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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

It's hard to believe that we've already concluded another successful academic year. This past semester was certainly an exciting one at RMU, as you'll read in these pages. It's wonderful to see the attention that RMU has garnered regionally and nationally for its recent accomplishments.

As I've mentioned before, RMU has devoted much time during the past year to the creation of an institutional strategic plan, and we will be sharing more about the plan's objectives and goals in a future issue. Through this planning process, we've identified six "core values" that together capture the essence of what RMU has to offer and the transformative experience our University provides. These are:

Academic excellence • Active learning • Professionally focused
Global perspective • Changing lives • Individuals matter

I think you'll find that many of the stories contained in this issue of *Foundations* echo these values, from how RMU helped prepare one of our first environmental science graduates for his internship experience at the "home of the world's worst weather," to the University's evolving role as a leader in health care education through the offering of new programs in nursing practice and nuclear medicine technology, to our cover story on the student music video that beat out 80 other projects from institutions across the nation to earn its producers a College Emmy Award.

As always, we invite your input: If you have any stories about how RMU helped you transform your life, provided you with a global perspective, or examples of the University's other core values, we hope that you will share those with us. Send them to Warner Johnson, director of alumni relations, by regular mail or at johnsonw@rmu.edu.

I hope that you have a delightful and relaxing summer.



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

CREDITS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jennifer J. Roupe

WRITER/EDITOR
Josh Earl

CONTRIBUTORS
James Duzyk M'00, Michael Rick

DESIGN
Amy Joy

PHOTOGRAPHY
Gary Brittain, Jason Cohn, Kevin Cooke, Charlie Covell, Josh Earl, James Knox, Dave Miller

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Contributions to Class Notes and address changes may be sent to:

Office of Alumni Relations
Robert Morris University
6001 University Boulevard
Moon Township, PA
15108-1189

Phone: 412-262-8481
Fax: 412-262-8642

E-mail: rmualum@rmu.edu

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ON THE COVER: DAVID TOOLE, DARIN DINAPOLI '06' AND BRAD GRIMM TOOK HOME A COLLEGE EMMY FOR THE MUSIC VIDEO THEY PRODUCED FOR A CLASS AT RMU. (KEVIN COOKE PHOTO)



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A year ago, three RMU students set out on a semester-long adventure: filming a music video. They didn't anticipate their work would take them all the way to sunny L.A.



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Over the course of four seasons, the women's basketball team transformed itself into one of the top programs in the NEC – and won its first-ever bid to the NCAA Tournament.



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RMU's new men's basketball coach was raised in a basketball family and has more than a decade of experience in leading winning programs.



CAMPUS REPORT

> MECHANICAL, INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING CONCENTRATIONS ADDED

The engineering department has restructured its undergraduate offerings, adding a mechanical engineering concentration and recasting the logistics engineering curriculum into an industrial engineering track within the Bachelor of Science (B.S) in Engineering program. The department made the changes after consultations with local industry leaders found strong demand for mechanical engineers. RMU's other engineering offerings include the B.S. in Engineering with a concentration in software engineering, a B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering and a Master of Science in Engineering Management.

> "THE O'NEILL" MAKES ST. PATTY'S DAY VISIT



Hugo O'Neill, known as "The O'Neill" in Gaelic circles, spoke with a group of RMU students, faculty and staff members during a pre-Saint Patrick's Day visit to the University. Officially named Hugo Mac Ui Neill Buidhe, O'Neill is chief of the O'Neill clan worldwide and president of the Standing Council of Irish Clans. The O'Neill hails from Portugal, where his ancestors settled after the "Flight of the Earls," a historic exodus of Irish aristocracy that occurred in 1607. His stop in Pittsburgh was part of the 400th anniversary commemoration of that flight.

> DOCUFEST 2007

The Center for Documentary Production and Study presented the campus premieres of several new student and faculty films during "Docufest 2007" in April. *Prisoners Among Us: Italian American Identity and WWII* chronicles the assimilation of Italians into American culture from their immigration in the early 19th century through World War II. It was directed and produced by **Michael Angelo DiLauro, M.F.A.**, director of RMU's Academic Media Center. Media arts major **Justin Seaman's** *The Heroes of Post 639* documents the real-life stories of nine World War II veterans from the filmmaker's hometown of Claysville, Pa. *Nursing in Nicaragua* portrays the work and learning of several RMU nursing students and faculty members who traveled to Nicaragua last fall. The film was shot, edited and produced by media arts major **Laura Gawryla** and communication major **Thomas J. Delorie**. *Three Views From Chile* is a compilation of films from three RMU students who visited Chile during the summer of 2006 as part of the University's documentary exchange program with the Universidad de Valparaiso. The films included *Abandoned*, by media arts major **Barry Bogovich**, which examines a Chilean city's overpopulation of dogs; *Sketch*, by communication major **Katie Lewandroski**, a portrait of a comic artist who struggles to have his drawings recognized in his own country; and *A Day of School, A Day of Protest*, by media arts major **Corry Vargo**, which documents the disruption a national student protest creates in a public trade school.



> NEW NAME FOR ICE ARENA

The RMU Island Sports Center changed the name of its Collegiate Arena to Clearview Arena as part of a multi-year agreement between the sports and recreation facility and Clearview Federal Credit Union. The arena is home to RMU's NCAA Division I men's and women's ice hockey teams, as well as local and regional youth hockey contests and tournaments, figure skating special events and select Pittsburgh Penguins team practices.

> SURVIVALIST KICKS OFF SPEAKERS SERIES

The sixth season of RMU's Pittsburgh Speakers Series will begin with mountaineer and survivalist **Aron Ralston**. In 2003, Ralston was hiking in a Utah canyon when a boulder fell on him, pinning his arm. After six days, he amputated his own arm with a dull knife and hiked out of the canyon. Other speakers for the 2007-08 season include political columnist **George Will**, CNN's chief international correspondent **Christiane Amanpour**, former U.S. Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**, *The Satanic Verses* author **Salman Rushdie**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Frank McCourt**, and political comedy troupe **The Capitol Steps**. The series begins in September, and events are held at Heinz Hall. For more information or to subscribe to the series, visit www.pittsburghspeakersseries.org.



ARON RALSTON

CAMPUS REPORT



TAKING BACK SUNDAY CONCERT

> SUNDAY SELLS OUT SEWALL

RMU's first major concert in years sold out more than two weeks before the event took place. On March 31, the University hosted Warner Bros. national recording artists Taking Back Sunday in the Sewall Center Arena. The concert was part of the band's 2007 North American tour with Underoath and Armor for Sleep. The band, whose sound is described as "melodic hardcore," gained an international following through its performances on the Warped Tour, at British rock festivals Reading and Leeds, a sold-out headlining tour, and a North American arena tour it co-headlined with Jimmy Eat World. Taking Back Sunday's third album, *Louder Now*, peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 after its release last year.



JASON ALTMIRE

> ALTMIRE TALKS POLITICS

U.S. Rep. Jason Altmire, freshman Democrat from Pennsylvania's 4th Congressional District, visited campus in April to encourage college students to get involved in the political process. Altmire told students that his experiences as a

campaign volunteer launched him unexpectedly into the public arena. Altmire also touted the efforts of the Democratic congressional majority during its first 100 days, focusing on areas such as ethics reform, pay-as-you-go budgeting, increasing the minimum wage and reducing student loan interest rates. The Congressman's visit was coordinated by students in the Patriot Scholars Honors Program as part of a service learning project designed to raise political awareness among college students.

> BETTER HEALTH CARE THROUGH FREWARE

RMU hosted the first-ever WorldVistA Education Conference in early March. WorldVistA is a nonprofit whose mission is improving health care around the globe by helping doctors and hospitals adopt

computer technology. The group promotes the use of VistA, a free software package that keeps track of patients' medical records electronically. Computerized medical records allow all health care workers to have instant access to a complete and accurate medical history for each patient, which cuts down on errors and results in better care for the patient. VistA was developed in the 1990s by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which oversees the largest single medical system in the United States.

RMU landed the conference because **Valerie J. Harvey, Ph.D.**, professor of computer and information systems, helped found the organization in 2002 and now chairs the WorldVistA education and training work group. During the conference, presenters from across the country offered courses on VistA's computerized patient record system and related technology. **Stephen Foreman, Ph.D.**, associate vice president of academic affairs and associate professor of health care administration and economics, told attendees that VistA is addressing several shortcomings of the private sector. Commercial software with similar capabilities is too expensive for smaller medical practices and hospitals in poorer countries, and competing companies haven't developed a standardized format that allows different hospitals and doctors to exchange records.

COMMENCEMENT 2007



VELMA MONTEIRO-TRIBBLE

RMU held its 82nd Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 5. **VELMA MONTEIRO-TRIBBLE**, chief operating officer and assistant treasurer for the Alcoa Foundation, gave the commencement address to 650 graduates and more than 4,000 guests.

In addition, the University presented an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree to former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury **PAUL O'NEILL** and the first-ever Presidential Transformational Award to integrated bachelor's/master's program graduate **JEFFREY HAROLD '07 M'07**.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

> **JOHN LAWSON, PH.D.**, assistant professor of communication, has received a flurry of invitations to poetry readings since publishing *Generations*, a collection of poetry, with Saint Andrews College Press this spring. "John Lawson's poetry urges us to have reverence for the red earth, the green knoll, and the half-myths of our memories," writes reviewer Joan E. Bauer. "This is poetry that hurts and heals." In February, Lawson read as part of the Choice Cuts series at the Slaughterhouse Gallery in Lawrenceville, Pa., and in April, he participated in the Fortner Writers Forum at Saint Andrews College in Laurinburg, N.C. He also recorded a reading and interview for the radio show *Prosody*, which was broadcast on WYEP-FM 91.3 in April.



> **VALERIE HOWARD, ED.D., RN**, clinical assistant professor of nursing, made several presentations based on her doctoral dissertation research. Howard conducted a study of 49 undergraduate and graduate nursing students at RMU to see whether they benefited from using patient simulators, which exhibit various symptoms and respond to treatment efforts. Students who worked with patient simulators retained their lessons better and enjoyed the learning process more than their peers who learned through traditional case studies. Howard presented her findings at the Mosby's Faculty Development Institute in San Diego, and at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Hot Issues Conference in Denver. In addition, Howard and **LYNN GEORGE, PH.D., RN**, associate dean of the School of Nursing, made a presentation during the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Faculty Development Transition to Teaching Conference in Houston. The session, titled *Transitioning to Technology*, showed how nurse educators can incorporate technology and tools such as PDAs, simulation and web enhancement to help students learn.



> **ARIF SIRINTERLIKCI, PH.D.**, associate professor of engineering, received the 20-Year Club Founder's Faculty Research Award. The award, established in 2005, recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments by faculty conducting novel research. Sirinterlikci's research, *Investigating the Role of Rapid Prototyping in Tissue Simulation and Phantom Technology*, was chosen to receive the \$2,000 award. The 20-Year Club honors employees who have worked for 20 years or more at RMU.

> **NORMAN SCHNURR**, associate professor of marketing, spent the spring semester teaching a global marketing course at the University of Bahcesehir in Istanbul, Turkey. The faculty exchange is part of an existing relationship between RMU and the Turkish institution that began with a documentary exchange program for the University's media arts students.

