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ROCKY NOW

Keeping our friends and supporters informed about what's new and exciting at Rocky Mountain College

FROM MAINE TO MONTANA

ALL ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



Caitrin Smith came 2,000 miles to discover Rocky Mountain College afforded her the best opportunity for a wide-ranging educational experience.

Sometimes you have to think inside the box.

That's what Caitrin Smith did to better appreciate how difficult life can be for the poor and homeless. Caitrin joined the annual "Cardboard City" on the campus of Rocky Mountain College.

No one participating in this event thinks they're experiencing anything nearly as lonely, dangerous, and cold as the real homeless do. But it does help raise awareness. And, with sponsor support, it also raises funds for Interfaith Hospitality Network. Last year, thanks to \$40,000 raised from the event, 73% of IHN families moved into their own homes.

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BTBJ: GAME ON. ROCK ON!

ALL ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Midlife Chryslers will return to entertain at the 24th annual Black Tie Blue Jeans Scholarship Benefit, Friday, Nov. 4, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center.

"We're really happy, after a year's absence, to get them back," said Vicki Davison, Rocky Mountain College director of advancement. "They always make the crowd happy with the wide range of songs they play."

The theme this year is "Rock On!" which focuses on the progressive attitude of the College to accept new challenges and forge a bright future for its students, Davison said.

The annual benefit promises to be another great fund raising event for student scholarships, according to BTBJ Chairs Mike and Sherril Burke.

"We had fantastic volunteers helping put together a great event, and we have a wonderful lineup of items for both the silent and live auctions," Sherril said.

Top it off with cocktails, a gourmet dinner, dancing, and visiting with friends makes a recipe for a fun evening and a good cause, Vicki added.

John and Darla Jones, a couple with a record of longstanding service to and



John and Darla Jones are this year's BTBJ Honorary Chairs.

support for the College and the community at large, have been named this year's Honorary Chairs.

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BECAUSE OF YOU, OUR STUDENTS TODAY.

INSIDER

BY MICHAEL R. MACE - *President*

"Is the college alive? For answer watch the workmen busily laying the foundation of the new gymnasium. See the bands of students hurry across the campus or hear them give the old college yell, 'U-rah-rah, Montana!'" in The Billings Polytechnic Institute Collegian, 1913.

As one of my predecessors, Dr. Lawrence F. Small, wrote in his history, "Courageous Journey, The Road to Rocky Mountain College," the brave words in college publications from the 1913-era reflected the optimism of the homesteaders. Then, as now, one of the chief occupations of a college president was, and is, finding financial resources. In their time, brothers Lewis and Ernest Eaton went coast-to-coast to find people willing to establish a college on the verge of the frontier. Railroad giant James P. Hill "dangled a \$50,000 challenge gift," Small noted in his history, if the Eatons could find \$150,000. However, little actual support materialized and, as the 20th century neared its second decade, the college aspiration wilted as did drought-struck homesteads. The Great Depression shook the entire world.

Well, I know the disheartening prospects for raising revenues during a time of eco-

nomie strife. Few doubt the need for funds to educate our youth; many find it difficult to fulfill that need from depleted personal finances. Students know, now more than ever, a college education is needed to succeed in life, and now more than ever, they and their families are less able to afford it.

Still, while it's unlikely I'll hear an old college yell of "U-rah-rah," I hear words of great optimism and encouragement. My administrators report our retention rate has significantly increased, from 56 percent five years ago, to 70 percent today, a clear reflection of how scholarship-aided education makes it possible for students to finish what they started at Rocky Mountain College. I am told that 99 percent of our graduates find work or acceptance to graduate school within the first six months after graduation. New studies, released by the Council of Independent



RMC students: Because of you, our hope for tomorrow.

Colleges, indicate that a private college education still surpasses its public equivalent.

Because of so many of you, there are successful students at RMC. Your gifts enable them to continue their studies here.

