

ROCKY NOW

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Fresh news every day at www.rocky.edu

August 2010



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

All About Our Students



Older & Wiser

Bill Scott has never had a grade lower than an A- while attending Rocky.

Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

A stubborn and rebellious Bill Scott passed by an opportunity to attend The United States Air Force Academy in 1972 when U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie sponsored his admission. The Maine native decided he would rather stay home with "my buddies and do factory work," Scott said. But, two years later, after several of his friends were killed in drunk driving accidents, he decided it was time "to do something with my life." The Air Force Academy was no longer an option, but joining the Air Force was and Scott enlisted. He liked his service in the Air Force well enough to make it a 31-year career, eventually retiring as a Command Chief Master Sergeant, the highest rank an enlisted member of the Air Force can obtain. (Bill's wife, Belinda, had a 24-year Air Force career, retiring as a Master Sergeant, he noted with pride.)

"It took me a little while to get my head square about what I wanted to do, but I made the right choice," Scott said. "I had a great career and saw a good bit of the world."

Scott was stationed overseas in Okinawa, Japan, and later in Spangdahlem, Germany, "where the Battle of the Bulge began," he noted. He was last stationed in Mildenhall, England, just outside of Cambridge.

After retiring, the college education he never received beckoned. His son, Jeremy, actually inspired Bill to attend Rocky. Because his wife was a Billings native and wanted to be close to family, they chose the Magic City as their place to live. Their son, interested in sports management, also chose RMC.

"When Jeremy chose Rocky, I decided it was a good idea to join him," Bill said.

*(Please see **Students** on the back page)*

Gov. Whitman Coming To RMC in September

Former Governor of New Jersey, Christine Todd Whitman, will be an honored guest of Rocky Mountain College Sept. 13 -15, 2010, as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Scholar.

"We are delighted that Gov. Whitman will be coming to Rocky. We are excited about a new major in environmental policy and management that we are beginning, and her visit emphasizes the importance of that new program," said RMC President Mike Mace.

Gov. Whitman is the President of The Whitman Strategy Group (WSG), a consulting firm that specializes in energy and environmental issues. WSG offers a comprehensive set of solutions to problems facing businesses, organizations, and governments; they have been at the forefront of helping leading companies find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

While at Rocky, she will lecture classes, speak at Downtown Rotary, visit Rim Country Institute, and deliver a public lecture.

President Mace will host a private reception and dinner in her honor Monday, Sept. 13.

Gov. Whitman will speak at the Downtown Rotary lunch, Monday, Sept. 13.

She will deliver a public lecture at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14, in the Great Room of Prescott Hall.

Gov. Whitman served in the cabinet of President George W. Bush as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from January 2001 until June 2003. She was the 50th Governor of the State of New Jersey, serving as its first woman governor from 1994 until 2001.

As Governor, Christie Whitman earned praise from both Republicans and Democrats for her commitment to preserve a record amount of New Jersey land as permanent green space.

As EPA Administrator, she promoted common-sense environmental improvements such as watershed-based water protection policies. She championed regulations requiring non-road diesel engines to reduce sulfur emissions by more than 95 percent. Under her tenure, the Agency established the first federal program to promote redevelopment and reuse of "brownfields", that is, previously contaminated industrial sites.

Gov. Whitman is co-chair of the Republican Leadership Council (RLC), which she founded with Senator John Danforth. The RLC's mission is to



Photo: Courtesy

Gov. Christine Todd Whitman will deliver a public lecture September 14 at Rocky Mountain College.

*(Please see **Whitman** on the back page)*

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Eighteen teams, with participants coming from Wyoming and Washington, as well as Montana, vied for prizes at the tournament sponsored by premier sponsor BIOMET Osteosystems, and major sponsors Dennis Hall and Ed Ayers of D.A. Davidson.

"We raised more than \$4,000 which goes to the RMC Alumni Association Endowment Fund for dispersal as scholarships to students each year," said Vicki Davison, RMC director of alumni relations and special events.

In addition to the premier and major sponsors, Davison thanked hole sponsors Carl Hansen, Hansen Wealth Management, and Crowley Fleck, PLLP; staff and students who volunteered to help with the tournament; and the staff at Peter Yegen for professional guidance and assistance.

"It was a fun day, and thanks to everyone, it was a good day for our students who will benefit from scholarships," Davison added.

The winning team was BIOMET Osteosystems with players Scott Hatler, Jim Sullivan, Dan Sullivan, and Mike Schmitt.

The 18-hole scramble was followed by a catered BBQ at the golf course.