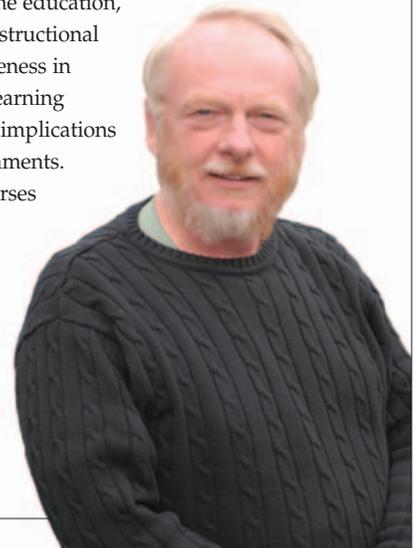
> **JIM VINCENT**, associate professor of English studies, presented a talk, *Living in the Shadow of Hart Crane*, and conducted a walking tour of Garrettsville, Ohio, during the seventh annual Howard S. Bissell Symposium at Hiram College in March. The symposium brought together leading authorities on Garrettsville-born poet Harold Hart Crane, most famous for his 1930 work *The Bridge*. Vincent's lecture explored Crane's life in the locality and his deep-seated belief in the possibility of American progress.



> **ANN JABRO, PH.D.**, professor of communication, received a best paper award for *Technology, Plagiarism and Academe: Accentuating the Positive* during the National Communication Association's 92nd convention in San Antonio, Texas, in November. Jabro also coordinated and chaired a conference session on the storied career of The Pennsylvania State University professor Gerald Phillips, Ph.D., often referred to as "communication's last Renaissance man," based on her work as managing editor of the Pennsylvania Communication Association's annual journal, *Pennsylvania Scholars*.

> **MONICA VANDIEREN, PH.D.**, assistant professor of mathematics, traveled to Finland to serve as an opponent to a University of Helsinki doctoral candidate. Finnish academic tradition requires that degree seekers defend their dissertations against challenges by a distinguished expert in the field. VanDieren, an expert in mathematical model theory, spoke on the scientific significance of the candidate's work, participated in a public dialogue, and provided a final summary and recommendation regarding the candidate.

> **RODERICK C. SIMS, PH.D.**, was RMU's Spring 2007 Rooney Visiting Scholar, hosted by the School of Adult and Continuing Education. Sims hails from Australia, where he is a consultant for Knowledgecraft Inc. and adjunct professor of instructional design for online learning with Capella University. He is an expert in the technology behind online education, and his research focuses on instructional design, efficiency and effectiveness in e-learning, transformational learning experiences, and the teaching implications of multi-user learning environments. Sims helped teach several courses and lunchtime tutorials, and he presented lectures on the importance of changes to the traditional approaches to teaching and what it means to provide and receive quality education in today's global communications climate.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



> MARKETING CHAPTER STANDS OUT

The RMU student chapter of the American Marketing Association returned home from the AMA's annual International Collegiate Competition in New Orleans with three awards, marking the sixth consecutive year that the chapter has received one or more first-place awards. Competing against other chapters from around the world, the students received first-place awards for outstanding fund raising, outstanding professional development and outstanding membership. The students were accompanied on the trip by AMA faculty advisor **Jill Maher, Ph.D.**, associate professor of marketing.

> VIDEO MVPS

Communication students **Daniel Yost** and **Scott Golmic** received Aegis Awards for video projects they completed through RMU's Academic Media Center. Both received awards for their production of RMU-TV's *Colonial Sports Center* program, and Golmic also won an award for his work *Behind the Scenes: Colonial Sports Center*. One of the oldest and most respected video contests in the U.S., the Aegis Awards is peer-judged by fellow producers, directors, videographers and other film and video professionals.

> HR STUDENTS NET BENEFITS

Three students from RMU's chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) recently took top prize in the National Society for Human Resources Management's northeast region student conference and competition at Rutgers University. The students – **Stephanie Bruner**, **Julianne Padak** and **Gabriele Grack** – received a \$500 scholarship as well as paid registration, hotel and airfare to the Annual International SHRM Conference in Las Vegas, where they will be recognized for their accomplishment. The students were accompanied on the trip by **Darlene Motley, Ph.D.**, and **Yasmin Purohit, Ph.D.**, both assistant professors of human resources.

> DESIGN STUDENTS WIN BEST IN SHOW

Five RMU media arts students earned awards at the Graphic Arts Association's annual competition, including a best of category award for **Kathryn Skopinski** for her packaging design for Whole Foods. This is the second consecutive year an RMU student won the best of category award. The four other students received Franklin Awards

of Excellence for their projects: **Andrew Jones** for a Whole Foods shopping bag, **Joshua Makar** for a Benjamin Shoes shopping bag, **Olivia Shingle** for a Treads shopping bag, and **Michael Cox** for "Green," an advertisement for the Toyota Prius. All were students in RMU's Design Studio II or Advertising Design courses during the past year, both taught by **Ferris Crane, M.F.A.**, associate professor of media arts.

> NETWORKING WITH NONPROFITS

Several RMU students participated in the 2007 American Humanics Management Institute, a nonprofit management educational symposium that took place in Washington, D.C., in January. American Humanics is a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations that prepares and certifies college students for professional careers in youth and human service agencies. Students attending the symposium were elementary education major **Nicole Bazner**, social science major **Katie Dean**, marketing major **Kristian Seaman** and human resource management major **Jessica Thompson**. The students were accompanied by campus advisor **Donna Fetterman**, interim director of the America's Promise–Allegheny County chapter at RMU. The gathering provided an opportunity to network, participate in simulated case studies and a national collegiate dialogue, and attend workshops led by local and national experts in nonprofit management.

> STUDENTS LOOK FOR NBA SLOT

Four students from RMU's sport management program were among 150 college students selected to attend the National Basketball Association's annual job fair in Chicago, Ill. Attending the fair were **Nathan DiLorenzo**, who has since accepted a full-time sales position with the Golden State Warriors; **J.D. Rice**, **Drew Ribarchak** and **Danielle White**. Ten RMU sport management alumni are presently employed in the NBA.

> COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Marketing major **Dustin Gaworski** contracted with the Army ROTC during a short on-campus ceremony in January. Gaworski is the fifth contracted cadet through RMU's ROTC program, which began in 2005. Through an oath administered by Lt. Col. John Bender, Panther Battalion Commander, Gaworski committed to training with the Army ROTC and serving in the Army after graduation. In return, the Army will provide Gaworski a full-tuition scholarship and training, and commission him as an officer upon graduation.

> RADIO PRODUCTION WARMS AIRWAVES

The work of RMU media arts students was included in a segment on global warming that aired as part of the *Allegheny Front* radio program on 91.3 WYEP-FM. *Allegheny Front* host and executive producer **Matthew Craig** teaches the Audio/Radio Production course at RMU.



SCOREBOARD



CHINATA NESBIT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RMU's amazing turnaround under the guidance of Head Coach **Sal Buscaglia** culminated with a 68-66 victory over Sacred Heart in the 2007 Northeast Conference Tournament championship game March 10, helping the Colonials garner their third NEC Tournament title and first automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Junior guard **Chinata Nesbit** was named NEC Tournament MVP after scoring 15 of her game-high 28 points in the second half and leading Robert Morris to victory over the Pioneers. Over the three-game tournament, she averaged 25.0 points and 10.0 rebounds per game. The Colonials traveled to Raleigh, N.C., for the NCAA Tournament and a first-round date with N.C. State before falling to the Wolfpack, 84-52. RMU finished with an overall record of 24-8, including a 15-3 mark in the NEC. The 24 wins established a new school record, and Nesbit and senior forward **Sugeiry Monsac** earned All-NEC First-Team accolades. Nesbit paced the

Colonials with averages of 19.2 points and 10.3 rebounds per game, while Monsac scored 16.2 points while grabbing 9.2 rebounds per game.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Robert Morris notched its second straight winning season under sixth-year Head Coach **Mark Schmidt** by posting an overall record of 17-11, including a ledger of 9-9 in Northeast Conference play. The Colonials fell to Mount St. Mary's in the NEC Tournament quarterfinals, but senior forward **A.J. Jackson** and junior guard **Tony Lee** were named to the All-NEC Second Team. Jackson averaged 16.9 points and 7.8 rebounds per contest, while Lee contributed 15.9 points and 6.1 rebounds per game. Lee became the sixth player in league history and the first junior to eclipse career totals of 1,000 points, 500 rebounds and 250 assists. He will enter his senior season in 2007-08 with career totals of 1,026 points,



TONY LEE



KRISTEN MILES

526 rebounds and 270 assists. Senior guard **Derek Coleman** became the 16th member of RMU's 1,000-point club, finishing his career with 1,042 points and 440 assists. He also shot 88.1 percent (74-for-84) from the free-throw line in 2006-07, establishing a new RMU single-season record.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Under the guidance of first-year Head Coach **Nate Handrahan**, Robert Morris posted an overall record of 11-22-2 in just its second season as an NCAA Division I program, including a mark of 1-11 in College Hockey America

action. A total of five Colonials scored at least 20 points on the season, led by sophomore forward **Kristen Miles**, who finished with 15 goals and nine assists for 24 points. Sophomore goalie **Brianne McLaughlin** finished with 826 saves and three shutouts. Miles

and McLaughlin each earned All-CHA Second-Team accolades, while freshman goalie **Heather Rossi** garnered a spot on the All-CHA Rookie Team. Rossi finished the regular season with a 3-5-0 record while holding a 3.03 goals against average and a .911 save percentage, earning victories in net over Chatham, Sacred Heart and Northeastern.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

In just its third season as an NCAA Division I program, Robert Morris advanced to the championship game of the College Hockey America tournament before suffering a 5-4 overtime loss to Alabama-Huntsville in Des Moines, Iowa. Under the direction of Head Coach **Derek Schooley**, the Colonials finished with an overall record of 14-19-2 and also pulled off the biggest upset in school history with a 4-2 victory at No. 2 Notre Dame on Jan. 7. Senior forward **Aaron Clarke** earned a spot on the All-CHA First Team, the first Colonial in school history to earn a postseason honor,

SCOREBOARD

after finishing second on the club in scoring with 35 points, thanks to 11 goals and a team-high 24 assists. The leading scorer for RMU was junior forward **Ryan Cruthers**, who finished with 17 goals and 20 assists for 37 points. A total of 13 players earned a spot on the All-CHA Academic Team, including senior goalie **Joe Tuset**. In just his seventh career start, Tuset turned away 34 shots in goal to help Robert Morris pull the upset at Notre Dame.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Led by seventh-year Head Coach **Michael Smith**, the Colonials placed seventh at the 2007 Northeast Conference Indoor Championships in Landover, Md., finishing with a total of 45 points. Senior **Brittany Humphress** claimed the lone individual championship for Robert Morris, posting a season-best leap of 38'4" in the triple jump. Humphress went on to compete in the triple jump at the IC4A/ECAC Championships, posting



AARON CLARKE

a mark of 38'9.75", good enough to finish ninth as well as establish a new school record.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Robert Morris, led by seventh-year Head Coach **Michael Smith**, posted a fifth-place finish at the 2007 Northeast Conference Indoor Championships in Landover, Md., finishing with a total of 71 points. Seniors **Josh Ghaly** and **Jeff Witmyer** each claimed individual titles for the Colonials, as Ghaly won the pole vault with a leap of 15'5", while Witmyer established a new conference championship meet record in the high jump with a season-best mark of 6'11.50". Ghaly went on to the IC4A/ECAC Championships and posted a mark of 17'00.75" in the pole vault, a new school record, to help him finish second in the event and provisionally qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships. Witmyer was named the NEC Winter Scholar-Athlete for his sport, carrying a 3.65 GPA as an information sciences major.



JOSH GHALY



CHECK IT OUT

www.rmucolonials.com

On April 10, 2007, Robert Morris University launched a new official website for Colonial athletics.

"We are excited about the launch of www.rmucolonials.com, the new official home of Robert Morris University athletics," said Craig Coleman, M.D., director of athletics. "Our new website allows our coaches to more effectively recruit quality student-athletes to our University, as well as gives fans and followers of our various programs expanded, state-of-the-art coverage."

