



## Catching His Breath

RMU helps heal Nicaraguan boy



**SPECIAL ISSUE**  
**2006-07 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE PRESIDENT**

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

**Forward Thinking**

RMU unveils a new five-year strategic plan.

**Family Ties**

Four family trees are rooted deeply in RMU.

**DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,**

This summer, I had the opportunity to travel with several University colleagues and RMU nursing students to Nicaragua. While my first two years at Robert Morris University have been full of many wonderful moments, I found this trip a particularly phenomenal experience for both the nursing program and the students, as well as for the families who benefited from medical treatment they would not have received otherwise. And never before have I seen RMU's core values more exemplified.

During this trip, RMU signed a memorandum of understanding with the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua (UPOLI). The memorandum formalizes and expands the collaboration between our two institutions through the development of joint research, academic, extension and cultural activities. This new partnership fits directly within RMU's new strategic plan and core values. The exchange of people, curricula, teaching methods, learning theories and joint research go to the heart of *academic excellence*, while the ability of students to practice nursing in real-world settings is integral to the concept of *active learning*. The level of personal engagement associated with the activities outlined in the agreement serve as an example of our belief that *individuals matter*, and the partnership is *professionally focused* in that it involves one of society's noblest professions: nursing. While the alliance provides a *global perspective* for both institutions and its participants, the overwhelming benefit of the partnership is that it is *changing lives*.

It is exciting to establish international relationships that contribute to the academic, social and cultural development of diverse participants, and I know that we will learn, grow and prosper from this alliance.

It is experiences such as this trip – and helping to build educational opportunities that benefit not only our students, but also the world – that make me most proud to serve as RMU's president.

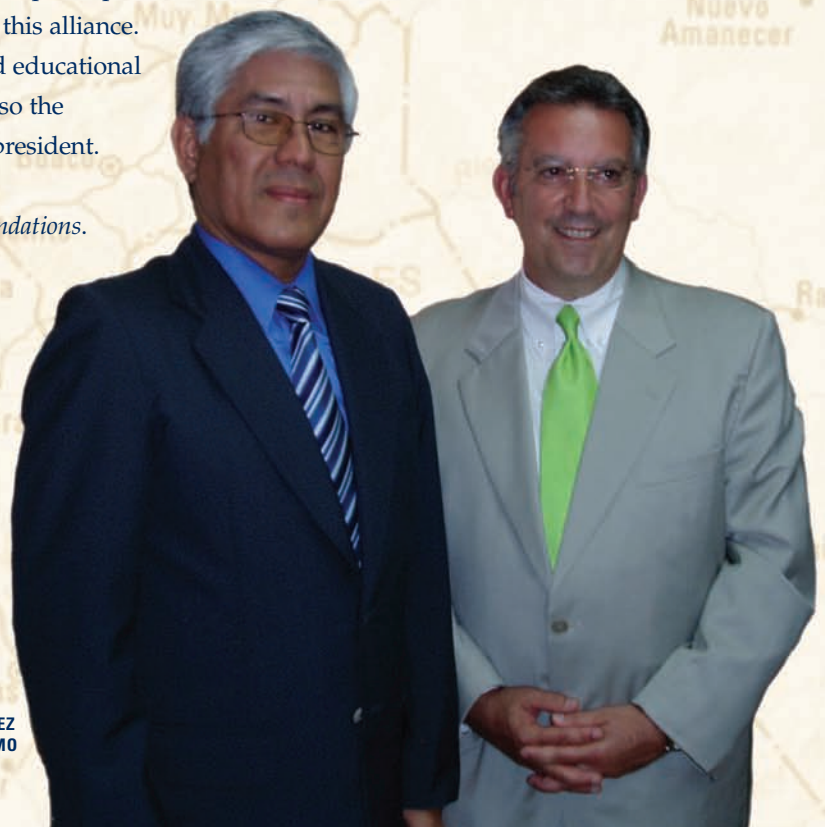
I hope that you enjoy this annual report edition of *Foundations*. Much has happened during the past year, and I look forward to sharing more exciting changes in the coming year.

Sincerely,



**GREGORY G. DELL'OMO, PH.D.**  
**PRESIDENT**

**UPOLI RECTOR EMERSON PEREZ SANDOVAL AND DELL'OMO**



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Professor Carl Ross and RMU were part of a consortium of individuals and organizations that brought a 9-year-old Nicaraguan boy to the U.S. for life-changing surgery.



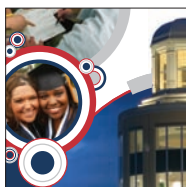
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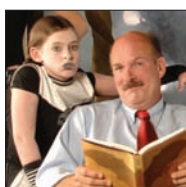
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Vampires are more often the subject of schlock fiction than scholarly inquiry, but Associate Professor A.J. Grant thinks they have a few things to say about our culture.

2006|07

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT  
**THE YEAR OF THE STUDENT**



**SPECIAL SECTION**

# CAMPUS REPORT

## > SCHOOL RECEIVES KEY ENGINEERING GRANTS

The School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science received nearly \$370,000 in grants this past spring, including a \$68,000 HP Technology for Teaching award and multiple Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) and Innovation Works grants to the School's Center for Applied Research in Engineering and Science (CARES). RMU was one of only 42 institutions of higher education nationwide to receive the HP grant in 2007. **Sushil Acharya, D.Eng.**, assistant professor of software engineering, will serve as the project's principal investigator. **Arif Sirinterlikci, Ph.D.**, associate professor of engineering, and **Zbigniew J. Czajkiewicz, Ph.D.**, professor of engineering, will serve as co-principal investigators.

CARES, headed by Czajkiewicz, was the recipient of a \$75,000 KIZ grant for the establishment of a rapid manufacturing technology transfer center at RMU. The Center was a partner in a \$30,000 KIZ planning grant – along with the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, Moon Township, the Clearview Federal Credit Union and others – to explore the expansion of the Beaver KIZ. CARES also partnered on several Innovations Works grants: one for a project to research and integrate 3-D reverse engineering laser scanning into Warrendale-based Magee Plastic Co.'s computer-aided design systems; and another for a project to retrofit a nonfunctional 3-D wire bending machine with a new controller for Connellsville-based Aristo-Tec Metal Forms Inc. Sirinterlikci is co-principal investigator on the Aristo-Tec project, assisted by graduate engineering management student **Kuldeep Mehta** and undergraduate engineering student **Michael Uzl**.

## > HANSON ON SI COVER

**Dave Hanson**, general manager of the RMU Island Sports Center, made the front cover of *Sports Illustrated* this summer as part of the magazine's July 2 "Where Are They Now?" edition. He played the character of Jack Hanson in the classic hockey movie *Slap Shot*, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2007. The corresponding article, entitled *Goons Forever*, included additional photos and quotes from the now legendary trio and noted Hanson's role at RMU.



PLAY IN A DAY

## > PLAY IN A DAY

RMU staged its own real-life version of the TV show *24* in April when the Colonial Theatre presented *Play in a Day*. Four teams of playwrights, directors, stage managers and actors were given 24 hours to write, rehearse and produce an original one-act play. The process was filmed by RMU-TV crews for an original series to be aired this fall.

## > CSI: MOON TOWNSHIP?

This fall, Moon Township looks to join the ranks of Las Vegas, New York and Miami, as RMU launches an interdisciplinary, 15-credit minor in forensics – a field popularized by CBS' *CSI* television series. The minor is open to students in any major and includes courses from four of RMU's six schools. Included are general forensics courses on criminal law and evidence, and ethics, plus discipline-specific courses on digital forensics, fraud examination, forensic science, forensic psychology and reverse engineering. A capstone practicum will give students the opportunity to work in teams on projects from outside organizations, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## > TECHNOLOGY DAY OF CARING

RMU's Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management teamed with the United Way of Allegheny County this spring to offer the third annual Technology Day of Caring, which provides technological assistance to local nonprofits in the form of software training, networking and system upgrades, and technology mini-assessments and planning. One of only a few such programs in the nation, the day included staff from corporations such as West Penn Allegheny Health System, Lanxess, Carmeuse North America, K&L Gates LLP, Eat'n Park Hospitality Group and Jefferson Wells, as well as other nonprofits, technology vendors and consultants, and university students.

# CAMPUS REPORT



MANAGEMENT FACULTY OF COLOR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

## > DIVERSE IDEAS ON BUSINESS

RMU's Charles L. Sewall Center was the site of the fourth annual Management Faculty of Color Association (MFCA) conference this summer. The conference is designed to provide African-American, Hispanic-American and Native-American management faculty with information, tools and techniques to enhance their research, teaching and professional development. With the theme *Dynamic Dialogues: Faculty Conversations Across the Academy*, this year's conference brought together 30 faculty members from institutions across the country.

The conference was co-chaired by **Darlene Motley, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of human resources and MFCA immediate past president, and **Daria Crawley, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of management. Sessions addressed topics such as the effects of Hurricane Katrina, groundbreaking research, innovations in teaching, finding career fulfillment in academia and the impact of diversity on management dialogues. A panel discussion on collaborative conversations between the corporate and academic communities included executives from Highmark, FedEx Ground and Respiroics, as well as RMU alumni **Jada Grandy '00 M'04**, associate national bank examiner with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and **Tim Johnson M'06**, Allegheny County's director of administrative services. The panel was moderated by **Gregory Spencer**, president and chief executive officer of Randall Enterprises LLC and an RMU trustee.

## > SCHOOL WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL NURSING FACULTY

In February, RMU's School of Nursing and Health Sciences hosted two nursing faculty members from the Universidad Politecnica de Managua in Nicaragua. During their two weeks in Pittsburgh, the faculty members shared information regarding their nursing program and spoke to RMU nursing students about the practice of health care in Nicaragua.

## > REMEMBERING VIRGINIA TECH

A day after the tragedy at Virginia Tech stunned the nation, members of the RMU community gathered to remember the victims, families and friends of those involved or affected by the shootings. The April 17 ceremony included the lowering of flags to half-staff and a service in the Ann and Alvin Rogal Family Chapel. The flags were lowered by freshman **Zachery Mondres** of Centreville, Va., who lost two high school classmates in the shooting.

## > PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS COLONIAL SPORTS COVERAGE

A new partnership between RMU and Moon Community Access Television (MCA-TV) allows students in the University's Academic Media Center to use MCA-TV's mobile production trailer to tape RMU home football games this fall. MCA-TV will rebroadcast the taped games and several other RMU

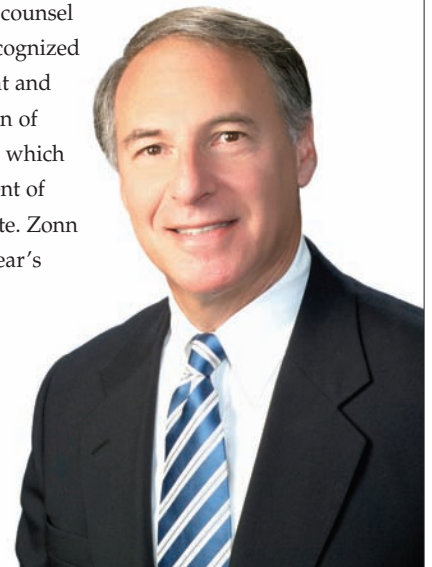
programs after they air on the University's television station, RMU-TV Channel 98.

Several RMU students have found employment with MCA-TV in recent years, including communication student **David Weldon**, who interned with the station this summer, media arts graduate and MCA-TV assistant director **Ryan McAfee '07**, and MCA-TV executive director **James Koepfinger '84**. Koepfinger will serve as executive producer for the RMU football tapings.



## > A JOB FOR SUPER LAWYER

Vice president and general counsel **Sidney Zonn, Esq.**, was recognized for his work in employment and labor law in the 2007 edition of *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*, which identifies the top five percent of lawyers throughout the state. Zonn was also included in this year's edition of *Chamber USA – America's Leading Lawyers for Business* – the fifth consecutive year he has been listed.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



## > HANDS ACROSS THE GLOBE

**Carl Ross, Ph.D., CRNP, CNE**, professor of nursing, received the Cameos of Caring Nurse Educator Award in October. Ross coordinates international experiences for RMU nursing faculty and students,

including trips to Mexico City and Nicaragua, and has been to Nicaragua some 60 times in the past 12 years. In Nicaragua, Ross holds an adjunct faculty position with the Universidad de Politecnica, is a consultant to the Ministry of Health and opened the first men's health clinic. He is only the second American to receive the Ora Taylor de Deaz award for outstanding nursing practice in Nicaragua. Ross is the second RMU faculty member to receive the Cameos of Caring award, which was created in 2006 to recognize outstanding nurse educators for their contributions to the profession. **Lynn George, Ph.D., RN**, interim dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, was the first individual from RMU honored with the award.

## > MULTIDISCIPLINARY BEST PAPER AWARD

**Priya Manohar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of engineering, **Cathleen Jones, D.Sc.**, assistant professor of marketing, and **Jon Radermacher, M.F.A.**, assistant professor of media arts, were presented the 2007 Best Paper Award from the American Society for Engineering Education's manufacturing division for their paper *Development and Implementation of a Junior Year Design Course in a Multidisciplinary Environment Along With Media Arts and Marketing* during the 2007 ASEE conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

## > MAKING AN IDENTITY FOR HIMSELF

**Robert Meyers, M.F.A.**, part-time faculty member in media arts and principal of Robert Meyers Design, received two Awards of Excellence for his designs during the American Corporate Identity 23 competition, the only annual national competition devoted specifically to the field of corporate identity. Winning designs will be published in *American Corporate Identity 2008*, a hardbound publication distributed in more than 60 countries. Meyers has received 26 Awards of Excellence and appeared in six *American Corporate Identity* annuals since 1999.



## > BIG OL' JET AIRLINER

**William Repack**, assistant professor of management, spent a weekend this summer flying a DC-3 plane, one of only about 100 such planes in use across the country. Repack made the flight

with his son, an employee of American Airlines, in honor of Repack's own father, who was killed at age 29 while co-piloting a DC-3. His father was trying to land during a thunderstorm in Morgantown, W.Va.



## > COMPUTER EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

**Frederick Kohun, Ph.D.**, university professor of computer and information systems, was named the 2007 Computer Educator of the Year by the International Association for Computer Information

Systems (IACIS). He was recognized with an award during the annual IACIS conference in Vancouver in early October. The award is based on Kohun's outstanding record of teaching, research, administration and service to the academic community and information systems profession. Kohun also serves as associate dean of graduate programs for the School of Communications and Information Systems.



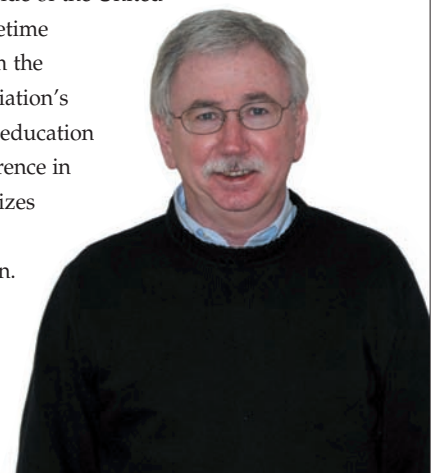
## > DISHING THE DIRT

**Maria Kalevitch, Ph.D.**, associate professor of science and associate dean of the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, presented a talk titled *Trends of Bacterial Activity in Manufactured Soils* at

the 107th annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Toronto. The talk focused on how manufactured soils can serve as a solution for millions of acres of soils affected by microbiota or damaged by acid mine drainage. This was the fifth consecutive year that Kalevitch has participated in the organization's international meeting.