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Rocky athletic director Robert Beers said that the three inductees "are a pretty good mix of the history of Rocky" athletics.

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Kraske, who still lives in Billings, was an integral part of the school's successful weightlifting team, while Peterson was an all-conference guard on the Battlin' Bears' basketball team.

For the past six years, Peterson has been serving as a missionary to help orphans and other needy children through Christ's Gift Academy in Mbita, Kenya.

For ticket information for the Hall of Fame dinner and induction, contact Vicki Davison, RMC alumni relations director, at 657-1005. Tickets to the dinner are \$20.

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Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

The Morledge Walkway was jammed with tables for last year's RMC Job & Internship Fair. This year's event is Aug. 25.

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Focus on Faculty & Staff

Student Give & Take Works at RMC

A new book – “Bloodshed at Little Bighorn: Sitting Bull, Custer and the Destinies of Nations” -- written by Dr. Timothy Lehman and published by John Hopkins Press, was inspired from an honors class that he and Dr. Ron Cochran taught several years ago on the Little Bighorn Battle.

“That’s one of the great things about teaching at Rocky is how one thing leads to another from the interaction with students and faculty,” Dr. Lehman observed.

Dr. Lehman, professor of history and political science, and Dr. Cochran, professor of sociology and anthropology, taught the honors class with a focus on the most famous battle in Montana, the Little Bighorn, or Custer’s Last Stand. The theme of examining that pivotal battle, employing both anthropological and historical disciplines, evolved from a class studying the Great Plains Indians.

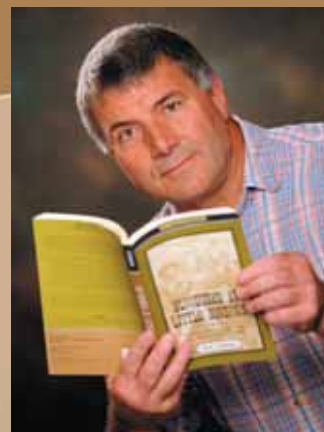
“The new archeology at the Little Bighorn revealed new forensic evidence that changed earlier theories about the ‘last stand’ and the narrative of how the battle was fought,” Dr. Lehman said.

The battle plan at the Little Bighorn may have been adopted by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer from a plan he used at the Battle of Washita River in 1868 in which he took Cheyenne women and children hostage to shield his cavalry troops from Cheyenne warrior fire.

“At the Little Bighorn, it’s possible Custer veered from his attack and headed north hoping to seize a sizeable number of women and children he could use as hostage as he did at Washita,” Dr. Lehman speculated.

The new research allowed for exciting new historical analysis, something that inspired Dr. Lehman’s new book.

“I decided to write the book after years of fielding students’ questions from that honors class,” he said. “But, I wanted to



Dr. Tim Lehman's new book on the Little Bighorn Battle sheds some new insights.

Photo: James Woodcock, Billings Gazette

write from a perspective that included Native American voices not typically included in the story.”

The allure of the West that brought Dr. Lehman to Rocky began from hiking expeditions when he was a college student. Raised in Virginia, he earned his B.A. at Earlham College in Indiana and then his master’s and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

(Please see Focus on Faculty & Staff on the back page)

Focus on Alumni & Friends

New Uniforms & Fresh Season

If the Battlin’ Bears football team players perform as well as they’ll look, it should be a successful season.

The Bears will be sporting brand new uniforms this season, a purchase made possible thanks to a connection with Ron Nelson, RMC ’64, who was a vice president with Nike and president of Nike-Japan before retiring.

“It’s always terrific when we can reach out to an alum to help our student athletes, and Mr. Nelson didn’t hesitate to offer to help,” explained Robert Beers, RMC athletic director.

(In 2006, Nelson joined his RMC roommate, Ron Sovey, RMC ’64, to endow a \$100,000 scholarship called the Larry Pretty Weasel Endowed Scholarship. Pretty Weasel attended RMC with Nelson and Sovey.)

Beers said the athletic budget would not have been adequate for a complete new set of home and away uniforms, but thanks to a “substantial discount” due to Mr. Nelson’s Nike connection, “our team will be wearing uniforms as good as you’d see anywhere. They are Division I quality.”

As for how the team wearing the uniforms fares this season, “we’re excited,” said Brian Armstrong, named head coach on the eve of beginning last year’s season following the abrupt departure of Coach David Reeves.

“If you’re not optimistic at the start of the season, you’ve got some problems,” he joked.

