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



The First Interstate Bank Court in Fortin Education Center features a spectacular center court representation of the RMC Battlin' Bear.

NEW YEAR, NEW COURT CELEBRATED AT FORTIN CENTER

GIFT FROM FIRST INTERSTATE BANK

The Battlin' Bears christened the New Year by dedicating a newly-renovated gym floor in The Fortin Education Center.

The court has been renamed "First Interstate Bank Court" for the next five years and, with the agreement in place, the Rocky Mountain College basketball and volleyball teams will be playing on a new floor.

"We are pretty fortunate that First Interstate Bank was willing to partner with us on this project. I think the court is very nice and represents both First Interstate Bank and the school well," said Rocky Mountain College Athletic Director Robert Beers.

Representatives from First Interstate Bank and Rocky Mountain College were on hand Friday night to dedicate the floor with Beers and First Interstate Bank Regional President Keith Cook presiding over the dedication ceremony between games.

The project was started just before Thanksgiving and was ready for play the day after Christmas.

"Our teams were without a home for a little bit, but they were able to get practice time in at some of the area high school gyms and churches. They were great about the whole thing," according to Beers. "It's never easy when you have to go off campus to practice. Both the women and

men really had to make an effort to get their practice time in, and that was a bit of a challenge."

The school colors and logos have been updated along with other improvements to the floor. One noticeable difference is the volleyball court, which is now centered on the basketball court.

A dramatic new addition is the 20-foot bear that is painted in the middle of the court.

"It started out initially much smaller but, after a couple of meetings with our coaches, they wanted it a little bigger. As someone who has not played either basketball or volleyball competitively,

ALUMNI SHOW DOING THEIR BEST IS GROWING BETTER

INSIDER

BY MICHAEL R. MACE - *President*

A story recently in *The Billings Gazette* about a physician assistant who used her vacation time and \$2,300 of her own money so she could volunteer to help people in a poor village in Ecuador is inspiring. Kate Blakeslee, an alumna who now works as a certified PA at Billings Clinic, is another example of what makes me so proud of the kind of education and leadership RMC nurtures. Kate fulfills the promise of those who look to RMC to provide fresh, intelligent, and committed leadership in a world that sorely needs it. Kate is not an atypical alumni. Many times during each week I am told of an RMC student or alumni who has done wonderful work in the community. I am pleased and proud

to be a president who receives those kinds of compliments on behalf of this College.

Another example of an alumnus who reaches out to help others is Rod Svee, this year's recipient of the RMC Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award. Rod not only has been a brilliant leader in education, but in community service. He also represents the kind of alumni who remembers how others helped him, so he reaches back to help others at RMC. His service on the RMC Board of Trustees and the RMC Alumni Board is vital to encouraging, expanding, and advancing our students' opportunities.

In historian David McCullough's new book, *The Greater Journey*, he discusses

Emma Hart Willard who founded the Troy Female Seminary. In the 1820s, she was the first woman to take a public stand for higher education for women. She saw no reason for any limitations on what women could do, and she lived by that premise. She was a scholar and writer as well as an educator. Her textbooks on the early history of the Republic sold so well she became financially independent. Her lesson to her students: "Do your best and your best will be growing better."

That is a good lesson. Do well, but keep at it and it will be even better. We can always do better. We can always do more.



SVEE WILL RECEIVE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

103RD CANDLELIGHT

A Rocky Mountain College alumnus, who epitomizes the kind of leadership that RMC prides itself on instilling in its students, will be the recipient of this year's RMC Alumni Association Outstanding



Rod Svee will be honored at the 103rd Annual RMC Candlelight Dinner, where luminaries line the walk to Prescott

Service Award. Rod Svee, who graduated from RMC in 1969, had a distinguished career as a public school administrator. He has also served on the RMC Board of Trustees and the RMC Alumni Board. He will be honored at the 103rd Annual Candlelight Dinner, February 9, 2012, to be held in the Great Room of Prescott Hall, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

"Rod has been faithful to serving young people in Montana and Wyoming, ensuring that they received the highest quality education that could be provided. His leadership is a model for working with families,



Luminaries line the walkway to Prescott Hall in commemoration of the annual Candlelight Dinner.

teachers, and the community at large for the best interests of the students, from kindergarten to high school," said RMC President Michael Mace. "Rod is also a model for alumni service, reaching back to

serve others at his alma mater. He exemplifies leadership in all facets of his life."

Svee's career spans 45 years as a teacher, principal and superintendent. He began teaching in Heart Butte, followed by teaching and coaching in Drummond. He became principal and superintendent of Rosebud Public Schools from 1974-1978; Wolf Point Public Schools from 1978-1981; Hardin Public Schools from 1983-1998; Sheridan County School District from 1998-2003; and Billings Public Schools from 2003-2006. He also served as an assistant superintendent with the State Office of Public Instruction, from 1981-1983.

