

# ROCKY NOW

Vol. 6 Issue 4

Fresh news every day at [www.rocky.edu](http://www.rocky.edu)

April 2011



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

## All About Our Students Perfect in Class

Isa Floden, one of Rocky Mountain College's best skiers, who also maintains a 4.0 grade point average, never planned to stay for all four years at RMC.

"I had only planned to stay for one year," Floden said, but after that one year at RMC, while competing on the RMC Ski Team, "changed my heart."

"I realized how much fun it was and decided to stay," she laughed.

The Swedish native came to Rocky after being recruited by family friend, Johanna Aaker, who graduated from Rocky in May 2008 and skied for the RMC squad.

"Johanna told me it was a great experience and a wonderful opportunity," Floden said. "I decided to take her advice. I was very nervous, but she told me it wasn't hard because of all the people who help."

As excited as she was to embark on a new adventure to the U.S., Floden emphasized that even with the help and guidance from both Aaker and the Rocky Mountain College faculty, it was still a daunting challenge.

*(Please see **All About Our Students** inside)*



*Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC  
Isa Floden is a champion in the classroom and on the ski slopes.*



*Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC  
The RMC Ski Team was welcomed home by a rousing crowd in the Fortin Education Center.*

## TITLE TIME! Champs Welcomed Home

More than 300 fans welcomed the Rocky Mountain College Ski Team home to celebrate a national championship March 17 in the Fortin Center.

The RMC Men's Ski Team won their third national collegiate title, taking first place in U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association competition, while the RMC Women's Ski Team finished second in the nation.

"They put their hearts and souls into this," RMC Ski Coach Jerry Wolf told the Billings Gazette. "From the first guy to the last guy. From the first girl to the last girl."

*(Please see **Title Time** inside)*

## *An Evening with Bill Bowers*

**Saturday, May 7, 2011**

**Great Hall of Prescott Hall**

**Reception @ 5:30 p.m. / Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.**

Tickets are available now for the annual RMC President's Reception & Dinner, with Guest of Honor Bill Bowers, an acclaimed actor, educator, and mime.

Tickets are \$50. Proceeds benefit RMC scholarships.

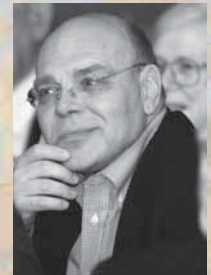
For tickets and reservations, please contact Vicki Davison, RMC development director, (406) 657-1005 / [vicki.davison@rocky.edu](mailto:vicki.davison@rocky.edu).





# Insider

By Michael R. Mace, President



## Will You Replenish Educational Waters?

More people have likely heard of Jacob's ladder in the Bible than of Jacob's well, but the story of a footsore, hot, and tired Jesus stopping by Jacob's well is one of my favorites. In this Easter season, I think of it often, always for the reason that within the tapestry of my own Christian heritage, it is one of those passages that represents so many things; from how Jesus, a Jew, dealt with a Samaritan woman, to how the water became a metaphor for more than quenching thirst, to how we are renewed and replenished by new life in Christ.

In those times, Jews and Samaritans had little to do with each other, so the encounter between the woman and Jesus represented two things. First, men and women did not have casual conversations. Second, a Jew did not spend time chatting with someone from Samaria. They came from south and north, two separate kingdoms, rivals for control of Israel.

In the New Testament Book of John – the only Gospel with this narrative -- the encounter with this Samaritan woman, who is at the fringes of her culture, a woman with great hunger and great need, tells how Jesus reached out to her and invited her into his life and kingdom. In so doing, she becomes a part of a new community. The ordinary well water becomes a gushing, fresh, and renewing source of spiritual life.

Pardon me if I extend this metaphor to our learning experience at Rocky Mountain College, but when I read this narrative, it leads me in that direction. This College, like the



*Springtime on campus is always colorful.*

Samaritan woman, is a place of great thirst and great need, too. Our students come to where we hope the well of learning is profound and fulfilling. We hope they draw more than dull, still water from the well. We hope it is water that invigorates them. We count on our faculty to keep these waters clear and bright. We count on our alumni and friends to make the College's educational experience a living water for future students who come to our well.