Why is that so important? I believe it's important because we see the results today – in our struggling economy and our society – of failed leadership. The rarity of political guidance is dismaying, as it mires our country in fault-finding rather than fact-finding that could lead to solutions. We expect intelligent discourse and common sense resolution. It does exist, if we know where to look. It exists here, where our students learn a central, core lesson: what matters most is the will to not quit.

We are building our greatest strength here, not on Wall Street, nor in D.C. It is the strength of human capital. It is a renewable, sustainable resource powered by imagination and intelligence.

That's what we create at Rocky Mountain College that gives me so much hope and optimism. It is why I am so grateful for the financial support you've provided.

Because of you, our students today. Because of you, our hope for tomorrow.



BTBJ: GAME ON. ROCK ON!

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"Having Darla and John as Honorary Chairs is in keeping with our tradition of celebrating friends who have been longstanding supporters of our students," Vicki said.

Darla, who is a marketing executive with St. Vincent Healthcare, is a past Chair of BTBJ, and served many years on the BTBJ Committee. This year, she is organizing the silent auction for BTBJ. She has also been active in other community service projects, serving on the Saints Benefit for Saint Vincent Healthcare, chairing the decorations committee and various other committees; Chair Evening Eagle Fest Event

for Eagle Mount, 1994-1997; Team Captain Relay for Life, American Cancer Society, 2004-2006; Chair Bear Bash, graduation party for Billings West High School, 2006; Interfaith Hospitality Network committee; Western Heritage Center advisory committee; and Dress for Success – Sweet Success committee.

John is an attorney with Moulton Bellingham, PC, one of Montana's oldest law firms, and has been a member of the RMC Board of Trustees since 1996. He is Director, Wells Fargo Bank of Billings; Montana Community Board of Direc-

tors, 2003-Present; current Board Chair, The Charles M. Bair Family Trust Board of Advisors, 2008-Present; President, Montana Captive Insurance Association, 2004-present; President-elect, Self-Insurance Institute of America, 2008-present.

To learn more about BTBJ and to see auction items, visit rocky.edu/giving/development-events/btbj.

For tickets or more information, contact Vicki Davison, (406) 657-1005 / Vicki.davison@rocky.edu.

ALL IN THE FAMILY: A LEGACY AT RMC

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Rocky Mountain College can be a hard place to leave. Be it the tight-knit student body, or the faculty members who become more friends than professors, many students return to this enchanting place.

Sometimes, it's literally a family connection. Such is the case for Heather Heggem. Heather has a lot of history, a lot of memories, and a lot of family ties at RMC.

As students return, professors and coaches will recognize Heather's familiar face amongst them -- this time as faculty. An RMC 2002 graduate, she is the new assistant professor of physician assistant studies.

"I'm delighted to be a part of the College's present and future, as well as its past," she said.

Heather received both her bachelor of science and her master of physician assistant studies degrees at RMC. She played basketball under Scott Severance, now associate professor of business administration and economics, and Brian Henderson, current RMC head women's basketball coach.

What other ties does Heather have with the school? This is where things start to get complicated. Both of Heather's two siblings -- Cory Heggem RMC '98, and Lance Heggem RMC '95 -- graduated from Rocky Mountain College, as did her



Heather Heggem

husband, Matt Prinkki, whose sister, Rita Prinkki, graduated in 2004. Matt is now a Skywest Airlines pilot after graduating from aviation studies at RMC. Cory majored in psychology, and then earned his master's degree in social work. Lance majored in biology, and now works on a farm and ranch, and is a teacher. All three siblings -- Heather, Cory, and Lance -- played basketball at RMC. Rita earned her degree at RMC in biology and now works as a physical therapist.

The RMC connections don't stop there. Heather's brother, Cory, married Julie

Kelso, who received a biology degree from RMC and now works as a psychiatrist at Billings Clinic. Julie's parents are Jim and Doris Kelso. Jim's brother, Bob Kelso, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame last year.