His professional affiliations include serving as a member of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, the Human Rights Commission, and the Commission on Schools for the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. He was also on the Board of the National Study of School Evaluation.

"Rod exemplifies the kind of alumni involvement that is crucial to making RMC flourish," said Kristin Mullaney, RMC coordinator of alumni and parent relations. "It's an honor to present him with the Outstanding Service Award this year."

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BUCY PREPARED TO BE MONTANA ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

When Pam Bucy attended Rocky Mountain College, she cast a wide net to take full advantage of her college experience. She graduated in 1991 with honors in history, political science and English, "but I loved theater and choir. I was in every play I could get in," she said.

In fact, those who know her from her days performing on the college stage are surprised to know her as a prosecutor with a history of convicting felons, a reputation that has earned her the endorsement of top law enforcement officials across Montana.

"I tell them this is the real theater, the theater of life," she laughs, discussing her role as one of Montana's top legal guns. "What I learned and experienced at Rocky has a direct positive influence on what I do now."

What she is doing now is running for State Attorney General. If she wins, she would be the first female to hold that job, and one of only a dozen women attorneys general in the United States.

"The road is hard," she conceded. "But, if I make up my mind to accomplish something, I generally succeed. I'm not a weak sister."

Bucy's experience is certainly an asset as she seeks the highest law enforcement position in Montana. Until recently, she served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry; currently she serves as Administrative Counsel for the Montana Department of Labor. During her seven years as Executive Assistant Attorney General under former AG and current Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike McGrath, she represented the State of Montana in complex civil and criminal matters before the Montana Supreme Court.

Bucy was praised for spearheading the Department of Justice's efforts to pass legislation to register sexual and violent offenders, help senior citizens protect their identity and credit information and ensure protective orders, such as restraining orders, can be more easily enforced.

One of the keynotes of her campaign is her eSm@rtKids program, which would help kids be safe when engaged in online internet activity.

"It protects them from sexual predators, as well as others who would exploit them if they do not use their internet time in a safe and smart manner," Bucy explained.

Bucy's career in law enforcement began when she grew up in Townsend, she joked.

"I had to keep tabs on four younger brothers and sisters," she said. "That may be also why I'm very interested in protecting families and children. I felt I grew up in a safe environment, but modern life exposes

us all to new risks and dangers. Not just our playgrounds need to be secure; our resources need to extend to cyberspace where predators take advantage of children and the elderly."

After graduation, she studied law at the University of Montana and immediately after receiving her degree, went to work as a criminal prosecutor with the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's office. In that role, she gained a solid understanding of the various issues surrounding our criminal justice system and successfully prosecuted hundreds of cases, including DUI, domestic violence, theft and homicide.

Prior to her legal career, she owned the Firehouse Playhouse in Livingston and was assistant manager of the Livingston Chamber of Commerce.

"I know something about the challenges to small business," she said. "I haven't forgotten the issues they face."

Bucy's attraction to RMC began when she was only a kid. At a Methodist Church summer camp, "a witty, smart, funny and really entertaining group performed," she said. "They (the Montana Logging and Ballet Company) were all Rocky grads. I thought right then if they turned out as good as they did, that was the place for me."

Getting here and staying here was another matter. Scholarships were essential, but "I also worked the whole time, at whatever job I could find," she said. "I had jobs at the Granary, TJ Maxx, Ernst, and work study jobs. I was lucky. I was brought up in a family that valued hard work."

On a recent visit to campus, Bucy recalled wonderful professors, from Mark Moak, in art, to Ken Egan and Linaya Leaf, in English, to Dr. Larry Small, in history.

"I loved this College," she said. "I got everything I wanted and more from here."



Pam Bucy could be the first Attorney General for the State of Montana.

CANDLELIGHT: SVEE HONORED FEBRUARY 9

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The Candlelight Dinner celebrates when faculty and students first occupied buildings on campus in January 1910, prior to having electrical power activated. The group managed to put together a din-

ner of cold meat, beans, doughnuts, potatoes and coffee. Utensils were in short supply, so some made do with forks, while others ate with spoons. They ate by flickering candlelight.

Reservations can be made by calling or

emailing Mullaney at 657-1007 or Kristin.mullaney@rocky.edu. Cost for the dinner is \$20 per person with proceeds going to the RMC Scholarship Fund.

DOC WRAPS UP 47 YEAR CAREER

FOCUS ON FACULTY

Weather, of the snow laden wintry type, had a lot to do with James "Doc" McDowell's long tenure at Rocky Mountain College. His antipathy for long winters is why he chose Colorado State over his home state to attend college. It's why he chose to leave a job he loved at North Dakota State after he earned his master's at Oregon State and his doctorate at Oklahoma.