## > LIFETIME ACHIEVER

**James Rebele, Ph.D.**, professor of accounting, was the first individual from outside of the United Kingdom to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Accounting Association's special interest group on education during the group's conference in Wales. The award recognizes Rebele's outstanding contributions to education. Rebele also served as a plenary speaker for the conference.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## > MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

Manufacturing engineering students **Kayla Miller**, **Chris Bird** and **Tanuj Kohli** received scholarships from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Education Foundation in recognition of their academic performance and service to the SME student chapter. Miller received a \$2,500 E. Wayne Kay Scholarship and a \$1,500 Future Leaders of Manufacturing Scholarship, while Bird was awarded a \$2,500 E. Wayne Kay Scholarship and a \$1,375 Myrtle and Earl Walker Scholarship. Kohli received a \$1,500 Arthur and Gladys Cervenka Scholarship. Miller also was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women and the Frank J. Erevelles Memorial Endowed Engineering Scholarship.



## > BOWLING THEM OVER

Sophomore **Tim Pfeifer** (management) captured the men's national bowling title during the 2007 United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Singles Championships in Huntsville, Ala., this spring. Pfeifer defeated 15 of the best collegiate bowlers in the country, ultimately beating out a Penn State roller in a best-of-five championship match.

## > ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AWARDS

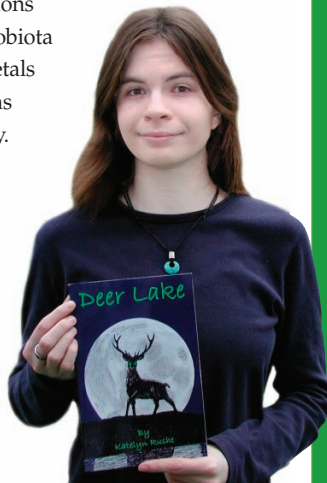
Elementary education majors **Nicole Herrmann** and **Deborah Campalongo** received scholarships from the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The awards are given to undergraduates in teacher education preparation programs based on factors including academic performance and leadership.

## > SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Environmental science students **Kristen Miles**, **Nathan Campisi** and **Jessica Russell** spent the summer conducting research with **Maria Kalevitch, Ph.D.**, associate professor of science and associate dean of the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, on manufactured soil and bioremediation. The students analyzed different soil applications for mineral content and the presence of microbiota to determine a correlation between heavy metals in manufactured soils and bacterial activity, as well as their effects on soil health and fertility.

## > MOVE OVER, J.K. ROWLING!

Freshman **Katelyn Rushe** (media arts) recently wrote and published her first novel, entitled *Deer Lake*, inspired by a deer hunting video game. The 405-page book is available through online publisher Lulu.com. Rushe also designed the cover art for the book.



## > ADULT STUDENT RECOGNIZED AMONG NATION'S TOP FEMALE FINANCIAL ADVISORS

**Carrie Coghill Kuntz** (organizational studies), president of Pittsburgh wealth management firm D.B. Root & Co., was cited by *Barron's* as one of the top 100 female financial advisors in America. Kuntz was No. 29 on the list, which highlights advisors who follow the industry's best practices and have some of the biggest books of business. This is the fourth consecutive year Kuntz has appeared on the list.

## > INQUIRY BY DESIGN

**Julia Gooding**, a student in the Ph.D. in instructional management and leadership program, co-authored the book *Inquiry by Design: A Collection of Design Briefs for Grades 5-9*, which focuses on increasing scientific inquiry through student-oriented task applications. She is a science teacher with the Hopewell Area School District.

A green graphic with the text 'A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE' in white. It features three circular globe images showing students and a professor in various settings. The text describes a study abroad program where 30 RMU students spent part of their summer studying overseas through two RMU courses. Seven students accompanied **RICHARD MILLS, PH.D.**, visiting assistant professor of hospitality and tourism, on a two-week trip to Europe as part of his Geography and World Tourism course. During the trip, students traveled to Germany and France, where they were hosted by partner institution Schiller International University. Two dozen students in the Introduction to Photography course spent two weeks in Dublin, Ireland, with **JIM VINCENT**, associate professor of English studies. The students were hosted by Griffith College Dublin during their stay, which included class lectures and discussions, photographic expeditions and many hours of darkroom experience. On July 27, the students presented their works during a wine and cheese party.

# SCOREBOARD

## KUHN

### WRAPS UP STELLAR CAREER AT ROBERT MORRIS

The 2006-07 athletic season at Robert Morris University was a year of firsts: the first time the women's basketball team qualified for the NCAA Tournament, the first time the men's basketball squad started a season 4-0, and the first time a Colonial team defeated a program ranked as high as No. 2 in the country (men's ice hockey over Notre Dame). While those firsts have been of the team variety, individual student-athletes have also put together their own list of firsts.

Topping that list could very well be senior **STEPHANIE KUHN**, an athlete who spent four years on both the women's soccer team and the outdoor track and field team. While her career started on the soccer field, it ended at the 2007 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Sacramento, Calif.

Kuhn was the first member of the Colonial track and field team to participate twice in the NCAA Outdoor Championships. She qualified once as a freshman in 2004 and again in 2007 after finishing third at the NCAA East Regional in Gainesville, Fla., thanks to a javelin throw of 162'7".

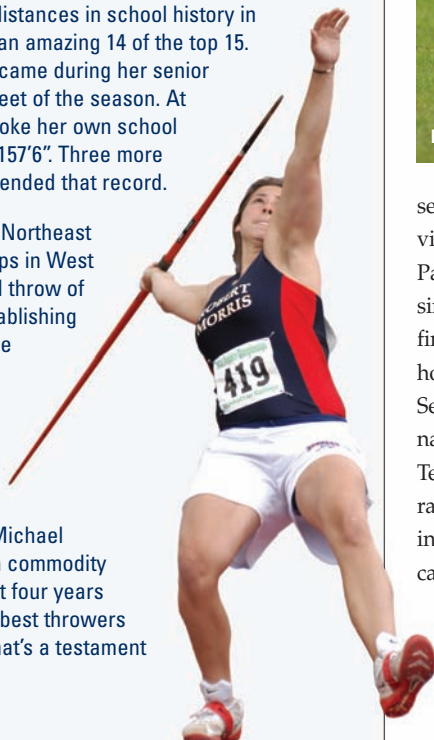
As a freshman in 2004, the spotlight was new to Kuhn. "I'm still surprised that I made it," Kuhn told reporters at the time. "I have no idea how it happened. It just came out of nowhere."

Even as a veteran, the approach Kuhn took remained the same. "I can always get better," Kuhn said early in her senior season. And better she got.

Kuhn owns each of the top eight distances in school history in the javelin, nine of the top 10 and an amazing 14 of the top 15. Seven of those nine top 10 marks came during her senior season, beginning with the first meet of the season. At UNC-Wilmington in March, she broke her own school record in the event with a toss of 157'6". Three more times during the season, Kuhn extended that record.

The culmination came at the 2007 Northeast Conference Outdoor Championships in West Long Branch, N.J., where her final throw of 165'6" won the individual title, establishing both a championship record for the event and a new RMU record.

"Stephanie was an exemplary student-athlete for our program during her four years at Robert Morris, and we're very proud of her," head track and field coach Michael Smith said. "She was an unknown commodity when she first joined the team, but four years later she'll go down as one of the best throwers we've ever had in the program. That's a testament to the hard work she put in."



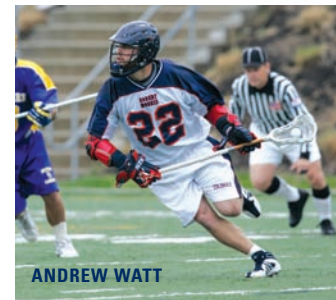
### SOFTBALL

Under the direction of Head Coach **Craig Coleman**, Robert Morris finished with an 18-22 overall record and a 9-9 mark in the Northeast Conference (NEC), good enough for sixth place. Sophomore outfielder **Brooke Panepinto** was named to the All-NEC First Team and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Mid-Atlantic All-Region Second Team after leading RMU in batting average (.398), runs (33) and doubles (13) while tying for the team lead in home runs (7) and finishing



second in RBI (28). In a 14-0 victory over Sacred Heart, Panepinto established an RMU single-game record with six RBI, finishing 3-for-4 with a double, home run and three runs scored. Senior catcher **Jill Dorsch** was named to the All-NEC Second Team after hitting .343 and ranking second on the club in runs (22). Dorsch finished her career with a batting average of .345, tops in the RMU career annals. Senior shortstop **Jill Spargo** established a new

career school record with 219 hits, becoming the first Colonial to eclipse the 200-hit mark, and finished with a career batting average of .340.



### MEN'S LACROSSE

In its third season as a Division I program and under the direction of Head Coach **Bear Davis**, RMU posted an overall record of 3-9, including an 0-6 ledger in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). Leading the Colonials was junior attack **Andrew Watt**, who netted 22 goals and eight assists for a team-high 30 points. Senior midfielder **Carlo Sunseri** scored 19 goals and added seven assists for 26 points, while junior midfielder **Michael Fleming** posted a team-high 11 assists plus 11 goals for 22 points.

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Also in its third season, the RMU women posted an overall record of 7-9 and fell just short of a spot in the NEC Tournament, finishing fifth with a 4-4 league mark. Led by Head Coach **Katy Phillips**, a trio of Colonials earned All-NEC honors, as sophomores **Jenn Collins**, **Kara Blakeley** and **Mary Kate Egan** each earned second-team accolades. An attacker, Collins led RMU in scoring for the second straight year with 32 goals and 10 assists



# SCOREBOARD



JENN COLLINS

for 42 points. Midfielder Blakeley racked up 22 goals and nine assists to rank third on the team in points with 31, while Egan was the team's defensive anchor, causing a team-leading 31 turnovers, which ranked 15th in NCAA Division I. Sophomore attack **Ashley Levering** finished second on the club in scoring with 22 goals and 12 assists for 34 points.

## MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Led by Head Coach **Michael Smith**, the Colonials finished fifth at the 2007 NEC Outdoor Championships with 81.5 points. Senior **Josh Ghaly** led the way for RMU, defeating freshman teammate **Anthony Trunzo** in a jump-off for his second men's pole vault individual championship with a leap of 15'1". Trunzo finished second in the event with a leap of 14'9". Junior **Kevin Argauer** won one of RMU's five silver medals at the meet, taking second in the hammer throw with an NCAA East Regional qualifying mark of 183'6". Argauer went on to break

his own school record at the IC4A/ECAC Championships with a toss of 187'11". Freshman **Nasim Saddeeq** also competed at the IC4A/ECAC Championships, establishing a school record in the triple jump with a leap of 50'7.25" after finishing second at the NEC Championships in the event.

## WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Also guided by **Michael Smith**, the Colonials finished fifth at the 2007 NEC Outdoor Championships with 82 points. Senior **Stephanie Kuhn** set a conference record in the javelin throw with a toss of 165'6", her fourth first-place finish on the season in that event. Senior **Christina Roadman** finished second in the discus (150'10"), while freshman **Melitta Brown** finished third in the long jump (17'11.75") and senior **Brittany Humphress** was second in the triple jump (37'8.75"). Kuhn qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championships for the second time in her career, finishing third at the NCAA East Regional with a toss of 162'7". Senior **Courtney Lenart** finished 16th in the javelin at the NCAA East Regional (142'4"). At the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Sacramento, Calif., Kuhn finished 15th with a throw of 156'11".

## MEN'S TENNIS

Under the guidance of first-year Head Coach **Jeff Layman**, RMU posted an overall dual match record of 5-14,

including a perfect 4-0 NEC mark, and finished tied for fourth at the 2007 NEC Tournament. A pair of freshmen led the way for RMU, as **Sean Curley** finished with a singles record of 5-13, and **David Pinto** was 5-12. The pair combined to go 7-1 in singles action against league foes.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Also led by **Jeff Layman**, RMU finished with an overall dual match record of 4-20, including a 3-2 NEC mark, and finished tied for seventh at the 2007 NEC Tournament. Freshman **Hilary Newman** paced RMU in singles play with a record of 6-18, while junior **Libby Shaw** was 5-19.

## MEN'S GOLF

Led by Head Coach **Jerry Stone**, RMU finished sixth at the NEC Championships in Sunset Beach, N.C. Junior **Jimmy Tomaseski** had the best showing for the Colonials, tying for 16th with rounds of 78, 72 and 79 for a final score of 229 (+13). Senior **Jon Fiedler** (76-73-81) and junior **John DeRoy** (75-78-77) both finished one stroke back at 230, tying for 19th place.

## WOMEN'S GOLF

Also guided by **Jerry Stone**, RMU finished fifth at the NEC Championships in Hershey, Pa., the club's best finish in its three years as a Division I program. Freshman **Ashleigh Frieday** led

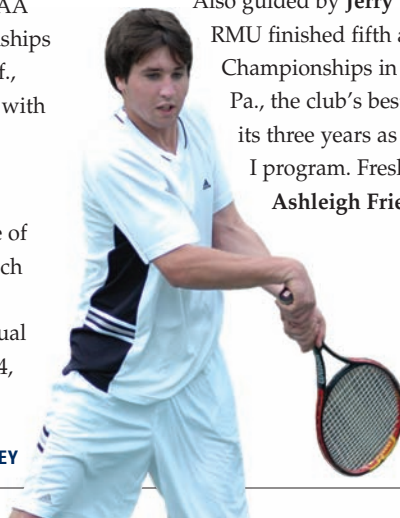
the Colonials with a 15th-place finish, firing rounds of 88, 85 and 87 to for a total of 260, four strokes outside the top 10 and five strokes shy of an All-NEC bid. Junior **Heather Mulvaney** tied for 19th (90-90-88=268), while sophomore **Lauren Lancia** tied for 22nd (92-84-95=271) and had the team's lowest round with an 84.



LISA JASZKA

## NEC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Senior volleyball player **Lisa Jaszka** was named the inaugural recipient of the NEC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award for 2006-07. The award honors male and female student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility, graduated and posted the highest grade point average in the conference at the end of the school year. Jaszka was a four-year letterwinner for the Colonials at the opposite position, compiling 265 kills, 484 digs and 79 service aces in her career. Off the court, she was a two-time member of the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America District II Volleyball Team and was named RMU's Presidential Scholar-Athlete for 2006-07 after carrying a perfect 4.0 GPA as an elementary education major.



SEAN CURLEY



Miriam Del Socorro and grandson Elkin Zapata

# Catching His Breath

Watching **Elkin Zapata** cruise through menus with his Nintendo Wii controller, it's hard to believe that two months prior he'd never played a video game. Elkin, 9, lives in Villa El Carmen, a town of about 3,000 located 26 miles from the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua.

But right now he's sitting in the living room of **Carl Ross, Ph.D., CRNP, CNE**, a professor of nursing at Robert Morris University. Elkin is playing video baseball with his new friend, **Joe Davis**, a senior in RMU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, who is making a poor showing of it. Davis swings late, and Elkin cackles at notching another strikeout.

The Ross family and Robert Morris University are part of a consortium of individuals and organizations that brought Elkin to the United States for potentially life-changing surgery. The little boy's story highlights the growing bond between RMU's School of Nursing and Health Sciences and the people of Nicaragua. It's a partnership that is paying dividends for both the University and those to whom it is reaching out.

Before Elkin learned about video games or even dreamed he'd visit the United States, one of his favorite activities was climbing the trees that surround his family's house,

searching for fruit and adventure. One day nearly three years ago, the inevitable happened: Elkin fell. His throat struck a wooden fence post, which punctured his larynx. That quickly, Elkin was unable to breathe.

The family rushed him to Managua, where doctors performed an emergency tracheotomy and offered a bleak outlook. He'd be fortunate to live three hours, they said. Elkin lived in a coma for five days. When he awoke, he had no brain damage, but his world had changed. He was now breathing out of a galvanized steel tube at the base of his neck. And his mother had abruptly died of cancer.