Heather's brother, Lance, married Emily Keppner, who played volleyball at RMC. (Heather is also a good friend of Emily's sister, Erica Keppner, who earned her biology degree at RMC and is now a physical therapist.)

"There is this core group of people and friends here that I am blessed to be a part of," she said.

The number one reason that Heather took her current position is because of Dr. Bob Wilmouth, RMC physician assistant studies program director and associate professor.

"I like the direction he is taking the PA program. It's high caliber because of Dr. Wilmouth," she said.

Taking the position was also about challenging herself. Working with students is much different than her previous experience working with patients; Heather accepts the challenge and welcomes the change.

Pursuing her career and meeting her husband, Matt Prinkki, are some of the best memories that Heather has, but she expects to add to them as she continues to call RMC home.

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Caitrin, after researching IHN, decided to get involved. She also convinced seven other RMC students to participate.

She was partly motivated by her own experience, she said.

Smith, from Kennebunkport, Maine, told the Billings Gazette she lost her job during the summer and "got a taste of what it might feel like to lose financial stability."

"That was really scary," she said. "You get written off and judged."

Making something better is at the core

of what Caitrin wants to accomplish with her life, which is why, only a few months after arriving at RMC, she was volunteering.

It fits with her sense of purpose. Coming to RMC was a decision she made only after careful study. Big life decisions often come down to lists: pro-con lists, must-haves, dealbreakers. Caitrin took to the internet, searching for the perfect school.

"One day at work the thought of Montana came into my head," she says. "I Googled colleges in Montana, saw pictures

of Billings with the mountains in the background, and discovered that RMC offered everything on my list."

Hoping to see that list play out in real life, Caitrin visited campus with her mother. Spending time on campus sealed the deal: RMC topped the list.

Studying environmental science, anthropology, and sociology will allow Caitrin to explore her love for nature and her place in the world.

RMC'S GLOBETROTTING JUDGE AND MENTOR

FOCUS ON FACULTY

Whether it's trotting around an arena or globetrotting around the world, Marilyn Randall's work with horses and students is inseparable. As one of the most respected judges and professors in the equine industry, teaching and traveling is as much a part of her life as mucking a stall.

The associate professor of equine studies at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont., earned judging accreditation in reining from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), and Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), along with four other associations.

Randall's office is not defined by a desk in a room with four walls. Instead, it is the freshly-grated dirt floor of an arena with some of the best Western, English, and reining horses of the U.S. and, sometimes, the world.

"Some days it's hard to keep track where all I've been," Randall says. That's understandable considering the locations she has traveled to judge equine competitions: sixteen countries in all, including Colombia, Israel, and Luxembourg.

Her classroom is also far from limited. Randall not only encourages her students to apply their skills outside of school, she goes one step further and takes them with her.

Most recently, Randall took student Meredith Burton to Queensland, Australia, to judge the 2011 Queensland All Breed Western Performance State Show, hosted by the Gunalda and Districts Western Performance Club (G&DWPC).

Burton, a junior at RMC majoring in equine business, journalism, instructing, and equitation and training, previously lived in Sydney, Australia.

"I jumped at the opportunity to go back to Australia, especially if that meant accompanying Marilyn to work with her," Burton says. "Watching and learning from Marilyn is unlike anything I have experienced."

Randall executes her job as a judge with



Meredith Burton had an exceptional study opportunity, accompanying an internationally-recognized judge and her equine professor, Marilyn Randall, to Australia this past summer.

precision, thanks to a trained eye from years of experience. Her goal is to place every class fairly, but she's not at all a push-over, in the pen or in life.

"Marilyn taught me not only how to be a knowledgeable horsewoman, but also how to present myself in a professional way," Holly Byers, an RMC graduate and former student of Randall, says. "I couldn't ask for a better teacher, mentor, or friend than the one and only 'Judge B.'"

