurst has been ranked consistently in the top tier, but this is the first time it has been included among the top 15. The College also is listed among the top 15 Best Buys in the Midwest, based on its solid academic reputation.

Pre-eminent Molecular Biologist Lectures at Rockhurst

Current research working toward identifying genetic causes for diseases is moving us toward preventive medicine, therefore changing the fundamental nature of medicine as it is practiced today, said Leroy Hood, M.D., Ph.D., at a Rockhurst visiting scholar lecture Oct. 29, 1998.

Hood is chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of Kansas City’s Stowers Institute for Medical Research and chairman of the Department of Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Nearly 500 people came to hear Hood present “Genes, Genomes and Society” at the Alpha Sigma Nu-Rev. Vincent Dauen, S.J., Visiting Scholar Lecture.

“Society — not the scientists — needs to develop ethical paradigms,” Hood said. “It’s the scientists’ responsibility to make sure the public understands the science and the issues.”

Hood says he believes all scientists should devote 5 percent to 10 percent of their time communicating science to society.

Rockhurst College Pulls Rank

Institutions in the regional universities category offer a full range of undergraduate programs and provide graduate education at the master’s level. Both public and private colleges are included. More than 120 institutions comprise the category.

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Rockhurst College Board of Trustees

Rockhurst President the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., and members of the Board of Trustees gathered on the quadrangle this summer prior to their formal board meeting. They are, left to right, back row: John McKelvey; the Rev. Daniel Daly, S.J.; Thomas McDonnell; James Olson; Thomas Firman; Thomas McCullough; the Rev. Michael Garanzini, S.J.; Judge Cordell Meeks Jr.; and Robert Long. Front row, left to right: Susan Stanton; James Polsinelli; John Hayes Jr.; the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J.; Terrence Dunn, chairman of the board; Martha Head; and Jeannine Strandjord. Richard Knopke and Richard Henry were elected to the Board of Trustees in December. Their terms begin in March.

A New Name for Rockhurst

I am writing to let you know that the Rockhurst Board of Trustees voted to change the name from Rockhurst College to Rockhurst University. The change will take place July 1, 1999.

The Board decided to make this change in order to more accurately reflect our present reality at Rockhurst. We have become more and more a comprehensive institution, offering a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs.

The Board believes that the new name will better reflect our educational mission and our commitment to the common good.

In fact, Rockhurst has been named Rockhurst University since 1951.

Several years ago Father Van Ackern obtained the change from the State of Missouri for permission to continue the name as Rockhurst College.

The name change in no way represents a change in the mission or changing the outstanding academic, athletic, or service. Our long-term academic goals remain the same.

We hope that the change of July 1, 1999, for the change because it is easier to understand.

We believe that the new name will better reflect our educational mission and our commitment to the common good.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to reflect on the changes that have taken place at Rockhurst in recent years.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Office of the Provost

Rockhurst University

3200 Rockhurst Rd, Kansas City, MO 64110-5000 (816) 501-4080 Fax: (816) 501-4093
Scholarships

Making a Difference One Life at a Time

by Barbara Bodengraeven

Perhaps the file that wins hands down as the one most overwhelmed by student correspondence is the Patrick M. Higgins endowment fund — the largest single permanent scholarship fund in Rockhurst history. This scholarship was established in November 1966 by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Higgins as a memorial to their surviving children.

Your concern, Mrs. Higgins, has inspired me to make my own commitment to help in the education of others. I never thought that I would get a college degree while I grew up in my native country..." wrote one Higgins Scholarship recipient who had immigrated to Kansas City from Romania as a teenager. "Here... with people like you, I can do better. That is, my grade point average is only 3.42 instead of 4.0. The former, though, is something I am certainly working on improving."

Many of the students who receive financial assistance from the Higgins fund write to say that, once they get established in their careers, they intend to contribute funds to other Rockhurst students. "Your concern, Mrs. Higgins, has inspired me to make my own commitment to help in the education of others," wrote one sophomore. Another, who volunteered that he was the first in his family to attend college, wrote, "I plan on donating money to scholarship funds until I die, because I am so in debt to people like you..."

According to the Rockhurst Office of Advancement files, the words of these young people ring true. Almost half of the Higgins Scholarship recipients make annual gifts to Rockhurst following graduation. Its tangible way of showing gratitude to others who can never personally be repaid. As one student wrote so eloquently, "thank you for helping me accomplish my dreams..."

Subject: The Thomas F. Heitlinger Fund

For Louis Heitlinger, establishing a scholarship at Rockhurst College in his brother’s name took a few strokes on his keyboard, a click of his mouse. In the nanosecond it took to send word of his decision from Pennsylvania to Missouri via e-mail, the memory of his older brother Tom, who died almost 50 years ago, would be preserved at the place Tom loved best — Rockhurst College.

He couldn’t have known it at the time of course, but Heitlinger’s gift has made history at the College. It’s the first major gift Rockhurst has received through e-mail.

“My older brother Tom loved Rockhurst,” says Heitlinger. “It seemed to be an obvious place to preserve his memory all the more so since he died when he was only 24 years old.”

He had a wonderful opportunity to be admitted to the College after only three years at Rockhurst High School, and when he completed his bachelor’s degree in English and Latin, he stayed on at the College to lecture in English.