After her daughter's death, Elkin's grandmother, **Miriam Del Socorro**, took charge of him and his four brothers. His new breathing apparatus didn't slow him down for long, Del Socorro said through a translator. Although Elkin had to put his finger over the hole in his throat to speak, he was soon playing games with his friends, riding his bike – and climbing trees, despite his grandmother's efforts to keep him on solid ground. She cleaned his trach tube and worried: What if the accident was God's way of bringing Elkin and his mother together again? Had he cheated death? She didn't want to lose him.

Medical supplies are hard to come by in Nicaragua, and after two years of constant use, Elkin's trach tube needed to be replaced. Metal tubes aren't even used in the U.S. anymore; they were replaced decades ago by disposable plastic models. The rust-fighting coating on his tube had worn off, raising the likelihood of a serious infection.

So when Del Socorro learned through a friend that an American doctor would be visiting a nearby school, she saw an opportunity. She approached Edward Barksdale Jr., M.D., a pediatric surgeon from Pittsburgh, to explain Elkin's situation and ask for two new tracheostomy tubes. The doctor had a better idea: He proposed bringing Elkin to the United States for surgery to reconstruct his damaged throat.

Thus began a venture that would eventually involve dozens of individuals and several organizations, including RMU, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, innerCHANGE Associates International, Gran Pacifica Beach and Golf Resort, Western Pennsylvania Rotary Clubs and American Airlines.

Elkin's restoration began through the work of Janet Foerster, founder and president of innerCHANGE, a cross-cultural consulting group based in Sewickley, Pa. Janet and her husband, Sky Foerster, who is an active member and past president of the Pittsburgh Rotary Club, have helped their respective organizations reach out to Nicaragua, founding health care clinics and providing medical care and health education. This was made possible through Janet Foerster's work with the CHES (Children, Health Education and Supporting Services) project in Villa El Carmen.

It was Janet Foerster who told Del Socorro about the surgeon's impending visit. Dr. Barksdale was in the country to consider becoming a partner in Gran Pacifica's resort business, and he agreed to come to Villa El Carmen, where the CHES program was working with the local school to teach the children about hygiene and how to filter drinking water.

Miriam said she was "very content, very happy" about the prospect of bringing Elkin to the U.S. for surgery, but the idea also made her very nervous. No one in her family had ever been to the United States, and neither she nor Elkin had ever left Nicaragua. She didn't speak the language; she can't read or write. And who would care for her family while she was gone?

There was also the uncertainty surrounding the surgery itself. If Elkin got sick, he wouldn't be able to have the procedure. Del Socorro didn't understand all of what the doctors were telling her, but she knew there was a chance that he wouldn't even be a good candidate. "I prayed to God," she said.

When Del Socorro and Elkin, accompanied by Janet Foerster, a nurse and a representative from American Airlines, landed at Pittsburgh International Airport on May 1, 2007, they were greeted by Ross and **Lynda Davidson, Ph.D., RN**, former dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences and current RMU interim provost.

RMU's involvement came through Sky Foerster, who is a member of the University's international advisory council and a friend of Ross. Knowing that Ross had visited Nicaragua nearly 60 times and was familiar with the country's customs and language, Sky Foerster asked him to serve as a translator during the many doctor's



Nursing student  
Joe Davis and Elkin  
playing Wii baseball

appointments to come. Ross offered to go one better and open his home to Elkin and his grandmother. Ross is a nurse practitioner, and his wife, Denise, is a registered nurse, so they could assist with post-operative care.

"I was very nervous to come here without having any family here," Del Socorro said. "But these people are so good to me; they're my family now."

Elkin quickly adapted to life in an American suburb, Ross said. He discovered that he loves McDonald's french fries, Nintendo and cartoons. The Ross's neighbors have a trampoline in their backyard, and Elkin joined his new friends in bouncing with abandon. "He's a very active little boy," Ross said. "He made me more nervous than he did his grandmother." A neighbor bought him a brand-new bike – and a helmet – and he peddled around the cul-de-sac.

The transition was rougher on Del Socorro. She found summer in Pittsburgh to be "freezing," and after a lifetime of beans and rice, American food was unpalatable. The array of machines bewildered her – dishwasher, washing machine, vacuum cleaner. "Our house could fit five to eight of their homes inside it," Ross said. "Everything has been really overwhelming for her."

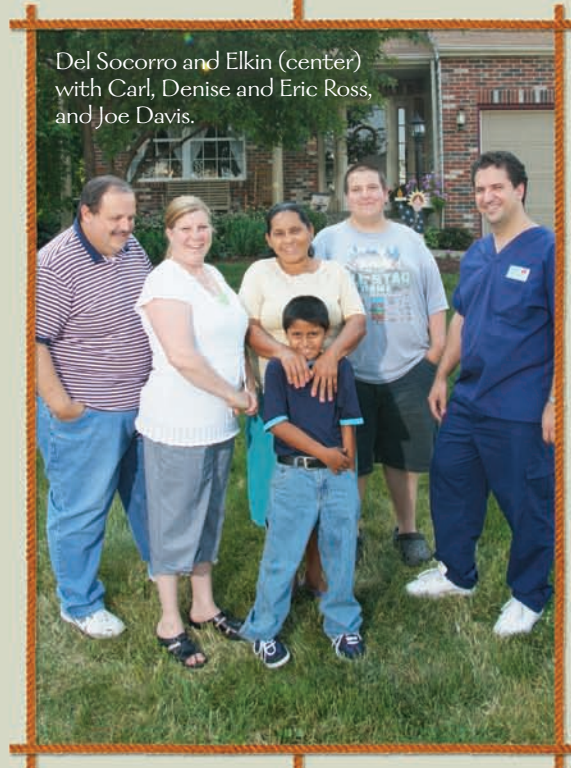
The first step in treating Elkin was establishing what had been damaged in his fall and whether he would be a good candidate for an airway reconstruction. He visited the hospital on May 10 for a procedure in which doctors inserted a camera into his throat to examine his larynx.

Ross thought it would be a good idea to have some familiar faces around Elkin during his procedures, so he recruited two RMU nursing students, Davis and classmate **Greg Hites**, to be his buddies. "Elkin took to me and Greg almost immediately," Davis said. "He was a very friendly kid, very down to earth. Bringing him a hot rod truck probably didn't hurt." Elkin didn't show much concern in the hospital, Davis recalled: "You would expect him to be scared, but he was full of smiles."

The esophageal scope confirmed that Elkin's throat could be fixed, and his surgery was scheduled for May 17. On the day of the surgery, Davis and Hites accompanied Elkin

into the operating room and remained with him until the doctors had finished.

The trachea, Davis explained, is a rubbery tube made of cartilage, also known as the windpipe. In Elkin's throat, the trachea had been fractured, and the windpipe collapsed. The repair involved several steps. First, doctors opened the right side of Elkin's chest and removed the tips of two of his ribs. The tips are made of cartilage similar to the trachea. "The three doctors took the pieces, sat down and started whittling," Davis said. "They literally carved up the cartilage, which is spongy and pliable. They were able to slice it into blocks with a scalpel." Once the pieces were the right size and shape, the surgeons moved on to the throat, where they cleared Elkin's airway and finally stitched the rib cartilage into place.



Del Socorro and Elkin (center) with Carl, Denise and Eric Ross, and Joe Davis.

The entire procedure took more than four hours, and Davis and Hites took turns watching, talking to the surgeons and anesthesiologist, and sitting down. "Operating rooms are not what you typically think of," Davis said. "In Hollywood, they show the body on the table, and they're operating. They don't do that anymore. Now they drape the patient, and the only thing you see is the section they're working on. They are very meticulous about the instruments and maintaining sterility."

After the operation, Elkin was placed into a drug-induced coma for seven days. The grafted tissues needed time to knit themselves together, and any movement or speech would have caused trouble.

Elkin's grandmother declined to visit him while he was under, because, she said, it would remind her of his terrible accident.

A week later, doctors wheeled him back into the operating room to inspect the graft. There were no signs of infection, and the cartilage appeared to be grafting. They removed the ventilator tube and woke Elkin up.

Del Socorro was so overjoyed to see Elkin alive that she dropped to her knees near the hospital bed and began weeping and thanking God. "The hospital staff thought she was fainting, so they ended up taking her to the emergency room," Ross said. "She didn't need to go, but they wouldn't listen to me. Four hours later ..." Del Socorro stayed by Elkin's side 24 hours a day until he was released on May 31.

Soon after the surgery, Elkin was able to speak normally again, although only in a soft whisper. Knowing that he was living with two experienced nurses, the doctors released him several days early. Within a few days, he was up and about, riding his bike and playing video games again. His voice was gaining volume, and by early July, a few weeks before he returned to Nicaragua, it was a loud but hoarse whisper.

Del Socorro's stay in the U.S. left her with a favorable impression of the country. "It's been wonderful – thank God," she said. "I feel that caring is the first priority in the United States."

"She has incredible endurance," Ross said. "The Nicaraguan people do in general. They are a great people. Elkin has taught my family hopefulness, perseverance and what strength is all about. He knew he was up here for an operation. He knew he was going to be paralyzed for one full week in a coma, not able to move. Yet he was so brave through all of this."

Ross escorted Elkin and his grandmother back home to Nicaragua on July 21, their lives forever changed. During the trip, Ross met with the physicians and nurses who will be caring for Elkin to explain the surgical procedure and appropriate treatment should Elkin present certain signs and symptoms.

The bond Elkin and Del Socorro developed with the RMU community will provide a lasting benefit, Ross said. Nicaraguan communities are tight-knit and familial; outsiders are not to be trusted until given a chance to prove themselves. The pair will act as a gateway to their village, which will allow for RMU's School of Nursing and Health Sciences to visit Villa El Carman this fall and begin work with Janet Foerster's CHESSE project.

A few weeks before his plane ride back to Nicaragua, Elkin seemed to be growing listless. The prospect of answering more questions sent him scurrying back to his room and his morning cartoons. "He's worn out," Ross said. "He's gotten particular." Elkin is used to being surrounded by other people, Del Socorro said. He's not used to being the center of attention, and the interviews and photo sessions have left him a little ornery.

"He's ready to go home," Ross said.

WRITTEN BY **JOSH EARL** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KEVIN COOKE**

# Nursing in Nicaragua

RMU Students Gain Cross-Cultural  
Experience Through Partnership

This summer, Robert Morris University signed a formal agreement with the Universidad de Politecnica de Nicaragua (UPOLI), marking another step in the two schools' growing partnership. With the pact, the universities committed to developing joint research, academic and cultural programs.

RMU's School of Nursing and Health Sciences has been working with UPOLI since 2006. The Nicaraguan school also has a strong nursing program, and both of the universities stand to benefit from the collaboration.

Each June and November, RMU sends a group of nursing students on a 10-day visit to Nicaragua. President **GREGORY G. DELL'OMO, PH.D.**, and Interim Provost **LYNDA DAVIDSON, PH.D., RN**, joined 10 students and **CARL ROSS, PH.D., CRNP, CNE**, professor of nursing, on this summer's trip, which ran from June 21 to July 1.

In addition to the signing ceremony for the agreement, the RMU group attended a festival in celebration of the 64th anniversary of UPOLI's school of nursing. The students had an opportunity to visit several Nicaraguan cities and experience local culture.

Most of their time, though, was spent providing health care to the impoverished barrio of Anexo Villa Libertad. The students broke into several groups, and each group worked with a family from the barrio, examining their environment, lifestyle and health care needs. From this information, the students developed a health education plan for each family. The plans covered topics such as maintaining good hygiene, avoiding dehydration and coping with depression and stress. The students then presented their plans to the families at a "health fair."

In the afternoon, the students worked at a men's health clinic that Ross helped found near UPOLI. They saw 75 patients during the week with maladies ranging from diabetes to kidney infections to back strain from hard physical labor.

"This group of students interacted more with the locals than any other group I've taken down there," Ross said. "They were incredible." Almost every day, the visitors joined the natives in a soccer or volleyball match outside the clinic. In a show of gratitude, the barrio closed its school for a day and put on a traditional dance show for its guests.

Thanks to the ongoing partnership between RMU and UPOLI, many more of the University's students will have the opportunity to benefit from this cross-cultural experience.



After his first year at Penn State, Pittsburgh native **Morgan O'Brien '82 M'85** realized that engineering was not for him. It was business that sparked his passion. So he set his sights on a school he knew had an excellent reputation for business – Robert Morris.

His uncle, **Joe Davoren '71** (accounting), had risen up the ranks to vice president at Koppers. His older brother, **Patrick O'Brien '78** (accounting), was on his way to a successful business career. And his older sister, **Mary (O'Brien) Buzzelli '78 '80 M'88**, earned an associate degree and was working towards a bachelor's in accounting. Morgan figured since they were all thriving, perhaps he should give RMU a try.

"I went to Robert Morris hoping it would spark something inside of me. I went there hoping that I would really get driven to focus on my career," said Morgan, now president and chief executive officer of Duquesne Light Holdings. "And it did all that. I think it was because it was a small school with a lot of professors who had a lot of real-world work experience that brought some realism to what they were teaching."

Morgan earned a bachelor's in business administration and master's in taxation at RMU. He also met his wife, **Kathleen (Flavin) O'Brien '81**, who was working towards an associate degree in business, on Valentine's Day at a fraternity party. According to both he and Kathleen, campus life at the downtown building was surprisingly vibrant.

"With so many students who commuted, I thought [RMU] did a very good job of pulling students together," said Kathleen. "They had lots of social activities."

Morgan did his part to beef up the social offerings by coordinating an intramural sports league for students and faculty. "Looking back, the best part of that was that I got to know a lot of the professors in a social setting and develop some friendships through that. Some I still see from time to time," he said.

The O'Brien's family roots – and love of accounting – stretch deep through Robert Morris. Mary, who went on to earn a master's degree in accounting, met her husband



at RMU – **Armand Buzzelli '79** (accounting). Their son, **Armand Buzzelli Jr. M'06**, earned his M.B.A. from RMU. And Kathleen's sister, **Nancy (Flavin) Christ '85**, earned her bachelor's in accounting from RMU.

While eight Robert Morris graduates in one family is certainly a lot, the O'Briens are not alone in the multiple alum category. RMU is proud to have many legacies among its alumni. And although the experiences of the individuals have been quite different, given the school's dramatic growth over the years, their preparation for success in the real world has stood the test of time.

"I almost never give a talk to this day that I don't think back to my public speaking class with a smile," said **Rande Somma '73** (management), a Pittsburgh native who runs his own leadership training and development consulting business near Detroit. He is also the founder of the Rande Somma "Integrity First" Scholarship, awarded to four School of Business students in fall 2007. Rande paved the way for his brother, **Dan Somma '85**, and son, **Adam Somma**, currently a junior, to attend RMU.

Rande remembers how accessible his RMU professors were and how they all had first-hand experience. "Even at that young, tender age, I saw the value of being taught by people who had actually done what they were talking about," he said.

Adam enrolled in the sport management program to pursue his passion for coaching basketball. Although his experience has been very different from his dad's – he's an out-of-towner taking classes on the Moon campus while his dad was a local who commuted to the downtown campus – there are still similarities.

"The small class sizes are great," said Adam. "The teachers know your name, who you are, what



you like to do on the weekends. They really make an effort to get to know you."

