Two Rockhurst University Grads in Pursuit of One Common Goal
Something New, Something Blue

An oversized Adirondack chair outside of Xavier-Loyola Residence Hall is one element in a series of reflection sites being installed around campus. Its playful nature makes an inviting setting for photographs.
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ON THE COVER: Joe Reardon, ‘90 (left), mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., and Sly James, ‘80, mayor of Kansas City, Mo.
Students Assist in Joplin Relief Efforts

A tornado ripped through Joplin, Mo., in May 2011. Five months later 53 Rockhurst students traveled there to assist with relief efforts. Before the volunteers boarded the bus at 6 a.m. for the one-day trip, Amanda Saladin, a Rockhurst sophomore from the Joplin area, thanked the workers for their time and shared her personal experience with destruction from the tornado.

Students helped the Joplin community by digging trenches to aid in construction, hanging dry wall, landscaping, scraping and painting.

The trip to Joplin was “unforgettable,” said Joe Evans, ’12. “Although service trips in faraway places are a great experience, it is important to realize that there are many things we can do close to home to improve our own communities.”

Joplin continues to be a part of the Rockhurst community’s thoughts and prayers as 10 students and two faculty and staff members prepare for a spring break service trip to the area.

Rockhurst Rises in 2012 U.S. News Rankings

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Rockhurst University No. 19 in the Midwest Regional Universities category in its 2012 Best Colleges rankings, up from No. 24 in the 2011 rankings. More than 100 institutions comprise the top tier in this category.

Rankings are based on factors such as peer assessment, freshman retention rate, average class size, acceptance rate, graduation rate and alumni giving rate. Rockhurst consistently ranks among the top 25 institutions in its category.

While Creighton University, the top-ranked university in the Midwest Regional category, had the same student-faculty ratio as Rockhurst (11-1), it bested Rockhurst on other measures, such as its alumni giving rate of 20 percent compared to Rockhurst’s 11 percent. The rate reflects the number of alumni who give a gift of any amount to support the university.

“One way alumni can continue to help the University is through their financial support,” said Bob Grant, vice president for university advancement. “The primary reason to do this is to ensure that Rockhurst can provide the best educational experience possible for our leaders of tomorrow. An extended benefit would be a boost in our ranking, which shows prospective students and parents that alumni believe in what we’re doing.”
Introducing Rock E. Hawk

In 1927, Rockhurst University launched a campaign in The Sentinel to choose a new name for its college athletic teams. More than 300 suggestions were submitted, but in the end “Hawks” was selected. This fall, 84 years later, the Hawk finally has been christened. The name selection process was part of this year’s homecoming celebration. Students and alumni were asked to submit potential names for the Hawk and, out of the 200 submissions, the student body voted on the top five. Soon after the homecoming dance, “Rock E. Hawk” was announced as the Hawk’s name. Students have embraced the Hawk’s new identity and Rock E. soon will receive a new jersey with his name on the back.

Supportive Atmosphere Means Increase in Transfer Students

Madeline Burkemper wasn’t sure what to expect on the first day of classes her sophomore year. Transferring from Truman State University to Rockhurst was certainly something she had looked forward to, but there would still be an inevitable adjustment period ... right?

“I was expecting the transition to be hard,” said the Manchester, Mo., native, “but everyone has been so welcoming; I just love how close-knit the community is.”

Nate Elliott, ’02, ’06 MBA, director of transfer admission, was the first person Burkemper contacted when considering her transfer to Rockhurst.

“He even referred me to other students I could talk to and helped me fill out the paperwork. That meant a lot to my family and me.”

This kind of support for new students has resulted in a growing number of new faces on campus.

“This year, we’ve surpassed our transfer student enrollment goal by 32 percent,” Elliott said.

Increased communications through a strategic direct mail and email program, as well as added scholarships, give Elliott a reason to believe those transfer numbers will continue to climb. He says he’s encouraged by the University’s progress in this area and pleased that these initiatives make all the difference for students like Burkemper.

Burkemper attributes the success of her move to several factors. She immediately immersed herself in the Rockhurst culture of leadership and service by joining a handful of student organizations. As an education major, Burkemper is pleased with the smaller class sizes and the potential opportunities to serve in an urban environment.

“To be honest, I wasn’t sure I wanted a small-school atmosphere,” Burkemper said. “But the fact that the admission staff still checks in on me from time to time, I just know it’s the right fit for me.”
One of the Jesuit core values is care for the whole person. That value extends to every person even when they are 8,000 miles away.

In October 2011, four students and two faculty members from the Research College of Nursing took a trip to Gulu, Uganda, with Medical Mission Foundation of Kansas City.

Shaina Rivera, senior, said the trip made her really appreciate all of the things she took for granted at home.

“It was a shock just going there,” Rivera said. “There was no electricity or running water. Some of the children didn’t even have clothes, they were just wearing shoes.”

The students and faculty, along with the doctors from the MMF, set up small clinics at an internal refugee camp called the Awach refugee camp, Ocer Campion Jesuit College and St. Catherine’s School.

The doctors and nurses treated children who had such illnesses as malaria and typhoid fever.

Surgeries were also performed at St. Mary’s Lacor hospital in Gulu. The nurses assisted the surgeons with reconstructive surgeries on children from burns that were never treated. On adults, the surgeries involved reconstruction from injuries received from the rebel wars and terrorizations.

Rivera said she really enjoyed her time with the doctors and her time in Uganda.

“If you don’t think a lot can be said during silence, think again.

In November 2011, 14 Rockhurst University students found out what could happen with nearly 24 hours of silence.

Cindy Schmersal, campus minister, said she had heard about silent retreats and thought that students could use a break from their hectic lives to just disconnect and spend some time alone and with God.

The students spent the day at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo., which is about two hours from the Rockhurst campus.

Bridgette Pretz, junior, found starting the retreat to be a little daunting. For the first half hour of silence she didn’t know what to do and she started to panic. She decided to take a stroll around the abbey and that’s when she made her best discovery of the retreat.

“It was black outside and cold, but I stumbled upon a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” Pretz said. “I sat there for about an hour thinking to myself and then I found comfort. That laid the groundwork for the rest of my experience. I just found a lot of peace and started to enjoy the time I had to myself.”

But it was only a matter of time before the silence would break and the students would return to their hectic routines. Schmersal is planning another retreat for the students in April.
Rockhurst.edu Gets a New Look

If you haven’t visited www.rockhurst.edu in awhile, you should point your browser our way. The official website of Rockhurst University is scheduled to sport a major redesign in early 2012 – one we hope you’ll find reflective of our mission and our upcoming rebrand.

Recent research shows that a university’s website is a primary factor that influences prospective students to take additional steps to learn more, such as requesting information, visiting campus or completing an application. In addition to serving as that “first handshake,” the Rockhurst website is an important source of University news for alumni and others, a place to support the University by making a secure online gift and a hub to connect with Rockhurst University through social media.

