

ROCKY NOW

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Rocky Mountain College
Montana's First.
Montana's Finest.

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

It's all about our students

Whenever you wonder about whether your contributions make a difference, it's refreshing to read about students like Patricia Ryan Fjelstad. Rocky is definitely making a difference in her life.



BILLINGS -- On campus at Rocky Mountain College she is Tricia Fjelstad, and rarely recognized for who she is when she appears on stage. That's when she becomes Patricia Ryan, lead singer for the band, Yellowstone, and a hopeful Country Western star.

"I've been singing forever, and, sure, I'd love to make it big in Nashville," the RMC sophomore said. "But, because I know something about the business, I know that's a real long shot. So, while I aim for that, I want to be prepared for other things I could do in the industry."

Patricia, who uses her middle name as her stage name, knows about the music business because booking entertainment is one of a number of things her father, Gary, does. Besides being a commissioner of Rosebud County, and a former Rosebud County Sheriff, Gary owns and operates Rocky Mountain Talent Services, a company that helps secure entertainment for county fairs and other special events throughout the West.

"We're not people who sit still for very long. I'd much rather be busy than bored," Patricia said.

Patricia came to Rocky as a young woman from rural Montana, but with big dreams, according to Dr. Vickie Christie, Professor Communication Studies.

"She has begun to achieve those dreams. We are putting together a major for her that makes sense and tailors to her future interests. While she will major in communication, she will do extra work, like a communication and music business internship in China, that will prepare her for what I think is a great career and life," Dr. Christie explained.

"The professors I'm working with are trying to provide a curriculum that will work for me," Ryan said. "They've been incredible. Rocky is truly a special place."

And students like Patricia Ryan Fjelstad help make it special.

Freshening Fortin

Elbow grease and generous support give Fortin Education Center an 'Extreme Makeover'



Bob Fitzgerald, RMC director of major gifts, above, and Shari VanDelinder, RMC director of special projects, below, exchanged one set of work clothes for a different set of work clothes when they rolled up their sleeves and spent hundreds of hours cleaning and painting Fortin Education Center offices, conference rooms and locker rooms. After work and on weekends, they scrubbed, mopped and wielded paint brushes. Many others, inspired by their commitment, have donated to freshen Fortin.

Most people are accustomed to seeing Rocky Mountain College's special events director wearing a shimmering formal gown at the annual Black Tie Blue Jeans scholarship benefit, which she oversees.

So it would be understandable if one failed to recognize a sweatshirted Shari VanDelinder as she scrubbed stained shower tiles in locker rooms at Fortin Education Center or wielded a paintbrush to add luster to dingy ceilings.

Ditto for the usual shirt and tie garb worn by Bob Fitzgerald, Rocky's director of major gifts. He spent four hours after a full day of work for several weeks in ratty t-shirt and grubby jeans while painting coaches' offices and other rooms at Fortin.

See Friends of Fortin listed on reverse side

Why would two staff directors wind up toiling evenings and weekends to spruce up Fortin?

"Because if we're going to ask others to pitch in and help make Fortin more attractive, we need to show we're willing to invest elbow grease ourselves," FitzGerald said. The goal — one of RMC President Mike Mace's priorities — is to make a good first impression when students, particularly student athletes, come to check out Rocky.

Fortin Education Center was a splendid building when it was new, thanks to the generosity of Mary Alice Fortin. But, over the years, it's been "loved to death," FitzGerald said.

A Fortin freshening was decidedly called for, after years of deferred maintenance.

"How can you build a first class program? Making a good first impression is critical," RMC Athletic Director Terry Corey said. "If we're trying to recruit topnotch kids we want them to see we have great facilities."



FORTIN PROJECT FINDS GENEROUS SUPPORT

Continued from the front

Fortin Education Center was an splendid building when it was new, thanks to the generosity of Mary Alice Fortin. But, over the years, it's been "loved to death," FitzGerald said.

"It's a popular place, not just for Rocky, but for the community to use," VanDelinder added.

The goal is to raise \$50,000 for the refurbishment. Fund raising is still in progress, but the many contributions already received is encouraging, VanDelinder said.

"You know how they have all those TV shows now with extreme makeovers. Well, that's what Fortin needed," VanDelinder said. "And we're getting it done."

There's a larger benefit to the Fortin project. Studies show there is a positive correlation between how athletics fares and the success of the college overall. Called the "Flutie Effect," derived from the impact a winning "Hail Mary" touchdown throw by then Boston

College quarterback Doug Flutie, the popularity of a sports program helped increase student recruitment, which resulted in better graduation rates and improvement in the college's core product, academic accomplishment.

Sports success increases alumni support which translates into better support for the college as a whole, according to an NCAA-commissioned study.

"When we have winners, we get good publicity. When you get noticed, it's easier to recruit better students who want to affiliate with winners," said RMC Admissions Director Laurie Rodriguez. "What everyone has done at Fortin makes my job easier."

Thanks to all the fine friends who have helped with the Fortin Project to date:

■ The **Herb and Clara Klindt Foundation** responded to the need by sending a contribution to cover the costs of making over the Hall of Fame room.

■ **Frank Cross, Big Sky Office Products**, offered to furnish the football office free of charge and also sell all matching office goods at cost, she explained.

■ The **Carpet Barn** offered to carpet the football and volleyball coaches' offices.

■ The **Granite Door Company** contributed doors.

■ **Pat Burton, Sysco Foods**, offered to complete the volleyball office in kind.

■ **Ballard Petroleum** donated money toward the football project while **Dr. Charles and Patti Morledge** donated the entire women basketball coach's office.

■ **Carol and Tom Olson** of Seattle made a major donation.

■ Other donors included **Dean Gerke, Ralph Spence, James Clark, Dr and Mrs. Cooper, Hoiness Labar, Rod Kastelitz, Randy Scott, Tom Quilling, Bradford Roofing, Mike Schmidt, Carl Hansen, Dr. Keith Mason, Richard St. John, Randy Sian, Beem Farms, Jayme Durbin, Buddy Kastrop, Gail Waller, Marcia Rieke, Travel Café, Dr. Paul Crellin, Bev Hall, Dr. Larry Campadonico, Big Sky Collision Center, CTA, and Audrey and Bob Jurovich.**

If you would like to help the Fortin Project, please contact Bob FitzGerald, 657-1005 or Shari VanDelinder, 657-1173.

Quarterback Club launched to help RMC Battlin' Bears reach gridiron goals

Heard about the "Q Club"? It's one more way people are helping Rocky's students. Q Club membership fees go for the purchase of new equipment, from training equipment to helmets, pads, and uniforms. We want to recruit topnotch talent, Coach Dave Reeves said. Q Club members are helping us build a championship program. To find out how to become a Q Club member and the benefits for RMC and members, contact Bob FitzGerald, 657-1005 or Terry Corey, 657-1124.

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Find out more about what's new and exciting at Rocky online at:
www.rocky.edu