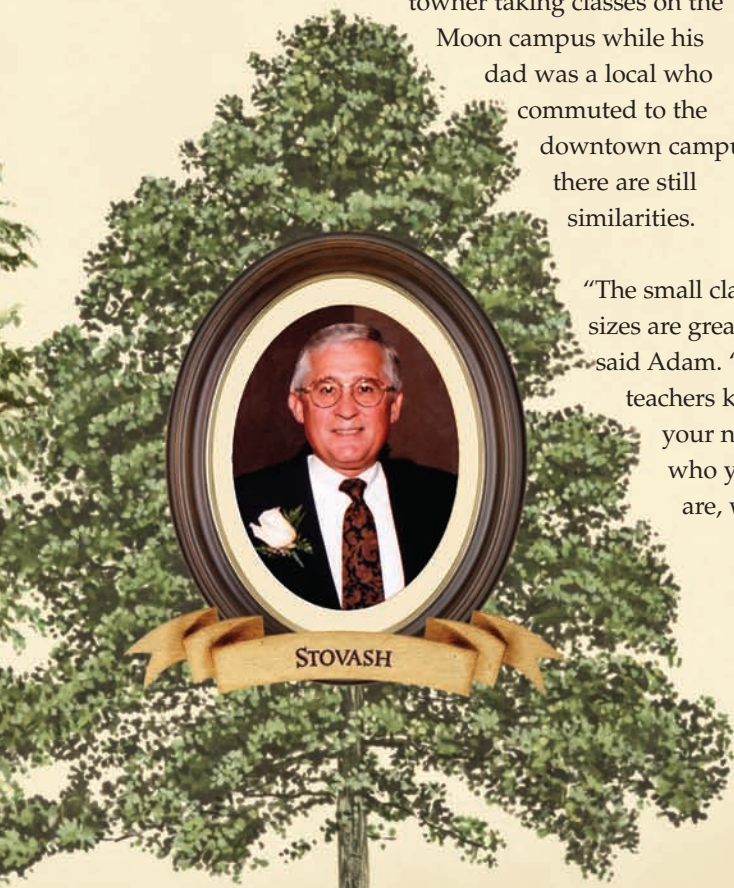
In the early 80s, when Dan was considering what college to attend, Rande was working his way up the corporate ladder with Rockwell International. Although he didn't call his brother for advice, Dan said he didn't need to. "I thought to myself, it seemed to work for my brother, so I'll do the same."

Like Rande, Dan took classes downtown while working full time. This left little time for socializing after class downtown, much less driving to the main campus for an event. In 2002, however, Dan made the trip to Moon to see his brother accept the Alumni Heritage Award. It was the first time he had set foot on the campus since he graduated 17 years earlier.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'Wow, if it was like this back when I was in college, maybe I would have [lived] out here,'" said Dan, now vice president at Sovereign Benefits Consulting.

Rande has been equally impressed with the University's growth. "If I had it to do over again, and I had both campuses available to me, I definitely would have gone to the Moon campus," he said.

When **Bob Stovash '61** was working on his accounting degree, living on campus wasn't an option for him. In fact, it wasn't an option for any student, because Robert Morris didn't have



a campus in Moon. The majority of classes were held in the William Penn Hotel downtown.

“Most of the people were older, or they were just trying to further their education,” he remembered. “There wasn’t a lot of social contact. I didn’t participate in a lot of social activities like the full-time students would have done.”

Though he didn’t have the experience of living on campus, he recognized how enriching it could be. So he encouraged his daughter, **Janice (Stovash) Veith ‘84**, to live in a residence hall while she was pursuing her associate degree.

“I think it made it a little easier to be connected to the school,” said Janice. “I made a lot of nice friendships and learned about being on my own and compromising with other people.”

The extended Stovash family has sent several others to RMU: **Amanda Kotz ‘06, Jeffrey Stovash ‘93, Tammy (Davis) Janero ‘91, Dominic Janero ‘93, Linda Yonish ‘04**, current senior **Kerry Veith** and current freshman **Mark Wiel**.

“I can’t speak for the whole family, but I certainly had great experience at Robert Morris,” said Bob. “I wanted to get a good accounting background in a short amount of time, and Robert Morris allowed me to do that. And, as an alumnus, I continue to receive a great deal of satisfaction from my current association with the University.”

**Keith McDonough ‘83** (accounting) was the RMU trailblazer in his family. His son, **Graham McDonough ‘03**, graduated with an accounting degree and daughter, **Erin McDonough ‘07**, with a marketing degree.

“I really believe that Robert Morris prepared me for everything that I’ve been able to achieve in my career,” said Keith, now senior vice president and chief financial officer for rue21, a \$300 million apparel chain. “They gave me all the tools to get an accelerated head start out of the gate, which is so critical.”

When Graham graduated, he had a job

waiting for him with Iron Age Corp., where he interned from sophomore to senior year. He’s now an accountant with Liberty Tire Recycling.

“They were really good at Robert Morris about working with me,” he said. “When I was doing my internship, I worked 30 to 40 hours a week. So there were a lot of times when I had to negotiate with the teacher to turn in a homework assignment a day late. The faculty was great.”

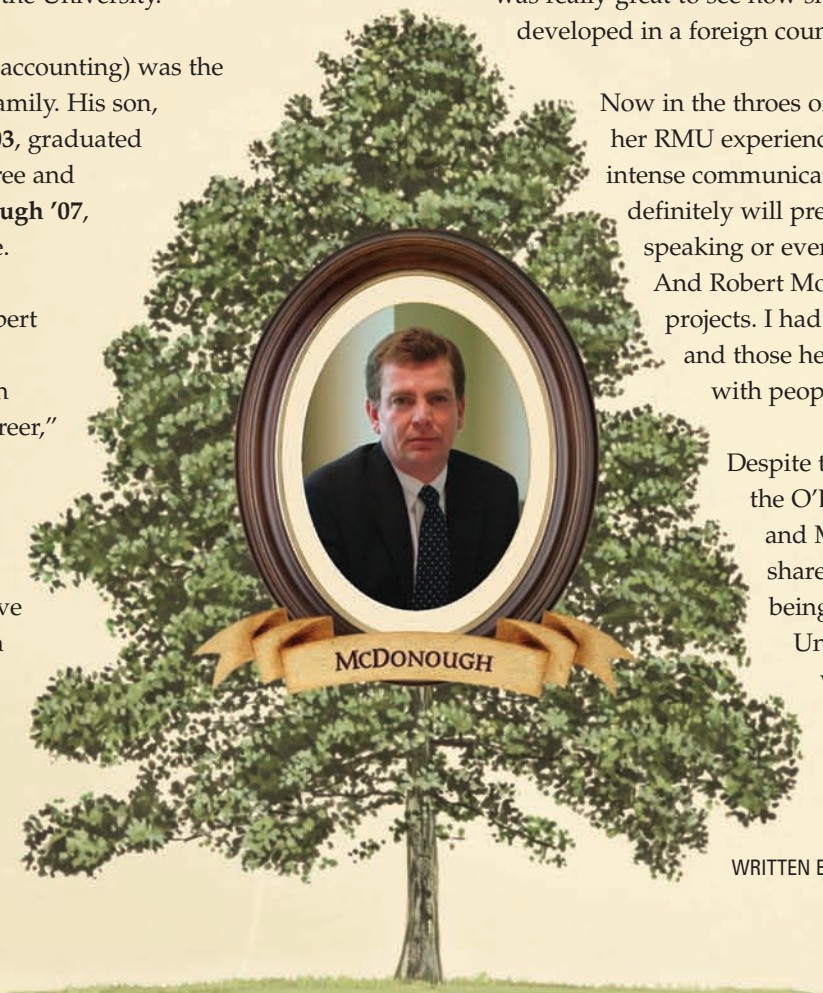
Erin said her dad and brother definitely influenced her decision to attend RMU. “They didn’t force the subject on me. I just saw the success that they were having and thought Robert Morris was for me.”

In the summer of 2007, Erin did something that neither her father nor brother were able to do at RMU – study abroad. She took her final two courses at American University in Rome.

“International studies for me would have been McKees Rocks or maybe the Moon campus,” Keith joked. He and his wife visited Erin in Rome after her classes ended. “It was really great to see how she had matured and developed in a foreign country,” he said.

Now in the throes of a job search, Erin hopes her RMU experiences will pay off. “I had nine intense communication courses, so that definitely will prepare me for any public speaking or even one-on-one interaction. And Robert Morris is huge on group projects. I had group projects every class, and those helped me learn how to deal with people and work in groups.”

Despite their different experiences, the O’Briens, Stovashes, Sommas and McDonoughs will forever share the common bond of being part of the Robert Morris University family – a family whose story will continue to grow as new chapters are written by new generations of legacies.



WRITTEN BY MIKE RANSELL



2006 | 07



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

**THE YEAR OF THE STUDENT**



## DEAR FRIENDS OF ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY,

At their best, universities are wellsprings of transformation. The “college experience,” in its truest form, is a time of great discovery and growth. It’s a time to discover who you are and what you want to be. It’s a time to open your mind to different people and ideas. It’s a time to try new things without fear of failure, because even failures are good learning experiences. And most importantly, it’s a time to lay a solid foundation for a successful life no matter what career you choose.

It disappoints me to hear of students who graduate feeling no connection whatsoever to their alma mater. If a university is doing its job and playing a transformational role in its students’ lives, they will feel that their alma mater is a special place. They will want to stay connected to the school after they graduate, because they value the experience they had and because they want to see future generations benefit from the same experience.

We’re beginning to see more signs of a stronger emotional bond between Robert Morris University and its students and alumni. Looking back over 2006-07, I’ve come to see it as “The Year of the Student.” Our students show a growing pride in the institution. They are realizing that, as students, they *are* Robert Morris University. Three recent examples come to mind.

Darin DiNapoli '06 and seniors Brad Grimm and David Toole produced an outstanding music video as a class

project in spring 2006. Last year, they learned they had won the music video category in the College Television Awards, also billed as the “College Emmys.” They earned a trip to Hollywood for the awards ceremony – and the respect and admiration of the entire RMU community.

When the women’s basketball team won the Northeast Conference Tournament and its first trip to the NCAA Tournament last year, you could see the excitement in these young women’s eyes. They were proud of what they had accomplished, but they also knew that the rest of the University was cherishing their success as well. There was a real buzz about it – people were talking about Robert Morris women’s basketball. The successes of these two groups of students brought RMU to the forefront in the region.

The third example is more personal. Once a month throughout the school year, I held an informal “lunch with the president” for students in the Food Court. They were freewheeling discussions with no set time limit or agenda. I asked the students what they liked and disliked about RMU. Students will tell you; they don’t hold back. And they have good ideas. We’re engaging in a dialogue, and the students appreciate having the opportunity to offer their input. This is their home, and they should have some say in it.





As we involve students more in the life of the University and in planning for its future, they are showing excitement and energy. They are feeling like a bigger part of this institution and becoming more engaged in the learning process.

Our alumni are starting to take note of this enthusiasm and develop their own sense of pride in RMU. I often speak with older alumni who tell me they couldn't get into Robert Morris University today if they applied, because our standards and quality are higher. They have pride in their faces when they say, "My degree is much more valuable today than it was when I got it."

I hope that you and all of our alumni come to see the significance of RMU's efforts to expand and improve itself. It adds value for our current and future students, yes, but it also benefits you. As the University prospers, your degree gains prestige.

This year, we will be announcing some major changes to campus and focusing on implementing our new five-year strategic plan. I'm excited about this plan, especially its focus on creating an active, engaged living and learning environment – the type of place where students can flourish and continue to experience the types of success that have made this a banner year for Robert Morris University. I look forward to getting out and sharing this plan with many of you throughout the upcoming year.

This growth comes with a price tag, as all good things do. RMU prides itself on its efficiency – we are as lean as universities come. But educating 5,000 students with a talented faculty and state-of-the-art technology requires a sound financial base.

An increasing number of our alumni and friends have continued to show generosity toward the University. This year we received gifts from many of you, and for that we are deeply grateful. We need your support now more than ever as we prepare to launch our next capital campaign. You'll be hearing more about this campaign – and how you can get involved – in the months ahead.

I hope to see you at one of the University's many upcoming alumni events. Until that time, thank you again for your part in making this "The Year of the Student."

Sincerely,

**GREGORY G. DELL'OMO, PH.D.**  
**PRESIDENT**



### > DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE LAUNCHED

RMU added its fourth doctoral degree with the launch of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program, which addresses recent initiatives by Gov. Ed Rendell and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). As part of his "Prescription for Pennsylvania," Rendell proposed expanding the role of nurse practitioners throughout the state, while the AACN has recommended that advanced practice nurses be educated at the doctoral level by 2015. The program offers a D.N.P. completion option for advanced practice nurses



with master's degrees, as well as a B.S.N. to D.N.P. option for nurses with bachelor's degrees. The B.S.N. to D.N.P. is the only such program approved by the State Board of Nursing and offers tracks for adult nurse practitioners, family nurse practitioners and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners.

### > STUDENTS, ALUMNUS WIN COLLEGE EMMYS

Seniors **Brad Grimm** (media arts) and **David Toole** (management) and **Darin DiNapoli '06** (communication) received the sole award in the music programs category of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation's 28th College Television Awards, billed as the "College Emmys," for a music video they produced for a class at RMU. The video for the song *Archetype* by the band Identity X (of which Toole is lead singer) beat out 80 other entries from across the nation. The trio flew

to Los Angeles for a black-tie awards ceremony on March 31, 2007, and also received \$2,000 in cash and \$2,000 in Kodak film stock.

### > ATHLETICS UNVEILS NEW LOGO, MASCOT AND WEBSITE

RMU athletics underwent an extreme makeover in 2006-07 with the debut of a new logo, mascot and website. The logo, designed with input from a committee of students, faculty, staff, coaches and alumni, was unveiled Aug. 10, 2006. On Sept. 9, the new Colonial mascot made his first appearance at the RMU-Duquesne football game. A name-the-mascot contest was held during the Homecoming game on Oct. 14, and the name "RoMo" was selected. To complete the transition to their new look, the Department of Athletics launched a new website, [www.rmucolonials.com](http://www.rmucolonials.com), on April 10, 2007.

### > WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WINS NEC TITLE AND NCAA BID

The women's basketball team set a school record for victories (24) en route to its third Northeast Conference Tournament title and first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The championship capped a remarkable turnaround for the program, which finished 1-26 just four years ago, before the arrival of coach **Sal Buscaglia**.

### > TAKING BACK SUNDAY CONCERT SELLS OUT

RMU hosted its first major concert in years when Warner Bros. national recording artists Taking Back Sunday, with Underoath and Armor for Sleep, played to a sellout crowd at Sewall Center Arena on March 31, 2007. The show sold 3,470 tickets and grossed more than \$69,000.



RoMo



TAKING BACK SUNDAY CONCERT

### > EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER OPENS

The Educational Technology Center (ETC) opened in fall 2006 to assist faculty, staff and students in developing and enhancing technology skills.

Located in Franklin Center, the ETC provides training and assistance with Blackboard online course software, digital video editing, podcasting, video conferencing and various software applications.

The center also allows students to borrow equipment such as digital cameras, camcorders and laptops for class assignments.



### > NEW DEGREE CONCENTRATIONS ADDED

Three existing degree programs were enhanced with the addition of new concentrations. The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Engineering added a mechanical engineering concentration and recast the logistics engineering track into an industrial engineering concentration. The B.S. in Applied Mathematics replaced the actuarial science concentration with a concentration in financial mathematics. The M.S. in Instructional Leadership added a new track in elementary education.

### > SPORT MANAGEMENT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

RMU celebrated the 30th anniversary of its sport management program and inducted the first three members to the program's Hall of Fame during the University's third annual Sport Management Conference on Oct. 27, 2006. Graduates of the highly respected program have gone on to careers in professional, collegiate and amateur sports organizations.