As an integral component of the overall University rebrand set to launch in 2012, the new design delivers a more intuitive, easier-to-navigate user experience – with freshened graphics, an enhanced news and events component, and multiple entry points for information. The site also showcases the new Rockhurst University logo with the new tagline “Where leaders learn.” This statement reflects the University’s position as a top choice for those who go on to become leaders in many aspects of their lives and careers.

A revamped website is not the only new feature for Rockhurst’s electronic presence. A new mobile website also will be rolled out and the Computer Services department has partnered with AT&T to create a new Rockhurst app, which will have features useful for current students and alumni. Look for it in your favorite online app store, such as iTunes.

Economics Professor’s Love of Italy Inspires Stage Performance

During the day, Michael Stellern, Ph.D., is your mild-mannered economics professor, but at night he dons a costume and steps into the spotlight for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

OK, Stellern isn’t exactly the star of the show, but he does play the important role of a supernumerary.

“I’m an extra,” Stellern said. “In opera, everything is overdone, over exaggerated and over named.”

His acting oeuvre includes a flag bearer in Giuseppe Verdi’s Aida, a settler in Kirke Mechem’s John Brown, and now a Buddhist monk in Giacomo Puccini’s Turandot.

Stellern said he first got involved with the Lyric Opera when he volunteered to be a supernumerary for Aida.

Turandot was Puccini’s final composition. The three-act performance revolves around Princess Turandot and her attempts to find love in Imperial China. The Lyric Opera staged the show in October 2011 in the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

Stellern’s teaching schedule doesn’t always allow him to volunteer to be a supernumerary. The rehearsals for Turandot did not interfere with his night class this semester so when he was called to volunteer he agreed.

“Even though you are on stage for only a few minutes you have to be there,” Stellern said about rehearsals. “In the first seven minutes you have 125 people on stage. It takes about a week for everyone to know when they go on, where they were supposed to be and when they were supposed to get off stage.”

Stellern said he will continue to volunteer for the stage when he can.

Michael Stellern, Ph.D., professor of economics
Rockhurst Names Athletic Director

Rockhurst baseball coach Gary Burns has been named the new director of athletics at Rockhurst University, effective Dec. 13, 2011. He is the fifth full-time director of athletics since 1941.

Burns will continue his duties as head baseball coach for the Hawks.

“As our baseball coach, Gary developed a reputation for athletic success, responsible stewardship, integrity, and passion for Rockhurst and our students,” said Rockhurst President the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S. “Gary and his team of coaches will continue our winning tradition on and off the field/court — being strong and respected.”

Rockhurst hired Burns in 1994 to rebuild the baseball program after the Hawks had gone 18 years without a program. He has posted a 570-393 record over the past 18 seasons.

Burns has led the Hawks to 13 post-season appearances, including five berths in the NCAA Division II Tournament. In 1999, Rockhurst captured the NCAA Central Regional and finished fourth at the NCAA Division II Championships in Montgomery, Ala.

Rockhurst Alumnus Hits Broadway

Mike McClernon, ’80, always had a connection with Godspell.

Since he first saw it in 1977, he knew he wanted to be a part of it. In 1980, he was given that chance when Rockhurst University was slated to stage its own production of the play.

After trying out, he was given the role of Jesus.

More than 30 years later, when McClernon, now CEO of Smart Source Rentals, learned that the play was once again coming back to Broadway, he jumped at the chance to become involved.

Godspell producer Ken Davenport of Davenport Theatrical Enterprises Inc. found out that McClernon had a passion for the show and had a keen sense of business so he brought him onboard as a co-producer.

The revival of Godspell opened on Nov. 7, 2011, on Broadway.

“My first Broadway opening was electric,” McClernon said. “We had celebrities in the audience who had been in the show before, including Eugene Levy, Martin Short and Paul Shaffer. It was very exciting.”

The premise of the play’s stories told in parable form is still the same, but McClernon said everything, including the music, has been updated.

McClernon said he likes being a co-producer and that his acting days are long gone.

“When you start as Jesus, how do you follow up with that?” he asked.

The 1980s cast of Godspell at Rockhurst University prepares to perform. Mike McClernon, ’80, is seated in front.
Rockhurst Faculty Member Writes for “New” New Testament

The New Testament is central to understanding the Christian faith and many Christian scholars have contributed to our knowledge of it. But what can Jewish specialists on the New Testament period teach us about how to interpret these Christian texts?

Now there is a venue to explore this intriguing question. In November 2011 the Oxford University Press published The Jewish Annotated New Testament, which features notes based on the New Revised Standard Version, introductions to each book and many relevant articles collected at the back of the volume, all written by Jews. In addition to introducing Jews to the New Testament, it is also designed to introduce Christians to new ways to think about the meaning of these sacred texts.

Among the prominent Jewish scholars who contributed to the work is Mark D. Nanos, Ph.D., Soebbing Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence and visiting assistant professor of theology and religious studies. Nanos contributed the introduction and notes to “The Letter of Paul to the Romans” and an article titled “Paul and Judaism.”

Nanos said this is an unprecedented opportunity for both communities.

“Christians have been interpreting sacred Jewish texts through the centuries because some are an essential part of Christian history and theology, and are included within their Holy Bibles,” said Nanos.

“However, Jews have not generally studied the New Testament or contributed directly to the history of Christian interpretation of the New Testament. This landmark project will be especially welcomed by those committed to dialogue as a venue for improving Christian-Jewish relations.”

The book is available in print and electronic editions at Amazon.com.

MBA Gives Physical Therapists Advantage

As the healthcare industry continues to evolve, so does Rockhurst University. In December, Rockhurst University’s Department of Physical Therapy Education and the Helzberg School of Management announced the creation of a dual doctor of physical therapy and master of business administration program.

Don Hoover, P.h.D., associate professor of physical therapy, said this new program is only the second of its kind in the country and the only fully integrated program.

“The advantage is that you are not going to have to put your clinical education and skills on a shelf for a year,” Hoover said.

The goal of the dual-degree program is to help those students who want to run their own clinic, take on leadership roles for larger health systems or help create future legislation for the medical industry – all while gaining the clinical and business skill sets they need to succeed.

Hoover said he already has a number of potential students eager to sign up for the program.

“Partnering with the Helzberg School of Management will help us grow something pretty unique that will give our students a competitive edge,” he said.
Civil Leaders

By Katherine Frohoff, ’09 EMBA

Two Rockhurst University alumni who are mayors of Kansas City – the one in Missouri and the one in Kansas – discuss Google, leadership and the potential for regional greatness through cooperation.

In a metropolitan area where it sometimes seems as if the Civil War was a recent occurrence, dialogue across the Missouri-Kansas border is not always easy. It’s refreshing, then, to know that Sly James, ’80, and Joe Reardon, ’90, have each other’s phone number programmed into their cell phones and are attempting to put civility back into public discourse.

James has been the mayor of Kansas City, Mo., since May 1, 2011, and Reardon was elected to his first term as mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., in 2005.