Last year’s 2-9 Bears will see their biggest improvement “on the defensive



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Battlin’ Bears linebacker Trenton Thelen (20), Billings, sports the new home uniform while offensive tackle Dima Vasilevskiy (71), Venice, Florida, wears the new away uniform. A complete set of new Nike uniforms was made possible with help from Ron Nelson, RMC ’64.



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Ron Nelson, left, visits with Larry Pretty Weasel and Ron Sovey at a Battlin’ Bears football game in 2007. Nelson and Sovey, both RMC ’64, endowed a scholarship at RMC in Pretty Weasel’s name.

side of the ball,” Armstrong expects. “We recruited well and we’ve got guys who are coming back who are older, bigger, faster and, we hope, wiser.”

It will be a big squad with 114 players reporting for first day practices that began Aug. 9.

Beers said he’s hopeful “the intact coaching staff” will add to this season’s success.

“That always helps, and last year, I give credit for a quick retooling in the face of adversity just before the season kicked off, but this year we’ll benefit from the continuity.”

The Bears kick off their season with an away game Aug. 26 against Dickinson State.

“That will be exciting because we’ll be inaugurating their new \$16 million athletic facility,” Beers added.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Remembering Great Friends

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

The obituary for Helen Hamilton Bross stated something that always makes me feel humble and grateful: "In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the John and Helen Bross scholarship fund at Rocky Mountain College, Billings."

There are many who remember Rocky Mountain College in their estate planning and it always is heart warming because it is proof that they believe, as I do, how important it is to extend a helping hand and to support what you believe in.

Certainly Helen Bross did that all through her life. This incredible lady was educated at the top women's college in the country, Bryn Mawr. She received her master's in mathematics at Columbia. She earned a Ph.D in physics at Yale. She began her teaching career at Vanderbilt before she and her husband, John (they were married 59 years until his death in 2001) came to teach at Rocky. Early in her life she dedicated herself to service to others, working at a mental health facility while working on her doctorate. She devoted her entire life to education. She worked for peace and justice and human rights. She and John belonged to the Friendship Force, which is the grassroots peace effort started by President Jimmy Carter, enabling citizens of all countries to make exchange visits. They established the John & Helen Bross Scholarship Fund and the John & Helen Bross Peace Institute at Rocky Mountain College.

That's a very brief summary of a distinguished and productive life, but at its core was a commitment to the future and a request to others that "if you value what I value, make a gift to Rocky."

Another great friend of this college had the same kind of commitment. Jack Heyneman, who I've been lucky to call a friend for many years, died Aug. 7. Jack served on the RMC National Advisory Council. He and his wife, Susan Scott Heyneman, have been major financial supporters of Rocky. They once appeared in an ad for Rocky. "If you believe in something, you support it," the ad stated, which is exactly how they felt. Jack was not someone who sought the limelight, but he did the heavy lifting for the Good Neighbor Agreement between Stillwater Mining Co. and a coalition of conservation and ranching groups. That agreement, now famous as a being a landmark accord, required Jack's patience and wisdom. He believed people will do the right thing, and that included those in the mining company. This Korean War vet who worked hard as a ranch hand and ranch manager so he could buy his own ranch was known by everyone as a gentle and compassionate. A good friend told a reporter for the Billings Gazette that he "was just a sweet man and a real man." Another friend said he was fond of quoting from the Book of Micah: "Do justice, love kindness and walk with God."

Helen and Jack were two people who did all three of those things. They were good neighbors.

When people say they will be missed, That is so true. However, because they were always good neighbors -- neighbor helping neighbor -- they are still with us and their legacy lives. Through their many good deeds and friendship, their good work continues.

We have so many friends like them. I cannot imagine what this college would do without our many good neighbors.



Focus on Alumni & Friends

Felecia Hopes to be Next AG

A magna cum laude Rocky Mountain College graduate is running a tough campaign to be elected the next Attorney General in Arizona.

Felecia Rotellini, RMC'81, is a veteran prosecutor and consumer advocate with over 23 years of experience in private and public law. She earned a reputation as a fair and fierce financial watchdog and criminal prosecutor.

(Ms. Rotellini is also RMC Band Director Tony Hammond's aunt.)

Ms. Rotellini grew up in Sheridan, Wyo., where she said she learned the values of "honest, hard work" while working for her father's insurance agency. "I also learned how important it is to give back," she told a reporter with The Arizona Republic, which has since endorsed her. Her parents kept long hours, even working Saturday mornings, so the "working man and woman could do business when they needed to," she said.

Working people's interests have been a priority all her career.

Arizona has been her home since 1986 after her graduation from Notre Dame Law School.