### > SCHOOL RECEIVES KEY ENGINEERING GRANTS

The School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science received more than \$600,000 in grants in Spring 2007, including a \$68,000 HP Technology for Teaching award to introduce wireless tablet PC technology into engineering classrooms. The school's Center for Applied Research in Engineering and Science (CARES) received a \$75,000 Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) grant and a \$122,000 machine to establish a rapid manufacturing technology transfer center at RMU. CARES also was a partner in a \$30,000 KIZ planning grant and three Innovation Works grants totaling \$116,000. In March, the school received a two-year, \$250,000 grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics education at the middle and high school levels.

### > NEW RESIDENCE HALL OPENED

RMU's newest student residence, Concord Hall, opened in August 2006, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the \$10 million facility on Sept. 18. The five-story building houses 152 students in 38 contemporary apartment units.

### > OFFICE OF STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ESTABLISHED

RMU's tradition of community service was strengthened with the creation of the Office of Student Civic Engagement in spring 2007. The office was formed by combining the efforts of three campus programs: American Humanics, America's Promise and the Office of Student Community Service. The OSCE provides a centralized resource for students, faculty and staff looking to become actively involved in the community.

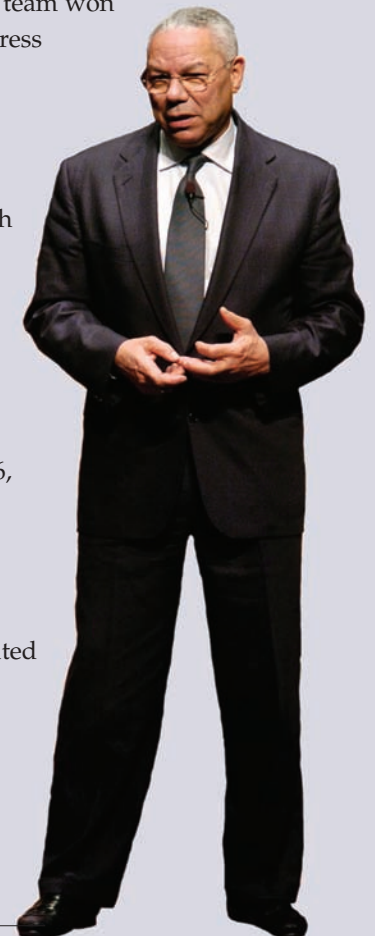
### > CLUB SPORTS TEAMS HAVE BANNER YEAR

Several club sports teams celebrated championship seasons in 2006-07. The men's ACHA Division I club ice hockey team won the Eastern Collegiate Hockey League regular-season championship, while the Division III team won the College Hockey East Northern Division Championship, and the men's inline hockey Tier I team won the WPCIHL Championship. Sophomore **Tim Pfeifer** of the club bowling team won the United States Bowling Congress Singles Championship in May.

### > POWELL HIGHLIGHTS

#### PITTSBURGH SPEAKERS SERIES

The fifth season of the Pittsburgh Speakers Series, presented by Robert Morris University, brought another all-star lineup of distinguished speakers to town. Former secretary of state **Colin Powell** highlighted the season with his lecture on Dec. 6, 2006. Other speakers included screenwriter **Nora Ephron**; Apollo 13 commander **James Lovell**; former U.S. ambassador **Paul Bremer**; nationally syndicated radio host **Michael Medved**; environmental attorney **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**; and former White House press secretary **Ari Fleisher**.



COLIN POWELL

### > MASSEY CENTER ASSISTS VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

The Massey Center for Business Innovation and Development strengthened its commitment to veteran entrepreneurs in 2006-07. A total of 84 entrepreneurs graduated from the center's FastTrac® educational programs, an increase of 83 percent. The Veterans Business Outreach Center, which provides counseling, networking, mentoring and other services, received renewal from the Small Business Administration Office of Veteran Business Development with a 47 percent funding increase.

### > STUDENT DOCUMENTARIES PREMIERE

The Center for Documentary Production and Study premiered several student-produced films during "Docufest 2007" in April: *The Heroes of Post 639*, by **Justin Seaman** (media arts); *Nursing in Nicaragua*, by **Laura Gawryla** (media arts) and **Thomas Delorie** (communication); *Abandoned*, by **Barry Bogovich** (media arts); *Sketch*, by **Katie Lewandroski** (communication); and *A Day of School, A Day of Protest*, by **Corry Vargo** (media arts). In June 2006, the center premiered *That's Amore! The 10th Annual Dean Martin Festival* at the Steubenville, Ohio, festival honoring the comedian-singer. **Brad Grimm's** *Smokey Misconception*, shot in Istanbul, Turkey, was featured at the Pittsburgh Filmmakers' Film Kitchen screening in July 2007.

### > OUTON NAMED TO NONPROFIT TIMES TOP 50

**Peggy Morrison Outon**, executive director of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management, was named to the *NonProfit Times*' Power & Influence Top 50 in August 2006. The first individual from Pittsburgh ever to be named to the prestigious list, Outon was recognized at a gala on Sept. 15, 2006, in Washington, D.C.

### > ROONEY VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM HOSTS THREE

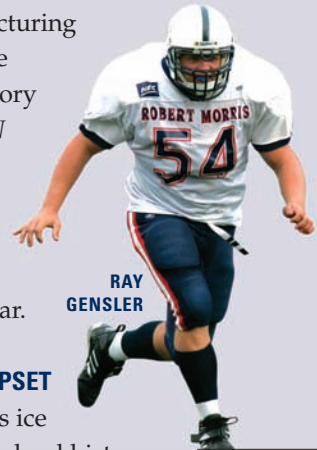
The Rooney Visiting Scholars Program brought three international faculty members to campus: **Ordetta Mendoza, Ph.D.** (Summer 2006), head of the Department of Bioinformatics at Stella Maris College, India; **Moshe Maoz, Ph.D.** (Fall 2006), a professor in history of the Middle East at Hebrew University, Israel; and **Roderick Sims, Ph.D.** (Spring 2007), principal consultant of Knowledgecraft Inc. and adjunct professor of instructional design for online learning for Capella University, Australia. Each scholar presented a series of lectures during their stay.

ORDETTA MENDOZA



### > STUDENT-ATHLETES GARNER ACADEMIC HONORS

Senior **Ray Gensler** (football/manufacturing engineering) became the first two-time Academic All-American in school history when he was named to the 2006 *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-America First Team on defense. Senior **Lisa Jaszka** (volleyball/elementary education) was named the inaugural NEC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year.



RAY GENSLER

### > MEN'S ICE HOCKEY PULLS HISTORIC UPSET

In just its third season, the RMU men's ice hockey recorded the biggest upset in school history, knocking off No. 2 Notre Dame, 4-2, on Jan. 7, 2007. The Colonials later advanced to the championship game of the College Hockey America tournament.

### > NICHOLSON CENTER RENOVATIONS

In September 2006, RMU celebrated the grand re-opening of several newly renovated areas in the Edward A. Nicholson Center. The most dramatic was the expansion of the Market Place Café (now RoMo's Café), which quadrupled its size. Student Life and the student mailroom relocated to the second floor, while the Barnes & Noble Bookstore added 1,000 square feet of retail space by relocating to the first floor.

### > FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**John Lawson, Ph.D.** (communication), published *Generations*, a collection of poetry. An interdisciplinary committee on discrete mathematics, including **Gregory Holdan, Ph.D.** (mathematics and education), **Mark Maxwell, Ph.D.** (actuarial science and mathematics), **Sushil Acharya, D.Eng.** (software engineering), **Valerie Harvey, Ph.D.**, **David Wood, Ph.D.**, and **Peter Wu, Ph.D.** (computer and information systems), published the second edition of *Discrete Mathematics Applications for Information Systems*. **Maria Kalevitch, Ph.D.** (science), published *Microbiology Laboratory Manual for Students in Health-Related Professions*.



### > FACULTY HONORS

**Lynn George, Ph.D., RN** (nursing), received the 2006 Cameos of Caring Nurse Educator Award. **Timothy Hadfield, M.F.A.** (media arts), had his work featured at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santiago, Chile, as part of the exhibit *Gandhi group: Santiago*. **Robert Meyers, M.F.A.** (media arts), received two Awards of Excellence at the American Corporate Identity 23 competition.



### > STUDENTS ATTEND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

RMU's student chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) attended the AMA's International Collegiate Competition in New Orleans in March 2007, bringing home first-place awards for outstanding fundraising, outstanding professional development and outstanding membership. Three students from RMU's chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) – **Stephanie Bruner**, **Julianne Padak** and **Gabriele Grack** – took top prize in the National SHRM Northeast Region Student Conference and Competition in Spring 2007, earning \$500 scholarships and trips to the International SHRM Conference in Las Vegas. **Nicole Bazner** (elementary education), **Katie Dean** (social science), **Kristian Seaman** (marketing) and **Jessica Thompson** (human resource management) attended the 2007 American Humanics Management Institute, a nonprofit management educational symposium, in January 2007 in Washington, D.C.

### > STUDENT DESIGN WORK SHOWN

Media arts students **Jennifer Leech**, **Brenda Swisher** and **Brian Nikonow** traveled to Valparaiso, Chile, with Assistant Professor **Norma Gonzalez, M.F.A.**, to exhibit their work as part of the *Valparaiso Zona de Deseño* (Valparaiso Design Zone) international exhibition. **Kevin Felix** and **Christian Diamante** had their work featured in the July–August 2007 issue of *STEP Inside Design* magazine as examples of design excellence among minority students.

### > STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Several of RMU's best and brightest were honored with scholarships in 2006-07, including: **Nancy Florence** (organizational studies), who received the Pennsylvania Governor's Scholarship; **Alisa Day** (accounting), who received a \$1,000

scholarship from the Pittsburgh chapter of Financial Executives International; **Benjamin Demblowski** (economics), **Joshua Ghaly** (economics) and **Kristi Jasenak** (finance), who were awarded \$2,000 scholarships by the SECORO Foundation of Sewickley Savings Bank; **Meghan Collins** (hospitality and tourism management), who received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Pittsburgh chapter of Skali; and hospitality and tourism management students **Kimberly Gardner**, **Jesse Clymer** and **Kevin Bazner**, who received \$1,000 scholarships from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Foundation.

### > FACULTY PAPER AWARDS

Several RMU faculty members received awards for conference papers, including: **Frederick Kohun, Ph.D.** (computer and information systems), and **Azad Ali D'03**, for *Dealing With Isolation Feelings in IS Doctoral Programs* (Best Paper, InSITE Joint Conference, June 2006); **Jill Maher, Ph.D.**, and **Kurt Schimmel, D.B.A.** (marketing), for *Factors Influencing Voters' Choice in Presidential Candidates: The Case of the 2004 Election* (Best Paper, SE INFORMS Conference, Oct. 2006); **Louis Swartz, J.D.** (legal studies), **Michele Cole, J.D., Ph.D.** (nonprofit management), and **Daniel Shelley, Ph.D.** (education), for *A Comparative Analysis of Online and Traditional Undergraduate Business Law Classes* (Best Paper, IADIS International Technology Conference, Oct. 2006); **Ann Jabro, Ph.D.** (communication), for *Technology, Plagiarism and Academe: Accentuating the Positive* (Best Paper, National Communication Association Convention, Nov. 2006);

**Jeanne Baugh, Ed.D.** (computer and information systems), for *The Disconnect of the Non- Computer Information Systems Major to the Information Systems Literacy Course* (Distinguished Paper, ISECON, Nov. 2006); and **Peter Wu, Ph.D.**, **Baugh** and **Valerie Harvey, Ph.D.** (computer and information systems), for *Self-Paced Learning and On-line Teaching of Entity-Relationship Modeling* (Meritorious Paper, ISECON, Nov. 2006).



2006|07

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*This listing includes individuals serving from June 1, 2006, through May 31, 2007.*

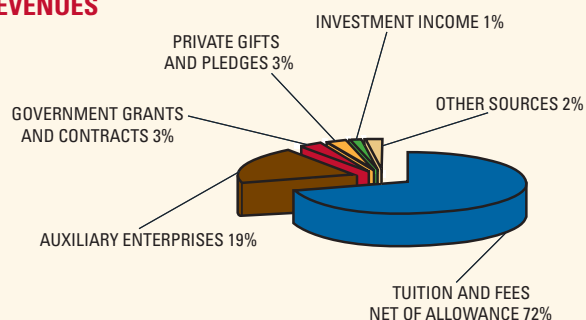


# FINANCIALS 2006|07

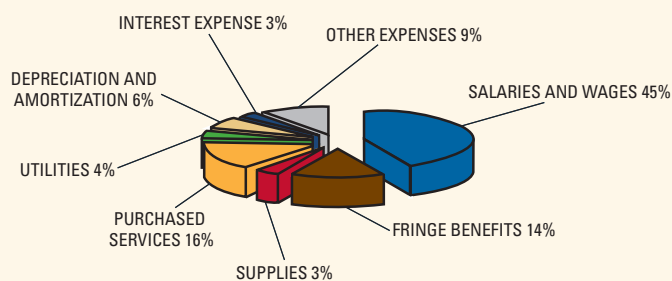
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING MAY 31, 2006, AND MAY 31, 2007

	2006-07	2005-06
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Tuition and Fees Net of Allowance	57,923,422	52,821,304
Auxiliary Enterprises	15,395,538	14,589,064
Government Grants and Contracts	2,409,972	2,195,069
Private Gifts and Pledges	2,606,054	2,169,688
Investment Income	1,101,748	1,248,123
Other Sources	1,721,576	1,557,576
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>81,158,310</b>	<b>74,580,824</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and Wages	35,221,563	31,187,366
Fringe Benefits	10,820,656	9,948,758
Supplies	2,680,980	2,545,275
Purchased Services	12,897,559	11,460,294
Utilities	3,186,140	2,980,512
Depreciation and Amortization	5,174,186	4,663,101
Interest Expense	2,440,328	2,031,037
Other Expenses	7,315,323	7,463,807
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>79,736,735</b>	<b>72,280,150</b>
Increase/(Decrease) From Operations	1,421,575	2,300,674
<b>NON-OPERATING REVENUE</b>		
Loss on Defeasance of Debt	-	(746,794)
Other Realized Gains/(Losses)	25,121	-
Realized Gains/(Losses) on Investments	728,559	244,886
Unrealized Gains/(Losses) on Investments	2,420,701	1,210,319
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenue</b>	<b>3,174,381</b>	<b>708,411</b>
Cumulative Effect of Change in Accounting Principle	(533,097)	(492,000)
Total Change in Net Assets	4,062,859	2,517,085
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	65,850,323	63,333,238
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>69,913,182</b>	<b>65,850,323</b>

### REVENUES



### EXPENSES



As Robert Morris University continues to refine its focus and prepare for the challenges of the future, it must continue to build a supportive network of donors. Through their financial support, thousands of corporations, foundations, alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents and friends have continued to demonstrate how much they value the distinctive educational experience that Robert Morris University offers. The University is deeply grateful for their support made from June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007.