History tells us Jacob's well was used for baptisms after the crucifixion of Jesus. This was, and is, a sacred sacrament, so I would not want to assume to broaden the metaphor into a sanctified area.

But, certainly the idea of transformation is valid. The woman was transformed after drawing water and after interacting with Jesus. Students are equally transformed by their encounters on campus and the 'educational waters' they are given to quench their thirst. The woman walks away completely transformed, just like our students. They come to us genuinely

unique as one kind of human being, and emerge as a new and distinctive kind of individual. There is fundamental change.

This Easter season, I hope you share with me the commitment for providing that wellspring of knowledge, compassion, wisdom, and sharing that mark a Rocky Mountain College education. I hope, too, that you will also consider replenishing the waters of our well with a donation that will fulfill the aspirations of our students.

*Happy Easter*

## Title Time: Standing Ovation Celebrates RMC Ski Team's National Championship

*(Continued from front page)*

The team was first welcomed by sirens and honking horns as they were paraded around campus before entering the Fortin Center.

The team received a standing ovation as the national championship trophy was passed from one to another, each planting a kiss on it.

"Anywhere I go in the country, I usually find somebody that says you're from that college that has that championship ski team," Rocky President Michael Mace told the crowd. "I hear that a lot, so congratulations!"

This was the best combined showing at nationals in the 24-year history of the Rocky program, Wolf noted.

Bill Bighaus, reporting for the Billings Gazette, wrote that "Rocky's latest excellence on the mountain was certainly cause for celebration on campus, with yellow and gold balloons decorating the stage and grandstands. Some spectators waved green-and-gold pom-poms, and the skiers wore their distinctive RMC jerseys."

The men and women of the Rocky Mountain College Ski Team placed 12 team members on first and second All-American teams at the U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA) National Championships.

"The support we're getting from the school, and the support we're getting from the men's team, really means a lot to us," said Alexandra Guras, who said she was a little disappointed the women wound up with a second place. "But we tried and gave it our best, so we're happy."

Besides the overall team showings, Rocky's Olle Friberg, Anton Larsson, Isa Floden, and Guras received first-team All-American recognition from the USCSA for their individual performances. Friberg is the first national champion in Rocky ski history.

Larsson, Guras, Floden, Mimmi Palovaara, Bjorn Tuaz, and Harald Carlsson also earned second-team accolades.

On top of being exceptional athletes, the members of the RMC Ski Team were also extraordinary students. Of the total combined men's and women's teams, 12 athletes of 15 team members currently maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA. Remarkably, three of these students maintained perfect 4.0 GPA's during the competition season. They are Carlsson, Floden, and Jonathan Diem.

"This underlines what we try to do at Rocky; our student athletes excelling in the classroom and having the ability to be just as successful in their respective sport," said Robert Beers, RMC Athletic Director.

After the ceremony, the ski team members autographed posters and visited with fans.

Friberg told the Gazette he was already eyeing next year's competition.

"We definitely want to defend our national title and get this reception once more, only we also want the women to enjoy the first place honors," he said.

## Focus on Faculty & Staff

# A Giving Way of Life

If you're on campus this summer and look skyward, you may see one of Rocky's professors "squeegeeing" away years of grime and bug splatter from windows on Technology Hall and Eaton Hall. It is not K. Stuart Smith's summer job, at least not one that pays the computer science associate professor one cent.

"He does it to give back to the College," said Terry Steiner, RMC facility services director. "He's been donating his time for four or five years."

Smith -- better known on campus by his nickname, Kim -- is humble about his helping out. Many never have known he has painted, cleaned, and done other hands-on chores during the summer.

"It's just something I believe in doing," Smith said about his summer work. "If all of us kicked in a day or a week, imagine how much better this campus would look. I know not everyone can, but if they would, I think it would make a big difference."