RMU has partnered with XOS Technologies, one of the leading sports technology firms in the country, to bring students, faculty, staff, fans and boosters of Colonial athletics a state-of-the-art website complete with news, scores, statistics and more for each of RMU's 23 NCAA Division I programs.

"Robert Morris University is delighted to be launching a new website for the University's growing athletics program, and hopes that current and prospective students, alumni and fans enjoy the site's new look and features," said University President Gregory G. Dell'Omo, Ph.D. "The past year has been another exciting one for RMU athletics, from the unveiling of a new athletics logo and mascot, to thrilling victories by RMU's men's hockey team over several nationally ranked teams, to our women's basketball squad's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament. We believe that this new site will allow the University to better highlight these types of accomplishments and keep our fans informed of all the latest information on RMU's teams and individual players."



WELCOME TO

Last spring, media arts student **Brad Grimm** spent so many late nights editing footage that he nodded off during the premier of his own music video. Grimm, now a senior, was putting the finishing touches on *Archetype*, a music video he co-directed with senior management major **David Toole** and communication alumnus **Darin DiNapoli '06** for the local band Identity X, of which Toole is the lead singer.

The trio spent most of the spring 2006 semester last year filming the four-minute video for their Advanced Television Workshop class.

A year later, they learned that they'd won the music video award at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences

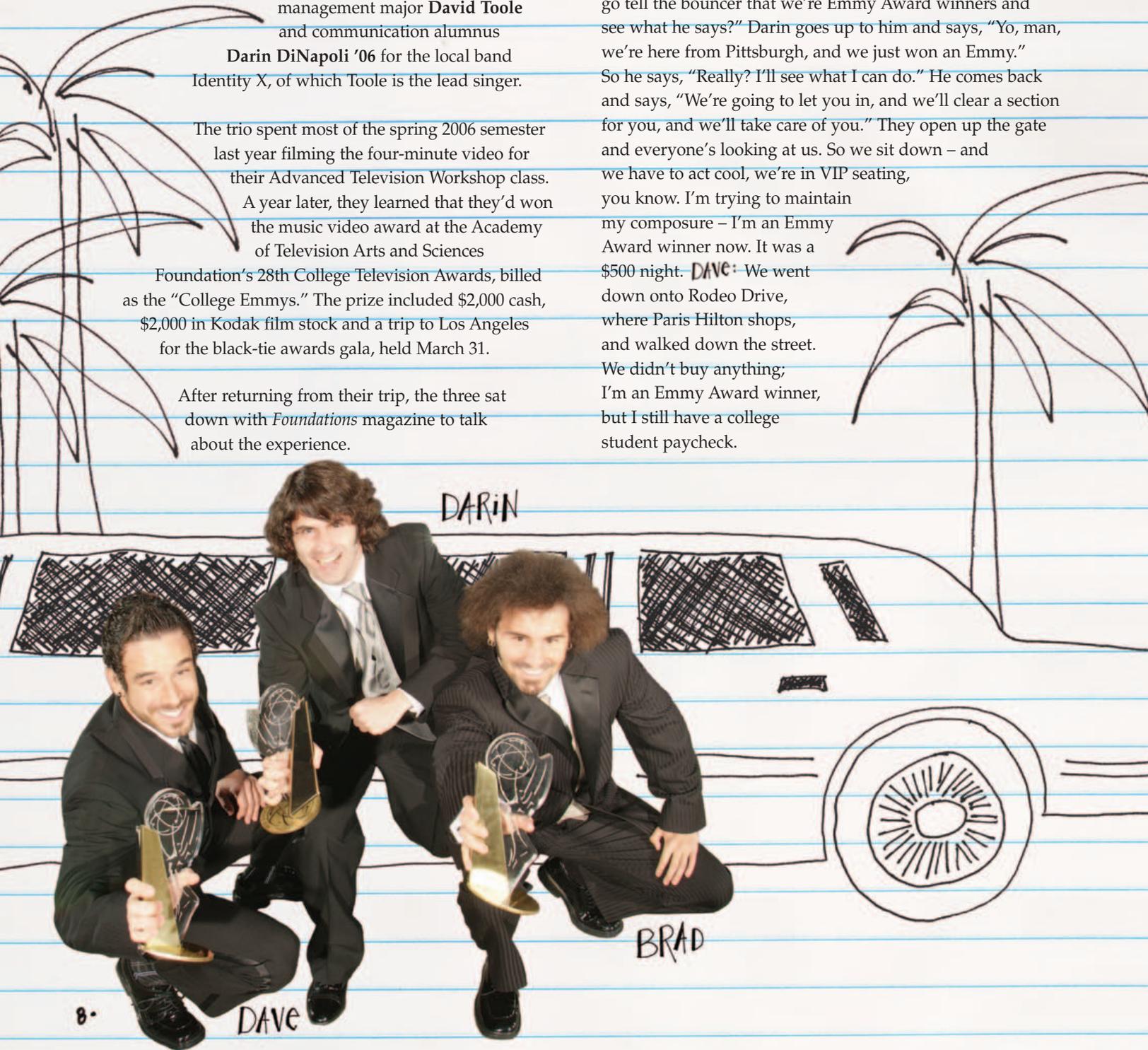
Foundation's 28th College Television Awards, billed as the "College Emmys." The prize included \$2,000 cash, \$2,000 in Kodak film stock and a trip to Los Angeles for the black-tie awards gala, held March 31.

After returning from their trip, the three sat down with *Foundations* magazine to talk about the experience.

VIP TREATMENT

BRAD: Me and Darin, we kind of went a little wild on the first night that we arrived in L.A. We walked up to this club, and there's a long line outside. So I'm like, "Why don't you go tell the bouncer that we're Emmy Award winners and see what he says?" Darin goes up to him and says, "Yo, man, we're here from Pittsburgh, and we just won an Emmy." So he says, "Really? I'll see what I can do." He comes back and says, "We're going to let you in, and we'll clear a section for you, and we'll take care of you." They open up the gate and everyone's looking at us. So we sit down – and we have to act cool, we're in VIP seating, you know. I'm trying to maintain

my composure – I'm an Emmy Award winner now. It was a \$500 night. **DAVE:** We went down onto Rodeo Drive, where Paris Hilton shops, and walked down the street. We didn't buy anything; I'm an Emmy Award winner, but I still have a college student paycheck.



HOLLYWOOD

DAVE: L.A. was fast. Everything was really fast-paced, even though everybody was saying it was so dead out there at the time.

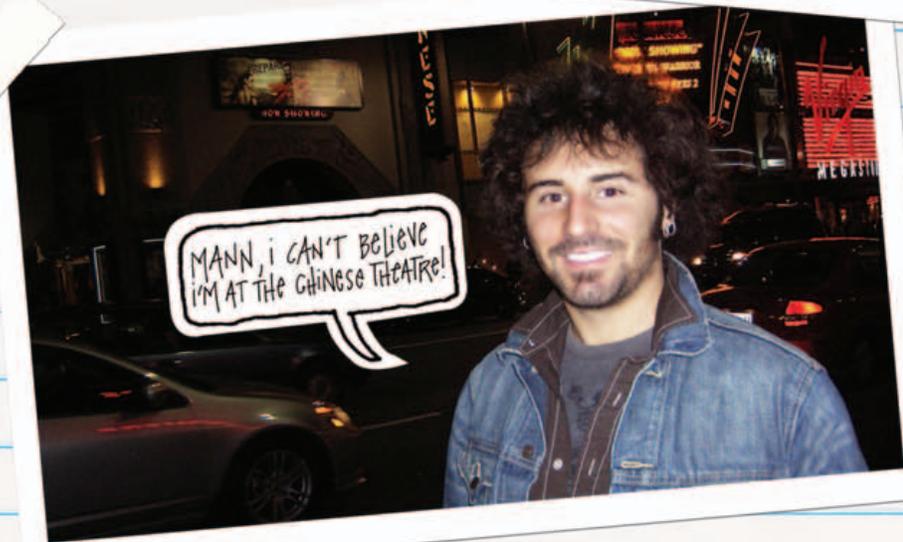
BRAD: All they play down there is techno. **DAVE:** You go into Starbucks. You go into an elevator. You go into the bathroom. You go into the library. All you hear is techno music.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

DAVE: The second night was the awards gala. The atmosphere was intimidating at first, but they really work to make you feel welcome. There was a reception before the ceremony, and we really didn't know anybody.

DARIN: Our mentor for the event was Harry Kooperstein. He's done music programming for years, and he's been in Hollywood for 30 or 40 years. After we walked in, his wife came up to us and said, "You guys are the music guys. We could tell by the hair." **BRAD:** We mingled at the reception for about an hour. The awards stage was curtained off. They opened up the curtains and said, "Please enter and be seated." We walked in, and it was unbelievable – the lights, the stages, the sounds.

It is amazing what a difference a year makes. It was one year ago that we were struggling to film this thing, and one year later we're walking into this unbelievable gala, being treated like we're the next thing in Hollywood. It's insane. **DARIN:** I didn't have an idea that the whole gala and festival was going to be as extravagant as it was. It could have been on TV. I expected a little banquet, not a huge screen with a podium and everything. This was the real deal. The event was held at Culver Studios, where *Gone with the Wind* was filmed. We were on the sound stage for *Deal or No Deal*.



DAVE STOPS TO SAY "COME ON DOWN"
TO MR. BOB BARKER BEFORE THE FILM FESTIVAL



US WITH THE MTVU CREW BEFORE THE AWARDS GALA!



DARIN: The evening was set up just like the Academy Awards. They had a brief introduction by the emcee, Tom Bergeron of *Dancing With the Stars* and *America's Funniest Home Videos*. He introduced each category; they played the three clips from the contestants. Two celebrities would come up and they would open up the envelope; the winners would come up and give their acceptance speech. **BRAD:** All three of us made the acceptance speech. **DAVE:** Dave started us off, then Darin, and I came in at the end. **DARIN:** There were only about 12 awards handed out. Our category had 80 entries, the most out of any of them.

BRAD: From what we heard, it came down to us and another entry. They actually had to go back and do a revote. **DARIN:** The judges were Nigel Lythgoe, the executive producer of *American Idol*, and Sean Callery, the music composer from *24*, and our mentor, Harry Kooperstein.

BRAD: At the screening the next day, we networked with the other students who had produced films. One guy said he might want me to work on one of his future projects. I had a lot of compliments on the post-production work. **DAVE:** I had a couple of people ask if we were contracting out to do music videos, because they were just blown away by how professional ours looked.



A LIFE-CHANGING FOUR YEARS

BRAD: Now that we're back on campus, I have professors coming up to me and asking me what my next project is. They look at me almost as a peer now instead of as a student. You have to earn that respect.

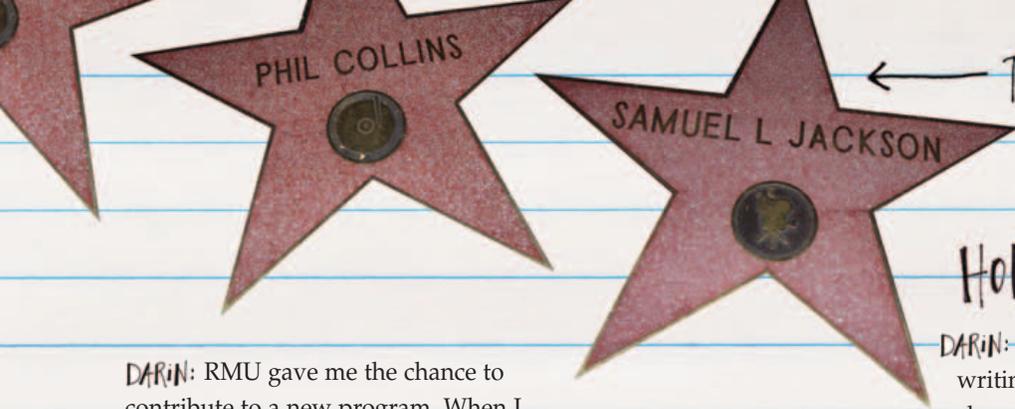
I've had a couple of different professors for my video classes, and they give you freedom to do what you want to do. There are stipulations that challenge you, but the freedom is there. It opens up your mind.