D = Doctoral degree  
M = Master's degree  
+ = Deceased

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Dr. William H. Heckel Memorial Endowed Scholarship	PGT Trucking Inc. Endowed Scholarship	Melvin D. Teetz Endowed Scholarship	Highmark, Inc.
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Endowed Scholarship in memory of Eugene Barone	PGT Trucking Inc. Endowed Scholarship for Student Athletes	20-Year Club of Robert Morris University Endowed Scholarship	The Hillman Company
Hilb Rogal & Hobbs Endowed Scholarship	PGT Trucking Inc. One Million Mile Accident Free Driver Endowed Scholarship	United States Steel Foundation Endowed Scholarship	IBM Corporation
Susan K. Hofacre Endowed Scholarship	Norbert Pietrzak Endowed Scholarship	Ernest G. Unrath, Jr. Endowed Book Scholarship	Kraft Foods
Susan K. Hofacre Endowed Scholarship for Sport Management	Pioneer Spirit Award for Nonprofit Management	David A. Vandever Memorial Scholarship	Marsh USA Inc.
Charles and Nancy Homan Endowed Scholarship for Engineering	PNC Endowment	Visiting Professorship Endowment	May Department Stores Company
International Honors Scholarship	Pittsburgh Logistics Systems Professor of Logistics Engineering Endowment	Samuel Walls Endowed Scholarship	McKesson Foundation, Inc.
Hunley Family Endowed Scholarship for Business Students	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Endowed Scholarship	Wolves Club of Aliquippa Endowed Scholarship	Mellon Financial Corporation
Jacobs-Alasya Business Achievement Award	Gordon C. Ramsey & Kenneth E. Caine, Jr. Endowed Scholarship	Wolves Club of Coraopolis Endowed Scholarship	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter
J. Bruce Johnston Endowed Scholarship	Dr. William F. & Dr. Diana Repack Scholarship	Women of RMU Endowed Scholarship	National City Bank of PA
Johnston Silko Family Endowed Scholarship	Richard & Sandra Ritchie Endowed Scholarship	Sidney and Dr. Ellen B. Zonn Endowed Scholarship for Communication Students	Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company
Henry and Maxine Katip Memorial Endowed Scholarship	RMU Endowed Book Fund		Occidental Petroleum Corporation
Stephen W. Klemash Endowed Scholarship	Robert Morris University Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship		PPG Industries Foundation
Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling Endowed Scholarship	Alvin and Ann Rogal Endowed Scholarship		Praxair
Daniel and Lori Long Endowed Scholarship	Patricia R. Rooney Endowed Scholarship		PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Thomas A. Marshall Memorial Scholarship	Rotary Club of Moon Township Endowed Scholarship		Progressive Insurance Foundation
Marshall Ruscetti Foundation Endowed Scholarship	Roy F. Johns, Jr. Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship		Roche Corporation

### **MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES**

*With appreciation to the following companies and foundations for their support.*

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[www.rmu.edu](http://www.rmu.edu)



# MEETING OF THE MINDS

## RMU Hosts 42nd Annual Actuarial Research Conference

Although you've probably never met an actuary, the work they do affects your life almost every day. The premiums you pay for your health, life and property insurance were set by an actuary. Actuaries also had a hand in creating your retirement plan, and they're behind those predictions about when Social Security will go bust.

This invisible industry plays a vital role in today's economy, and over the last five years Robert Morris University has made a name for itself as one of the top-tier actuarial science schools in the United States. Over the summer, the University hosted the 42nd Actuarial Research Conference (ARC), an annual conference jointly sponsored by the leading professional actuarial societies.

"Actuaries are a hearty band of number-crunchers who look into the future using probability and statistical models to assign cost to financial risk," said **Len Asimow, Ph.D., ASA**, RMU professor of actuarial science and mathematics. Their predictions help determine what a healthy nonsmoking 35-year-old should pay for life insurance or how much money employers need to set aside in pension funds.

To become fully credential actuaries, students have to pass a battery of six or more lengthy and challenging exams covering advanced mathematical principles, Asimow said. The process can take five to 10 years, and as a result, the profession is a small one. For every credentialed actuary in the United States, there are 50 certified public accountants and 100 lawyers, according to **Dave Hudak, Ph.D., ASA**, assistant professor of actuarial science and mathematics at RMU. Actuarial positions are consistently rated among the best jobs in any field. Most actuaries work in human resource consulting firms or at insurance companies.

RMU's growing reputation in actuarial science is due to the achievements of its students, said **Mark Maxwell, Ph.D., ASA**, program director and an associate professor of actuarial science and mathematics. The program attracts strong students – the major's average SAT score is 1270 – who represent the University well when they take internships and jobs in the field. By graduation, 84 percent of RMU's actuarial science students have passed at least one of their exams, and more than 60 percent have passed two or more.

The program's faculty is also a strength, according to Asimow. RMU has four credentialed actuaries on staff, something few other schools can claim.

Asimow's professional activities are what brought this summer's conference to RMU. Asimow is a council member for the education and research section of the Society of Actuaries, and when he learned the society was looking for a place to hold its 42nd annual conference, he proposed RMU as a host site.

"We had a lot of competition," Asimow said. "Last year they had the conference in Montreal, and the year before it was in Mexico City."

The conference, which was sponsored in part by Highmark, ran August 9-11 and drew almost 100 attendees from the U.S., Canada, the British Isles and Cameroon in Africa. Discussions centered around two main themes: international actuarial education and the importance of getting more practitioners involved in applied research. Session topics included pensions, health care, statistical risk models, actuarial education and exams, life insurance and disability insurance. **Kai Chen, Ph.D., ASA**, who joined RMU's faculty this semester as an assistant professor of actuarial science and mathematics, delivered a paper titled *The Cost Control on a Defined Benefit Underpin Hybrid Pension Plan*.

Landing the conference was a major coup for the University, Asimow said. In his memory, the conference has never been held at a school of RMU's size. Previous hosts include The Ohio State University, the University of Michigan and the University of Toronto.

"The conference has been at some very high-profile universities in the past," Hudak said. "RMU is being grouped with these top-tier programs."

WRITTEN BY JOSH EARL



# FORWARD THINKING

For the past 15 years, Robert Morris has been evolving from its roots as a traditional business college to a comprehensive traditional, private university.

“We’re a relatively young university, and our evolution as an institution has been dramatic,” said President **Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D.** “We’ve evolved from a proprietary school to a junior college and on up to a university in 2002. We began by offering business degrees and now have six schools offering bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.”

At the same time, the University’s relationship with its students has evolved from a “transactional experience” to a “transformative experience.”

PROFESSIONAL FOCUS



## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

"We've asked ourselves 'What is it about Robert Morris University that changes lives?'" said Dell'Omo. "We answered that question as we created our new strategic plan."

This spring, the University unveiled its new five-year strategic plan: RMU | A Framework for the Future. Developed through an 18-month process led by a planning group of students, faculty, staff and trustees, the plan defines the University's mission and core values, and sets out specific goals that will guide RMU into the year 2012.

"It's important to formulate and hold to a good strategy," said Bob Rogers, RMU trustee and president of Development Dimensions International, a firm that helps organizations to improve the quality of their leadership. "People who share a common direction can achieve their goals more quickly, and the momentum of the group can help keep all of its members performing at their peak."

### A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

As the planning team met, key issues emerged that ultimately became the plan's five strategic priorities, the pillars of the University's five-year roadmap. At its center, the plan is based on RMU providing a transformational experience for its students. This is made possible by students participating in engaged and active learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom.

"Over the years, our professional focus has helped our students to prepare for successful careers. We've have an average 93 percent placement rate for our graduates over the past five years," said Dell'Omo. "Employers tell us that the things that distinguish our graduates are their

experiences with internships and co-ops, their strong communications skills and the mentoring they've received from our faculty. We call this engaged learning, and we've been doing it all along. Now, through our strategic plan, we're making it systematic and more formalized, and we're applying it to all programs and majors."

The planning group also formalized the definition of the RMU approach to education and identified six core values that guide the University's actions: academic excellence, professional focus, engaged learning and global perspective, individuals matter and changing lives.

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

In addition to offering 30 bachelor's degree programs through six schools, RMU now offers 15 master's programs and four doctoral programs.

The latest addition is the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree, the first to be approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing for nurses with bachelor's degrees.

"Robert Morris University's D.N.P. program will be a leader in Pennsylvania's efforts to provide strong nursing programs with clear outcomes that support the delivery of quality health care



As part of a project for her Advertising Communications Strategy class, **NELLE STAHURA'S** group needed to develop a strategy for reaching 40 to 55 year-old females for a major radio station. The team pooled its strengths, worked together and wowed station execs. Internships with the local office of ad agency MARC Advertising taught Stahura the role of the account executive. Fast forward to summer 2007 during which she landed a job with MARC's office in New York City. For this, Stahura credits her RMU education that focused on real-world opportunity, mentoring and the development of marketable skills.

Stahura is an RMU success story, and she's one of many. Building on its tradition of preparing students for professional careers, RMU is now approaching education more holistically, providing students with a fuller experience designed to help them build successful careers in a changing world and a global economy.

for all of our citizens,” said **Lynda J. Davidson, Ph.D., RN**, interim provost and founding dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

As doctors leave the state because of high malpractice insurance premiums at the same time that the elderly population is expanding, the demand for qualified health care providers in Pennsylvania will grow acute. RMU is emerging as both a regional and national leader in solving this problem. The D.N.P. program can help meet growing health care needs by preparing nurse practitioners to assume some of the duties normally performed by physicians.

RMU’s accomplishments in nursing, engineering, information systems, communications and education, among others, are a result of its tradition of providing a practical education that prepares students to hit the ground running upon graduation. The strategic plan ensures that the University will pursue success in other select academic programs so that, for years to come, RMU will be at the forefront of academics and competing with the state’s top public and private universities.

### ESTABLISH AND BUILD STUDENT PERCEPTION OF RMU AS A UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

The new strategic plan sets out specific and measurable goals for raising the perception of Robert Morris University within its target student prospect pool.

“We want to be students’ first or second choice of universities,” said Dell’Omo. “One key factor is our location. Students have the benefit of being on a 230-acre campus with rolling hills, but also being close to a thriving city that offers sports, theater, the arts and many other entertainment options. It also puts students in close proximity to companies where they might do an internship or co-op.”

Students also can choose from a variety of campus activities, including Division I sports teams, Greek life, student government, special interest clubs and service organizations.

“RMU has come a long way from its roots as a commuter business school,” said **John Michalenko**, chief student life officer and dean of students. “Today, we are a thriving and diverse campus community that includes a comprehensive athletics program, vibrant student life, opportunities for volunteerism and community involvement, and opportunities for students to study abroad.”

**Marianne L. Budziszewski**, chief enrollment and retention officer, describes RMU students as being poised for success. “They are very practical. They want to get a degree, and they want to work upon graduation.

Being a smaller school, RMU appeals to them. The professors know their names; they’re nurturing and hands-on,” she said. “As the strategic plan unfolds though, our students will come to talk of RMU’s transformative experience. RMU is dedicating and redesigning itself for engaged learning that occurs naturally, 24 hours a day. We’re seeking to create experiences that enhance and reinforce the classroom education. They’ll graduate with an ‘engagement transcript,’ one that reports

**RAY GENSLER** earned his degree from the Mid-Atlantic region’s only manufacturing engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology. His degree then got him a job in the Pittsburgh office of consulting giant Deloitte, who happened to be setting up a new operation in manufacturing operations. While busy maintaining a 3.91 GPA, he was also breaking records on the football field as a defensive lineman. Gensler credits RMU with transforming his raw potential into a polished product, “I came here never having seen a whole lot beyond my little world. These four years have made me more open to diversity and more cultured and grounded as a person.”

## CHANGING LIVES

on their activities related to internships, co-ops, leadership positions and study abroad," said Budziszewski.

### IMPROVE RMU'S INFRASTRUCTURE

A natural complement to RMU's focus on engaged learning is creating an infrastructure that supports a living and learning environment. The strategic plan includes numerous upgrades to the RMU campus in the coming years.

"If we want to create a residential college experience where students of all cultures are interacting with each other and taking advantage of the broad spectrum of learning opportunities, we need to have a campus that supports that," said Dell'Omo. "We've made great strides with the new stadium, Nicholson Center and John Jay Center, but there is more to be done, including making certain that we have the technology in place to support the environment."

### SOLIDIFY AND LEVERAGE THE RMU BRAND

As Robert Morris looks to compete more aggressively in the private school arena, it must promote its value proposition. What are the components that make the RMU experience a unique one?

"We are examining ourselves and determining what is unique about the Robert Morris model of education," said Dell'Omo. "We have always offered an applied, professionally focused education, in an environment that is personal and nurturing, that is accessible and not cost-prohibitive. We don't want to lose that. But the next level is elevating the experience so that you not only get a job at the end of your time here, but you have a unique experience that revolves around this concept of engaged learning. You will have studied abroad, performed community service, held leadership positions and participated in internships and co-ops. You'll graduate a much more well-rounded, global citizen."

And as these changes begin to take hold, alumni will be pleased to see the value of their degree on the rise.

## INDIVIDUALS MATTER



## YOUR GUIDE TO RMU: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

### OUR SIX CORE VALUES

For 87 years, RMU has delivered **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** with a **PROFESSIONAL FOCUS**

Today, we emphasize **ENGAGED LEARNING** and promote a **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Above all, we believe that **INDIVIDUALS MATTER**

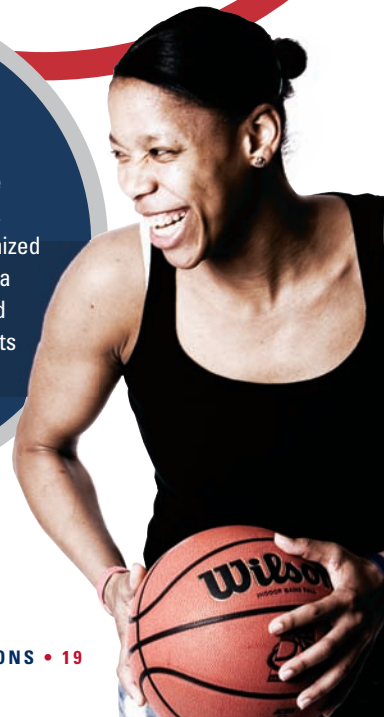
Because of all this, RMU is **CHANGING LIVES**

### OUR FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. We will enhance our high-quality academic programs to leverage our distinctive assets and meet emerging industry and social needs.
2. We will make RMU the "university of choice" for students who wish to rise to new heights of achievement, whether here or in our hometown or in hometowns across America.
3. We will build a campus environment of learning and living spaces to enrich the RMU culture of professional education in a high-performance but nurturing community.
4. We will tell the RMU story to people here at home and within the industries and regions we can impact.
5. We will enrich RMU's financial foundation so we can continue to change lives and build futures for the next 87 years.

### OUR MISSION

As a private, comprehensive institution committed to active learning and student success, Robert Morris University is recognized for integrating liberal arts with a professionally focused, applied education that prepares students for leadership in a rapidly changing world.





“As our alumni know, RMU has always provided a solid and affordable education,” said Warner Johnson, director of alumni relations. “Now, the RMU education has expanded into new fields and is filling new and critical gaps in a variety of industries. As this growth continues, our alumni will see the value of their degree increase. It will be up to them to share the RMU story so that our reputation only continues to get stronger,” he said.

### STRENGTHEN RMU’S FINANCIAL POSITION

Robert Morris’ pioneering and visionary strategic plan imagines a University that will play an increasingly important role in the health and vitality of our region. Students will graduate with a solid foundation of skills and a broad perspective of the world to help them successfully navigate an ever-changing global economy. But putting the plan in action and elevating the University’s performance and reputation require resources.

“Our supporters understand that if Robert Morris is to become a top academic institution, we’re going to need a larger endowment,” said Dell’Omo.

To support the initiatives outlined in the strategic plan, Robert Morris is preparing to launch an ambitious fund-raising campaign.

“The campaign is completely driven by the priorities listed in the strategic plan,” said Jay Carson, vice president for institutional advancement. “The funds we raise will help us to renovate the campus, attract future generations of RMU students, recruit and retain outstanding faculty and secure the University’s financial future.”

“The new strategic plan is a summation and formalization of who we are. It’s the heart and soul of what we want to do at Robert Morris,” said Dell’Omo. “We want to change people’s lives for the better.”

WRITTEN BY **KIMBERLY MAUERSBERG** | WITH REPORTING BY **JOSH EARL**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **TERRY CLARKE, KEVIN COOKE AND ROY ENGELBRECHT**



### DAVID

**TOOLE** and fellow students Darin DiNapoli and Brad Grimm created a music video that won the music video award at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation’s 28th College Television Awards, a.k.a. the “College Emmys.” It took Toole a couple of tries before he found the right fit at Robert Morris, but he knew instantly that it would be home.