“Tom Heitlinger’s conscientious love of books grew stronger during his bouts of illness and recuperation from heart problems during his childhood. Since he couldn’t participate in sports, he read. Once he had graduated from Rockhurst and was teaching English at the College, he made himself even more valuable by assuming responsibility for the Rockhurst bookstore’s expansion following World War II, when millions of American servicemen returned to the nation’s colleges and universities on the GI Bill and flooded Rockhurst with a new wave of students.”

“Tom’s relationship with Rockhurst was one of wonderful give and take,” says his brother. “Rockhurst was the center of his young life. When Tom wasn’t well enough to teach English, he did what he could in the bookstore. And when he was well enough, he gave everything he had to the College. The College administrators always made sure they had a job for him. They always responded.”

Now, almost 50 years after attending Rockhurst College himself, Louis Heitlinger is responding to the College in a way he had never anticipated as a young undergraduate. The scholarship fund he has established in his older brother’s name will be funded by his personally owned stock, as well as with a matching fund from the General Electric Foundation. The scholarship is expected to be available for distribution in the fall of 2000.

“Because my brother had to overcome rheumatic fever when he was only in grade school, and then struggle with the death of our father during his college years, it would like the recipient of the scholarship in his name to be as determined and deserving of a break as Tom was,” says Louis Heitlinger.

Judging from the written testimonies on file in the Rockhurst Office of Advancement, this should not be a difficult request to fill. Certainly, the future holds the promise of thank you correspondence from students to Louis Heitlinger, who, despite his personal loss, has embraced life as a continuum of hope and opportunity. Whether they come in the form of letters written in longhand or notes dashed off on e-mail and sent via the Internet, all of them, no doubt, will reflect the unlimited possibilities that exist when one person contributes to the lives of others.
Diamond Gala ’98 Shines Even Brighter

Rockhurst alumni and friends eager to dine, dance and contribute to the College pushed the proceeds from this year’s Diamond Gala up more than 100 percent over last year, according to Patricia Kern, director of annual programs and constituent relations.

“We were pleased with the overwhelming support of our alumni and friends,” said Kern. “I think our attendance was up because of the outstanding efforts of the gala steering committee. They generated a lot of excitement.”

The gala attracted more than 600 people and raised more than $200,000 for Rockhurst College and its students.

The event was held Oct. 3 at the Westin Crown Center.

This year’s gala carried the same theme as the Oct. 2 inauguration of Rockhurst President the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J. — “Excellence in the City.”

Co-chairs for the third annual Diamond Gala were Richard, ’57, and JoAnn Yeahan; Robert Miller, ’53, and Carolyn and Robert Reintjes, ’53.

Honorary chairs were Henry and Marion Bloch.

Legendary Rockhurst Professor Retires

by Robba McCoy

He also is remembered as a tough teacher and grader. “The only D I ever got was in Fr. Freeman’s Catholic Marriage class,” chuckles Trustee Emeritus Richard Miller, ’52, president of the Miller Law Firm. Miller and his wife, Bernadette, have been married for 41 years and have nine children and 20 grandchildren.

“He always remembered our wedding anniversary and the anniversaries of my parents’ deaths,” says Miller.

His memory for names also is legendary as are many of his idiosyncrasies, such as calling students by the first syllable of their last name. And locking the door of his classroom once class started, stressing punctuality and respect for the students who arrived on time. He graded papers not just on content, but on grammar and style.

“I’ve known him all my life, but my fondest memories of him as a teacher — someone who really believed that we could learn how to think,” says Rockhurst Alumni Director Jim Millard ’64. “His classes were never lectures, they were thought-provoking. He taught us to dissect thoughts, to search for the truth in all things.”

During his tenure, Fr. Freeman saw the College change from a single-sex to a co-ed institution. But to him, they were all students, regardless of sex or color.

“He taught the individual. When I teach, I put out the information; if they receive it, its up to them,” he says. “God’s law is for all human beings, black and white, men and women.”

When talking with Fr. Freeman, it’s easy to sense his strong beliefs about faith, life and ethics. “Truth only comes from God,” he says.

Fr. Freeman often can be seen walking through the campus praying the rosary — he is intensely devoted to the Virgin Mary. “She is an example of how we should live our lives,” he says.

More than 200 of Fr. Freeman’s friends, colleagues and former students gathered Oct. 23 to celebrate his retirement from the College. Among them was the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., president of Rockhurst College.

“Rarely have so many people across so many generations been touched by someone,” says Fr. Kinerk.

Alumnus Charles Aylward Jr., ’47, seems to echo the sentiments of many.

“Hed simply one of the greatest people I ever known.”

Rockhurst President the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J. (left), with the Rev. Joseph Freeman, S.J.

Hurricane Mitch Hits Honduras — Rockhurst Sends Support

Rockhurst alumni and friends have a prime opportunity to send help to some of the neediest people in the world today — those who have suffered through the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America.

The hurricane has been the worst natural disaster in the Americas this century. According to December 1998 media reports, more than 5,600 are dead, 8,000 are missing and 1.4 million are homeless.

Honduras is the second poorest country in the continent, following Haiti. Much of the country’s infrastructure was destroyed during the hurricane, making the distribution of supplies from the capital, Tegucigalpa, difficult.

However, cash donations go directly to the Jesuit parish there, which already has a system in place for distributing them to the neediest people.

The Jesuit Community in Honduras has 295 families in two of their parishes in desperate need of food and housing. Their immediate need is for cash donations, 100 percent of these donations will be used to buy food or supplies for building new homes.

Ideas for donations include:

• $268 to buy enough supplies for a new home;
• $30.10 to feed a family for one week;
• $4.30 to feed a family for one day.

