

ROCKY NOW



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

It's all about our students

The Rocky Mountain College Development staff was delighted to nominate Brandon Templeton for recognition as Student Employee of the Year.

Brandon Templeton personifies the kind of outstanding student who excels both as a student and as a member of the RMC community. He is exceptional in his commitment to excellence, dependability, professionalism, and his approach to planning and problem solving. Brandon is self motivated and



Brandon Templeton was honored at a party by the RMC Development staff for being selected as RMC Student Employee of the Year.

always finds work that needs to be done. Brandon offers ideas as he brings a student perspective to the office and its work. Brandon willingly makes the effort to complete project deadlines on short notice even if it means working while on holiday at his home in Ohio. These projects include using his photographic skills to showcase the campus and its history on such important projects as preparing the successful grant application for the J. Paul Getty Foundation. His interest in searching the college archives and digitalizing old photos for use in PowerPoint presentations brings great enjoyment to activities such as the Candlelight Dinner, alumni reunions and other gatherings. Using his artistic talent and computer skills, Brandon designed a postcard, ultimately becoming a billboard, using logos of participating businesses to advertise the college, raising \$50,000 in funds. Brandon's pursuit of a degree in aeronautical science coupled with a minor in geology gives him the opportunity to fly survey trips with his geology professor over the local terrain. He is an active member of the Rocky Mountain College Flight Team, serves on the Aviation Student Advisory Board and is the author of an aviation column for "Top of the Rock," the campus newspaper. Brandon is also an award winning participant in Rocky's creative writing and arts journal, "Soliloquy." He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Templeton of Middlefield, Ohio.

Film Festival!

Cliff Robertson's film career celebrated with three campus showings this month

The cliff Robertson Film Festival
The public is invited to join Rocky Mountain College in 3 FREE movie nights!



Rocky Mountain College will honor its 126th Commencement speaker by presenting a Cliff Robertson Film Festival April 15, 18 and 22, 2008.

Known to younger film fans as Uncle Ben in "Spiderman" movies, Cliff Robertson is famous among longtime film buffs for a number of roles, including his Best Actor Award in his Academy Award winning performance in "Charly," and for his portrayal of President John F. Kennedy in "PT 109."

"This is an exceptional honor to have this wonderful actor as our commencement speaker and to celebrate his rich career," said RMC President Michael Mace.

Mr. Robertson will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the 2008 RMC Commencement on May 3.

He will also be the guest of honor at the annual RMC President's Dinner, May 1.

The first film of the festival -- "Charly" -- will be shown April 15, at 7 p.m., in Losekamp Hall. Sponsored by the RMC Student Activities Board, the second film, "Spiderman 3," will be shown April 18, at 9 p.m., at an outdoor theatre on the RMC green. "PT 109" will be shown April 22, at 7 p.m., in Losekamp Hall.

The films are free and open to the public, as seating permits.

"The film festival is a good way to honor Mr. Robertson before he comes for commencement. We felt a family-oriented event was an appropriate preface to his coming here," said Shari VanDelinder, RMC director of development.

Pennepacker gift to RMC grows to \$1.3 million

Rocky Mountain College received a gift of nearly a million dollars from the estate of our alumnus, Dr. J. Scott Pennepacker, a 1942 Billings Polytechnic graduate. This addition increases the balance of the J. Scott and Rebecca N. Pennepacker Scholarship Endowment to almost \$1.3 million and will generate between \$50,000 and \$60,000 per year in scholarships.

Dr. and Mrs. Pennepacker were life long friends of Rocky and had no children. He was the son of Joseph N. and Marion Christie Pennepacker, an early day Methodist minister in Libby, and a long time Dean of B.P.I., a predecessor of Rocky Mountain College. Scott received his medical degree from Boston University and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during WWII. His first Montana practice was in Sidney.

He served as president of the Eastern Montana Medical Association and the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of General Practice. In 1962 he completed a residency in pathology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Lincoln, Neb. He practiced pathology in Janesville, Wis.

Distinguished service award given to RMC Prof. Bill Jamison

The Rocky Mountain College Alumni Association presented former Math Professor Bill Jamison with the RMC Honorary Distinguished Service Award on Tuesday, April 8th, at the annual Academic Awards Banquet.

The Honorary Distinguished Service Award goes to a person who is not an alumnus, but who has made outstanding contributions to the College. Bill Jamison began teaching Math at Rocky in 1962 and retired in 2005. He also coached the RMC Weight Lifting Team. Jamison was a popular professor and is remembered fondly by many former students. He was recently described by one former student as "the most influential person in my academic career."

The Academic Awards Banquet also honored outstanding students with departmental awards; the Dean's Cup; President's Cup; and outstanding faculty with the Ossie Abrams Teaching Awards.

Their lifetime giving ranks them as the fourth largest donors to Rocky in its 130 year history.

and returned to Sioux City, Iowa, to practice at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and was medical director of its School of Medical Technology. Scott was medical director of Siouxland Physicians' Laboratory and president of United Way of Siouxland. In 1984 he was honored by the College of American Pathologists as the recipient of the Frank W. Harman Memorial Award for meritorious service. A gifted physician and teacher, Scott was especially proud of his work with students of medical technology. He and Rebecca retired to Missoula to be near family, including younger sisters and children, who were close and very dear to Scott and Rebecca. Rebecca died in January, 2003. Scott was also preceded in death by his sister, Ruth. He was survived by his three sisters: Esther Coombs, Miriam Vosburgh and Elma Marion Leigh and many much loved nieces and nephews.

Scott and Rebecca's kindness, generosity and love of life remain an inspiration not only to family, but to all who were fortunate enough to have known them. Their friendship for Rocky Mountain College will affect the future of this institution and those who populate its campus forever. Their lifetime giving ranks them as the fourth largest donors to RMC in its 130-year history. Their gifting exceeds qualification as institutional founders and major builders of Montana's oldest institution of higher learning, and a premier private college of top reputation in the North West. Words are incapable of fully expressing the gratitude of Rocky Mountain College for the unbelievable gifts from these good people. The Pennepacker gifts rank them as major builders of this institution.



This last testamentary gift is of monumental founders' consequence. Years to come will establish its importance as a gift that changed the future of this institution significantly. Those among us who have walked with them have been blessed to know history.

We praise the memories of Scott and Rebecca, thinking of, and thanking, the family for the role they shared in nurturing a climate of confidence in which consideration of a legacy of such size and power in the stewardship of Rocky Mountain College was possible. We are grateful to the extended Pennepacker family for this beneficence and will continue to express that gratitude.

Even though it would be human nature to resent diversion of family wealth to an educational institution rather than distributing it to individual members of the family for personal use, it is a certainty that the values that guided and pervaded Scott and Rebecca's philanthropic decisions are commonly held among the members of their extended family. To the extent that those values have been seeded in those younger generations through the examples and teachings of their family elders, the heritage of those values will have greater, more lasting and more powerful impact on members of the family, and those persons touched by their lives, than could have resulted from fractioning the assets of the deceased patriarchs pursuant to Montana's statutes for descent and distribution to heirs at law. The family members are envied by many of us and, I am sure, by many not known to us, for the great qualities and potential for good works that are a part of their familial inheritance. The lives and accomplishments of Scott and Rebecca provide much in which great pride can justifiably be taken by all who knew them as family, friends, or benefactors. Their example will be extolled and emulated to the great and continuing benefit of Rocky Mountain College for all time to come.

*By Obert Udem,
RMC director of planned giving*

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