“I felt right away that this was a place where anything was possible. Big enough that I could meet different people and try new things, but small enough that I wouldn’t get lost,” he said.

“It’s a school where you can dream and do anything you set your mind to.”



# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Despite having his CPA license and law degree, and having worked as an accountant for six years, **Tom Marchlen M'80** decided he needed to go back to school to “recharge his batteries” by sharpening his tax skills. In 1978, he enrolled in what was then Robert Morris’ new Master of Science (M.S.) in Taxation program. Each Tuesday and Thursday evening, he would leave Alcoa, where he worked as administrator of state taxes, head to the downtown Pittsburgh campus and attend classes until about 9 o’clock.

Classes were taught by a completely adjunct faculty – working tax professionals who he would occasionally run into during the work week. And his classmates were all pretty much in the same boat – knee-deep in tax-related matters by day, studying for their master’s at night, and juggling personal commitments to family and friends somewhere in between. Two years later, Tom and his five classmates earned the little-known distinction of being the first graduating class of RMU’s M.S. in Taxation program.

Since then, the program has grown considerably – both in numbers and stature – and list of alumni reads like a who’s who in the southwestern Pennsylvania tax industry.

Tom’s wife, **Judy Marchlen M'87**, is also among the graduates of the program. She enrolled in 1985 while working as administrator of legal research and compliance for Alcoa, where the two met. It was during one of the breaks between sessions in October 1986 that the couple tied the knot. At that time, courses were taught in six-week sessions, with six-week breaks in between to fit around the peak times in the tax season.

“That was the beauty of the six-week programs. You can do all kinds of things in those breaks – you can get married,” Tom said with a laugh.

Over the years that have followed, the Marchlens have given generously to the University. As members of the RMU President’s Council, their contributions have helped support student scholarships, the Campaign for the 21st Century, the School of Business and the University Fund.

“Education is the basis of everything we have, really,” said Tom, now senior tax attorney with Alcoa. “And it’s not just the monetary rewards but the personal and professional betterments, too. [With the proper education] you can enjoy

your life a lot more. You can appreciate things a lot more. You can see the world differently. And I just think education opens up so many doors that would otherwise not be open.”

Since several RMU alumni work in Alcoa’s taxation department, Tom occasionally hosts alumni luncheons there to encourage other graduates to stay connected with the University. The Alumni Relations Office helps coordinate these events and lines up speakers such as RMU President Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D., to share news and updates about the University and to answer questions.

For all of his work, RMU presented Tom with its Alumni Achievement Award in 2001. And he was asked to carry the alumni flag during the 2007 commencement ceremony – an event that, coincidentally, featured a strong Alcoa presence (former CEO Paul O’Neill received an honorary doctorate and Velma Monteiro-Tribble, chief operating officer and assistant treasurer for the Alcoa Foundation, gave the keynote address).

“It’s wonderful to see how the University has grown since we graduated,” said Tom. “There are so many more students and programs offered. It’s very impressive. And President Dell’Omo, who certainly has big shoes to fill following Presidents Sewell and Nicholson, seems to be the ideal person to lead the school to even greater heights. Judy and I feel very fortunate that we’ve been able to do our part to help.”

WRITTEN BY  
**MIKE RANSELL**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
**JAMES KNOX**



# RESEARCH WITH A BITE

Vampires are more often the subject of schlock fiction and low-budget TV commercials than scholarly inquiry, but A.J. Grant, Ph.D., thinks these legendary creatures have a few things to say about our culture.

Grant, an associate professor of English studies at RMU, devoted a year to studying depictions of the undead in modern popular fiction. The results of his research will be published in *Reading in America*, a four-volume encyclopedia put out by Greenwood Press.



Grant became a vampire aficionado in the 1970s and 1980s, reading each of the 10 installments in Anne Rice's *Vampire Chronicles* series. When he was asked to contribute an article on vampires to an encyclopedia, he thought he could pull it together in a month. "Little did I know that vampires had appeared virtually everywhere, in every pop culture form imaginable, in every genre of pop fiction. It was a very big surprise," Grant said.

In a novel by Savannah Russe, for example, Daphne Urban is a multi-lingual vampire who is pressed by the CIA to spy on foreign arms dealers – vampire stealth and night vision being an asset in espionage. A comedic vampire series by Lynsay Sands depicts Lucern Argeneau, a vampire whose life is complicated by the other vampires he's created, including one who can't stand the sight of blood. And then there's Nora Roberts, author of more than 150 romance novels, who joined the vampire horde in 2006 with her *Circle Trilogy*. Roberts' books follow the exploits of three heroes and three heroines who join forces to overcome the vampire Lilith, and, along the way, find romance.

"I could not believe that Nora Roberts had a vampire series," Grant said. "It just killed me."

In the course of his research, Grant read through more than 90 modern vampire stories, skimmed 100 more and poured through book reviews. The trend, he found, is toward more vampire stories being published and more cultural diversity within those stories.

In the 14-novel series by Laurel K. Hamilton, for example, heroine Anita Blake is a middle-class, suburban necromancer who lives in a futuristic St. Louis, and Anita gets entangled in the politics of vampires and were-creatures. "She's young and pretty, likes to dance and party, and would have probably settled down in a suburban split-level if it weren't for her ability to raise the dead," Grant said.

L.A. Banks' *Vampire Huntress Legend* series follows the exploits of Damali Richards, hip-hop recording artist by day, vampire huntress by night. Damali and her performing and monster-slaying compatriots, the Guardians, protect humans from rogue vampires and were-creatures. The Guardians are all either African-American or Hispanic, and speak a combination of Ebonics and Spanglish.

Sookie Stackhouse, the creation of Charlaine Harris, is a mind-reader who shops at Wal-Mart and lives in a small Louisiana town. Throughout the series, she dates vampires and were-creatures, starting with Bill, the vampire next

door, who has given up drinking blood in favor of a blood substitute.

Grant interprets these novels and others through his background in rhetoric, narrative and semiotics, subjects he's explored in more than 30 scholarly papers and journal articles.

The explosion of vampires into all manner of cultural contexts and genres reflects the emphasis placed on diversity in American culture today, Grant said. Diversity and multiculturalism can be a great source of strength, he said, "but I think we have focused so much on diversity that we no longer have a unified view of what it means to be an American. The 18th century philosopher Vico argues that unless a culture has common imaginative universals, common heroes, a common lexicon, it eventually disintegrates. Vampires appearing in all these different cultures suggests some cultural disintegration; we have celebrated diversity but we haven't learned how to all come back together."

Two decades ago, Grant might have scoffed at the idea of doing scholarly work on popular fiction such as vampire novels. "I was a great despiser of popular culture for many, many years," he said, but teaching experience softened his once-formalist views. "I came to believe that the only way to get the students even remotely interested in the debate between Aristotle and Plato on the nature of language was to start with pop culture texts the students already knew."

In Grant's Study of Rhetoric course, required of all communication and English majors, students analyze magazine ads and articles, pop songs and even the Super Bowl. Rhetoric, to Grant, is the ways in which signs influence people. "Virtually anything in culture can be studied as a sign," he said. "Popular culture is a place I can stand on common ground with the students and say, 'OK, so what's Jay-Z all about? Let's look at how the images and the language work together to signal something.' If I can work with students on making sense of the world they know, then maybe I have a chance to teach them Elliot at some point."

WRITTEN BY JOSH EARL  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN COOKE



# CLASS NOTES

## 40s/50s

**MARION (LAMBERT) '49** and **GLENN SCHAEFER '50** celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2007. The couple met at The Robert Morris School when it was housed in the William Penn Hotel. Glenn, who completed the accounting program after serving in World War II, retired as chief financial officer of Hankison Corp. in 1984. Marion, who completed the secretarial program, worked as general agent with the Southern Railway until 1954, when she became a homemaker. The couple has three children, Steve, Teri Sue and Dave, plus six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The couple resides in McMurray, Pa.

## 60s

**STANLEY ALBRIGHT '62** received his doctoral degree in theology in March 2007. A chaplain at the Washington County Correctional Facility, Stanley is employed by Good News Jail & Prison Ministry. He and his wife, Jeanne, reside in Monroeville, Pa.

**JUDY (COCCARI) HOUGH '63**, a native of Monessen, Pa., and her husband, Roger, have lived in Corona, Calif., for the last 41 years. Judy is retired after more than 20 years of working in finance and sales. They have a son, Scott, and two grandchildren, Cody and Lauren.

## 70s

**JAMES BREHOVE '71** is president of Palmer Plastics in Easton, Pa. He and his wife, **ELLEN '70**, have two sons. Jordon, 27, served two tours of duty in Iraq and was

twice awarded a bronze star, and he is presently a captain working at the Pentagon. Aaron, 25, is an associate at Ernst & Young in Washington, D.C.

**LUANNE KOKOLIS '76** was recently appointed associate superintendent for planning at the Rock Hill School District. She earned her Ph.D. in administration and leadership studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and previously was the principal at Indiana Area Junior High School. She resides in Indiana, Pa.

**PAUL KEIL '77** earned his M.B.A. from Gonzaga University in May 2007. He and his wife, Cecilia, celebrated 20 years of marriage on Oct. 18, 2006. The couple has a 2-year-old son, Ryan, and resides in Spokane, Wash.

**JAMES F. BAKER '78** received the National Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Distinguished Financial Management Award, which recognizes those whose contributions have supported the VHA's goals and objectives by increasing the efficiency or effectiveness of ongoing financial management programs, policies or procedures. James is chief financial officer and vice president of business services at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. He resides in Pittsburgh.

**JAY RITENBAUGH '79** was recently promoted to senior account supervisor at the JA Advertising Agency. He handles the Kentucky Fried Chicken advertising markets in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and



**LISA (CORINI) ZAKEN '78, JOLENE (JORDAN) LOWRY '79, KRIS (MANELICK) TRUESDALE '80, JOANNIE (BATTISTONE) BOMBICH '81** and **LINDA (FURST) JORY '79** recently reunited for a weekend in South Beach, Fla. The gathering has become an annual tradition, with each happily reporting that they still have as much fun together as they had at Robert Morris!

Louisiana. Jay and his wife, Laurel, reside in Plant City, Fla.

## 80s

**MARTIN POLACEK '82** is the assistant director of accounting and audit at The Washington Home, which provides hospice services in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. He resides in Alexandria, Va.

**DEBORAH CONEDERA '83**, a flight operations coordinator with US Airways, is expected to complete her master's degree in counseling from Carlow University in December 2007. She and her family reside in Rochester, Pa.

**WILLIAM ALLISON '84** is a staff accountant with Spartech Polycom Inc. in Washington, Pa. He started a multi-billion dollar e-commerce development business that has the backing of the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission and has been recognized by Dun & Bradstreet. William has a son, Matthew, and resides in Avella, Pa.

**HEATHER CONRAD '84** recently joined Northwood Realty Services as a sales agent in their Cranberry West office. She resides in New Sewickley, Pa.

**JOHN MILLICK '85** is a manufacturer's representative with Herrmann Associates Inc. He and his wife, Wendi, and children, Matthew and Alaina, live in Bethel Park, Pa.

**SUSAN WEIS '85** started her own business in 2007 – K9 Mold Service, which uses dogs to search and find hidden mold in residential and commercial dwellings. She resides in Pittsburgh.

## 90s



**BOB CUNNINGHAM '90** was promoted to director of special projects

by Catalyst Connection and the Doyle Center for Manufacturing Technology. In his new position, he manages government- and

# CLASS NOTES

foundation-funded projects and programs. Bob resides in Pittsburgh.

**DAVID INSANA '90** recently accepted a position with Steris Corp. as a research and development technician. He resides in Erie, Pa., with his wife, Julie, and two children, Selena and Maria.

**DAVID PERRICONE '90** and his wife, Michele, recently became the parents of Anthony Robert. David teaches sport management part-time at Gibbs College in Livingston, N.J., where the family resides.

**PENNY WEIDNER M'90**, who recently returned to the Pittsburgh area after an eight-year absence, is a part-time faculty member in the Department of Organizational Studies at RMU's School of Adult and Continuing Education and also teaches with the University of Phoenix. Penny has a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Seth.

**DAVID BETZ JR. '91** and his wife, Jule, became the parents of Forrest Michael on March 6, 2007. Forrest joins three brothers and two sisters: David Michael, Benjamin, Carter, Emma and Anna. David is a controller with Quest Diagnostics. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

**PAUL FOCHLER '91** is a project manager with Optical Image Technology in State College, Pa. He and his wife, Paula Aigner, live with their children, Morgan, Mary Kate and Christian, in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

**JILL GAITO M'91** has been appointed deputy secretary for Pennsylvania's Office of Community Revitalization and Local Government Support after serving as acting deputy secretary since August 2006. The office was established in 2003 to help carry out Gov. Rendell's plan to revitalize communities by promoting policies and initiatives that foster a climate of environmentally sound and sustained economic growth. Jill lives in Carlisle, Pa., with her husband, Joe, and their two sons.

**TOM ARNOLD '92 M'97** recently accepted the position of vice president for finance at Shady Side Academy. Previously, he was associate vice president for finance and administration at Chatham University. Prior to Chatham, Tom was with RMU for nine years. He and his wife, **TRACIE (SWESKY) '92 M'97**, and son, Griffin, reside in Gibsonsia, Pa.

**LISA PINIGIS '92** is a senior travel agent with AAA East Central. She and her daughter, Emily, live in West Mifflin, Pa.

**NORMAN SCHMIDT '92** is in his second year of teaching English at the Orange County High School in Orange, Va., where he resides.

**CHRIS '93** and **BETH (JORDAN) DEVIVO '02** became the parents of Carter John on April 17, 2006. Chris works for the Pittsburgh Penguins as director of video production and game entertainment. Beth works from home as a jeweler for Premier Designs Inc. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

**KATHY (MILLIGAN) DILONARDO M'93** and her husband, James, became the parents of Guilia Marie on March 26, 2007. The family resides in Mars, Pa.

**MICHELE (O'DONNELL) LANGBEIN '94** is a full-time faculty member at Point Park University and a part-time faculty member at RMU. She began RMU's Ph.D. in Instructional Management and Leadership program in summer 2007. Michele and her husband, David, and their two children, Brian and Gina, reside in Bethel Park, Pa.

**ANGELA (KEITH) FONTANA '95** is a credentialing specialist with DVA Billing LLC in Bristol, Pa. She and

her husband, **DENNIS '91**, reside in Douglassville, Pa., with their three children, Morgan, Mason and Macguire.

**CHRISTINE VESELY SHAFFER M'95** and her husband, John, became the parents of Linzi Ann on Nov. 11, 2005. Christine is a college instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College. The family resides in Newville, Pa.

**TAMARA GIBSON '96** is employed by McGill AirFlow LLC in Columbus, Ohio, as a sales associate. She resides in New Castle, Pa., with her husband, Mark, and two children, James and Maggie.



**1981-82 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM**

**25-YEAR REUNION**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 10, 2007**

Members of the 1981-82 men's basketball team are invited back to campus to celebrate the 25th anniversary of RMU's first NCAA Tournament appearance!

A full day of complimentary activities are planned for team members and their guests, including:  
RMU football game vs. Sacred Heart • Intra-squad pickup game  
Dinner • RMU men's basketball season opener vs. Iona

To register, contact Associate Athletic Director Marty Galosi at 412-397-4865 or galosi@rmu.edu.