Both mayors took time to visit their alma mater last August for a forum titled “The Pursuit of Innovation Through a Civil Discourse,” co-sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Google had recently announced that Kansas City, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., would be the first cities to host its ultra high-speed Internet connection, and the mayors had created a bi-state task force to maximize opportunities surrounding this breakthrough. More than 400 people attended the event in the Rockhurst University Convocation Center at a time when the rancor and divisiveness in Washington, D.C., made their message of cooperation especially welcome.

Later, we visited each City Hall for further dialogue. Here are some of the comments from those discussions.
Mayor Joe Reardon

Rockhurst Magazine: What does the partnership between you and Mayor James mean on a practical level?

Mayor Reardon: I think at the end of the day if we’re both successful, not only will the region benefit but the citizens themselves will perhaps be the biggest beneficiaries because we’ll be creating opportunities for them in the future. That would be the hope for both of us about the work we do today.

Rockhurst Magazine: What potential benefits do the Google partnership and bi-state innovations team have for the region?

Mayor Reardon: One of the goals is a bi-state strategy that crosses city and state boundaries. We will look at how we work together to get maximum benefit from a very unique installation – a unique infrastructure that no two other cities will have, at least not for a period of time.

Rockhurst Magazine: What strengths does Kansas City, Kan., bring to the region?

Mayor Reardon: Part of the reason Google chose KCK and ultimately, Kansas City, Mo., is that we reflect the country in so many ways, and we’re fairly progressive in what we’re doing. Those two things are coupled together in a place where the work ethic has remained very strong, our productivity is great, our cost of living is fairly low and quality of life is very high. These are strengths of Kansas City, Kan., and ultimately of the Kansas City region.

Joe Reardon

Mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan.

Political Science, ’90

Law School: University of Kansas
Rockhurst Magazine: When did you start to think of yourself as a leader?

Mayor Reardon: I didn’t imagine when I was at Rockhurst that I would be mayor of Kansas City, Kan., but I had a passion about trying to do something positive and not just have a career but to do something that would benefit others. I didn’t know where that would necessarily lead me, but it was something I felt as part of my calling.

Mayor Sly James

Rockhurst Magazine: What could the Kansas City area accomplish through a strengthened partnership between the two cities?

Mayor James: This region is the 26th largest economy in the country and one thing we could accomplish from working together is to move up to a higher spot. The mere fact of doing that would create more job opportunities, more economic development, more opportunities for the citizens of the entire region. The hatred between MU and KU and Kansas and Missouri is not fake in a lot of people’s heads but what happened years ago has no relevance today. This is an economic reality. We learn to adapt to that economic reality or we will not succeed relative to our peers.

Rockhurst Magazine: What strengths does Kansas City, Mo., bring to the metro area?
Mayor James: Every suburb has to be a suburb of somewhere. We are the center of our region. Many of the amenities of this region are located in Kansas City, Mo. The barbecue sauce, the smell, the texture of the region, is located in Kansas City, Mo. The thing that I think Kansas City brings more than anything is a group of people who remain friendly, outgoing and humble despite the occasional slight by others, misapprehension and misunderstandings.

Rockhurst Magazine: On campus, you said that mayors are elected to solve people’s problems and get things done. As a leader, how do you balance that tactical necessity with a strategic approach in moving people forward?

Mayor James: I don’t think you go back and forth, it’s woven right in. This is an amazingly complex city. It is 360 square miles. You can fit eight San Franciscos inside of Kansas City, Missouri’s city limits. When we plow snow, we plow the equivalent of two lanes of highway that would stretch from Boston to San Diego and back. This is not a place where the problems are little tiny things. So it’s never a system of looking at anything in isolation. You look at things in systems. If you apply a solution to a problem, you are looking not only for a solution that solves that problem but that impacts other related issues around it.

Rockhurst Magazine: When you think back about your Rockhurst experience, how did that shape your thoughts on leadership?

Mayor James: My experience was different. When I showed up at Rockhurst, I was older than most of the other on-campus students because I’d been in the Marine Corps four years. That taught me a lot about who I was and honed what skills I had. Rockhurst took what I learned about leadership and reshaped it more toward service as opposed to simply egotistical leading.

Rockhurst University Mayors Forum

To see video clips and additional photos from the Mayors Forum held on the Rockhurst University campus, visit www.rockhurst.edu/mayors.
Loving thy neighbor
By Estuardo Garcia

Outside the little white house near the corner of 31st and Harrison streets in Kansas City, Mo., the delicious smell of something cooking fills the air. Inside, a group of 30 or so residents from the neighborhood gather around to play dominos, sing songs and just catch up with one another.

At exactly 6:30 p.m., the music stops playing and the chatter dies down. The guests leave the living room and walk outside and around the porch to the side door as they line up to eat. Four students from Rockhurst University get in their places and get ready to greet and serve the hungry crowd that is gathering at Holy Family House.

The students aren’t spending an evening at a soup kitchen, but getting the urban experience in a whole new kind of service trip right at their back door.

“You learn who you are helping and you learn about them,” sophomore Brittany Waybright said. “It’s not like I’m helping the poor, it’s like I’m helping someone I know.”

(From left) Tiffany Kramer, Brittany Waybright, Tess Hart and Tim Dulle spent their fall break learning about their city and helping their neighbors in a new kind of service trip.
To give them this experience, Rockhurst partnered with Holy Family House, a Catholic Worker community. The school has had a long relationship with the house, but this was the first time students were invited to stay the night and live the life of a Catholic Worker.

“I’ve done some service work in Central America, but there is always this disconnect with one’s service life and the rest of their life,” junior Tim Dulle said. “Not just doing service, but opening your home to the people you serve is one of the best things I’ve ever heard.”

For four days, Dulle, Waybright and Douglas, along with junior Tess Hart, sophomore Tiffany Kramer and Center for Service Learning Director Julia Vargas served the guests at Holy Family House. This included making breakfast and dinner as well as helping to sort out produce to give away to area residents.

Beyond just filling the bellies of locals, the residents of Holy Family House just want to help, whether it is by giving out a fresh pair of socks, bus passes or even visiting hospitalized guests. As they like to think of it, they won’t open the door to someone unless they are willing to help them as far as they can.

“We just try to respond to needs as best we can,” Rachael Hoffman from Holy Family House said. “The doorbell rings at any time of the day or people come in when we are open and they ask for any normal thing you might need. We try to give as best we can in a fair and loving way. We are trying to open our hearts by opening our door.”

Serving the guests at Holy Family House and staying overnight also allowed the Rockhurst students to break down their barriers.

“A lot of people who don’t engage (the poor) believe in a certain stereotype,” Hart said. “The negative stereotype can be erased easily if you embrace their humanity. They are just like us. They have the same interests, struggles and motivations for what they’re doing. If you engage them and talk to them you will see that and it will turn your world upside down.”

For the first time, the Center for Service Learning and the Center for Community Relations and Outreach chose Kansas City as a location for a service trip to give Rockhurst students a sense of community and connection with the town in which they live.

Their goals were to help these students see Kansas City in a new light and to have them appreciate the diversity of neighborhoods and the people in those neighborhoods.

To do this, the organizations devised a four-day immersion trip through the city during fall break.