Anyone interested in assisting with this cause is encouraged to make the check payable to Jesuit Mission Bureau. Please indicate on the check that the gift is for Fr. Pat Wade’s Hurricane Relief Work. Mail your donations to: 4511 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

All contributions will be wired directly to the Jesuits working in Honduras.

Winter 1999
Spring traditionally is associated with growth and renewal, and if everything falls into place as planned this year, the season's promise may hold true for the Rockhurst campus as well. That's when the College's vision for new, improved and more attractive facilities may take one step closer to becoming reality.

"We are one of the finest schools in the Midwest," Rockhurst President the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., told a gathering of campus neighbors in November. "But to be able to stay in this area and succeed, we have to update our facilities."

One of the first initiatives in the plan to upgrade Rockhurst buildings and grounds is scheduled to begin in March with the groundbreaking for a new art gallery, which will be located between Sedgwick and Van Ackeren halls. The gallery will be funded, in part, by a gift from Virginia Greenlease for this purpose. The gallery will house Rockhurst's permanent art collection and will include space for temporary exhibits as well. This will free the Massman Gallery to become primarily a student-centered space.

Plans also are under way to improve the appearance of the campus, especially along its boundaries. Work on this project should begin this summer.

"The beautification plan makes a statement that we are here and to stay, east of Troost," said Fr. Kinerk.

Under the plan, the main entrance to Rockhurst from Troost Avenue will be relocated to 54th Street. The 53rd Street entrance will be closed to vehicular traffic and will become a pedestrian plaza with dramatic stone and wrought-iron markers. The look will be duplicated at major entrances at The Paseo and Rockhurst Road.

The College already owns 53rd Street between Troost Avenue and The Paseo, but would need permission from the city to reroute traffic along 54th Street. In an effort to enlarge the central quadrangle area, the gated parking lot in front of Massman Hall will make way for green space. Two new parking areas will be added along the campus perimeter, one on Troost north of Rockhurst Road, the other between Troost and Tracy Avenue, north of 54th Street.

If all plans are approved by the city as proposed, 13 houses — including four occupied by fraternities — will be removed to accommodate the additional parking spaces. The College owns 11 of the houses scheduled to be removed and is negotiating with the owners of the other two. No one will be forced to sell a house to the College, Fr. Kinerk said.

College officials have been discussing these campus beautification plans with neighborhood residents for more than six months. At the November meeting, some of the neighbors expressed concerns about loud parties in the fraternity houses and the impact the fraternities would have on the neighborhood if they're relocated. Fr. Kinerk told them his aim is to relocate the fraternities in College-owned houses. He added that fraternities often are blamed for loud student parties, but they don't sponsor many of them.

Fr. Kinerk formed a task force last fall to address issues of alcohol consumption, including its impact on campus life and relations with neighbors. A dialogue between the College and Rockhurst neighbors about overall plans to improve and expand the campus began under the leadership of then-president the Rev. Thomas Savage, S.J., in 1988.
A Day of Celebration and Hope

Rockhurst College Officially Welcomes the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., as President

With showers predicted for much of Friday, Oct. 2, people said it was a good sign when the inaugural procession for the Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., was able to take its two-part journey without getting wet.

Inaugural activities for Fr. Kinerk, the 13th president of Rockhurst College, began with a procession of faculty, dignitaries and academic delegates from more than 70 colleges and universities. Led by flag bearers, the line made its way from Massman Hall on the Rockhurst campus to St. Francis Xavier Church for a liturgy. The Rev. Frank Reale, S.J., provincial of the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus, delivered the homily.

"The question is not just 'What does God want for Rockhurst College, but what does God want through Rockhurst College?,'" Reale said. "Because it’s only for us, it’s not God’s work."

Following the Mass, the procession crossed Troost Avenue for the second time on the way to an installation ceremony in the Convocation Center.

Rockhurst students carrying the seals and colors of all 28 Jesuit colleges and universities ushered the academic procession into the center. During the ceremony, Rockhurst College Board of Trustees Chairman Terry Dunn presented the official presidential medalion to Fr. Kinerk, symbolizing his formal installation as president.

Fr. Kinerk spoke on “Excellence in the City,” outlining his vision of Rockhurst's place in the community and the world.

Based on my past and present experiences, I have reason to say that there is excellence at Rockhurst, but there is more — much more. Rockhurst has a vision — a vision which animates what we do here. A vision which gives us a purpose beyond all of the activities that are proper to a college or university.

Rockhurst believes that we in this room are a single people. No, that we in this city are a single people. No, that we in this country — no, that we in this whole world — are a single people. Rockhurst believes that all people — black and white, east and west, north and south — are invited to build ourselves into a community, a community grounded in justice, in peace, and in love.

Moreover, Rockhurst’s vision tells us that there is a God who created us and whose love forms the basis for the community we seek. We believe that God loves us so much, that He does not abandon us as we pursue our mission, but guides us and works through us in order to unveil God and to empower us to become the one family we long to be.

Rockhurst College is excellent because we have a hopeful vision for each other, for this city, for this country, and for this world. We are as great as our hopes and our vision, and, for this reason more than any other, I can say that Rockhurst is excellent.

Jesuit education is urban education. From the very beginning, Jesuits have built their schools and colleges in the cities because cities are places of ideas, diverse peoples, and educational institutions. Jesuits feel that education can best take place in cities.