I spent three weeks in Turkey with Dr. [Jim] Seguin and Tony Buba, and that was an unbelievable learning experience. I learned so much and met so many interesting people – it totally revamped my way of thinking. That experience alone, something you can't get in a classroom – was a life-changing event. When I came back I was a different person.



SWEET EMMY DREAMS!

DARIN SHOWS OFF IN FRONT OF...



THE HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME

HOLLYWOOD DREAMS

DARIN: RMU gave me the chance to contribute to a new program. When I came in, the media arts program was just starting to take shape. The animation segments I produced blew people away, because no one at RMU was teaching that style yet. A year later, motion graphics became a full class. The faculty and staff were great; I still do freelance work for Tony Buba's production company.

DAVE: There are two things I've really gained from Robert Morris. Of course, the education I got at Robert Morris was amazing. I really connected with my teachers, with the classes. Here they want to make sure you know what you're doing when you get out there. I realized what I want to do, what I'm good at, what I like to do. And they're showing me how to achieve things with that. So that's the first thing.

Secondly, the leadership opportunities I've had here. Not only helping these guys with the video, but I was president of student government, treasurer for student government, vice president of my fraternity, member of a gazillion boards like judicial board, Academic Integrity Council. I really got a chance to get involved in leadership positions and see that I'm good at it. I'm not afraid to take a leadership position anymore.

BRAD: I came into Robert Morris as this little high school kid who would sometimes make videos for fun. But over the four years, I've changed into somebody who is nothing like who I was when I got here. I've become confident in my ability to produce film, and speak to people, and meet people. But Robert Morris gave me the ability to have confidence in myself and feel like I can be something. It was an amazing four years – four years I'll remember forever.

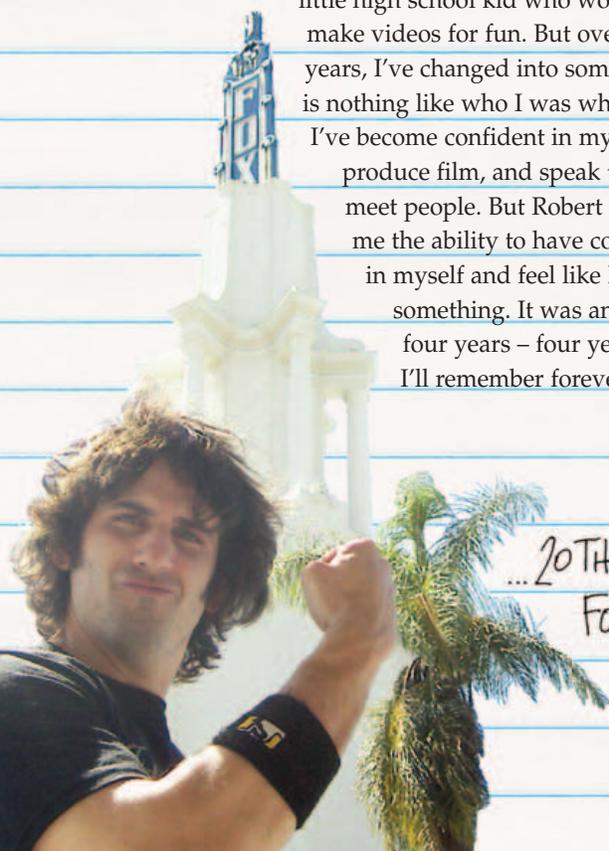
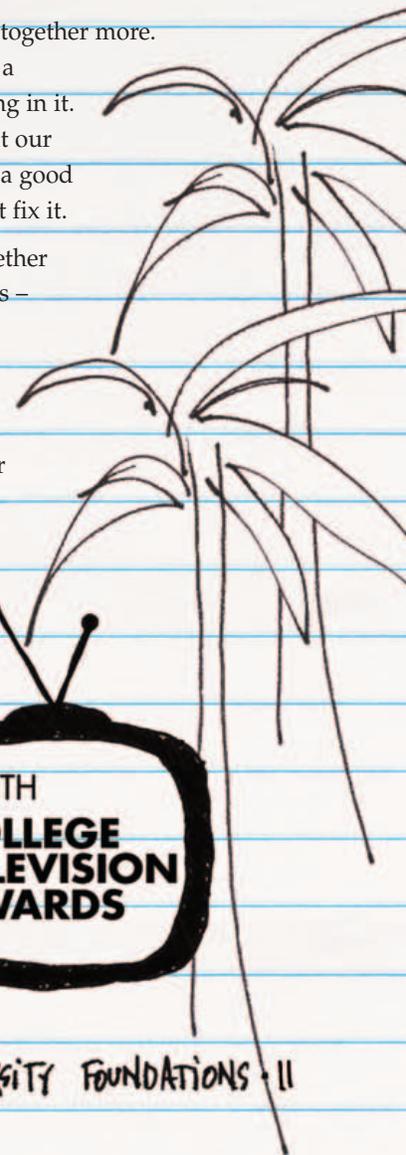
DARIN: I think my next endeavor is going to be writing and producing an episodic video. I've always been a fan of the "to be continued" style – it keeps people on the edge of their seats. I'd like the project to combine all the different genres and categories of filmmaking into one giant video project that links together. Maybe the first episode would be action, and the next will be comedy. I also have a few other projects in the works.

DAVE: I've realized that my niche is more in the creative end of things. I should have gone into marketing, but if I switch now it's going to be a year and a half, and I'm only a semester away from graduating. This summer I'm going to get a marketing internship. **BRAD:** I applied for an internship with the Academy [of Television Arts and Sciences], and I'm going to apply locally for a graphics internship. But when I graduate, I really want to have my own business. I'll probably move out west. It's a risk, but it's one I'm willing to take.

DAVE: We definitely plan to work together more. Right now Brad's putting together a psychological thriller, and I'm acting in it. We've already started talking about our next music video. **BRAD:** We make a good combination. If it's not broke, don't fix it.

This whole experience we had together was surreal. You have these dreams – you always want to go up there and accept an award in front of Hollywood. For that to be taking place – I think we'll all be absorbing what happened there for a while. When the gala was over, an executive came up to me and said, "Congratulations, and welcome to Hollywood." I'll always remember that; that's always been my dream. To have achieved that at this young age and to be recognized is a big step. The door has been opened for us.

AS TOLD TO JOSH EARL | PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY DARIN DINAPOLI, BRAD GRIMM AND DAVID TOOLE



...20TH CENTURY FOX STUDIOS



JO ANN DOWD + STUDENT IN THE M.S.N. PROGRAM, NURSING EDUCATION TRACK



FARHANA HAMID + STUDENT IN THE B.S.N. PROGRAM



LYNDA DAVIDSON, PH.D., RN + DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING



MICHAEL O'BRIEN '06, RN + EMERGENCY ROOM REGISTERED NURSE, SEMICKLEY VALLEY HOSPITAL

FILLING THE HEALTHCARE VOID

By 2020, Americans might find that a simple trip to the doctor's office isn't so simple anymore. As the Baby Boom generation nears retirement age, the U.S. health care system is suffering from a severe shortage of physicians and other health care professionals.

The number of new physicians licensed each year has held steady for the past two decades, while demand for health care services has climbed sharply. Predictions vary, but the shortfall could be as high as 200,000 doctors by 2020.

The situation in Pennsylvania is particularly acute, as the state has seen an exodus of doctors fleeing high malpractice insurance premiums, just as the state's elderly population – the biggest consumers of health care – is set to expand by 23 percent. Pennsylvania is already short by as many as 10,000

physicians; to make up the deficit, the state needs 25 percent more doctors.

That's unlikely to happen. Training a physician takes 10 years. This year's new doctors started school in 1997, well before any shortage was anticipated.

To help fill this gap between demand and supply, the health care community is increasingly turning to nurse practitioners, highly trained specialists who are able to assume some of the duties normally carried out by physicians. By redefining the traditional physician and nurse roles, the need for additional doctors could be reduced by as much as 50 percent. Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell, in his "Prescription for Pennsylvania" health care proposal, called for a dramatic expansion of the role played by nurse practitioners in the state.



GREG HILES + STUDENT IN THE B.S.N. PROGRAM



CARLEEN MARKIVICH '07 + GRADUATE OF THE B.S.N. PROGRAM



CARL ROSS, PH.D., CRNP, CNE + PROFESSOR OF NURSING

Robert Morris University's School of Nursing is emerging as a regional and national leader in addressing these critical shortages. This fall, the University is launching a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program, the first such program to gain approval from the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. Nationally, only a handful of universities offer D.N.P. programs. And **Lynda Davidson, Ph.D., RN**, dean of RMU's School of Nursing, is helping to draft the accreditation rules that will shape doctoral education for nurses across the country in the coming years.

Primary care physicians have traditionally served several key roles in the health care system. They are a major source of health and wellness information. They help chronically ill patients manage their conditions. And they act as a sieve for the rest of the health care industry, sifting out and treating patients with common illnesses and sending those with more complicated diseases on to the appropriate specialist.

Pennsylvania's shortage of primary care physicians stems from several factors. The state's roughly 32,000 physicians are nearing retirement, and as they get older, they work

fewer hours. The effect on doctor productivity is equivalent to losing 4,000 full-time physicians, according to research by **Stephen Foreman, Ph.D.**, associate professor of health care administration and economics at RMU. Additionally, doctors are facing declining insurance reimbursements and escalating costs for malpractice insurance. Pennsylvania malpractice rates are up to five times higher than those in neighboring states. To help pay the bills, physicians are increasingly gravitating toward more lucrative specialty practices such as cardiology, orthopedics and internal medicine.

Compounding the problem is a shortage of nurses at all levels of practice. If current trends don't change, the U.S. will be facing a projected 29 percent shortfall in registered nurses by 2020. Nurse practitioners are also in short supply, and the country needs to add 3,400 each year for the next 13 years. Pennsylvania needs up to 930 more nurse practitioners per year to help make up for its deficit.

Faced with this understaffing crisis, the health care industry is looking to nurse practitioners as a means to increase efficiency, improve care and reduce the number of nurses

who leave practice. The nurse practitioner role has been around since 1965, when the profession was created to help provide primary care during another time when the country was expecting a physician shortage. These advanced practice nurses completed extra education, often a master's degree, which provided additional experience in specialty areas such as family practice, adult health or acute care.

Today, there are more than 140,000 nurse practitioners working in hospitals and clinics. Since it costs far less to educate a nurse than a physician, nurse practitioners can do some of the same work more efficiently. They create a multiplier effect for physicians, taking on many common responsibilities that physicians used to handle and freeing up doctors to focus on patients with more complex problems. Nurse practitioners can also provide leadership and advocate for registered nurses, potentially increasing job satisfaction and reducing staff turnover, which averages 14 percent per year.

As demand builds for nurse practitioners, their need for advanced education and experience grows. Nurses in general, and nurse practitioners in particular, are expected to play a much greater role in patient care, now and in the future.