“It gave us the chance for a more holistic approach that allowed students a real-time opportunity to serve their community and time to reflect and to develop some relationships with each other and with people in the community they met along the way,” said Alicia Douglas, director of community relations and outreach.

“Students have a desire to connect to their community, they just need that avenue to do so. By experiencing the community they can really understand it and make changes. Plus they get to see what Kansas City really has to offer.”

Alicia Douglas, back left, and Julia Vargas join, from left, Kramer, Hart, Waybright and Dulle in front of Holy Family House.
Waybright echoed Hart’s comments by saying that she had to come out of her shell before making a connection with the guests.

“I found that it opened me to a lot of new experiences and not just new people,” she said. “I’m more comfortable talking to people that I know, so serving strangers, then sitting down and starting to talk with them was new to me. They were so interested in finding out about us and we were so interested to learn about them. They’re very chatty and very open.”

Kramer also agreed.

“They were just happy to talk to us and see us,” she said. “We would just sit there and talk. It was cool to be able to hear about their lives, their stories.”

Kansas City

As part of the immersion process into urban Kansas City, Vargas and Douglass took the students on a tour of the city. This included taking a walking trip around 31st Street and Troost Avenue, near Holy Family House.

The two directors wanted the students to experience the everyday life of the people who were coming to visit the house, which meant shopping where the locals shop and taking the bus, which was a first for some of the students.

“It’s a very diverse neighborhood and that is one of things we wanted to show them,” Vargas said. “It’s very commercial and there are all types of businesses, but as we walk through the neighborhood you can see the blight and you can see the areas with abandoned properties. But if you just go two blocks you see really large homes. There is this duality of the city.”

To better understand how this neighborhood developed and how that duality came to be, the students were given a Kansas City history lesson by the Rev. David Paisius Altschul, who contributed research to the “200 Years on Troost” exhibit. This was a welcomed event for the students who said they had no knowledge of the history of Kansas City. They also learned more about the neighborhoods adjacent to Rockhurst by speaking with community and organization leaders such as Roach Ellington from Voice of the People and Lynda Callon from Westside CAN Center.
Not all business

Of course, no immersion experience in Kansas City would be complete without hitting some famous area landmarks.

The group went on a walking tour of the government district and made stops at the iconic 18th and Vine area and ate at the legendary Arthur Bryant’s.

They were also exposed to some Kansas City jazz during Music Matters, a benefit concert for the Upper Room’s music program for kids. The concert included the Grammy Award-winning Bobby Watson, Lonnie McFadden and Marilyn Maye.

At the end and the beginning of the days, the students reflected upon their experience and about what they had learned.

This reflection time allowed Dulle to reaffirm his wanting to pursue the Catholic Worker lifestyle.

“To go learn about what is happening on the ground and to be a part of that and to be informed about ways communities are improving, to me, is one of the most spot-on Jesuit missions I’ve done at Rockhurst,” he said. “I’m pretty proud that, as a school, we have made a commitment to offer things like this to students.”
Reflections on a Trip to Israel

By the Rev. Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S., President of Rockhurst University

Abraham Lincoln is credited with stating, “There’s no place that I should like to see so much as Jerusalem.” For more than 3,000 years, Jerusalem and the surrounding region has held a place in civilization like no other. So, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Israel invited college and university presidents to come and learn more about their nation in October 2011, I felt that Lincoln’s words fully captured my sentiments.

The Dome of the Rock is among the many sacred sites visible in Jerusalem.
Our delegation of 11 Midwest higher education administrators experienced eight full days of Middle Eastern hospitality. The trip included: exploring partnerships in higher education; learning how this 63-year-old nation has more companies on the NASDAQ than any other nation in Europe; studying the prospects for a two-state solution for Israel; being briefed by officials in government, the military, and the press; and spending reflective time at the holy sites.

Visiting Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum), standing along the Sea of Galilee, climbing to the top of Masada, floating in the Dead Sea, exploring Tagba (believed to be the site of the multiplication of the loaves and fish), and conversing with the new Israeli Ambassador to the Vatican continue to provide me with rich moments of reflection.

However, I need to adhere to the practice that I ask others to follow. And that is answering the question, “So, what was the highlight?” I frequently pose this question to students, colleagues and friends upon their return from a trip. It’s only fair that I answer the same question.

The answer: there were two. The first was the opportunity to pray at the Kotel (Wailing Wall) in the old city of Jerusalem. The wall is believed to be the exterior wall for the Temple Mount, which was constructed at the end of the Second Temple Period (515 BCE). It has been a site for prayer and pilgrims for centuries. It is customary to place prayer messages and petitions in the crevices of the wall. Placing my written petitions in one of the cracks was one of the most humbling, consoling and moving experiences of my life.

The other highlight was visiting the Weizmann Institute of Science. It’s named for Chaim Azriel Weizmann, the first president of the state of Israel. There I met Professor Daniel Zajfman. He serves as the president of the institute, which, in my opinion, has no peer in the world. Professor Zajfman’s message of “science for the benefit of humanity” struck a chord with me.

Absent from the trip was direct engagement with Palestinian Arabs and Christians. Nonetheless, I depart with hopes and prayers for the following: security and an end to violence for the state of Israel; an end to Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza; the establishment of an internationally recognized and viable Palestinian state; and religious freedom and ongoing access to the holy sites.

“Next year in Jerusalem.” These words are spoken at the conclusion of every Passover Seder. They reflect a longing for a peaceful Jerusalem with a restored Temple. As a Jesuit university, we seek to find God in all things. In many respects, this core value of ours can be explained as acknowledging that God dwells with us now as living temples. Indeed, there is no place that I should like to see so much as Jerusalem, fully restored as the city of peace, the meaning of Jerusalem’s name.
“Don’t look back, something might be gaining on you.” Satchel Paige offered this advice. Paige, who is buried just two miles from campus, was the first player to be inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame from the Negro Leagues. While I think there is some merit to his caution, I also believe there is some value in “glancing in the rear view mirror” occasionally. Looking back stirs up gratitude for what has been accomplished and experienced. It also positions one to embrace what lies ahead. So, as I look back on the past year, here are a few things for which I am grateful:

- Rockhurst’s citation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching with its Community Engagement classification. This distinction is held by fewer than 10 percent of all colleges and universities in the United States. Rockhurst is the only institution in Kansas City to have earned this distinction.

- Completing construction of a mixed-use facility on Troost Avenue. This “green project” will provide 423 parking spaces as well as 12,000 square feet of commercial space. Included in this will be a health care clinic to provide medical treatment for our students and the surrounding community.

- Providing more than 25,000 hours of community service. Service learning is an integral part of our curriculum and Jesuit way of proceeding. More than 80 percent of our students participate in service during their Rockhurst education. In addition to the service, the process involves reflection upon the injustices and using one’s gifts to help transform the world.

- Athletic achievements, including Coach Tony Tocco’s 600th victory in men’s soccer, the men’s tennis and soccer teams reaching the Elite Eight of NCAA II National Championship, women’s basketball finishing 13th in the nation with a team GPA of 3.51, and 162 (68 percent) of our student athletes achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher

- Working with Research College of Nursing, our partner, to design and begin construction of the Blessed Seelos Simulation Lab. It’s scheduled to open in Spring 2012.