Rockhurst is not simply a city; it is Kansas City. We regard our particular setting in this particular city as a gift. Certainly, all of us experience the support of Kansas City. We have nearly 10,000 alumni who live in this city.

Many of these alumni, as well as many of our friends and leaders in the business community, are people in business and leaders in the business community. Many of you are here today. We also have alumni and friends in the nonprofit sector, and many of you are also here today. We are a part of Kansas City and Kansas City is a part of us.

We do not become excellent by being better than everybody else or by beating out the competition. Excellence comes about when people work together to ennoble one another. When we say, Excellence in the City, we do not mean that Rockhurst will become the biggest or the richest college in the city. By Excellence in the City, we mean that we will work with all of the other civic players in this city to make Rockhurst excellent. In making Rockhurst excellent, we will make all of the other civic players and partners in Kansas City excellent, because excellence demands the participation of all of us.

Rockhurst will be excellent in the city when the city is excellent in all of its institutions. Rockhurst cannot be excellent alone. No institution in Kansas City can be excellent alone. Kansas City cannot be excellent as a city without the institutions in Kansas City being excellent in the city.

The Rev. Edward Kinerk, S.J., was able to take its two-part journey without getting wet.

"Excellence in the City"


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Rockhurst Hawks Take Wing in the NCAA
by Bobby O’Connor

After years of success in the NAIA ranks, Rockhurst College broke into the NCAA Division II scene this year. The Hawks women’s men’s soccer and women’s volleyball teams all finished the season with winning records.

The women’s volleyball team wasted no time establishing itself in the NCAA by going 42-3 and losing in the second round of the regional tournament. Coach by Tracy Retzbake, the Lady Hawks dominated most teams during the season and finally bowed out to Northern Alabama. Coming off last year’s semifinal loss to BYU-Hawaii, the Lady Hawks did not disappoint.

The men’s soccer team experienced similar success in its jump into the NCAA. Though the team did not make the post-season tournament, it did raise some eyebrows by going 12-3-2 and staking out a consistent spot in the top 25. The Hawks climbed to as high as sixth in the polls.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the year was when senior Thomas Andrews scored his 92nd goal to break Jon Parry’s school record. Coach Tony Tocco also won his 450th game as coach of the Hawks. The Hawks, last year’s NAIA national runner-up, celebrated the team’s 25th-straight winning season.

The Lady Hawks soccer squad also did its part to develop a solid foundation in NCAA play. The team led by coach Chico Borja, finished with a record of 10-5. The Lady Hawks made their debut in the NCAA with their opener on Sept. 5, beating Northeast Oklahoma State 5-2. The Lady Hawks also recorded stellar wins against Division I Southwest Missouri State and archival Benedictine.

Winners of 2001 Rockhurst Athletic Hall of Fame

The 2001 Rockhurst Athletic Hall of Fame inductees included

- Tammy Coder-Mikinski, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, is the author of A Cognitive Construct, which was published in 1998 by the Edwin Mellen Press.

- Cheryl McConnell, associate professor of accounting, was presented the Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in December 1998. The award is based on three central criteria: effective teaching, service to the college community and success in nurturing student achievement.

- Don Gibbs, Ph.D., chairman of the chemistry department, was featured in a news story on WDAF-TV in October 1998. The story was about his research on the insect repellent properties of hedge apples (see summer 1998 Rockhurst Report).

- Tammie Cord-Mikinski, Ph.D., director of the Rockhurst Counseling Center, was quoted in the January issue of Teen magazine in an article about teen problems. Both the inattentive and ultra-attentive types.

- Richard Donahue, a former Rockhurst executive officer of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, was named Alumnus of the Year for Outstanding Philanthropy in May 1998. After teaching for 52 years without missing a class, was is well-known in the Rockhurst community.

- Lawrence J. Marnett, Ph.D.; and Robert C. Jaklevic, Ph.D.

- Nancy Marnett and Science Hall of Fame inductee, died Nov. 21 in Kansas City. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Barbara Schröer Donahue. The Donahues have five children and 14 grandchildren.

In Memoriam

Richard E. Donahue, ’53, this year’s Rockhurst Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, died Nov. 21. In Kansas City. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Barbara Schröer Donahue. The Donahues have five children and 14 grandchildren.
The Business of Change
Working for a More Colorful Future
by Katherine Hohoff

Unfortunately, not all Smith's memories of life on a mostly white campus are happy.

Beyond the Laughter
“I had my first experience with prejudice at that time,” she says. “I think we were sometimes pre-judged on the basis of our skin color.” Those painful experiences led Smith to her active involvement in the Rockhurst College Black Alumni Club, she says. She recently became club president.

“Our goal isn’t to separate people,” Smith says, “and this may be confusing.” Smith says the club was founded in the 80s by two of Rockhurst’s first African-American graduates and other alumni. One of their goals was to support the Black Student Union because “a lot of times the black students felt isolated.”

Today, Smith says, the Black Alumni Club is also working on the other goals: to increase enrollment of students of color, to develop harmonious relationships among students of all races, alumni, faculty and staff, and to help students of color develop goals that will assist them in launching successful careers.

Meeting the Challenge
Recently, the Black Alumni Club has made several important inroads into accomplishing these goals. In June, the club held its first fund-raiser for the Black Alumni Club Scholarship Fund — a jazz matinée held on campus, featuring Kansas City jazzman Horace Washington.

In October, the club sponsored an Internet workshop, which brought African-American high school students to campus for guided Web searches for scholarship information. In addition, the club has at least one “just for fun” social event with the Black Student Union each year, such as a Chiefs tailgate party or a potluck supper.