When Davidson started her career as a staff nurse in 1977, the nurse's role was seen as subordinate to that of the physician. Nurses took orders, and they rarely questioned a doctor's decision. "As a nurse in the 1970s, I would look at what was being ordered, and if there was a red flag or I saw something that didn't look right to me, I would call another doctor that I knew was an expert and say, 'I'm worried about this,'" Davidson says. "Then they would diplomatically contact the physician and talk about what he or she was doing. It was never me telling the doctor that this wasn't a good idea. We had to play the political game. It was very much a hierarchical situation."

This attitude has changed, partly due to patient safety concerns, partly because of cost pressures, and partly because nurses are expanding the scope of nursing as a profession. Studies consistently show that a team approach to providing care translates to better patient survival and recovery rates,

according to **Marge DiCuccio, RN**, who teaches graduate classes in RMU's nursing program and works as clinical director for critical care services at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. "Collaboration is really dependent on a high level of trust," she says.

The D.N.P. program at RMU will prepare nurses to function in this demanding, team-based environment and also teach them skills that used to be the domain of physicians.

The University based the new program on a five-part template for health professions education developed by the Institute of Medicine: patient-centered care, interdisciplinary teams, evidence-based practice, quality improvement and better use of informatics.

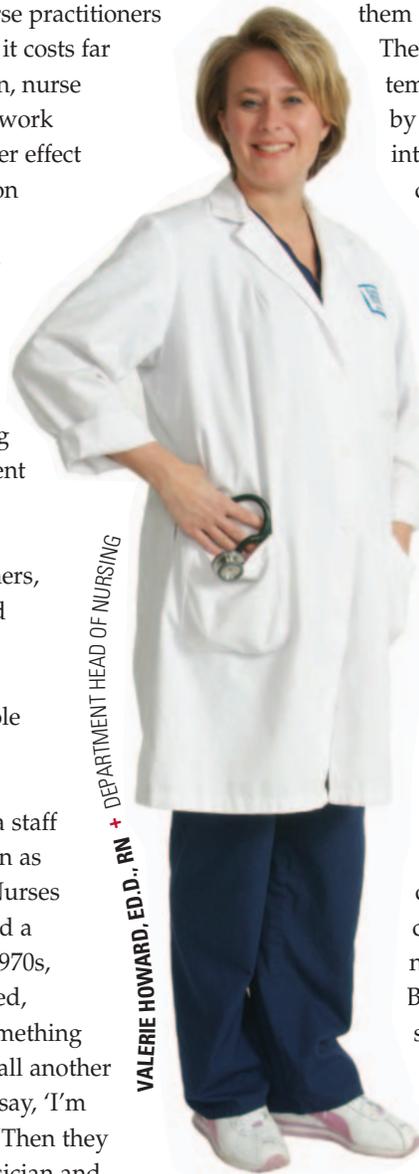
The D.N.P. will enhance the expertise of bachelor's and master's prepared nurses, allowing them to function at the highest level of nursing practice and assume greater independence.

Despite the impact this degree will have on the field of nursing, only about 30 universities now offer a D.N.P., including RMU. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has recommended that all new advanced practice nurses should be educated at the doctoral level by 2015. The movement is so new that the Pennsylvania Department of Education had to import experts from two other states to review RMU's proposal.

RMU's program offers two options: a B.S.N. to D.N.P. program for nurses with a bachelor's degree, and an "executive format" D.N.P. completion program for advanced practice nurses who already hold master's degrees. Both programs began admitting students this spring, and classes will begin in the fall.

The D.N.P. completion program has attracted interest from as far away as Hawaii because students will spend only five days per semester on campus in classes. Students will complete assignments and clinical experiences in their home locations, relying on e-mail and the Internet to communicate with instructors. This part-time program Takes three years to complete.

B.S.N. to D.N.P. students can choose from three different tracks: adult nurse practitioner (ANP), family nurse practitioner (FNP) and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP). The ANP and FNP tracks prepare nurses to provide primary care services to a wide range of



VALERIE HOWARD, ED.D., RN + DEPARTMENT HEAD OF NURSING



MEGAN AURANDT '07 + GRADUATE OF THE B.S.N. PROGRAM

age groups, including the elderly, but the family track also contains a component on caring for children.

The PMHNP track covers psychiatric illnesses, neuropharmacology and neurobiology. All three tracks emphasize several key skill sets. "Nurses will improve their ability to perform differential diagnoses,"

Davidson says. They will learn to identify the common illnesses and how to tell when a patient might have a more serious problem. The B.S.N. to D.N.P. option can be completed either full time in three years or part time in six years.

The D.N.P. program incorporates several of RMU's traditional strengths: strong nursing education, communications skills, business and technology. The University's Bachelor of

Science in Nursing program boasts one of the highest NCLEX exam pass rates in the state, and 100 percent of RMU's nursing graduates have found employment.

D.N.P. students will benefit from the same faculty and facilities that have spurred other graduates to success. Students will spend time studying the dynamics of teamwork, and they'll gain clinical experience in institutions such as Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Heritage Valley Health System and Magee-Womens Hospital. They'll study health care finance and health policy to gain a better understanding of the industry, and they'll use personal digital assistants, or PDAs, to complement their clinical practice.

A final critical piece of the D.N.P. program is the idea of evidence-based practice. "It means not just doing things because, well, we've been doing them that way forever," Davidson says. Nurses will learn to collect and analyze clinical data to spot problems and develop better procedures. "Somebody did a survey



CONSTANCE JORDAN + STUDENT IN THE B.S.N. PROGRAM

and found that sometimes nurses base their decisions on things like how much time they have," Davidson says. "That's not necessarily the best for the patient. Instead nurses should look at factors such as how sick the patient is, what is the diagnosis and what are the risks."

The next major hurdle for the D.N.P. program is earning accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, a national organization that oversees nursing education in the U.S. But the CCNE hasn't had a chance to develop accreditation standards for the D.N.P. Davidson is among a group of educators that will create a process for other universities looking to offer a D.N.P. Her participation gives RMU a voice in the future of nursing.

Preparing nurse practitioners at a doctoral level is a major step for the profession, according to DiCuccio. "Doctoral education is much more intense than it was at a master's level. RMU is educating nurses to be bedside scientists," she says.

WRITTEN BY JOSH EARL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN COOKE

HEALTH+WATCH

While RMU is expanding its offerings in the discipline of nursing, the University is also looking to fill other needs within the health care industry. This fall, RMU plans to launch a **Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology** degree program.

Nuclear medicine is a type of medical imaging that uses radioactive isotopes to diagnose diseases. The patient ingests or is injected with a small amount of radioactive material, and the technologist tracks the course of the radioactivity with a gamma camera.

Demand for nuclear medicine technologists is growing rapidly, and RMU will be the first in the region to offer a four-year degree in this field. The University is currently awaiting approval for the program from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



RIGHT AT HOME IN



THE WORLD'S WORST WEATHER

It's 5:45 a.m., time for the day's first observation. Get dressed: long underwear; nylon hiking pants; fleece jacket; sock liners; wool socks; boots; snow pants; parka; wool hat; gloves; ski goggles. Buddy check – good, no exposed skin. Frostbite is a drag.

Exiting the building is a challenge. The tower door opens to blackness and a full-throated roar, with no direction or visible source. The roar is the wind. Stepping out into the 60- to 80-mile-per-hour wind is like fighting a ring of heavyweight boxers in the dark. The blows come from all directions. It's hard just to stay upright. Plus the wind can hurl chunks of ice the size of office furniture – watch out for those.

The tasks that make up the observation are simple: swing a psychrometer around in the air for five minutes to measure dew point and temperature, check visibility, check high and low temperatures in the thermometer shack. Temperature: minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Wind chill: minus 50 F.

Observation complete – back inside. How was it? Not too bad. Today is looking pretty mild.

Conditions like these would have most people hibernating in their homes, but **Alan Metcalf '06** can't get enough of them. Metcalf, who earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Robert Morris University in December, is finishing up an internship at the Mt. Washington Observatory in New Hampshire. It's been an awe-inspiring and career-affirming experience for Metcalf – one his RMU education more than adequately prepared him for. And he's loving every frigid minute of it.

STORM TRACK

Mt. Washington is known as the "home of the world's worst weather." The mountain, whose summit reaches 6,288 feet above sea level, is part of the Presidential Range of mountains in New England. The range runs along the East Coast like a Jersey barrier, blocking westerly winds. In the winter, the temperature differences between the land in New England and the water in the Atlantic form low pressure cells off the coast. And the South Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific Northwest storm tracks – those big arrows they use on the Weather Channel – converge on the region.

The results are brutal. Winds exceed 74 miles per hour, or hurricane force, on 110 days a year, and the mountain receives an average 21 feet of snowfall each year. The mean temperature in January is 5 F. Mt. Washington is the site of the highest wind speed ever recorded by land-based instruments – a tornado-force 231-mile-per-hour gust measured in 1934. The mountain's record-low temperature, also recorded in 1934, was minus 47 F.

In the midst of this maelstrom sits the Mt. Washington Observatory. This squat collection of bunker-like buildings, perched on the mountain's apex, is built to withstand 300-mile-per-hour winds, protecting its crew of four to six meteorologists, interns and volunteers. The observatory has faithfully recorded the mountain's weather since it first opened in 1932.

Metcalf's familiarity with Mt. Washington goes back to his childhood. His father was a New Hampshire native, and trips up the mountain were a summertime ritual for the family. But he didn't think much about the observatory until he enrolled at RMU and realized that he wanted to study climatology. His wife, Shelley, was browsing the observatory's website one day and came across a page about the Mt. Washington internship program. Shelley encouraged him to try for it, and he was accepted as one of only three interns for the winter.

KEEPING BUSY

Life at the observatory is measured in 15-minute intervals, and Metcalf had to learn quickly how to perform tasks such as operating the station's weather instruments, making repairs to expensive equipment in extreme conditions and double-checking weather data.

A typical day starts at 5 a.m. with a quick breakfast. Metcalf often ventures outside twice before 6:30 – once for an observation and again to collect the precipitation can. The observations are at the core of the station's mission.

"A lot of stations will have computers telling you what the temperature is, and maybe they use radar and infrared to gauge cloud thickness," he says. "We are unique because we have people up here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It adds a human element; we can describe what we've seen with our own eyes."

After his excursions, Metcalf spends some time verifying the previous day's data. The staff tries to triple-check all of the data it compiles: Yesterday's scribbled observations are copied over neatly onto clean forms, and the results are sent to a national weather database. The rest of the morning is a blur of paperwork, on-the-fly weather forecasting, an observation or three, and maybe a live radio broadcast. He also makes a trip to the upper part of the observation tower to change an air filter for a University of New Hampshire air quality study he's helping to conduct.

In the afternoon, Metcalf has some time to work on his own projects. Part of his internship involves making several documentary-style videos about the observatory, so he spends a lot of time running around, camcorder in hand. Between observations, he edits video, crunches data and leads educational tours through the observatory. After 16 hours of nonstop activity comes bedtime, but the low oxygen levels make sleep fitful. To keep up this hard-driving schedule, the observatory crew breaks into two shifts, which rotate on and off duty each Wednesday.

That's the routine. Then there's the unexpected.

RESPECTING THE MOUNTAIN

In mid-April, a Nor'easter rolled across much of the northern U.S. and slammed into Mt. Washington. The wind hit 156 miles per hour, equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane, and the storm dumped two feet of snow on the mountain. A glaze of ice built up on everything at a rate of 5 to 6 inches

an hour. The combination of ice, snow and wind smashed instruments, snapped steel anchoring cables and blocked the observatory's entrance with a 7-foot snow drift. It took more than three days for the crew to restore basic functionalities.