So, what’s ahead?

- Preparing for our next five-year plan (2012-17), which will include the design and construction of a new academic building to replace Sedgwick Hall. This 96-year-old structure will become the center for our administrative and alumni efforts and then Massman Hall can become a student center.

- Pursuing affirmation of our accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association for another 10 years. Our self study will be submitted this spring in preparation for our site visit in October 2012.

As a Jesuit institution of higher learning, Rockhurst University focuses its attention upon six core values. In the current year, we decided to be very intentional about the value of Finding God in All Things. This involves engagement (experience), reflection and action. Simply put, we are unafraid to look back or ahead. Instead, we see all as gift. This is the essence of finding God in all things.

Thank you for your support in the past. With your continued support and engagement, what lies ahead promises to be just as rewarding as what we have already experienced.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Curran, O.S.F.S.
President
2010-11 Financials

2010-11 Expenses

- 10% Institutional Support
- 7% Auxiliary Enterprises
- 7% Student Services
- 7% Academic Support
- 3% Interest Expense
- 37% Student Aid
- 18% Instructional
- 11% Plant Operations & Depreciation

2010-11 Revenues, Gains & Other Support

- 72% Student Tuition & Fees
- 8% Investment Return
- 7% Private Gifts
- 3% Other Income
- 10% Auxiliary Enterprises

2010-11 Gift Sources*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>$2,790,116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Friends</td>
<td>$1,283,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni</td>
<td>$1,136,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>$1,067,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$274,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>$66,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious Organizations</td>
<td>$49,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,667,555</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010-11 Fundraising Activity

- Funds Received $4,323,360
- (Less pledge payments on previous pledges)
- New Pledges $1,367,091
- **Total** $5,690,451

2007-11 Gifts Received*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'07</td>
<td>$6.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>'08</td>
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<td>'09</td>
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<td>'10</td>
<td>$4.9</td>
</tr>
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<td>'11</td>
<td>$6.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Includes payments received on pledges outstanding from previous fiscal years.
Rockhurst’s Tony Tocco became the third men’s soccer coach in intercollegiate history to win 600 games as the Hawks advanced to the quarterfinals in the 2011 NCAA Division II Men’s Soccer Championships.

Tocco’s milestone victory was a 2-0 victory over conference rival Northern Kentucky in the second round of the NCAA Championships at Rockhurst’s Bourke Field on Nov 13, 2011. His players celebrated the win by showering Tocco with a bucket of water on the field right after the game.

“It doesn’t seem like 600. I never kept track of my wins,” said Tocco, who has spent his entire 41 years in coaching at Rockhurst while compiling a 600-168-57 record. “The only thing I worry about is my next game. Right now, I’m thinking about next year.”

The future looks bright for the Hawks, who finished the 2011 season with a 17-2-3 record and had the top-ranked scoring defense in the country. Rockhurst will return 10 of its 11 starters next season, highlighted by All-Americans Ryan Bass (goalkeeper), junior, and Mark Magee (forward), sophomore.

Tocco started coaching at Rockhurst in 1970. His fourth team finished second in the NAIA national tournament in 1973. The Hawks were a perennial power in the NAIA under Tocco, who was named to the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2007. Rockhurst played in 17 NAIA national tournaments and advanced to the Final Four 10 times.

“We have great student-athletes at Rockhurst. You can’t win at this level without them,” said Tocco, who holds a Ph.D. in accounting and is a full-time professor and head of the accounting department in Rockhurst’s Helzberg School of Management.

Since becoming a member of the NCAA in 1998, the Hawks have posted a 163-72-29 record and advanced to the NCAA Championships five times. The Hawks rose to fourth in the nation in 2008 and were ranked as high as No. 6 in 2011.

“My whole life has been teaching and coaching. I’ve never had trouble balancing being a teacher and a coach,” added Tocco, who played soccer at Saint Louis University.
Rockhurst Inducts 2011 Athletics Hall of Fame Class

Four outstanding athletes were inducted into the Rockhurst University Athletics Hall of Fame Sept. 23. Kevin Koetters (men's soccer, 1986-89), Kristie Morgan (women's soccer, 1994-97), Jessica Shepler (volleyball, 2000-03) and Davin Winkley (men's basketball, 1997-2002) comprise the 2011 Hall of Fame Class.

Koetters, a two-time NAIA All-American in 1988 and '89, ranks as one of the most outstanding defenders in Rockhurst’s storied soccer history. He led the Hawks to a 69-13-6 record and two NAIA national tournament semifinal finishes. He played professional soccer for 12 years, including stints with the Kansas City Attack, Kansas City Wiz and Kansas City Comets.

Morgan is one of the top goalkeepers in school history. She was a third team NAIA All-American in her senior season as the Hawks finished with a 19-4-1 record in 1997. She ranked seventh in the nation in goals against average (0.71) while posting 11 shutouts. In her junior year, the Hawks won 17 games as Morgan collected 14 shutouts and 108 saves.

Shepler led the Hawks to a 140-25 record in her four seasons. She earned American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II All-American honors in her senior season while collecting 767 kills and 535 digs. In her sophomore season, she received AVCA Division II National Player of the Week honors. She finished with 2,301 kills and 1,543 digs in her career.

Winkley is one of only three Hawks to score more than 2,000 career points while leading Rockhurst to 74 wins over four seasons. In his senior year, he led the Hawks to a 24-6 record and a Sweet 16 finish in the 2002 NCAA Division II tournament. He is tied for second in scoring (2,063 points) and ranks fifth in rebounding (939) on the all-time Rockhurst charts.

Rockhurst Ranks 26th in NCSA Collegiate Power Rankings

Rockhurst University ranked 26th among NCAA Division II universities in the Ninth Annual NCSA Athletic Recruiting’s Collegiate Power Rankings, which assess the academic and athletics standards of all NCAA athletic programs across the country.

“The Power Rankings are an objective tool to empower student athletes to find the right fit in a college or university, not only for its athletics, but academics as well,” said Chris Krause, CEO and founder of NCSA Athletic Recruiting. “Our hope is to educate these student athletes and their parents on the importance of evaluating schools that will provide the education for an enriched, successful career after college, in addition to athletic success.”

The Collegiate Power Rankings are calculated for each Division I, II and III college and university by averaging student-athlete graduation rates, academic rankings provided by U.S. News & World Report, and the strength of athletic departments as determined by the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup.

Nine of Rockhurst’s athletic programs finished with a team GPA of 3.20 or higher in 2010-11. The women’s soccer team finished tied for ninth among all collegiate women’s soccer programs with a 3.61 team GPA. RU’s softball and women’s basketball teams were ranked in the top 20 for Division II schools in team GPA.