Giving back to his college and the community don't stop with spending some of his summer time panting, polishing, and perking things up. Smith also donates evenings and weekends during the year to the Billings BoyChoir, a community-based performing ensemble dedicated to providing boys and young men musical training and opportunities. Smith is founder and director.

The Billings BoyChoir gained notoriety over the holiday season performing Dylan Thomas' classic "A Child's Christmas in Wales." This spring, they will perform April 29 at First United Methodist Church and May 6 at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral. Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

Alice Lyon, wife of the late RMC professor Robert, who once



*Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC*  
K. Stuart Smith, RMC associate computer science professor, volunteers time to direct the Billings BoyChoir and, every summer, donates his time to work with RMC Facility Services on campus improvement projects.

directed the Youth Chorale in Billings, gave Smith her blessing after the Chorale no longer performed.

"That was a really generous thing for her to do, and it helped me get the Billings BoyChoir going. We still just get by," Smith said.

In his day job, Smith continues to tinker with new computer science projects. He's immersed in a project involved in artificial cognition, where robots will "make decisions by learning from their mistakes."

*(Please see **Faculty & Staff** on back page)*

## Focus on Alumni & Friends

# A Great Teacher Passes

History is always better understood when we see ourselves as part of it, and David Laudenschlager had the knack of putting his students in historic times and places.

"He brought the characters of history to life," one of his students told the Rapid City Journal.

Another student remembered Laudenschlager climbing on his desk to recreate a famous speech. He was dramatic and spellbinding, one of the moments as a student you do not forget.

You'd never know how much fun he was as a teacher if you only know him from seeing him in the hall, where he looked reserved and stern, one student recalled.

"But once you had him in class, he was the best teacher you ever had."

The 38-year-long career of a remarkable teacher ended in December when David Laudenschlager, RMC'68, died in Rapid City.

"He was well-respected and a very dedicated teacher," Rapid City Central High School Principal Mike Talley told the Rapid City Journal. "His passing was very shocking to all of us, really sudden and unexpected. He will certainly be missed."

Lives like Laudenschlager's reflect well on our institution, noted Obert Udem, RMC director of major gifts.

"I was much touched by his story. Alumni like David bring credit to Rocky because he did so much to improve the lives of others. He is an example of why teaching is a noble profession," Udem said.

Laudenschlager, who grew up in Minot, North Dakota,



*Photo: Courtesy*  
David Laudenschlager, RMC'68, who died in December, was a beloved teacher for more than 30 years.

and Billings, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at RMC, majoring in history and French. He attended Lutheran Seminary from 1968-72, and began teaching in 1973, the year after he married his wife, Janet. He taught American Indian History and Culture, Indian Policy, South Dakota History, World Civilizations, Geography, Economics, American History, Civics, and U.S. Government.

In 1996, he earned his master's degree in education from the University of South Dakota, and was an adjunct instructor for Black Hills State University, Augustana College, Northern

*(Please see **Alumni & Friends** on back page)*

## Neighbor to Neighbor

# Words from Eleanor Echo in Our Rocky Planning

By Barb Skelton,  
Chairman of the Board of Rocky Mountain College

Yes, that's a photograph of me with a new filly, named Mighty Assets. This may be as happy as you'll see me on a windy, wet, and cold spring day. This is the time of year when horse people become excited and worried, anxious and exuberant, ornery and satisfied. And those are just some of the mixed emotions we go through as we anticipate the births of foals. We have dreamed of frisky, healthy offspring, but more importantly, we have planned for this, doing the best we can to produce hearty new colts and fillies.

This foaling season reminds me of a quote by one of my favorite people, Eleanor Roosevelt. "It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan," she said. And so we discover with these newborns. The plan counted more than all the dreams, and it's a good thing that's where we put our energy. The results are not always what we hoped for, but they're better than if we didn't use our experience, knowledge, and judgment in planning for the best. Prayer plays a large part, too.