In 1992, after six years in private practice as a trial attorney, Felecia

joined the Arizona Attorney General's Office, serving under Attorneys General Grant Woods, Janet Napolitano, and Terry Goddard. She worked in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions, prosecuting complex real estate and financial fraud and appearing before the State Grand Jury, and state and federal courts in Arizona and California. Known for her willingness to take on the "Goliath" companies -- who have unlimited resources for defense costs -- she earned a reputation as a tireless advocate and a voice for victims of consumer and financial fraud.

Beginning in 1999, Felecia was the State's lead litigator in its investigation of Arthur Andersen over the accounting giant's services to the Baptist Foundation of Arizona (BFA). The result was a global settlement that returned \$217 million to investors who had been swindled in a complex Ponzi scheme. In addition, during her 13 years in the Attorney General's Office, she secured over \$3 million in fines and two published legal opinions favoring the State.

In 2006, Governor Napolitano appointed her Superintendent of the State Banking Department, now the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI). Felecia quickly recognized that



Photo: Courtesy Felecia Rotellini

Felecia Rotellini, RMC'81, may become the next Attorney General for Arizona.

the developing crisis in home mortgage lending posed the greatest threat to Arizona. Her goals were twofold: beef up enforcement and make loan officers that work with consumers responsible for what they say and do. Partnering with HUD, she formed the Mortgage Fraud Task Force that united regulatory agencies and city, state, and federal law enforcement.

In August 2009, Felecia received the "Excellence in Cooperative Law

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(Continued from front)

Both would have graduated together, but Bill decided he wanted to continue his education after completing his major in history.

"I want to teach high school," the 55-year-old nontraditional student said.

Now Bill, who has never had a grade lower than an A- in any of his college courses, is pursuing his secondary education degree.

"It's funny. Being an older guy, it was sometimes awkward in classes where you need a lab or study partner because the younger students don't want to be with the old guy. But then when they saw the grades I was getting, they started changing their mind, like 'Gee, maybe

being with the old guy is a good idea," he chuckled. "That's what I like about it here. What looks like it might be a negative turns into a positive."

His love of history fit well with one of his favorite professors, Dr. Tim Lehman.

"He's an excellent teacher, extremely intelligent, and someone who is straight up with students. He treats you like an adult and makes you responsible, and that's a fair deal," Scott said.

Scott hopes his major in broad field social studies, along with his elementary studies, will prepare him "to teach anything from history, political science, geography to math," he said. "When I graduate from Rocky, I feel confident I'll be sought after to teach."

Whitman

(Continued from front)

support fiscally conservative, socially tolerant candidates and to reclaim the word Republican.

Prior to becoming Governor, she was the President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and served on the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Gov. Whitman is married to John R. Whitman, who is president of Sycamore Management Corp. and former CEO of Prudential-Bache.



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Rimview Residence Hall awaits the arrival of new students. RMC will welcome 355 new students for fall semester.

Focus on Faculty & Staff

(Continued from inside)

"I had my antenna tuned to the West, however, so when a position opened at Rocky Mountain College, I couldn't wait to move here," he said. He never second guessed that move in 1990.

"History is still fresh here, at least the kind of history I wrote about in this book, which is more about the larger encounter of white immigration into land occupied by Native people. The Little Bighorn is only one facet of that conflict," he said.

Dr. Lehman hopes that the history discussed in his book will have application with current events and more recent histories of American wars, like Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. There are similarities between those counterinsurgencies and the Indian Wars.

At Rocky, Dr. Lehman wants to continue to develop the "skill set that makes our students eminently employable. The ability to read, write, think, and articulate the skill of being able to talk about the affairs of the world."

In the future, he sees that those students who succeed with those skills "will be in demand and always employable."

Focus on Alumni & Friends

(Continued from inside)

Enforcement" Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office for her agency's participation in "Operation Cash Back" that indicted 36 individuals involved in mortgage fraud. Under her leadership, the FBI invited DFI to join the new Phoenix Financial Crimes and Mortgage Fraud Task Force -- the first time a state regulator has been invited to join an FBI task force.

Fighting off the lobbying efforts of national companies, such as AIG and Countrywide, from 2006 to 2008, she worked diligently with the Arizona Legislature and leaders in the mortgage industry to pass a law that requires mortgage loan officers to be licensed -- now only qualified, competent persons of good character can work with borrowers to get a home loan.

In late August 2009, she resigned her post as Superintendent to join the Phoenix law firm of Zwillinger & Greek PC. She is a member of the Arizona and Wyoming State Bars. From 1990 to 2002, she was a trustee of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix Foundation, serving two terms as president.