Smith says the club also has begun many other initiatives, including an informal alumni mentoring program and an arts and visiting scholar project.

“The we’re working to bring African-American scholars to campus, not just during Black History Month, but throughout the year,” Smith says.

Generation Next
For Smith, mentoring young people doesn’t stop with her involvement in the Black Alumni Club. She remembers working hard to accomplish her academic goals and says she wants to encourage today’s young people — especially her children — to put in the time required to be successful according to their own definition of the word.

“I wasn’t totally prepared for college,” Smith says. “I went to public high school in St. Louis and I sometimes stayed away from the tough college-prep classes. When it was time to go to college, I came to Kansas City on a prayer and a loan.” Smith says she found college challenging and that’s why she mentors students through the schools, through her church and through her sorority.

“I took 18 hours and worked,” Smith says, “and I tell them, ‘If I can do it, you can, too.’”

She says she emphasizes the need to take the difficult classes and to work through them. If they do that, success should follow — it did for Smith.

The Pay Off
Today Smith is a corporate contracts negotiator for UtiliCorp United, an energy supplier and Kansas City’s second-largest public company in terms of revenue.

Her primary responsibility is negotiating agreements for a wide range of services related to gas, electricity and new product launches. With a bachelor’s degree in business administration and administration of justice, she says the combination of business classes and courses focused on legal terminology has been a hallmark of Smith’s volunteer work as well. Among her many activities, she serves with Youth Friends, a volunteer mentoring program; she’s service chair for the debutante ball of Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority whose motto is “Service to All mankind”; and she’s actively involved with the Palestine Missionary Baptist Church.

When the church undertook the task of building a $5 million Christian retreat facility 50 miles outside of Kansas City, Smith was in charge of purchasing all the goods and services and was instrumental in working with the architect on the plans.

Widening the Circle
Through her work with the Black Alumni Club, the Alumni Association and — most recently — as a member of the search committee for the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Smith remains very much in touch with life at Rockhurst.

Her past experience and her close involvement with today’s students have prompted Smith to make a suggestion. She says that when she came to Rockhurst she saw the community surrounding the campus filled with faces like hers. But in the classroom, she only studied Western Civilization, which she says didn’t include “the whole piece.”

Smith says she believes an approach that includes “World Civilization” would better prepare students for life after college.

“If our mission is to educate students to function in society and we’re not giving them the whole piece, we’re failing,” Smith says.

“Rockhurst is a good school with a lot of opportunities. I want to see us take advantage of those opportunities. “Graduates should leave with a big picture of the whole world,” Smith says. “The way to do that is to diversify the curriculum so we can attract a broad range of all God’s people.”

Pizzas were delivered from Villa Capri — the “greatest, but the best.” Work-study checks arrived and students boarded a bus to spend their hard-earned cash at The Landing shopping center. Friday nights everyone — well, mostly women — gathered in the dorms to watch the television series Dallas.

This was Rockhurst in the late ’70s and early ’80s, and Gail (Taylor) Smith, ’83, remembers good times and bad.

“During Dallas we’d start to get our hair together to go out,” Smith says. “The white girls would all shampoo, rinse and iron their hair together to go out,” Smith says. “The white students,” Smith says. “They were surprised that black people liked to watch the television series Dallas.

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Generation Next
For Smith, mentoring young people doesn’t stop with her involvement in the Black Alumni Club. She remembers working hard to accomplish her academic goals and says she wants to encourage today’s young people — especially her children — to put in the time required to be successful according to their own definition of the word.

“I wasn’t totally prepared for college,” Smith says. “I went to public high school in St. Louis and I sometimes stayed away from the tough college-prep classes. When it was time to go to college, I came to Kansas City on a prayer and a loan.” Smith says she found college challenging and that’s why she mentors students through the schools, through her church and through her sorority.

“I took 18 hours and worked,” Smith says, “and I tell them, ‘If I can do it, you can, too.’”

She says she emphasizes the need to take the difficult classes and to work through them. If they do that, success should follow — it did for Smith.

The Pay Off
Today Smith is a corporate contracts negotiator for UtiliCorp United, an energy supplier and Kansas City’s second-largest public company in terms of revenue.

Her primary responsibility is negotiating agreements for a wide range of services related to gas, electricity and new product launches. With a bachelor’s degree in business administration and administration of justice, she says the combination of business classes and courses focused on legal terminology has been a hallmark of Smith’s volunteer work as well. Among her many activities, she serves with Youth Friends, a volunteer mentoring program; she’s service chair for the debutante ball of Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority whose motto is “Service to All mankind”; and she’s actively involved with the Palestine Missionary Baptist Church.

When the church undertook the task of building a $5 million Christian retreat facility 50 miles outside of Kansas City, Smith was in charge of purchasing all the goods and services and was instrumental in working with the architect on the plans.

Widening the Circle
Through her work with the Black Alumni Club, the Alumni Association and — most recently — as a member of the search committee for the new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Smith remains very much in touch with life at Rockhurst.

Her past experience and her close involvement with today’s students have prompted Smith to make a suggestion. She says that when she came to Rockhurst she saw the community surrounding the campus filled with faces like hers. But in the classroom, she only studied Western Civilization, which she says didn’t include “the whole piece.”

Smith says she believes an approach that includes “World Civilization” would better prepare students for life after college.

“If our mission is to educate students to function in society and we’re not giving them the whole piece, we’re failing,” Smith says.