So it is with the equestrian program overall. Forgive me, as I near the end of my term as RMC Board Chair in July, if I write about something so near to my heart. This program has had its share of dreaming, but the real work went into the planning, which produces wonderful results every day. I am not bragging, because the credit goes to many more people than me, when I say we have one of the best college equestrian programs in the country. It's why some of our students come from as far as New York and Ohio and Hawaii and even France, to be a part of it.

"It's why I came," said Meredith Burton, one of our students, who hails from Syracuse. "I looked at a lot of college websites with equestrian programs, and this looked best, hands down." And Meredith is a planner, hands down!

When I look at what this program was compared to today, I see a 75% increase in the number of equestrian majors in just one year.

I see a phenomenal job with the equestrian teams, which competed successfully across the state and the country. Because the students and the equine faculty all worked with each other on each endeavor, getting to shows, and hosting shows, RMC is a good neighbor to other schools.

I see a terrific asset in our development of therapeutic riding. We could dream all we want about how much good we could do for those who can benefit from this program, but planning for it is what is producing the results we see maturing today.

We welcome Gary Mullen, who has a wealth of experience in equestrian program administration, and adds a Ph.D in education to our roster of talented faculty. Importantly, Gary is an expert in therapeutic riding, as a NARHA certified therapeutic riding instructor. He not only can teach students, he has the experience to train horses for this program.

I may be as skittery as the mares waiting to give birth this spring, but I am confident about the outcome, just as I am for our equestrian program. Eleanor Roosevelt also said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." We did believe. And we also heeded her advice about the plan. We made one, and it's working. It is working because we have good neighbors, neighbors who help each other out with their plans, their dreams, and their hopes.

Yes, like the colt in the picture, the future lies ahead for many of RMC's students, but because they have dreams and plans, they will have success in whatever endeavor they should select. Because RMC professors and staff and coaches and scholarship givers have all been good neighbors and helped these students along the way! That's what neighbors do, help each other out. I am proud to be a part of RMC, proud to be able to be a good neighbor.

I have a Mighty Asset in my stall. We all have another "Mighty Asset" with this program and all the others at Rocky.



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC  
RMC Board Chair Barb Skelton with her new filly, Mighty Asset.

## All About Our Students

(Continued from front page)

"It's a small school, so you get to know all the teachers," she said. "That makes all the difference."

What has been good for Isa has also been good for Rocky. Interviewed early in the season by the Billings Gazette, Isa said she wanted the team to do better than last year's fifth place finish. She hoped to finish in the top ten individually.

Isa helped her team to much better than fifth; they finished second at the 33rd U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association National Championships, held in Sun Valley, Idaho.

And her personal aspirations exceeded the hoped for top ten, by being named first-team All-American. She finished third in slalom and fifth overall in the Ladies Alpine Individual competition.

"The ski team is just so much fun. We're a good group," said Isa. "You get to see so many places skiing on the team."

In addition to being an exceptional athlete for Rocky Mountain College, Isa also maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average, along with ski team members Harald Carlsson and Johnathan Diem. Despite English being her second language, Isa

has never let that stop her from learning.

"There are so many possibilities here. Getting an education in a foreign country with a foreign language, you gain so much experience," she said.

A junior majoring in both physical education and exercise science, she can't wait to return for another year of skiing, this time hoping the women can match the men's title.

When she graduates, she would like to spend additional time in the U.S. before returning to Sweden for graduate school.

# Sport Smarts: Our Athletes Show Academic Prowess

Mark Desin of Rocky Mountain College was selected for inclusion in the Montana Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Class of 2011. The award is the 14th annual Scholarship Athlete Award. Chapter president Bill Sprinkle said nominations were solicited from five Frontier Conference football colleges and the state's two



*Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC*  
For academic ability and leadership, Mark Desin was selected for the Montana Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

NCAA universities. Academic ability (3.0-plus GPA), football prowess (all-state or all-Frontier or Big Sky conference), and school/community leadership activities are the priorities for selection. Nominations were received from over 20 schools. The cumulative GPA of this year's recipients is 3.62.