Even in less extreme circumstances, the crew stays on its guard. "We respect the mountain, and we never take it for granted," Metcalf says. "It can be quite deadly." The slopes of Mt. Washington have claimed 150 people in the last century – comparable to the number of climbers who have died on Mt. Everest in the same timeframe.

The high winds are one factor. At 50 miles an hour, which is pretty low for the summit, you have to lean into the wind to walk, Metcalf explains. At 75 miles an hour, Metcalf has to brace himself just to stand. Movement requires leaning into the wind at a 45-degree angle and carefully executing each step. At 100 miles an hour, just standing up becomes nearly impossible.

Extreme temperatures are another danger. Wind chills of minus 80 F are not uncommon, and frostbite can set in quickly. In January, Metcalf suffered severe frostbite near his left eye after accidentally leaving a gap between his goggles and face mask. He was outside for 10 minutes.

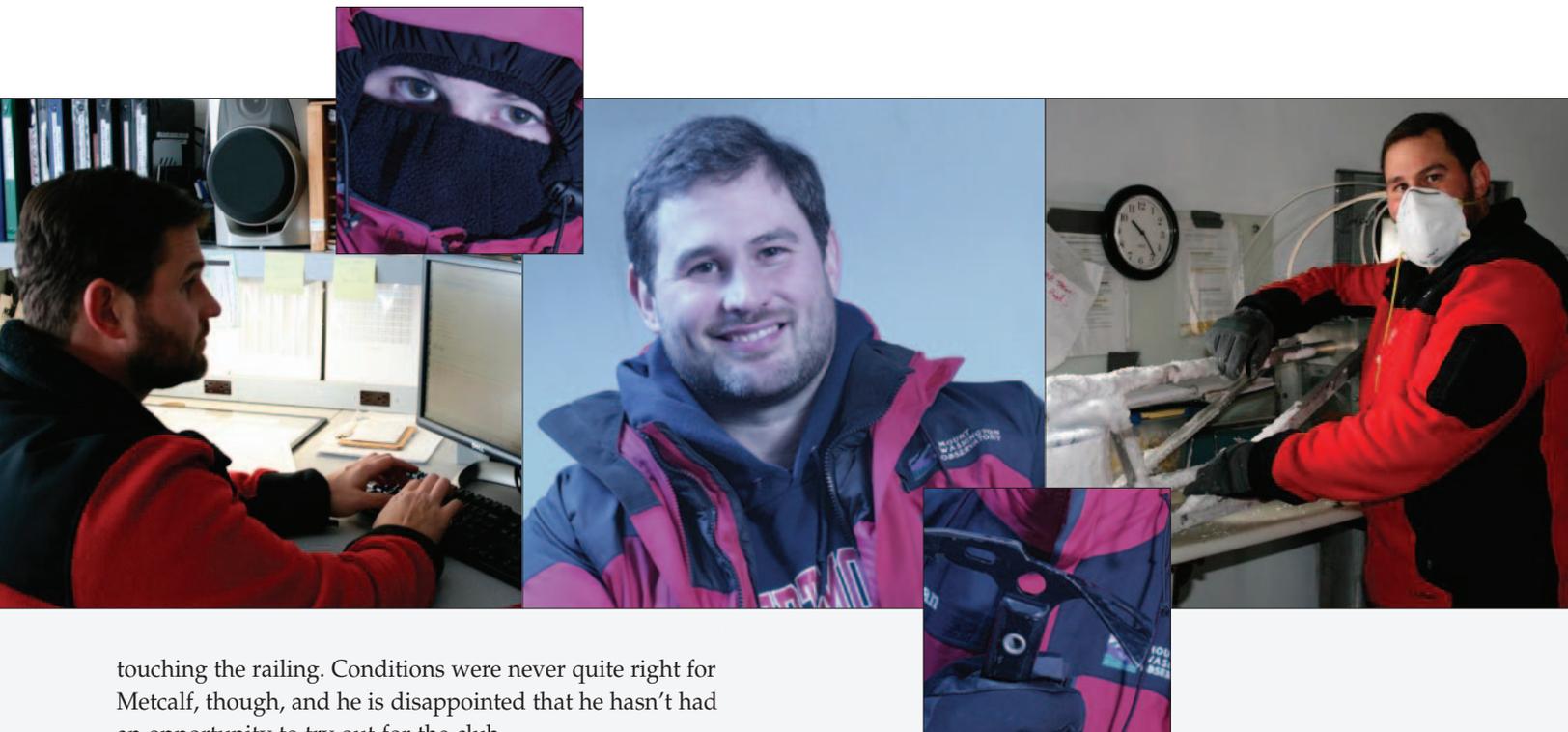
Falling ice is also a concern. Once Metcalf was making some cloud observations when he felt a shearing pain in his shoulder. A block of ice had narrowly missed his head.

THRILLS AND BEAUTY

Despite the dangers, Metcalf has embraced life on the mountain. During breaks in the weather, he grabs his video camera hoping to catch a fiery sunset or rare cloud formation. The stars are brighter and more numerous from the peak, and on a clear day, he can see the Atlantic Ocean. The beauty and solitude is refreshing, he says.

There isn't much to do at the observatory besides work, so the crew has several stunts and games they'll attempt, conditions permitting. One is the "Superman," where a crew member holds on to a stationary object and allows the wind to lift his or her body to a horizontal position. There's cardboard box sailing, where they hop into cardboard boxes while the wind pushes them across the ice-covered observation deck. But the feat every visitor to Mt. Washington aspires to is joining the Century Club.

The Century Club is an elite group of 15 or so who have managed to walk the perimeter of the observation deck in sustained 100-mile-an-hour winds without falling down or



touching the railing. Conditions were never quite right for Metcalf, though, and he is disappointed that he hasn't had an opportunity to try out for the club.

He did, however, get to experience another traditional observatory thrill: sledding on the auto road. The observatory is served by one private road that runs more than eight miles from the mountain's base to the summit. When conditions are right, observers and interns coming off shift grab sleds, skis or cafeteria trays and hurl themselves down the slope. On one mid-March descent, Metcalf and a fellow observer slid down the mountain headfirst on plastic sleds, reaching estimated speeds of 15 to 30 miles an hour. The 35-minute ride left him bruised and aching – but exhilarated.

REDISCOVERED PASSION

Through his experience at the observatory, Metcalf has realized how well his RMU education prepared him for life in the field. Robert Morris University was the second attempt at a bachelor's degree for Metcalf, who's now 32. He attended college in Philadelphia in the mid-1990s, stopping just over a year shy of graduation. In between, he worked as a personal fitness trainer and lacrosse coach.

After 10 years in the gym, Metcalf felt burned out and started looking to make a career change. He was familiar with RMU, but he was surprised to learn that the University offered an environmental science major.

The strength of RMU's environmental science program is in its breadth, Metcalf says. Graduate school is now almost a requirement in most fields, so RMU's program exposes students to a broad range of topics within environmental science. "It helped me determine where I wanted to focus my attention," he says.

He also appreciated the chance to work one-on-one with his professors. The curriculum includes several one-credit field methods courses, which get students into the outdoors working side-by-side with faculty members.

Another benefit, Metcalf found, was RMU's emphasis on communications. "The people here know how to communicate in a business environment," he says. "That's useful for someone in science, because you're either working with business people or they're overseeing what you're doing."

BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN

Metcalf's internship is winding down, and he's turning his attention to life after the observatory. He and Shelley plan to move to New England, where he hopes to land a teaching position. "Science is the passion, but teaching has become an incredible drive for me," says Metcalf, who supplemented his RMU degree with an education minor. He's also considering graduate study for climatology or geochemistry.

But his memories of the mountain won't easily be eclipsed. "There are things up here I will never see anywhere else ever again," Metcalf says. "I'm amazed by what is possible in the natural world. You can look at pictures of Mars and see some incredible things, but you don't have to look into space to see some stuff that just drops your jaw. It's right here."

WRITTEN BY JOSH EARL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON COTTON (MOUNT WASHINGTON OBSERVATORY) AND KEVIN COOKE | ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY ALAN METCALF '06



Mixed Messages

Grocery stores are kid traps. Bright colors draw their attention to the sugary snacks – which coincidentally are located at just their eye level. In the cereal aisle, the begging and pleading reaches new heights. As if the sugar isn't enough, there's SpongeBob and Shrek 3 "Knight Lights" to contend with. It's easy to give in. At least Fruity Pebbles have some fruit in them – don't they?

Actually, there's no fruit in Fruity Pebbles, despite the name. Packaging like this can mislead parents to believe they're making healthy choices, according to **Jill Maher, Ph.D.**, associate professor of marketing at Robert Morris University. Food companies need to balance their sales pitches with a healthy serving of social responsibility, she says.

Food and beverage ads account for nearly one in four commercials aired during popular children's shows, mostly promoting sugary cereals, high-calorie snacks and fatty fast foods. At the same time, obesity among children has reached epidemic levels: The percentage of obese 2- to 5-year-olds has nearly doubled in the past 20 years, and the number of obese 6- to 11-year-olds has tripled.

As childhood obesity grabbed headlines, it attracted Maher's attention. "I have two of my own children, two little boys, and I'm trying to constantly watch what they eat," she says. Luke is 9, and Owen is 3. "You are more passionate about your research if it's something you can relate to."

MaHer has completed two studies in the area of children and food marketing, and she's finishing up another. Her first study, published last year in the *Journal of Marketing Management*, examined parents' attitudes toward different types of foods and how those attitudes affect what they buy for their children. Through surveys and interviews, the study found that parents wanted a healthy, balanced diet for their children, but they received a lot of misinformation, which led to unhealthy food choices.

"We have some false nutritional 'knowledge,'" Maher says. "It comes from brand naming and brand packaging. If there's fruit on the package, then we think there's fruit in it. My son plays soccer, and the parents take turns bringing fruit for a half-time snack. There are parents who bring fruit ... roll-ups."

MaHer got the idea for her second study, published last year in the journal *Young Consumers*, from watching Saturday morning cartoons on Nickelodeon with her sons. The food commercials, she noticed, didn't mention nutrition.

So she and her co-researchers analyzed a week's worth of food commercials from the top-rated shows on Nickelodeon, noting whether each ad used a nutrition-based appeal or a consumer-based appeal – a free toy in a box of cereal, for example. The team then compared the results to a similar snapshot from 2000.

MaHer and her colleagues expected to see a major difference in food companies' advertising approach. They found none. The types of foods didn't change – mainly high-sugar, high-fat snacks and heavily sweetened cereals. And the percentage of commercials using nutritional appeals actually fell, from 20 percent to 15 percent.

"When I first did the study, I was mad," Maher says. "I thought, 'I can't believe we haven't recognized this.' But a good marketing strategy attracts a target audience. Why aren't they talking about nutrition? They're not talking about nutrition because it doesn't attract a kid."

MaHer's latest project, which is ongoing, grew out of the TV research. She realized the next step was talking to kids to see firsthand how the advertising was influencing them.

She has narrowed her focus down to products that show some type of fruit on the packaging or use fruit in the product's name. Her list includes products with no fruit content, such as Trix Yogurt and Berry Berry Kix, and some that include real fruit, such as Apple Jacks and Pop-Tarts.

MaHer is surveying 200 first- and fourth-graders to determine how packaging affects their perceptions of the foods. Each student is shown a picture of a product and asked how much fruit it contains. Parents will complete a similar survey.

MaHer expects to find that children and parents have inaccurate perceptions of these products, and that a major source of the misinformation is the product packaging.

Her goal is to make marketers aware of the consequences of their choices: "If we're going to call a product Berry Berry Kix, the makers of that product need to understand that they've taught kids that that product has fruit in it," she says.

While marketers have been receptive to her message, MaHer expects that government regulation will ultimately be needed to change the way food is marketed to kids. In the meantime, she's doing her part by stoking the social awareness of the students in her marketing classes.