Caroline Brandt, freshman, plays forward for the women’s soccer team, which tied for ninth highest team GPA (3.61) among women’s soccer programs in 2010-11.
As all physicians can attest, the road to medical school can be challenging – both academically and financially – and one that requires steadfast commitment. It’s a commitment that Carol Jean DeFeo, widow of 1968 Rockhurst graduate, Frederick G. DeFeo, M.D., not only understands, but is determined to reward. In honor of her husband who passed away in 2009, Mrs. DeFeo is establishing the Frederick G. DeFeo, M.D., Endowed Scholarship, which will support chemistry and pre-medical students at Rockhurst. The scholarship will total $50,000 over the next five years.

“Students on the chemistry and pre-med track work extremely hard and are committed academically,” said Mrs. DeFeo. “Medicine is a very rewarding profession, but unless they’re very fortunate, students are looking at years of paying off debt. Our wish was to give these young people as much help as possible during their undergraduate years.”

Dr. and Mrs. DeFeo were members of a close-knit group of Rockhurst alumni, many of whom were scientists or physicians. Mrs. DeFeo herself taught math at Rockhurst and counts the Rev. James D. Wheeler, S.J., professor of chemistry and founder of Rockhurst’s pre-med program, among her closest family friends. Because of his academic contributions, former students of Fr. Wheeler established a scholarship in his name in 1999. Fr. Wheeler is assisting Mrs. DeFeo in structuring the Frederick G. DeFeo, M.D., Endowed Scholarship to ensure it will be a true reflection of Dr. DeFeo.

This scholarship is only one of the generous contributions from the DeFeo family. Mrs. DeFeo is also ensuring a Rockhurst gift in her estate plans, one that will establish an endowed scholarship for math majors.

McGee Family Gift Bolsters Occupational and Physical Therapy Training

Throughout the generations, Kansas City’s McGee family and the McGee Foundation have generously supported Rockhurst. From the Louis B. McGee Residence Hall and Joseph and Anne McGee Chair in Communications, to unseen infrastructure and maintenance improvements, gifts from the family and the Foundation have left an indelible imprint on the campus. The McGee Foundation is now making an impact in yet another area – a new occupational and physical therapy functional and mobility lab.

Through this gift, Rockhurst will build a “real-life” training environment for OT and PT students. In today’s healthcare environment, patients are discharged from rehabilitation programs and returning home earlier than in the past. Clinicians across the country have responded to this challenge by creating specially designed clinical spaces to carry out high-level functional and mobility simulation – in effect enabling patients to practice activities in a safe, true-to-life, simulated environment, before returning home.

The new Rockhurst lab will closely resemble a contemporary rehabilitation clinical environment with equipment that can be used with a wide range of patients and conditions. The lab includes features such as a functional living space complete with a kitchen and bathroom, which will allow students to work with simulated patient scenarios before they work with actual patients.

“We’re very fortunate in gifts such as this one, which foster professional excellence and best practices even before students enter the workforce,” said Amy Drouin, director of foundation and corporate relations. “This is an incredibly generous donation, one that takes our physical and occupational therapy programs to an entirely new level.”
Love for Belize Inspires Student Support

For Tom Hastings, ’81, fresh off the pre-medicine study track at Rockhurst University, graduation offered a much-needed break from academic stress. So rather than immediately applying for medical school, he chose a different path—one of service. Based on the advice of the Rev. James D. Wheeler, S.J., professor of chemistry, Hastings traveled to Belize City, Belize, shortly after graduation to teach chemistry at St. John’s College, a Jesuit school. It was a time that would both crystallize his career aspirations and change the way he viewed the world.

Hastings saw first-hand abject poverty, and taught students committed to learning despite limited means and opportunities—an experience that left a desire to serve. He returned to the United States and eventually became an internist in St. Louis. Dr. Hastings’ wife, Dr. Mary Vatterott Hastings, a family medicine physician, shares his commitment to service, with a special passion for education, which she views as key to the development of one’s faith. The couple and their family participate in foreign medical missions and also provide support for Rockhurst junior and Belize native, Hero Balani. For both doctors, these opportunities to help others are extremely rewarding.

“I had always heard that compassion and serving were not just about being there for others, but about walking in someone else’s shoes,” Dr. Tom Hastings says now. “My experiences in Belize gave me that opportunity.”

In addition to the Hastings, the late Bob Miller, ’49, Carol Miller, and Marty Flaherty, ’62, support the fund for Belize students.

New Building Will Enrich Academic Experience

Most Rockhurst University students become intimately familiar with the walls of Sedgwick Hall over the course of their education. The first building on campus, opened in 1914, it is an iconic symbol of the University, and has for years housed the University’s core curriculum. Yet while its legacy and meaningfulness to the University will never change, it is time to change its purpose.

The Rockhurst master plan calls for a new academic building, a state-of-the-art learning facility that will largely replace the teaching facilities of Sedgwick. And in turn, Sedgwick will be renovated and repurposed for administrative use.

Contingent on fundraising success, plans are to break ground in 2013 on the new academic building, which will be constructed just south of the bell tower on the current parking lot. The new building will be a modern academic space that enhances learning and the rich classroom interaction for which Rockhurst is known. Phase I of the project, completing the academic portions of the building, will cost $25 million. The final phase, adding a theater and other art spaces, will cost an additional $8 million.

“The projects are being supported wholly by funding from our donors,” said Amy Drouin, director of foundation and corporate relations. “We’ve been fortunate in the generosity of our University alumni and other supporters and have raised about $16 million to date.”

For more information about the master plan, visit www.rockhurst.edu/masterplan. For information about supporting the effort financially, contact Amy Drouin at amy.drouin@rockhurst.edu or 816-501-4628. Sponsorship and naming opportunities are available at various levels of giving.
Events Remind Students of the Importance of Giving Back

Did you know that tuition covers only 62 percent of what it actually costs for a student to attend Rockhurst University? Alumni and friends of the University fund the remaining 38 percent through generous donations. Without these gifts, Rockhurst would not be able to offer its high-quality educational experience and would either have to dramatically raise tuition or end the school year in February.

In celebration of Rockhurst’s donors, the Student Alumni Association (SAA) will host a weeklong event called Rockhurst Made Possible, from Monday, Feb. 13 – Thursday, Feb. 16. The organization wants to help educate students on the importance of giving back while showing Rockhurst donors how their gifts have an impact on current students.

Events will include a celebration for the birthday of Henry J. Massman Sr., for whom Massman Hall is named.

This year’s Student Alumni Association is planning events in February to thank Rockhurst University donors.

The week will conclude with a Meet and Greet event where alumni are invited back to campus to have a casual meal while connecting with students.

SAA leaders say they hope students will not only say “thanks” to those who make their college experience possible, but will also begin a lifelong practice of giving back to their University.

Rockhurst University Alumni, Unite!

When Rockhurst University alumni get together, good things happen. That was the spirit of the recent fall gatherings of graduates and parents in New York City, Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Houston.

“These events are a great way to get together with other Rockhurst graduates, catch up on what’s happening with the school and share Rockhurst stories,” said Mary Landers, Rockhurst director of alumni and constituent relations. “It’s wonderful to see our grads reconnect and discover how many Rockhurst connections they have in their area.”