“Rockhurst is a good school with a lot of opportunities. I want to see us take advantage of those opportunities. “Graduates should leave with a big picture of the whole world,” Smith says. “The way to do that is to diversify the curriculum so we can attract a broad range of all God’s people.”

Pizzas were delivered from Villa Capri — the “greatest, but the best.” Work-study checks arrived and students boarded a bus to spend their hard-earned cash at The Landing shopping center. Friday nights everyone — well, mostly women — gathered in the dorms to watch the television series Dallas.

This was Rockhurst in the late ’70s and early ’80s, and Gail (Taylor) Smith, ’83, remembers good times and bad.

“During Dallas we’d start to get our hair together to go out,” Smith says. “The white girls would all shampoo, rinse and iron their hair together to go out,” Smith says. “The white students,” Smith says. “They were surprised that black people liked to watch the television series Dallas.

Unfortunately, not all Smith’s memories of life on a mostly white campus are happy.

Beyond the Laughter
“I had my first experience with prejudice at that time,” she says. “I think we were sometimes pre-judged on the basis of our skin color.” Those painful experiences led Smith to her active involvement in the Rockhurst College Black Alumni Club, she says. She recently became club president.

“Our goal isn’t to separate people,” Smith says, “and this may be confusing.” Smith says the club was founded in the 80s by two of Rockhurst’s first African-American graduates and other alumni. One of their goals was to support the Black Student Union because “a lot of times the black students felt isolated.”

Today, Smith says, the Black Alumni Club is also working on the other goals: to increase enrollment of students of color, to develop harmonious relationships among students of all races, alumni, faculty and staff, and to help students of color develop goals that will assist them in launching successful careers.

Meeting the Challenge
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Privileged Alumnus
What can your status as a Rockhurst College alumnus do for you? Plenty. As a Rockhurst graduate, you are eligible for a variety of special benefits.

In addition to those below, you will receive notification of ongoing events and opportunities. If you know of any graduates not receiving the Rockhurst Report or notification of special events, be sure to have them call the Alumni Office to update their address.

• Library access — Just present your alumni ID card to check out books and use other facilities.

• Rockhurst Report — You’ll receive this informative public affairs update containing news about the campus and your fellow alumni three times each year.

• E-mail — Free e-mail can be yours. See the alumni page on the World Wide Web, www.rockhurst.edu to sign up.

Look under Related Sites.

• Online Community — Point your browser to the web page for free access to contacts with other Rockhurst graduates, as well as graduates of other Jesuit colleges and universities (see Branchout on the Web).

• Career Center — The services of the Rockhurst Career Center are always open to you. The director is Mindy Cloninger. Access www.direcsearch.com for additional opportunities.

• Rockhurst License Plate — If you are a Missouri resident, you can show your pride through a special Rockhurst license plate featuring the Rockhurst crest. A $25 donation is required.

• Rockhurst Flag — Two editions of the flag — hawk or college seal — are available. Made of durable nylon, this flag is suitable for outdoor or indoor display. The cost is $35.

• Rockhurst Credit Card — Every time you use your Rockhurst-edition MasterCard, you not only display your Rockhurst pride, you send a royalty contribution to the College.

• Rockhurst Blend Coffee — Danny O’Neil, Rockhurst graduate and owner of O’Neil’s, Rockhurst graduate and sponsor of a coffee in honor of Rockhurst College. A 12 oz. bag is $8. A portion of each sale is returned to the College.

• Alumni Tuition Discount — Classes are available at or below your highest Rockhurst degree level on a space-available basis at one-half tuition.

Your Alumni Association Board
Ms. Mary C. Audy 1994
Mr. Jim Beechwood 1992
Rev. Thomas F. Denzer, SJ., 1948
Ms. Amy K. Dyer 1993
Mr. William E. Franke 1966
Mr. Alan Harris 1990
Ms. Jennifer A. Lombardi 1994
Mr. Daniel L. McEniry 1976
Mr. James E. Millard 1964
Ms. Pamela Miller 1988
Mr. Jim Ockenfuss 1997
Mr. Jeffrey M. Pfaff 1981
Mr. R. William Prather III 1987
Mr. P. J. Reardon 1984
Ms. M. Sue Richter 1980
Ms. Andrea Rizzo 1996
Mr. Phillip Shoeley 1991
Ms. Gail M. Smith 1983
Mr. Daniel P. Stacks 1988
Dr. Danny K. Stanton 1983
Mr. Steven M. Steinkamp 1988
Mr. Reginald C. Thorpe 1971
Ms. Victorio S. Weaver 1985
Ms. James C. Wirkten 1967

Alumni Dance With an Irish Flavor
Be sure to wear green to this year’s alumni dance. Scheduled for March 20, the dance will feature a St. Patrick’s Day theme, a live band and plenty of hot hors d’oeuvres and other refreshments.

Admission is $20 per person. Tables may be reserved. Call the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or (800) 756-ALUM. Alumni Dance With an Irish Flavor

Plains Begin for 1999 Reunion/Awards Weekend
If you had a great time at last October’s Reunion/Awards Weekend — or if you had to miss it — be sure to mark your calendars for this year’s celebration, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 22-24.

The Alumni Association Board is currently accepting nominations for the following awards: Alumnus of the Year for Outstanding Service, Alumnus of the Year for Outstanding Achievement, Honorary Alumnus, Athletic Hall of Fame, Science Hall of Fame and St. Thomas More Academy of Scholars. Nominations should include a brief description of qualifications. Special recognition will be given the classes of 1974 (25 years) and 1949 (50 years). Members of other reunion year classes — 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1994 — who want to organize a reunion are invited to contact the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or (800) 756-ALUM.