Byers double majored in equine therapeutic riding and psychology. She currently works in Corpus Christi, Texas, at the Glenoak Therapeutic Riding Center.

"I grew up with Marilyn, but she never treated me differently from the other students," Byers says. "It never mattered how much you sucked up to her; it mattered how much respect and dedication you showed her. If you're serious about your career, she'll help get you even further."

Randall currently teaches the equine

judging and ground management classes as well as managing the equine internships, but has taught almost every class within the equine program at RMC since 1992.

More than that, though, is her interest and dedication to every willing student that may walk through her door, or for better words, into her barn.

"There are days in class when I keep asking question after question because I have one of the best judges in the world for an instructor," Burton says. "Why wouldn't I take advantage of that? That's the entire point of college. I honestly can't imagine being anywhere else; no other education would compare."

Despite all the chaos that comes with Randall's profession as a judge and professor, it doesn't bring her down for one second. Whether she's helping a student in the barn, or inviting a student to Europe to assist with judging, it's all in a day's work.

RMC PARTNERS WITH YAM

ART TRAILS

Art history, cultural and geographic influences, and artist intent all figure in what helps us appreciate art. Attendees at a two-day conference, "Art Trails: Ascent to the Rockies," a collaboration between Rocky Mountain College and the Yellowstone Art Museum, will hear how eight regional speakers view these artistic influences on their work.

"We're pleased to partner with the Yellowstone Art Museum for what promises to be an educational, entertaining, and enlightening conference," said RMC President Michael Mace.

Speakers at the conference on Friday, Nov. 11, and Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, will include Jim Baken, whose abstract impressionist and modernist motifs have been featured in many galleries and exhibits in the Northwest; Dan Flores, a professor of history at the University of Montana and author of "Visions of the Big Sky"; Brandon Reintjes, curator of art at Montana Museum of Art and Culture; Molly Murphy, an Oglala-Lakota artist; Katie Knight, an artist and educator; John Giarrizzo, professor of art, Northwest College; Patrick Zentz, artist; and Jeff Anderson, artist.

"This unique event will bring living artists and their work center stage for people to see and talk to. We hope, for all of us, to enhance our understanding and admiration for artists working where we live," said Robyn Peterson, YAM executive director.

The RMC-YAM sponsored conference will start on Friday morning at the RMC campus. An 11:00 a.m. tour and reception in RMC's Ryniker-Morrison Gallery will conclude the morning session. The YAM campus will host the afternoon session, followed by a 5:00 p.m. reception. The conference will continue at the YAM on Saturday.

Linda Ewert, YAM education director, will lead an exhibition tour of the "Capture the Moment," the series of dramatic Pulitzer Prize photographs from 1942 to present. Deborah Kline Sanderman, Carbon County Arts Guild, will moderate an all-speakers panel that concludes the conference.



"Our speakers will consider how the Rocky Mountains and its attendant plains have inhabited their art. They will speak to the ways they epitomize regional artists," according to Michael Fried, a YAM Board member, who, with Jim Baken, RMC fine art professor, conceived of the event.

Major sponsors for the conference include Humanities Montana, Susan Scott Heyneman, Helori Graff, Barb Skelton, and Michael and Karen Fried.

"We are so grateful for our sponsors because they are affording us the opportunity for artists and audience to interact meaningfully. Especially we hope they reveal the historical context for contemporary artists from the special niches we so enjoy in our part of the world," Baken said.

The YAM exhibitions during the conference include the Pulitzer Prize photographs "Capture the Moment"; Neltje; and Molly Murphy's Contemporary Native American Beadwork. RMC's Ryniker-Morrison Gallery features Jim Baken's "Elk Series with Clubs: From the Bitterroots to the Beartooths."

To find out more about the speakers, you can find their abstracts and bios at yamlist-Nov11conf.html. You will also find details on dates and times for the conference locations.