The Atlanta event – the first in several years – was held in late September and hosted by Rockhurst alumnus Larry Drake, ’90 EMBA. Nearly 20 alumni attended the reception. The Big Apple event, held at the New York Athletic Club, drew 30 alumni, nearly double the attendance of the last event. Trustee Steve Valentino, ’88, hosted the event, which featured speaker the Rev. Jim Martin, S.J. The D.C. reception, hosted by Cliff Alexander, ’66, featured Walter McCormick Jr., a Rockhurst trustee, as the guest speaker. The Houston event, hosted by trustee Chuck Dunlap, ’65, welcomed 18 attendees.

“We feel like the events were very successful and the groups are already looking for opportunities to meet in between our formal events. It’s great to build strong regional communities,” said Landers.

For information on how to host an alumni event in your area, contact Mary Landers at 816-501-4199 or mary.landers@rockhurst.edu.

(From left) Patty and Steve Valentino, ’88 (Rockhurst Trustee), Fr. Curran and guest speaker Fr. James Martin, S.J. The event was hosted by the Valentinos at the New York Athletic Club on Oct. 11, 2011.
Alumni Leaders

Mastering the Balance in Life and Career

Finding the right balance in life can be a difficult choice, or as Larry Drake, ’90 EMBA, discovered, it can also become a necessity.

It was 1988, and Drake’s life was pulled in many directions. He was a successful senior executive with The Coca-Cola Company, enrolled in the Executive Fellows MBA program, and married with two young children, one of whom faced a chronic medical condition.

“It was a period of transition for me, a very difficult time,” Drake says now. “I spent many nights at Children’s Mercy Hospital despite having another child at home. Additionally, my job and the MBA program were time-consuming and challenging. Finding a way to balance all that became a necessity.”

Over the years, Drake has experienced success on many fronts, serving as Coca-Cola’s president and chief executive officer for Nigeria and Equatorial Africa, an executive at PepsiCo’s then KFC division, and ultimately an entrepreneur. But it was that frantic point in his life that led to many of his most valued lessons on priorities. And since his 2007 retirement, he has focused on helping others learn those lessons through the Atlanta-based HOPE 360 Inc., a company he co-founded that specializes in corporate organizational development, executive coaching and career/life management consulting services. In short, Drake now helps other leaders find solutions to balancing life and career, an endeavor that is his own way of living the Rockhurst creed of service.

“HOPE stands for helping other people excel,” he explains. “Our objective is to share what we’ve learned in the corporate and entrepreneurial world to help others find ways to use balance as a means to improve what they do and how they do it, personally and professionally.”

And in helping others, Drake finds a deeper fulfillment than at any other point in his career.

“We don’t consider it work,” he said. “Our reward comes when we see our clients improve their career performance while simultaneously improving the quality of their life.”

Chat Cowherd to Receive Rockhurst Science Hall of Fame Award

Chatton Cowherd, Ph.D., ’60, is having the time of his career. Just a year after being named among seven national finalists for R&D Magazine’s 2010 Scientist of the Year, Cowherd is receiving another science achievement award – the Rockhurst Science Hall of Fame Award.

The honor is awarded to a Rockhurst graduate who has demonstrated exceptional excellence in the field of science. There have been only 13 recipients of the award since its inception in 1996.

Cowherd serves as principal advisor for engineering at Midwest Research Institute (MRI Global) and the founder of the company’s Center of Excellence in Non-Point Emission Sources and Controls. He is an internationally recognized expert on open source emissions, developing testing methods to measure air pollutants resulting from events such as dust storms and brush fires.

“Dr. Cowherd has had a tremendous impact on his field and is extremely well-deserving of the Rockhurst Science Award,” said Mary Landers, Rockhurst director of alumni and constituent relations. “Graduates of his caliber are a recognition of the academic excellence for which Rockhurst is known and it’s only fitting that the University honors him.”

Cowherd, who also recently celebrated his 50th reunion, earning membership in the Golden Hawks Society, will be officially honored by the University at a reception in March 2012.
Tom McDonnell, CEO of DST Systems Inc., was honored as a "Visionary of the Modern Era" in the mutual fund industry by Strategic Inc. In October 2011, McDonnell was named by Kansas City, Mo., Mayor Sly James, '80, as co-chair of a new advisory group to develop a long-term economic strategy for the city.

Jim Killackey recently retired from The Daily Oklahoman newspaper in Oklahoma City. During a long career he earned the most honors and awards for any journalist in state history (61 honors). He currently is a member of the state Council on Aging, which helps oversee Oklahoma nursing homes.

Craig Gaffney, '86 MBA, has joined the board of trustees for the Catholic Charities Foundation. Gaffney is also president for the Western region of Country Club Bank and was previously the regional president for Wyandotte County with UMB Bank.

Paul I. Carden Jr. moved to Washington, D.C., to accept the position of director of emergency and international services with the National Capital Area Regional Chapter of the Red Cross beginning June 27, 2011. He is responsible for directing Red Cross disaster, military and international services for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Loudon, Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria and Prince William counties in Virginia.

Phil Hess, of the law firm Larsen, Feist & Hess P.C., was elected president of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.

Michael Hill received ordination as a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Deacon Michael is assigned to St. Paul Parish in Olathe, Kan.

Keith Wenzel has joined Spencer Fane Britt and Browne L.L.P., where he will represent clients before the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Natural Resources, the Office of Administration and other state agencies.

Robert W. Healy was appointed to the executive position of chief credit risk assessment officer at Country Club Bank. He serves as the principal liaison between the bank, the board of directors audit committee and regulatory agencies, and is responsible for oversight of loan portfolio risk management and ensuring adherence with banking regulations.

Paul Thompson was promoted to chairman of the board at the Platte Valley Bank.

Gary Dierks was elected in May 2011 to the board of directors of Arsenal Credit Union, located in St. Louis. Also, Dierks was promoted to the position of director of demand management at Anchor Packaging June 1. In this newly created role he will assume responsibility for order fulfillment, forecasting, pricing, order revenue management, trade management and customer-facing data management.

Matt Stasa, '92 MBA, has joined Gershman Mortgage as a commercial loan analyst. He specializes in processing and underwriting loans for multi-family properties, including apartments, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities.

Madeline Romious, vice president of external affairs at AT&T in Kansas City, was named by Mayor Sly James, '80, as co-chair of a new advisory group to develop a long-term economic strategy for the city.

Bob Parks, director of human resources and North America training and developing at Grundfos Pump Corp., was named to the Ingram's "40 Under 40" list in April 2011.

Dr. Christopher E. Bauer joined Patients First Health Care and SSM Heart Institute on August 1. He is a cardiac electrophysiologist.

Melissa Rieke has opened Melissa Rieke Photography in downtown Bonner Springs, Kan., which specializes in photographs of newborns.

Kristoffer Barikmo was recognized as a National Board Certified Teacher by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in November 2011. Through a rigorous process of reflection, content knowledge tests, and submission of a professional portfolio of student work and videos of instruction, he was one of 93 teachers in the state of Colorado to receive this honor.