Jazz Matinee Returns
April 17, 1999, marks the return of the Jazz Matinee, sponsored by the Black Alumni Club of Rockhurst College. The Horace Washington Trio will be featured from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Rock Room of Masman Hall. Price of admission is $25 per person, with $10 of every ticket purchase going to the Black Alumni Scholarship Fund. Liquid refreshments, along with a live band and plenty of hot hors d’oeuvres are included. Last year’s event attracted more than 150 jazz lovers.

Tickets may be purchased by stop- ing by 259 Masman Hall, or by calling the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or (800) 756-ALUM. Come and spend a few hours listening and dancing to some of Kansas City’s greatest jazz.

Alumni Report Y ou! W ants YOU!
More than 15,000 Rockhurst College alumni live and work throughout the United States. Staying in touch with all of these people, as well as keeping them informed, can be a daunting task. However, many alumni stay in touch with their Rockhurst friends, work alongside Rockhurst graduates, or live near Rockhurst alumni. Those regular and casual contacts qualify you as an Alumni Ambassador.

If you know of three to six Rockhurst College alumni and would be willing to talk with them regularly throughout the year, we need to know who you are. In turn, we will keep you informed of Rockhurst events. All you need to do is get the word out to your circle of Rockhurst friends.

To become a Rockhurst College Alumni Ambassador, just contact the Alumni Office at (816) 501-4025 or (800) 756-ALUM. You can also fax us at (816) 501-4136 or e-mail us at j_millard@vax2.rockhurst.edu. Give us your name, address, phone number, fax or e-mail address and we will get in touch.

This is a great way to become active with your Alumni Association. There are no regular meetings to attend, but many opportunities to be on the inside track to the latest Rockhurst happenings, and to give us direct feedback regarding your ideas and impressions.

What specifically might you be able to do? In addition to spreading the word about Rockhurst events, you could talk to prospective students about your Rockhurst experience, thank benefactors for their gifts, help us plan your reunion or help new graduates as they are introduced to the community and the workplace. There are all too many opportunities awaiting those of you who would like to continue your association with Rockhurst College. Let us hear from you.

Rockhurst Community Loses Faithful Friend

Fr. Daues was born Nov. 23, 1914, in St. Louis. He entered the Society of Jesus Sept. 1, 1937, and was ordained a priest June 14, 1948. He taught at Rockhurst College from 1950 until 1986.

“I think Fr. Daues followed Ignatius’ principle ‘What more can I do for Christ?’ and translated it to ‘What more can I do for Rockhurst College?’” said the Rev. Jules Brady, SJ. “Fr. Daues started a number of things here that we never had before.”

A partial list of his initiatives includes the establishment of the Visiting Scholar Lecture Series, which has brought to campus speakers such as Robert Frost, Henry Kissinger and many others of national prominence. He also founded the Rockhurst chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit Honor Society, and directed it for many years.

In addition, Fr. Daues was the first to suggest decorating Massman and Sedgwick halls with works of art, said Fr. Brady. Fr. Daues is survived by a sister, Sr. Edith Daues, St. Louis.

Mexico Follow-up
The six Rockhurst students who joined Bro. E. Glenn Kerfoot, SJ., on the volunteer mission trip to Mexico last spring (Summer 1998 Rockhurst Report) are (from, front to left) Sara Wisch, Molly Welch, Julie Tomlinson, Amy Berry, Amy Menendez and (back) Dan Brunner.

Rockhurst College presented the Rev. Vincent Daues, SJ., with the Pro Meritis award in October 1998.
**Alumni Accomplishments**

1963

Gerald Genion, Ph.D., recently was honored by California State University, Fullerton for Outstanding Contributions to Student Success. Genion is professor of mathematics. In addition to excellence in the classroom, the award recognized his advising activities and his direction of an innovative masters program in mathematics for high school and community college teachers.

William L. Hawver, Ed.D., retired as superintendent of the Center Public School District, Kansas City, Mo., July 31, 1998, having completed 35 years in public and private education. Hawver also served as superintendent of schools for Father Flanagan’s Boys Home, Boys Town, Nebraska, and the Hutchinson Public Schools, Hutchinson, Kan. His wife, Mary, and he will continue to live in south Kansas City, Mo.

1968

Joseph M. Culp was featured on CNBC (the finance network) this June sharing his words of wisdom. Culp is with A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis.

1970

John C. Brownrigg received the Creighton University School of Law Alumni Merit Award last October in Omaha, Neb. Brownrigg is a partner and chair of the Litigation Department at the Omaha law firm Erickson & Sederstrom, P.C. He is past president of both the Omaha Bar Association and the Nebraska Bar Association. He also is a fellow of the Nebraska State Bar Foundation and was elected to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

1980

Michael J. Boland was elected in April 1998 to the Ballwin Board of Aldermen from the Fourth Ward. Ballwin is located in west St. Louis County, with a population of approximately 28,000 people.

1983

Christopher G. Frechette, S.J., entered the California Province of the Society of Jesus six years ago, was ordained deacon in May 1998 and will be ordained a priest June 5 at Santa Clara University in California. Last fall, Frechette began a doctoral program in Old Testament at Harvard University.