Not only was the Rocky Mountain College Ski Team swift down the slopes, they were also sharp in the classroom.

The RMC men's ski team won their third national collegiate title, taking first place in the U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA) Alpine Combined Skiing, while the RMC women's ski team finished second.

On top of being exceptional athletes, the members of the RMC ski team were also extraordinary students. Of the total combined men's and women's teams, 12 athletes of 15 team members currently maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA.

"This underlines what we try to do at Rocky; our student athletes excelling in the classroom and having the ability to

be just as successful in their respective sport," said Robert Beers, RMC Athletic Director.

Remarkably, three of these students maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA during the competition season. They are Harald Carlsson, Johnathan Diem, and Isa Floden.

From the women's team, those who maintained a 3.0 or better GPA include: Megan Thees of Lynwood, Wash.; Mandi Loucks of Grand Junction, Colo.; Shannon Hartman of Truckee, Calif.; Alexandra Guras of Breckinridge, Colo.; Isa Floden of Vemdalen, Sweden; and Brittany Anderson of Randolph, N.Y.

these young women receive this honor. I think it is a great indication of the type of student athletes we have in our women's basketball program and throughout our athletic programs at Rocky," said Brian Henderson, RMC head women's basketball coach.

The RMC students are Laura Beach of Baker, Mont.; Haliagh Crnkovich of Big Timber, Mont.; Dani Hosking of South Weber, Utah; Amie Jensen of Ogden, Utah; Callie Kautzmann of Nampa, Idaho; Kendra Leininger of Grangeville, Idaho; Shannon (Heldrith) Merrill of Riverton, Utah; Micaela Scally of Billings,



*Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC*  
Topping all other Frontier Conference schools, the RMC women's basketball team had nine of its players make the All Academic Team.

From the men's team, those with a 3.0 or better GPA include: Harald Carlsson of Karlstad, Sweden; Johnathan Diem of Cascade, Idaho; Olle Friberg of Undersaker, Sweden; Carson Myhre of Mahtomedi, Minn.; AJ Oliver of Salt Lake City, Utah; and Bjiorn Tuaz of Saint Gerrais, France.

Rocky Mountain College students topped the Frontier Conference Women's Basketball All Academic Team with nine of 46 women basketball players.

"We are extremely proud to have

Mont.; and Breanna Todd, also an Academic All American, of Denton, Mont.

The conference announced the team on Wednesday, March 30, 2011. To qualify, a player must be at least a sophomore, have a 3.0 or better GPA, and be enrolled the previous two semesters.

A total of six schools in Montana, including RMC, Carroll College, Montana State-Northern, University of Great Falls, Montana Tech. and Montana Western had players announced on the academic team.

## Alumni & Friends

*(Continued from inside)*

State University, South Dakota School of Mines, and Oglala Lakota College.

He served on many state boards, from a South Dakota social studies council to a statewide coalition on homeless issues. He was honored throughout his career. He was selected as outstanding young educator in 1975, and was named the South Dakota High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 1978, 1979, 1982, and 1983, as well as the South Dakota History Teacher of the Year in 1999.

Laudenschlager's articles were pub-

lished in a variety of history, geography, and social study magazines and books. He researched and wrote a 12-part series for PBS titled, "By the People for the People," which aired in 1991-93.

But, while teaching, writing, and researching, he never strayed from his love of being a high school teacher. He earned the nickname "Mr. Prom" for serving as the perennial prom advisor. His colleagues deemed him "kind, thoughtful, and always there for his students," according to Rapid City Public School Supt. Tim Mitchell. Those

colleagues, like his students, were "shocked and deeply saddened."

Laudenschlager was one of those students who did not get to experience the full life on campus that others did. He lived at home, worked after classes, and studied late into the night, hunched over a pile of textbooks on his family's kitchen table. His Rocky degree was hard work and well earned.