"I didn't like all that snow and long, cold winters," McDowell grumbled in his characteristic growl.

McDowell, who grew up near where he lives now, on a 76-acre property near Silesia, Mont., recalls going to a high school Future Farmers of America gathering at Montana State University in Bozeman one autumn.

"It was September. There was two feet of snow and it was cold and miserable," he said.

He returned to Montana State University in the spring for another FFA gathering.

"It was April and there was still two feet of snow and I said the heck with that. I'll go to college somewhere else."

Later, while teaching at North Dakota State in Fargo, by the second year, the same winter aversion faced him.

"Too much winter, too long," he said. "I really liked the job, but I vowed I was going to get back to the area in Montana where I grew up. When the job came open at Rocky, I went for it. I knew winters over here aren't so tough."

Avoiding the heavy hand of winter has meant Doc McDowell has racked up 47 years teaching courses in microeconomics, money and banking, and international trade in the economics and business administration division at RMC.

"It's been a good, long run," he said, announcing that this will be the year he ends that professorial career that began in 1965. "Not only did I get to teach, I traveled all over the world. Europe, Japan, South America. I really was a globe trotter."

Retirement will open up more time for Doc to pursue his other interests. Those include hunting, fishing, horses, reading, and listening to his collection of George Noory early morning radio shows. (For those unfamiliar with George Noory, his radio broadcasts deal with UFO's, life after death, and other unexplained phenomena, with a strong dose of libertarianism.)

"He makes you think. More people should hear what he has to say," Doc said.

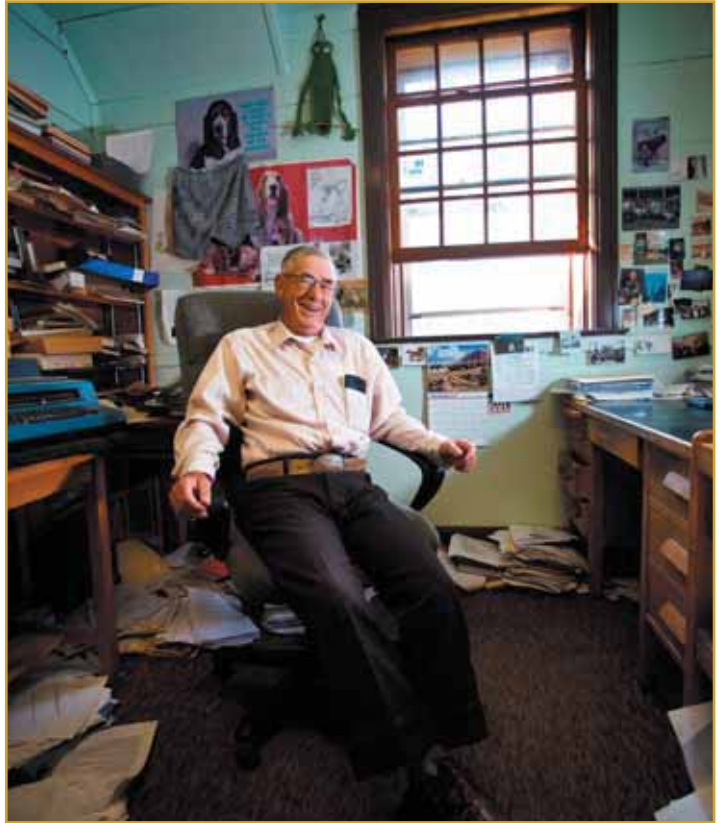
Thinking is what Doc thinks there is too little of these days.

"I don't think today's students read enough. Many don't have a good work ethic, and a lot of them expect college to be easy," he said.

Doc eschews the gadgets he thinks interferes with education. In his life, there are no iPods or iPads, no cell phones, and no television.

"I'm old school. All those things are just distractions from real life," he avowed.

That said, Doc still believes RMC offers a quality education for those who take advantage of it, and he still believes education is the



Dr. James McDowell, in his office in Tyler, will retire this year.

cure for what ails the country.

"I'm critical because I think it's important to question everything. If there's one legacy I hope I leave, it's that."

Advice for today's and tomorrow's students?

"Read, ask questions, don't miss class, and work hard. Pretty simple to say. Harder to do," he said.

The other legacy will be Doc's sense of humor and play.

A former colleague and close friend, Larry Weirather, who taught at RMC in the 1960s, tells one story of Doc's fun side. After a night of ling fishing on the Yellowstone River, the two of them snared a huge, ugly, whiskery catfish.