Robert J. Hess, was promoted to senior manager-transit projects and program evaluation in the Capital Program Management Department of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). MTA operates North America’s largest mass transportation system, including commuter rail, subway and bus service, as well as toll bridges and tunnels, in the New York City region.

1987 MBA

Louis C. Rephlo was presented the Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Missouri-Rolla in recognition of outstanding personal achievement by alumni in academia, business, professions or civic endeavors. Louis is currently vice president for customer care at UtiliCorp United/Energy One of Kansas City, Mo.

1988

David C. Paul recently was named to the U.S. Speed Skating Team. In upcoming months, Paul will be in Calgary, Alberta, for the Can-Am races and then on to Japan and Korea for the World Cup Sprints.

1989

Joan E. Bodor has been named managing director of resource development for Heart of America United Way. Bodor has been an HAUIW employee for 11 years, first working in United Way’s Marketing Department before moving into Resource Development in 1989. In her new position, she will oversee the business development and HAUW’s Loaned Executive Program, while continuing to support companies during the United Way campaign.

Robert T. Dunn II, Ph.D., has accepted a position as a scientist at Phase-1 Molecular Toxicology in Santa Fe, N.M.

J. David Andrew has opened Olathe’s second Edward Jones investments, located at 151st and Ridgeview.

1990

Congratulations to Matthew R. Gomez and Mandy (Smith) Gomez, who were married Oct. 10, 1998, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

1992 and 1993

Congratulations to Michael R. Rottingham, ’92, and Elizabeth A. Minden, ’93, who were married July 18, 1998, in Kansas City.

1997


1998

Congratulations to Edward H. Hart, ’97, and Sara E. Hoogland, ’98, who were married July 11, 1998. They live in Washington, D.C., and are pursuing graduate degrees — Edward in the biotechnology program at Johns Hopkins University and Sara in the nursing, health policy program at the University of Maryland.

**In Memoriam**

1931


1934

Charles W. Kemble — July 20, 1998

1935


1939

Spencer Dean, born Sept. 12, 1998.

1946


1949

Francis Henry Welch — July 31, 1998

1950

Carl Roland Obermeier — Nov. 11, 1998

1951


1952


1954

James J. Mathews — May 29, 1998

1959


1963

William D. Cavanaugh — June 7, 1998

1975


1977

Keith J. Douglass — May 23, 1998

1989 MBA


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Thomas, ’92, and Elizabeth Spencer, ’93, announced the birth of their first child, Samuel Thomas, born May 17, 1998.

1992 and 1995

Paul, ’92, and Tamatha Leusch, ’95, are the proud parents of Rebecca Lynn, born Aug. 16, 1998, and weighing 8 pounds, and 5 ounces.

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Peggy S. Miller announces the birth of Spencer Dean, born Sept. 12, 1998.

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**Births**

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Lois and Dave Pickens are the proud parents of Brittany Marie, born Aug. 26, 1998, and weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

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Rockhurst Calendar

January

22 • Massman Gallery opening reception, Jason Curteman, “What if...?,” paintings, 7-9 p.m. Exhibit runs through Feb. 14

30 Basketball vs. Avila; 5:30 p.m., women; 7:30 p.m., men

February

2 Women’s basketball vs. College of the Ozarks, 5:30 p.m. Men’s basketball vs. Columbia College, 7:30 p.m.

3 Basketball vs. Parkhill State; 5:30 p.m., women; 7:30 p.m., men

March

2 Baseball vs. Northwest Missouri State, 1 p.m.

6 Baseball vs. Southwest Baptist University, 1 p.m.

16 Men’s and women’s tennis vs. Northwest Missouri State University, 2 p.m.

20 Alumni Dance, 8 p.m., Convocation Center.

23 Men’s and women’s tennis vs. Southwest Baptist University, 2:30 p.m.

27 Baseball vs. Central Missouri State University, 3 p.m.

April

17 Jazz Matinee, sponsored by the Black Alumni Club, 4-8 p.m., Rock Room

May

1 Alumni Rosary followed by Mass in Massman Chapel, 3:30 p.m.

June

18 Kansas City Alumni Golf Tournament, D’Ibbs D’read

August

30 St. Louis Alumni Golf Tournament, Country Club at the Legends

Southwest Baptist University, 1 p.m.

New Rockhurst Program Paves the Way for CPAs

A certificate program in accounting, recently launched by the School of Management, should make it easier for aspiring certified public accountants to meet new requirements outlined by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

In Missouri and Kansas, as well as in most other states across the country, those who want to take the CPA examination must now have at least 150 credit hours of college coursework — an additional 22 credits and one year of full-time study beyond the traditional four-year undergraduate accounting degree.

Rockhurst students are making an important investment in their future. A college degree can open many doors for them when they are ready to enter the working world.

An important part of planning for your own future is securing the distribution of your assets through the creation of a will. Many people postpone this critical activity because they aren’t comfortable discussing the topic. But, developing the proper legal documents will ensure your loved ones and the organizations and causes that are important to you benefit from your prudent planning.

When you include Rockhurst in your will, you are helping generations of Rockhurst students solidify their investment in the future. You can leave an unrestricted gift, so the funds can be channelled to areas where the needs are most pressing, or specify where your gift will be used.

In either case, you may even have the option of naming the fund so future generations of family and friends can remember you.

Call today for our new 18-page booklet, “Estate Planning for the 21st Century.” For your copy, contact Thomas J. Audley, director of planned giving, at (816) 501-4551 or respond via e-mail to audley@vax2.rockhurst.edu.