When he died, Laudenschlager was a well-respected and dedicated teacher. He made a world of difference in the lives of those who knew him.

# Coming Up

## TUESDAY APRIL 26 - THURSDAY, MAY 5

Exhibit of senior art majors in Ryniker-Morrison Gallery. Opening reception to honor graduating seniors and their families, May 5, 2011, from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. The exhibit, in the gallery located in Tech Hall, is free and open to the public from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information: Sally McIntosh, Ryniker-Morrison Gallery director, (406) 259-6563/mcintoshart@imt.net.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

The RMC English and Art departments host "Voices," an awards presentation of the "2011 Soliloquy" awards, in Fraley Lounge, located in the Bair Student Center, at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information: Linaya Leaf, RMC professor, English and theatre arts, (406) 657-1118/leafl@rocky.edu.

Honor Student Presentations, 3:30 p.m., in the Selover Room. Honor students Angela Steward and Andrew Sheffler will present. The public is welcome, and refreshments will be served. For more information: Susan R. McDaniel, RMC professor, humanities and composition, (406) 657-1019/mcdanies@rocky.edu.

## APRIL 29

RMC Equestrian Program hosts the end-



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC  
*This is the season when buds blossom on campus.*

of-the-year horse show. Public is welcome (dogs, however, are not allowed). The day begins at 9:00 a.m. with English show, followed by a noon break (concessions available), and Western show at 1:00 p.m. The day to celebrate accomplishments of equestrian students is held at the Inter-mountain Equestrian Center. For more information, contact Meredith Burton, RMC equestrian team captain, cell (719) 641-6421/meredith.burton@rocky.edu.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 30

The 8th Annual Computer Programming Competition for high school students will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Tech Hall. For more information, K. Stuart Smith, RMC associate professor, computer science, (406) 238-7381/smithk@rocky.edu.

## FRIDAY, MAY 6

The President's Reception for graduates & families, 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m., in the Great Hall of Prescott Hall. For more information: Pam Erickson, RMC executive assistant to the President, (406) 657-1015/ericksop@rocky.edu.

RMC Baccalaureate, 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2420 13th Street West. For more information: Kristi Foster, RMC chaplain/director of campus ministries and church relations, (406) 657-1098/kristi.foster@rocky.edu.

## SATURDAY, MAY 7

RMC Seniors and families brunch in cafeteria, Bair Student Center. Free to all. For more information: Pam Erickson, RMC executive assistant to the President, (406) 657-1015/ericksop@rocky.edu.

129th RMC Commencement, 1:00 p.m., Fortin Education Center. Speaker is Bill Bowers, an RMC alumnus who is an actor, mime, and educator. For more information: Dan Burkhardt, RMC director, news and information, (406) 657-1104/burkhard@rocky.edu.

President's Reception and Dinner, with reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m., Great Hall of Prescott Hall (details on front page).

## Faculty & Staff

(Continued from inside)

On April 30, the Computer Science program will be hosting the 8th annual RMC Computer Science Programming Competition, which brings high school students from across the state to compete. The event not only profiles RMC's program, but acquaints the top performers from high schools with Rocky.

"We have a good number of high school students taking college level courses here, and we have 70 percent of them deciding they want to enroll here when they finish high school," he noted.

Gratitude is a strong factor motivating Smith to donate his time outside of class. For many years, he had a successful career in private industry as a computer architect and research consultant, but it meant moving frequently from job to job across the U.S. He lived in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, California, and Arizona.

Smith said he owes his love of science and math to a teacher who mentored him when he was a youngster. "I had a neighbor who was a teacher, and she interested me in and helped me with science and math."

"When I discovered teaching was more rewarding, and landed this job, I was home," he said.

Making Rocky home makes Steiner happy, as well.

"It's great to have his help. He's volunteered Christmas break, as well as the summer, and he's a stickler, so it gets done right," Steiner added. "It's like this summer, he won't just wash windows, he'll replace damaged ones as he goes. It will be a job well done, if Kim's doing it."