# CLASS NOTES



**ELIZABETH PARISI M'96** recently joined Cottrill Arbutina Professional

Services as a staff accountant in the firm's Peters Township, Pa., office. Previously, she was owner and chief financial officer of Good Wood Grill, a Bridgeville fine dining restaurant. Elizabeth resides in Pittsburgh.

**ROB BRAKEL '97** accepted the position of video director for the Arizona Cardinals. Previously, he was a video assistant with the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1998 to 2007. Rob resides in Chandler, Ariz.

**KYLE SWEITZER M'98** is in the final year of a Ph.D. program in higher education administration at The Pennsylvania State University. He recently began a new position as data resource analyst at Michigan State University in August 2007. Kyle and his wife, Vicki reside in Holt, Mich.

**LISA (MCMILLEN)'98** and **CHRIS LONGO '99** became the parents of Victoria (Tori) Ann on Dec. 20, 2006. The Longos reside in Naples, Fla., where Chris is a vice president for Siltech and Lisa is a clinical applications specialist for GE.



**STEPHANIE THOMPSON '98** and **ERIC HENDERSHOT '99** were married on June 16, 2007. Stephanie is the director of financial aid at RMU, while Eric is a case manager at HSAO. The bridal party included RMU alumni **CARL CRENNEL '98**, **SHARI PAYNE M'00**, **SANDRA KAUFER-WORK M'05** and **CHRIS THOMPSON '07**.

## 00s

**KAREN OEHLING '00** married James Myrick on June 12, 2007. Karen is a tax attorney who recently joined Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP as an associate in the firm's state and local tax department. The couple resides in Alexandria, Va.

**MARIO WOLDT '00** is employed by ThyssenKrupp Steel in Duisburg, Germany, in the planning/controlling division. ThyssenKrupp Steel is one of the world's top steel producers. Mario and his wife, Ina, reside in Germany.

**BONNIE CLANCY '01** married Kyle Kosiorek on May 28, 2007. Bonnie is a recruiting coordinator for U.S. Steel. The couple resides in Cranberry Township, Pa.

**ED EMMERLING M'01** is a senior operations analyst with Dick's Sporting Goods. Ed and his wife, Kathleen, live in Pittsburgh.

**BRIAN LANG M'01** is a CPA with the accounting firm of Alpern Rosenthal in Pittsburgh. He resides in Cranberry Township, Pa.

**RYAN RECKER '01** was recently hired as KVOA-TV's sports anchor in Tucson, Ariz., where he now resides. Ryan was formerly with WTOV-TV in Steubenville, Ohio.

**HEATHER FENK '02** is employed by Rome Metals in Zelienople, Pa., as a senior accountant. Heather resides in Pittsburgh.

**ADAM FILES '02** married **JENNIFER WEISGERBER '03** on Sept. 30, 2006. Adam is a manager with FedEx Home Delivery in Winchester Va. Jennifer is a certified public accountant and an audit and tax supervisor with Yount, Hyde & Barbour PC in Winchester.

**SHAWN HOLMAN '02** married Amanda Linn on Jan. 13, 2007, in Niagara Falls, Canada. Shawn is a help desk analyst for PPG Industries. The couple resides in Apollo, Pa.

**LESLIE ANN HORWATH '02** married **ERIC HRAMIKA '02** on June 24, 2006. Leslie is employed by ServiceLink in Hopewell Township, Pa., and Eric is employed by Fiserv-Source One in Pittsburgh. The couple resides in Hopewell Township.

## WANTED OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Since 1965, the RMU Alumni Association has recognized alumni who have distinguished themselves within their professions, their communities or both. We're seeking your help in identifying candidates for the following awards, to be presented at the association's annual meeting on Jan. 26, 2008:

### ★ YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ★

Presented to alumni age 35 and younger who have excelled in their professions or through community service

### ★ ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ★

Presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves within their professions

To submit a nomination, send the following information to the Office of Alumni Relations, Robert Morris University, 6001 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA 15108 or e-mail [rmualum@rmu.edu](mailto:rmualum@rmu.edu):

Nominee's name ★ Nominee's occupation, title and employer ★ Nominee's qualifications for the award  
Nominator's name, phone and e-mail address

**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY DEC. 14, 2007.**

# CLASS NOTES

**BETH (JORDAN) '02** and **CHRIS DEVIVO '93** became the parents of Carter John on April 17, 2006. Beth works from home as a jeweler for Premier Designs Inc. Chris works for the Pittsburgh Penguins as director of video production and game entertainment. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

**BECKY (KENNEDY) '99 M'02** and **TIM DIANA '06** became the parents of Andrew Michael on April 23, 2007. Andrew joins brother Patrick James, 2. Becky is an events manager/operations assistant in the Conference and Facility Services Department at RMU. The family resides in Moon Township, Pa.

**JANICE TUCKER '02** is employed by Dick's Sporting Goods in Pittsburgh. She resides in Bridgeville, Pa.

**LAURY (EVARTS) '03** and **BRAD STISCAK '03** are expecting their second child in December 2007. Brad recently started a new job in IT sales services at CEI in Green Tree, Pa. Laury and Brad reside in Pittsburgh with their son, Brayden.

**SCOTT FARISON M'03** and his wife, Celeste, became the parents of Nathan on Feb. 8, 2007. Scott is a recruiting coordinator for the RMU football team. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

**JAMES OGG '03** is engaged to Michelle Rain. The couple is planning an October 2008 wedding. James was recently hired by the Pittsburgh Public Schools as a social studies teacher. He resides in North Huntingdon, Pa.

**JENNIFER WEISGERBER '03** married **ADAM FILES '02** on Sept. 30, 2006. Jennifer is a certified public accountant and an audit and tax supervisor with Yount, Hyde & Barbour PC in Winchester, Va. Adam is a manager with FedEx Home Delivery in Winchester.

**AMANDA (BOBURCZAK) MCKAY '04** and her husband, David, recently became the parents of Alexis. The family resides in Wexford, Pa.

**CARRIE BROCK '04** is an account executive with CBS Radio. She resides in Pittsburgh.

**THOMAS DONALDSON '04** is an IT advisory services/associate with KPMG LLP in Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Jocelyn, reside in Cranberry Township, Pa.

**HEIDI FREEMAN '04** is pursuing her Ph.D. in American studies at Purdue University as a doctoral fellow. In spring 2007, she was a teaching assistant for the African American Studies and Research Center. She previously taught part-time in the English Departments at Ohio University and Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, Ohio. In 2005, Heidi completed her master's degree in English literature at Ohio University. She and her husband, Antonio Lewis, reside in West Lafayette, Ind., with their children, Antonio Jr. and Chase.

**JADA GRANDY M'04** participated in the fourth annual Management Faculty of Color Association Conference at RMU from May 31 through June 2, 2007. Jada served on a business

panel on collaborative conversations between the corporate and academic communities.

**EVE HOERNLEIN '04** is employed by Genesis Engineering Inc. as a marketing coordinator. She and her husband, James Phelps, reside in North Wales, Pa.

**CHRISTOPHER LOOMIS '04** is engaged to **SARAH SCHNARRENBERGER '04**. The couple was planning an Oct. 6, 2007 wedding in Pittsburgh. Sarah is a financial aid administrator at ITT Technical Institute.

**MORGAN OSTOP '04** is engaged to Erik Frycklund. The couple was planning an Oct. 6, 2007, wedding in Burgettstown, Pa. Morgan is a human resource specialist with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. She resides in Silver Spring, Md.

**JENNIFER (RAINEY) ASHLEY '04** was recently promoted from marketing coordinator, community relations to marketing

assistant, fuelperks, with Giant Eagle. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Pittsburgh.

**NICHELLE BROWN M'05** earned her Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification and currently works as a consultant specializing in control assurance at Deloitte & Touche LLP. Nichelle and her children, Tiara and Catherine, live in Pittsburgh.

**JOHN HENNE '05** and **JESSICA VOLTURNO '05** were married on June 23, 2007. John is an elementary teacher with the Conewago Valley School District. The couple resides in Tamaqua, Pa.

**JASON JAMES '05** is an auditor with the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General in Indiana. Jason and his wife, Candace, reside in Noblesville, Ind., with their children, Lola and Lillian.

**KATHRYN STRETVASKI '05** is engaged to **CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS M'06**. The couple is planning a Dec. 1, 2007, wedding in Pittsburgh. Kathryn is employed by Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Maple Shade, N.J.

**JESSICA ROSSO '06** married **GABE KACHUR '06** on March 24, 2007. Jessica is an actuarial analyst with Mercer. Gabe is a manager with Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Four RMU alumni were members of the wedding party: **KELLY HAYS '04**, **KRISTIN HAYS '04**, **NELLE STAHURA '07** and **MISTY STEWART '07**. The couple resides in Coraopolis, Pa.



# CLASS NOTES

**ROBIN COLE D'06** was named program coordinator of business and information systems at Mid-South Community College in West Memphis, Ark. He was previously an instructor in physical education/recreation management at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

**VALERIE DAWSON '06** and her husband, Donovan, became the parents of Grant on July 10, 2006. The family resides in Ambridge, Pa.

**TIM '06** and **BECKY (KENNEDY) DIANA '99 M'02** and became the parents of Andrew Michael on April 23, 2007. Andrew joins brother, Patrick James, 2. The family resides in Moon Township, Pa.

**MICHELE HALLERAN M'06** was recently named a National Employee of the Year by *Careers & the disABLED* magazine for her professional and advocacy efforts on behalf of the disabled in the workplace. Michele, who is deaf, is a programmer analyst for Highmark. She resides in North Versailles, Pa.

**TIM JOHNSON M'06** participated in the fourth annual Management Faculty of Color Association Conference at RMU from May 31 through June 2, 2007. Tim served on a business panel on collaborative conversations between the corporate and academic communities.

**JEREMY KELLEY '06** and his wife, Kim, became the parents of Emma in November 2006. Jeremy is the guest relations supervisor with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The family resides in Munhall, Pa.

**MATTHEW LOCOCO '06** is part of a new education initiative in North Carolina called the New Schools Project. He's on the teaching staff of Lenoir Early College High School in Kinston, N.C. Matthew and his wife, Susan, are expecting their first child in early December.

**LINDSAY OLENICK '06** is a staff accountant with Maher Duessel CPAs. She resides in Pittsburgh.

**ABIGAIL SPEER '06** is a hedge fund accountant for PFFC Inc. She resides in Heidelberg, Pa.

**MICHELLE TALIK M'06** is engaged to Edward W. Cook III. She works for UPMC and resides in Pittsburgh.

**CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS M'06** is engaged to **KATHRYN STRETAWSKI '05**. The couple is planning a Dec. 1, 2007, wedding in Pittsburgh.

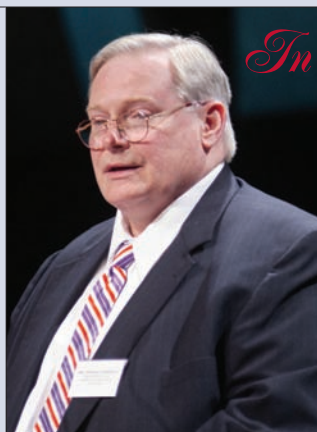
**ANTHONY MASTREAN '07** is a developer for FedEx Ground. He resides in Cuddy, Pa.

## Deaths

**ALFRED C. OLSON JR. '82** passed away on Dec. 29, 2006.

**WAYNE RYAN M'95** passed away on April 24, 2007. He was employed for more than 30 years by the Neville Township Public Works Department and served as the township's tax collector.

**PATRICK HENDRICKS '98** passed away on July 2, 2007. He was a commercial loan officer for various financial institutions and served on the Downtown Butler Revitalization Committee and the United Way Citizens Review Committee.



## *In Memoriam:* *Tom Marshall*

Robert Morris University lost its senior faculty member and head of its Department of English Studies and Communications Skills with the passing of Professor **THOMAS A. MARSHALL II** on June 25, 2007. He was 66. A campus memorial service was held on Sept. 21, 2007.

A beloved member of the faculty, Marshall taught Shakespearean and other literature to generations of RMU students. He also played a significant role in the development and implementation of the Communications Skills Program, a nationally recognized sequence of courses that provides all RMU students with proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening, presenting and cross-cultural group dynamics. He headed that program since 2000.

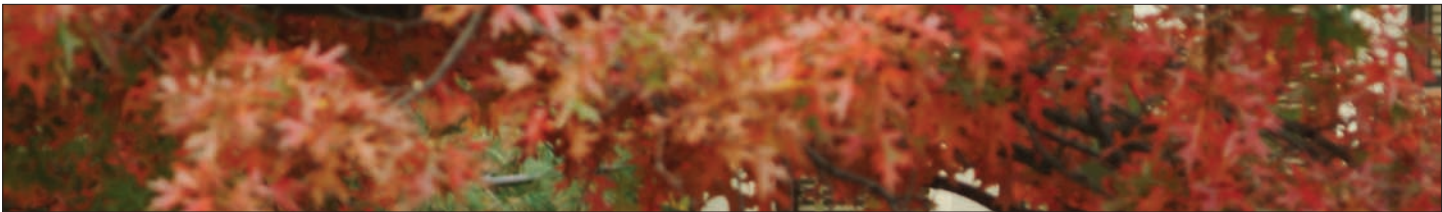
"Tom Marshall's passing leaves a void that will not be filled," said David Jamison, J.D., dean of the School of Communications and Information Systems. "His unprecedented length of service, complete dedication to Robert Morris, work on campus and in the community, and the quality of his teaching have been a contribution that truly changed RMU and contributed to its maturity ... We've lost one of the pillars of our institution."

Marshall began his career at RMU, then Robert Morris College, in 1965 as an instructor in the Department of Humanities. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1969, associate professor in 1974 and full professor in 1991. In 2005, he was named head of the newly created Department of English Studies and Communications Skills. Marshall also chaired a Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation review that in 2002 resulted in a full, unconditional 10-year re-accreditation for RMU.

Marshall leaves a wife, Kim, and son, Trey. The family requests that contributions be directed to the Thomas A. Marshall Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o the Office of Institutional Advancement, Robert Morris University, 6001 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA 15108.

*Includes news submitted between April 21 and July 20, 2007.*

*Note: Class notes are submitted by alumni and friends and are not verified by the editor. Foundations magazine is not responsible for information contained in class notes.*



# Upcoming Events



## PITTSBURGH HOCKEY SHOWCASE AT MELLON ARENA NOVEMBER 16, 2007

5 p.m. - RMU club team vs. Washington & Jefferson

6:30 p.m. - Alumni Association Reception, Doubletree Hotel

8 p.m. - RMU vs. Ohio State

\$10 per person (includes game tickets and reception)

### > NOVEMBER 07

8 Cleveland Alumni Reception, 6 p.m., Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square

14 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: George Will, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

15 Speaking of Business Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Duquesne Club

28 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Christiane Amanpour, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

### > JANUARY 08

16 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Madeleine Albright, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

26 RMU Alumni Association Open Meeting

### > FEBRUARY 08

9 Slice of Life Program, 9:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Sewall Center

27 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Salman Rushdie, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these and other upcoming events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 412-262-8481 or [rmualum@rmu.edu](mailto:rmualum@rmu.edu).

# ALUMNI NEWS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS/ MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSION/POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:** Office of Alumni Relations, Robert Morris University, 6001 University Boulevard, Moon Township, PA 15108-1189. Or, send your news via e-mail [rmualum@rmu.edu](mailto:rmualum@rmu.edu) or fax 412-262-8642.



ON SEPT. 11, RMU PAID TRIBUTE TO THOSE KILLED ON SEPT. 11, 2001, WITH A DISPLAY OF 2,977 FLAGS ON THE NICHOLSON CENTER LAWN. THE DISPLAY WAS PART OF THE YOUNG AMERICA'S FOUNDATION'S 9-11 NEVER FORGET PROJECT.

**ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY**  
1921

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