"Students are future marketers," she says. "To send them out there with a view that they're out to sell, sell, sell – in my opinion, that's not the right message."



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



journey to The Big Dance

Turn back the clock four years. The Robert Morris University women's basketball team, coming off a season in which it finished just 1-26 and owning a total of seven victories in its previous three years, looked like a program in disarray.

Enter **Sal Buscaglia**. A veteran head coach with more than 20 years of experience and a history of turning around downtrodden programs, he promised he would take the Colonials to the top of Northeast Conference.

Four years later, his promise became reality. The team earned its school-record 24th victory in a 68-66 win over Sacred Heart in the 2007 Northeast Conference Tournament championship game. With that win, RMU claimed its third NEC Tournament title, plus its first bid to "The Big Dance" – the NCAA Tournament.

"For these young ladies to make it to the NCAA Tournament is extra special because of where this program has come from," Buscaglia said at the postgame press conference after the victory over Sacred Heart. "This program had experienced 14 losing seasons."

Yet only one of those losing seasons came under Buscaglia's watch. After enduring a 3-24 record in his first season on the sidelines at Robert Morris, Buscaglia and his assistants, including top recruiter (and son) Charlie Buscaglia, hit the recruiting trail.

The first piece of the puzzle came in the form of forward **Sugeiry Monsac**. Named the 2005 NEC Player of the Year, Monsac helped guide the Colonials to the NEC Tournament championship game that year, where the team fell to eventual champion Saint Francis (Pa.).

After battling injuries in 2005-06, Monsac was joined by junior guard **Chinata Nesbit** in 2006-07. Together they became one of the most dominating one-two punches in the history of the NEC. Nesbit instantly brought offense and defense to Robert Morris; she paced the Colonials in scoring (19.2 ppg), rebounding (10.3 rpg) and blocks (34). Monsac, meanwhile, averaged 16.2 points and 9.6 rebounds in her final collegiate season while posting a team-high 90 steals.

The Colonials also got key contributions from senior guards **Psyche Butler, Jenna Burkett, Princess Asia Alston** and **Natasha Summerville** throughout the course of the 2006-07 campaign that helped etch the club into the record book as, arguably, the best women's basketball team in the program's 31-year history. Nesbit finished with 28 points and seven rebounds against Sacred Heart in the 2007 NEC Tournament championship game, while Monsac added 21 points and 12 rebounds.

"As coaches, we can put the ball in the player's hands and maybe draw up some plays to put them in position to score, but honestly, it always comes down to the players," Buscaglia said. "Championship players make championship plays, and Nesbit and Monsac just put us on their back and carried us home."

Players may win championships, but it's the coaches that recruit those players and put them into a position to win. Buscaglia has done just that.

"There aren't many times in life you get to be part of a 'first time' in history," Buscaglia said. "I saved a spot outside the women's basketball office for a photo of this team. When people walk by, they will always see this team and know what it accomplished."



**“Coaching is what I’m about,
and it’s what I was raised to do”**

raised to Coach

Mike Rice Named Men’s Basketball Head Coach

Robert Morris University ushered in a new era of men’s basketball on April 26, 2007, as **Mike Rice** was named the seventh head coach in the 31-year history of the program. Rice, a native of Pittsburgh, has appeared in the NCAA or NIT Tournament seven times as an assistant coach. He replaces Mark Schmidt, who resigned to accept a similar position at St. Bonaventure.

“We are extremely pleased and excited to welcome Mike and his family to Robert Morris University,” said RMU Director of Athletics **Craig Coleman, M.D.** “His pedigree as an assistant coach throughout his career makes him a natural fit for our men’s basketball program.”

Rice brings a vast background in collegiate coaching, having served as an assistant coach at alma mater Fordham (1991-94), Marquette (1994-97), Niagara (1997-98), Chicago State (1998-2001), Saint Joseph’s (2004-06) and Pittsburgh (2006-07).

At Pitt this past season, Rice served as head coach Jamie Dixon’s top assistant, helping lead the Panthers to a 29-8 record, a second-place finish in the Big East regular season, the finals of the Big East Tournament and the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. As the program’s top recruiter, Rice was instrumental in attracting a recruiting class for 2007-08 ranked 16th by Scout Inc. and 12th by HoopScoop.

“I am extremely excited about the opportunity to become the head coach at a fine institution like Robert Morris University,” Rice said. “The foundation for a winning program has been set in previous years, and I look forward to rallying the alumni, faculty, staff, student body and the surrounding community and region to continue to make the men’s basketball program at Robert Morris something they can be proud of.”

Prior to the Panthers, Rice spent 2004-06 with head coach Phil Martelli at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, where he helped guide the Hawks to a combined record of 43-26 and a pair of NIT bids.

As an assistant coach at Marquette, Rice was instrumental in helping lead the Golden Eagles to consecutive NCAA

Tournament appearances in 1996 and 1997. In addition, Marquette claimed the 1997 Conference USA Tournament championship and finished as the NIT runner-up in 1995. His lone season at Niagara in 1997-98 saw the Purple Eagles finish third in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

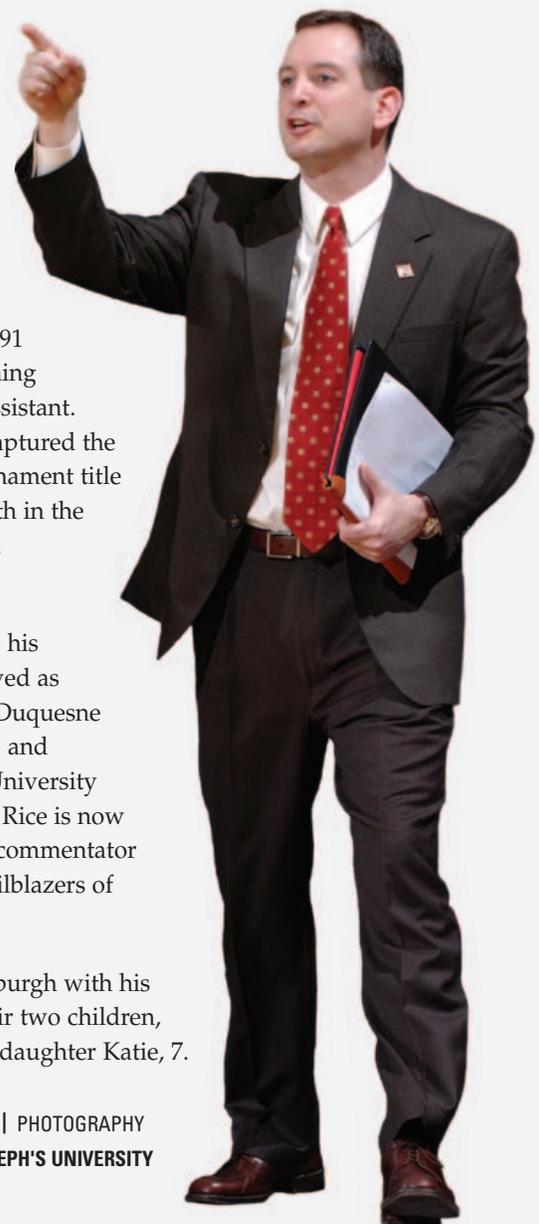
A 1991 graduate of Fordham, Rice was a three-year starter for the Rams at guard and captain of the 1990-91 squad that went 25-8 and earned an appearance in the NIT.

Rice earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Fordham in 1991 and began his coaching career there as an assistant. In 1992, the Rams captured the Patriot League tournament title and subsequent berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Rice was raised in a basketball family, as his father, Mike Sr., served as head coach at both Duquesne University (1979-82) and Youngstown State University (1982-87). The elder Rice is now the television color commentator for the Portland Trailblazers of the NBA.

Rice resides in Pittsburgh with his wife, Kerry, and their two children, son Michael, 9, and daughter Katie, 7.

WRITTEN BY **JIM DUZYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY **SAINT JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION**



ADVANCEMENT

PAYING **it** FORWARD

When **Darryn Cleary '89** was a freshman, scholarships for RMU students weren't that common, and most were funded by companies rather than individuals. Cleary, who received one of those scholarships, considered himself one of the fortunate few.

"The fact I had received a scholarship meant a great deal to me because it helped to offset some of the cost of my education, and I was always grateful that opportunity was available to me," he told a group of about 85 students, alumni and donors at the ninth annual Scholarship Luncheon in April.

Years later, Cleary felt compelled to return the favor.

"When my uncle [**Norbert Pietrzak**] was getting ready to retire in 1999, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to establish a scholarship in his name – as a tribute to him, and to honor the years of service and dedication that he gave to the school and to our fraternity [Alpha Chi Rho]," Cleary said. Pietrzak was a professor of quantitative and natural sciences at RMU.

He set a goal of raising \$10,000, the minimum needed to establish an endowed scholarship, and started asking fellow fraternity members, alumni, family, faculty and staff to contribute. "I figured that I only needed 40 people to pledge \$250 total over a five-year period, which was only \$50 a year – or about \$1 a week." The mini-campaign took off, and before long the Norbert Pietrzak Endowed Scholarship had exceeded its goal.

The Scholarship Luncheon is held annually to recognize scholarship donors such as Cleary and give them an opportunity to meet the students they are helping.

The luncheon's attendees heard from several students who have benefited from scholarships, including **Jessica Thompson**, a senior human resource management major and the recipient of the Dr. William H. Heckel Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

"One of the main reasons I was actually able to attend Robert Morris was because of generous people like you who believe in the students we have here," she said.

"I strongly encourage all of the students here today to establish a scholarship at RMU of your own," Cleary said. "If everyone here who has received a scholarship starts one of their own, and then challenges future recipients to do the same, five to 10 years from now we'll be having this event on the floor of the Sewall Center Arena because there will be so many people involved."

For information on creating a scholarship or donating to an existing one, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at **412-262-8481**.



A LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

I'd like to start out by saying that we owe a debt of gratitude to both Tom Hunley and Mike Jamison, whose leadership and guidance have taken the Alumni Association to its present form. Their work will allow us to move forward and involve more alums in committees than in any previous administration. We are thankful that they will both stay involved.

It is my honor to serve as your alumni association president, alongside Scott Kovaloski, our vice president, who after moving away from the Pittsburgh area some 20 years ago has brought his family back and decided to reconnect with his alma mater.

Change is imminent. We have a new alumni director and new alumni officers. But as change occurs, many things will remain the same.

Robert Morris University is still growing, still graduating world-class students and still Pittsburgh's best-kept secret. Our ties and bond with RMU still keep our memories and associations alive.

This year, do yourself a favor and reconnect. Whether it's calling an old college chum or sorority sister; seeing Joe Walton pace the sidelines on a chilly fall afternoon; walking the trail and wondering how the Kaufmanns drove their cars up that path; standing on the site of the old barn and remembering your favorite meeting place; or playing a round of golf at Black Hawk with the Colonial Athletic Club, reconnecting brings it all back.

We can help you reconnect. Just ask! The Alumni Relations Office wants to hear from you!

We genuinely want to help you with whatever you might need to reconnect: how to get a phone number for a classmate, how to get people together for homecoming, how to get tickets to see the men's ice hockey team play Ohio State at Mellon Arena, how to use facilities on campus, how to get a guided tour of campus, or how to find out who's speaking at the Pittsburgh Speakers Series.

You can contact the Alumni Relations Office at **412-262-8481** or **rmualum@rmu.edu**. We're here to help, and we'd love to see you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Vitale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

JAMES A. VITALE '81

CLASS NOTES

70s

THOMAS RYAN '75 M'87, a Pittsburgh accountant with Horovitz, Rudoy & Roteman, has joined the board of visitors for RMU's School of Adult and Continuing Education. Thomas is the partner responsible for nonprofit assurance services at his firm.