Cost for the conference is \$20 for YAM members; \$25 for the general public. For more information, contact Michael Fried, Yellowstone Art Museum, (406) 254-8787 / mfried@bresnan.net or Jim Baken, Rocky Mountain College fine arts professor, (406) 657-1135 / bakenj@rocky.edu.

CAMPUS EVENTS

AROUND ROCKY



While at Los Angeles International Airport waiting to return to Billings, the RMC soccer team met David Beckham, English soccer star now playing for the LA Galaxy. "We had just played soccer games in Santa Barbara, Calif. He walked directly off the plane at the gate we were waiting to board. One of our players recognized him and asked him if we could take a photo with him," said Coach Richard Duff. Shown with Beckham are (back row) Morgan Bowe, Josie Kautsky, Kirsty Montignani, Jaelene Zygmund, Evan Connolly, Chris Jermy, Daniel Clitnovici, Joachim Soderstrom, Oliver Gore, Amelia Whaley, and Lauren Brophy; (front row) Kendal Borgeson, Chloe Pennisi, Dani Wilcox, Malin Johansson, David Beckham, Mikey Wall, Heather Lansdown, Sarah Snoozy, and Ambri Stein.



Fred Magers, representing the Absaroka Porsche Club, presents a check to RMC President Michael Mace from proceeds of the annual All Euro Car Show held on RMC's campus on Aug. 22. Open to all European sports cars and sedans, 54 cars were on display this year. The show, free to the public, collects a \$10 fee per entry. "It's not a major money maker, but we appreciate Rocky Mountain College letting us hold it here every summer," Magers said. "We always present a modest check after our expenses." Checks were also given to MSU's College of Technology and Billings Central High School.

PHOTOS

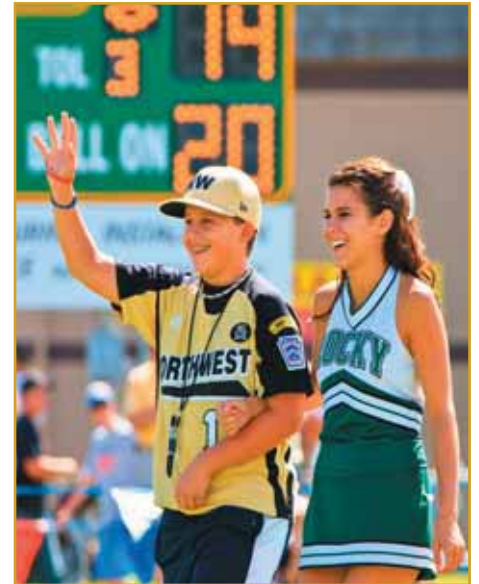
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Photographs appearing in Rocky Now are by Dave M. Shumway, RMC staff photographer and web content manager.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

BUSY WEEKEND



Rocky Mountain College paid tribute September 3 to the players, coaches, and families of the Big Sky All-Stars during halftime of its home game against rival Carroll College. The Big Sky All-Stars were the first Montana team to play in the Little League World Series. The team and their families were treated to tailgate festivities before the game and the players were escorted by RMC cheerleaders onto the field at halftime, where they were cheered by a full stadium crowd. The team was also honored during a Burn the Point Parade in downtown Billings September 2. Following the Battlin' Bears game, the team joined a motorcade to Dehler Park for a community celebration.



Left, RMC Hall of Fame inductees Luke Gerber, of Hardin, Mont., and Eugene Doerr, of Boise, Idaho, joined Robert Beers, RMC athletic director for a reception in the Great Room in Prescott Hall. Gerber and Doerr were also honored at halftime of the RMC-Montana Tech football game. Right, Steven Hart, RMC professor of music, visits with Judy Cole-Martin, one of the 1960's alumni who joined in singing with the RMC Choir during a choir rehearsal. Center, Prescott Hall welcomed parents for the annual RMC Parents' Weekend September 24.

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