Tom Carignan was appointed by Gov. Sam Brownback to The Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission (KHLAAC). The KHLAAC is a seven-member body that serves as a liaison for the Kansas Hispanic and Latino community and the Office of the Governor and addresses public policy concerns primarily in areas related to education, health and business.
Lyssa Surface is the co-owner of LillyBit and the creator of the Uptown Diaper Clutch.

‘04 MPT
Allison (Epp) Widener has joined the St. Rose Rehab Services staff in Great Bend, Kan. She specializes in back and neck pain, especially for pregnant women.

‘05 MBA
Erika Ramirez has been promoted to the position of manager and diversity and inclusion coordinator for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Ramirez has been working for the bank since 2007 and now will have the opportunity to coordinate efforts throughout the bank that support diversity.

‘06
Charlie Schloegel was hired by Schloegel Design Remodel to head up the handyman services division of Schloegel Property Solutions. He will be tasked with expanding into contracted lifestyle services to homeowners as well.

‘07
Evan Thomas Beasley is currently a full-time father and long-distance driver for Quick-n-Tasty. He is completing his education in Missouri.

Liana Wages-Nichols received her doctorate of veterinary medicine from the University of Missouri on May 13, 2011. She is working as a veterinarian at Plaza Animal Clinic in Kansas City, Mo.

‘08 MBA
Max Irsik has joined the Ag Group as an associate. He has more than five years of experience in banking, financial management and public accounting.

‘10
Mary Bruno was selected as the new volleyball coach at Kansas City, Kan., Community College.

Marriages

‘01
Brent Michael Lindsley married Ashley Elizabeth McElreath on July 10, 2010. Brent is a third-year medical student at Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Henderson, Nev., where he expects to receive a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree in 2013. The couple resides in Las Vegas, Nev.

‘06
Kenny Byrd and Kelly (Hagan) Byrd ‘09 were married on Oct. 15, 2011, in Wichita, Kan.

‘07
Liana Wages-Nichols married Adam Nichols on May 28, 2011, at The Stone Church in Independence, Mo. After a honeymoon in Hawaii, the couple resides in Independence.

‘11
Reece Clark was awarded the Delta Sigma Pi South Central Province Collegian of the Year by the national fraternity.

Births

‘94

‘98
Matt Hall, ’07 MBA, and Katie (Laurent) Hall, ’01, ’11 MBA, welcomed their first child, Bridget Marie Hall, Jan. 8, 2011.


‘02
Marybeth (Mall) Lightfoot and her husband, RJ, welcomed a new daughter, Blake Meredith Lightfoot, on June 29, 2011. Blake is also welcomed by her brother, Luke, who’s happy to have a new buddy.

‘07
Matthew P. Clune and Katie Fischer Clune, Ph.D., welcomed the birth of their son, Dylan Patrick, on Sept. 3, 2011. Dylan joins big sister, Bridget.

Go Hawks!

Be sure to visit www.rockhurst.edu/athletics for complete sports news, rosters, schedules and more.

‘07
Matthew Wengert and Bridget (Hiegel) Wengert welcomed Adelaide Elizabeth, who was born April 27, 2011.
In Memoriam

Edward J. Hund, ’41 – Sept. 23
Cornelius A. Henderson Jr., ’43 – June 13
Carl J. Cordes Jr., ’46 – June 1
Richard M. Kempster, ’47 – Aug. 26
Carl S. Tripp, ’47 – June 21
Frank J. Wagner Jr., Ph.D., ’47 – June 10
Gustave Oxler Jr., ’49 – Aug. 26
Thomas A. Sweeny, ’49 – May 25
S. Frederick Bruns, ’50 – Aug. 16
Frederick J. Collins, ’51 – July 30
William F. Rudolph, ’51 – Oct. 8
Richard J. Aylward, ’52 – Sept. 6
Paul J. Rauch, ’52 – Sept. 1
John P. Kehoe, ’53 – July 23
John F. DeGraw Jr., ’56 – May 8
Norman Mendenhall, ’56 – May 2
Dr. John M. Boles, ’57 – Oct. 7
James R. Sitlington, ’57 – Sept. 2
Michael C. Mittelstadt, Ph.D., ’59 – March 4
Edward D. Shine, ’59 – Oct. 13
Leo F. Powell, ’62 – Sept. 25
Leo V. Gerstner, ’63 – Oct. 6
Charles L. House, ’64 – Sept. 1
Thomas W. Lisson, ’64 – March 9
Edward R. Ascheman Jr., ’67 – June 12
Mark A. Older, ’67 – Feb. 28
Richard A. Harden, ’68 – Sept. 14
Cletus R. Sheehan, ’68 – Oct. 5
William J. Gunter, ’69 – Oct. 30
James M. Cass, ’70 – May 19

Dr. Christopher S. Murray, ’72 – Oct. 20
Robert F. Breheny Jr., ’73 – May 23
James R. Trussell, ’74 – June 4
Edgar S. Alderson, ’75 – July 5
Julie Earhart, ’76 – May 2
Michael J. Kelly, ’79 – Oct. 26
Julia A. Shaw, ’80 – June 7
Adam D. Torres, ’80 – July 8
Louise (Brenneman) Fisher, ’85 – Aug. 17
Norman B. Kahn, ’85 – June 13
Kathleen T. Gorman, ’87 – Oct. 29
Bonnie Souder, ’87 – Oct. 28
Douglas A. Chapman, ’88 – Aug. 28
John D. Gulick, ’91 – Aug. 5
Jeffrey R. Clark, ’94 – July 20
Kathleen D. (Gustafson) Garayalde, ’94 – Oct. 23
Gerard T. Gleissner, ’95 – May 26
Angela K. (Sexton) Kohls, ’95 – May 18
Stephen M. West, ’11 – June 13
When you give to The Rockhurst Fund, you are a part of a special group – the 11 percent of our alumni who contribute to the success of the next generation of leaders. Alumni participation influences the number and quality of opportunities we can offer students. You can help! No matter the size, your gift every year makes a difference every day at Rockhurst University.

Make your gift online today at [www.rockhurst.edu/giving](http://www.rockhurst.edu/giving).

<table>
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<tr>
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The average percentage of Jesuit university alumni contributing to their schools in 2010-11 was 16 percent, according to AJCU Facts, published by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. Figures are based on findings reported in the 2012 edition of *U.S. News & World Report.*
Upcoming Events

Monday–Thursday, Feb. 13-16
Rockhurst Made Possible events to celebrate all that our donors provide.

Wednesday, February 22
Visiting Scholar Lecture by social critic and essayist Peter Sacks in the Mabee Theater

Monday, March 19
Visiting Scholar Lecture by Melissa Harris-Perry, Ph.D., in the Mabee Theater

Tuesday, April 3
APO Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, April 11
Library Guild Critique

Sunday, May 6
Visiting Scholar Lecture by the Rev. Joseph Tetlow, S.J., Ph.D., in the Mabee Theater

Friday, May 11
Baccalaureate Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church

Saturday, May 12
Commencement