JAMES BAKER '78, chief financial officer and vice president of business services at VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, received the National Veterans Health Administration Distinguished Financial Management Award. The award recognizes those whose contributions have supported the National Veterans Health Administration's goals and objectives. James and his wife, Carole, and their children reside in Hampton Township, Pa.

80s

SUSAN M. KAPUSTA '81 recently earned a Ph.D. from Duquesne University with a concentration in corporate communication. She works for United States Steel Corp. as the general manager of community affairs and United States Steel Foundation. Susan also was named a 2007 committee member for the United Way's Women's Leadership Initiative, and she will be working with other leaders in Allegheny County to make a positive impact on community needs. She holds an M.A. in corporate communication from Duquesne University and is a member of the Kappa Tau Alpha National

Honor Society. Susan has taught for RMU as a part-time faculty member. She and her husband, Dr. Rick Kapusta, reside in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

KEVIN PRYKULL M'82 recently earned the Certified Lease Professional (CLP) designation offered through the CLP Foundation. Kevin is a senior vice president and credit executive for PNC Equipment Finance in Pittsburgh. He also serves as a part-time faculty member in finance at RMU and Duquesne University. Kevin resides in Peters Township, Pa., with his wife, Karen, and their three children.

90s

BILL LEVY '94 is the assistant general manager of Macon Music Baseball. Bill has been working in minor league baseball for 13 years. He previously worked with the Wilmington Blue Rocks and Lancaster Jet Hawks. He resides in Macon, Ga.

VINCE CARNEVALE '95 married Erin Harley on Aug. 19, 2006. Vince graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and is an attorney for Arete Legal in Carnegie, Pa. Erin is a special education teacher for the Freedom Area School District. The couple lives in Monaca, Pa.

JOHN BILYAK '96 is the director of industrial brokerage with NAI Pittsburgh Commercial. John has more than 20 years of commercial real estate experience and business experience. Prior to joining NAI Pittsburgh



RMU COLONIAL GOLF CLASSIC

Join fellow alumni and University representatives for a relaxing day of golf on **OCT. 8, 2007**, at the Allegheny Country Club in Sewickley, Pa. The cost of the outing is \$400 per golfer, and all proceeds benefit RMU's student-athletes.

Golfers can participate in a silent auction and prize giveaway. Tee and green sponsorships are available for \$150.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at rmualum@rmu.edu or **412-262-8481**.

Commercial, he was vice president of industrial brokerage for Grubb & Ellis Company.

LORI CARNALE '96 was hired by Robert Morris University as a benefits administrator. Lori is a certified employee benefits specialist and a member of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. She and her husband, Edward, and their two sons, Kevin and Korey, reside in Moon Township, Pa.

GIA CRISTINA DEDOMINICIS '97 married Charles Hrelec III on Sept. 16, 2006. Gia is the assistant service coordinator for the Watson Institute in Sewickley, Pa.. Charles is employed by BASF Chemical Corp. in Potter Township, Pa. The couple resides in Center, Pa.

SHANNON TELENKO '98 and Steven Hathaway became the parents of twins, Willem Ronald and Fiona Jocelyn. The family resides in Bellefonte, Pa.

STEVE RYDZAK '99 recently joined Fiduciary 360 as director of global sales and marketing. Steve is responsible for sales and marketing products and services for the company's three divisions.

00s

NIKKI FRANCISCUS '00 and her husband, John, became the parents of Connor Benjamin on Sept. 14, 2006. Nikki is a financial consultant with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. The family lives in Hagerstown, Md.



Things sure have changed since 1973. We're sure you have, too.

Why don't you tell us about it? *Foundations* is looking for class news from all RMU alumni. Promotions, weddings, babies, get-togethers with other alumni, retirements – don't be shy. We want to hear it all. (And we want to see the pictures, too.)

You can send your news to rmualum@rmu.edu, enter it at www.rmu.edu/classnotes or cut out the alumni news form below and mail it to us!

ALUMNI NEWS

NAME _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

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 or fax 412-262-8642.

CLASS NOTES

TIFFANY BECKWITH M'01 is a capital campaign assistant at Sewickley Academy.

FRANCES DINELLO '01 married William Valasek on Oct. 14, 2006. Frances is a business manager for Lincoln Property Co. William is a senior internal auditor for AAR Corp. The couple resides in Lockport, Ill.

JENNIFER HARKLEROAD '01 is a senior tax consultant with Alpern Rosenthal in Pittsburgh. Jennifer and her daughter, Cassandra Lyn, reside in McDonald, Pa.

JENNIFER HOGUE M'02 married Eric Lisek on Oct. 6, 2006. Jennifer is an office manager for Dippin' Dots and works at the front desk at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Eric is a bartender at Orlando International Airport. The couple lives in Orlando.

JOHN LOCKE '03 M'06 is engaged to **EMILY KOSLOFF '04**. The couple is planning a wedding for Sept. 22, 2007.

JAYSON COUNCIL M'04 is the director of college relations and student services with the New Jersey Advocates for Education. The organization provides college scholarships to high-achieving urban students from the greater Newark area. Jayson resides in Montclair, N.J.

LINDSEY HYSER '04 married **JADE BRIGGS '04** in September 2006.

RYAN SHEEDY '04 is the assistant director of development at The Pennsylvania State University. Ryan lives in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

STEFINIE KELLEY M'05 and her husband, Johnathan, became the parents of Alexis Lyn on Aug. 28, 2006. Stefinie is the supply chain pricing analyst for national accounts with WESCO Distribution Inc. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

JENNIFER SNYDER '05 was engaged to Eddie Miller on Nov. 12, 2006. Jennifer is the assistant manager and program director at Hagerstown Ice & Sports Complex in Hagerstown, Md. The couple is planning a June 2008 wedding in Pittsburgh. Jennifer and Eddie live in Martinsburg, W.Va.

RAY BUTTER '05 and his wife, Beth, became the parents of Logan Martin on Oct. 22, 2006. Ray is the head athletic equipment manager at RMU. The family resides in Aliquippa, Pa.

DENISE WELSH '06 married Matthew Rudolph on Feb. 3, 2007, in Niagara Falls, Canada. The couple lives in Washington, Pa.

DARIN DINAPOLI '06, along with current RMU students Brad Grimm and David Toole, won first place in the 28th annual College Television Awards, a major Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation competition that recognizes excellence in college student film and video productions. Their music video for the song *Archetype* by local band Identity X competed against 80 other entries in the music video category and was the only

winning entry from Pennsylvania. The black-tie awards ceremony was held in Culver City, Calif., on March 31, 2007. (see story p. 8)

ALAN METCALF '06 is completing an internship at the Mt. Washington Observatory, known as "home of the world's worst weather." Alan and his wife, Shelley, reside in Bellevue, Pa. (see story p. 16)

Deaths

JAMES COPE '76 of Economy, Pa., died on Feb. 28, 2007.

ALFRED OLSON JR. '82 of Monroeville, Pa., died on Dec. 29, 2006.

MICHAEL WALLACE M'87 died on Jan. 18, 2007. He was a

student in RMU's doctoral program in information systems and communications as well as vice president of The Lieberman Companies and operating principal of two Keller Williams Realty franchises.

MICHAEL DANKO, retired RMU accounting professor, died on Feb. 22, 2007, at the age of 84. Michael served as school board director for the Aliquippa (Pa.) School District for 22 years. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

Includes news submitted between Dec. 1, 2006, and April 20, 2007. Submit news by July 20, 2007, for publication in the fall issue.



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Gifts to the University Fund help Robert Morris University to provide student scholarships, enhance campus facilities and enrich the living-learning environment.

Make a difference today with a gift to the University Fund. Give online at www.rmu.edu/universityfund or call 412-262-8471.



Upcoming Events



RMU ALUMNI NETWORKING AND HAPPY HOURS

Throughout the summer months, we are planning several networking and happy hour events for our alumni. Stay tuned for specific details.

> SEPTEMBER 07

8 RMU Football at Duquesne and Alumni Tailgate, 1 p.m.



RMU NIGHT AT PNC PARK, Pittsburgh Pirates vs.

Chicago Cubs (Roberto Clemente Bobblehead Night), 7:05 p.m.

19 Women of RMU Luncheon, Omni William Penn Hotel

26 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Aron Ralston, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

> OCTOBER 07

6 **HOMECOMING 2007** RMU Football vs. Wagner, 1 p.m., Joe Walton Stadium

8 RMU Colonial Golf Classic, Allegheny Country Club

TBA Speaking of Business Luncheon, Duquesne Club

> NOVEMBER 07

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

28 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Christiane Amanpour, 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.



OCTOBER 6, 2007

You'll want to be part of Homecoming, so be sure to mark your calendar today!
More information will be sent to alumni later this summer.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations
at **412-262-8481** or rmualum@rmu.edu.

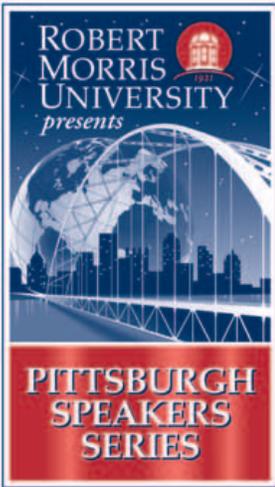
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Sept. 26, 2007

ARON RALSTON

*MOUNTAINEER,
AUTHOR &
SURVIVALIST*

A routine hike turned nearly fatal when he was trapped under an 800 lb. boulder 100 feet down in a narrow Utah "slip" Canyon. He spent 6 days trying to free himself before doing the unthinkable... and lived to tell the story!



Nov. 14, 2007

GEORGE WILL

*PULITZER PRIZE
WINNING
POLITICAL COLUMNIST*

For more than three decades he has been an award winning columnist, author and political commentator. His nationally syndicated *Washington Post* column earned him a Pulitzer Prize. His political analysis has been a staple on ABC's *This Week*.



Nov. 28, 2007

CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR

*CNN'S CHIEF
INTERNATIONAL
CORRESPONDENT*

Since joining CNN in '83, she has risen to chief international correspondent. She has covered every major story from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, Somalia... and interviewed most of the world's leaders in those countries.



Jan. 16, 2008

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

*FORMER
SECRETARY
OF STATE*

She was the highest ranking woman to serve the U.S. government, and is an expert on the U.N., global diplomacy, NATO, and foreign relations. Her autobiography *Madam Secretary: A Memoir*, was followed by *The Mighty* and *the Almighty* published in May 2006.



Feb. 27, 2008

SALMAN RUSHDIE

*WORLD RENOWNED
AUTHOR OF
THE SATANIC VERSES*

The prolific and award winning author of many books including *The Satanic Verses* which rocked the Muslim world resulting in a fatwa (death sentence) being issued against him. His most recent award winning work is *Shalimar the Clown*.



Mar. 26, 2008

FRANK MCCOURT

*PULITZER PRIZE
WINNING AUTHOR OF
ANGELA'S ASHES, 'TIS,
AND TEACHER MAN*

A literary phenomenon, his bestseller *Angela's Ashes*, earned him the Pulitzer Prize. The sequel, *'Tis*, was also a *NY Times* bestseller. He is a dynamic storyteller and his most recent book, *Teacher Man*, was published in 2005.



Apr. 16, 2008

THE CAPITOL STEPS

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TROUPE*

This troupe of hilarious political satirists has 62+ years experience on Capitol Hill in 18 congressional offices. They have produced 26 comedy albums, including the latest, *I'm So Indicted*. They've been featured on NBC, CBS, ABC and on NPR's *Politics Takes A Holiday*.

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