"As befitting our stature as outstanding citizens and proper college professors," Weirather joked, "we decided to sneak inside the airport and dump it into the trout pool that greeted visitors. The next morning there was water and landing nets all over the place. The catfish did not go peacefully, nor did the trout want any part of being in the same pool."

Others remember Doc's personal interest in helping students. He was tough, but fair. Former RMC Board Chair Jim Almond, who, with his wife, Sandy, were honored as RMC's 2009 Philanthropists of the Year, credits his successful career in banking to McDowell.

"He set me straight. He nurtured a strong work ethic, got me squared away in business and economics, and helped me when I went

AT HOME ON THE COURT

ALL ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

BY JENNY LOCKHART - RMC

Born in Germany and baptized in the Jordan River, Callie Eike's childhood was defined by instability.

"I didn't have a hometown," she said. "My parents are in the Air Force, so we moved all the time, but I've been able to see the world. From Germany to Egypt, Texas, Arizona – I was a military brat."

After living in 24 different houses and attending three different high schools, Callie found herself graduating high school in Nampa, Idaho, and making a decision to attend Montana State University-Billings (MSUB) – putting an end to the constant relocation.

Callie's choice of college wasn't based on academic offerings or institutional location, as many of her peers thought.

"They told my mom she had six months to live, and she wanted to see me play college basketball," Callie said. "We called up MSUB and told them her wish."

But after her first year at MSUB, Callie was overwhelmed by her mother's health, academics, and basketball. She made the decision to quit playing for good.

"I had a lot on my plate," she said. "I'd worked with [RMC coach] Brian Henderson at NBC camps during the summer, and he told me I was too good to quit. He helped me keep with it."

Henderson's intervention was lucky for Callie. There's light in her eyes when she explains what basketball means to her college career.

"All of the bad things going on in my world seem to not matter when I'm on the court," she said. "And I know my parents love seeing me play – they watch all of the games – and they know that I find joy when I'm on the basketball court."

When Callie's on the court, her joy cannot be contained. She believes basketball has been a blessing, giving her hope and focus and allowing her to prepare for the future.

"My dad's always told me 'every day a little better' and that sticks with me,"



Callie Eike has been a splendid addition to the Battlin' Bears, but her playing has an extra dimension.

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COMING EVENTS

THROUGH FEBRUARY 10

The All Faculty Art Show features photography, ceramics, furniture, welding, oil and acrylic paintings, photo-mosaic, and metal sculpture by faculty from a range of departments. The exhibit also features works by RMC students who attended fall semester in Italy. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., M-F, except during school holidays. The closing reception for the artists will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., the last day of the exhibit. For more information: Sally McIntosh, RMC Ryniker Morrison Gallery director, mcintoshart@imt.net / (406) 259-6563.

JANUARY 25 - 29

The RMC Debate Team travels to Dublin, Ireland, for an invitational tournament at Trinity College. Ten RMC debaters will represent RMC in the tournament that will have competitors from Ireland and the United Kingdom.

FEBRUARY 2 - 3

The RMC Fourth Annual Invitational Honors Concert is coordinated by the RMC Admissions Office in conjunction with the RMC Music Department. The climax of the event will be the Feb. 3 concert at the Alberta Bair Theatre at 7 p.m. For more information: Margaret Thomas, Admission event coordinator, margaret.thomas@rocky.edu / (406) 657-1026.



RMC Band Director Tony Hammond rehearses high school students accepted to participate in the RMC Honors Invitational last year. Students from across Montana join RMC students to present a public concert.

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW COURT TO ROCKY TEAMS

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I really relied heavily on our coaches for their input,” Beers said.

With the new court and updated logos, the Battlin’ Bears began Frontier Conference play January 6, 2012, squaring off against in-state rival Carroll College. The women battled back from 11 points down with less than eight minutes left in the game to beat the Saints 56-52, while the men dropped the opener 72-69 with the tying shot falling short as time expired.

Right, First Interstate Bank Regional President Keith Cook addresses the crowd during halftime dedication ceremony for the new court in the Fortin Education Center. RMC Athletic Director Robert Beers presented Cook with a Battlin’ Bears jersey and autographed basketball to celebrate the occasion.



ALL ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

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she said. “Basketball is a job and my teammates are my coworkers. The fact that I tore my ACL nine months ago makes me want to work even harder at my job. If I can finish a great senior year after coming back from something that people don’t think you can come back from, that’s an amazing achievement.”

Callie’s on track to prove everyone wrong, performing above par in RMC’s most recent game against Carroll College. But strong recoveries seem to run in the family.

“My mom had an incurable cancer, and is in remission now,” Callie said. “She wasn’t even supposed to make it to my wedding this summer, but just having her here is a blessing.”

With graduation approaching, Callie hopes to find a position working in sports information and athletic directing. She and her husband, Kale Eike (RMC ’11), live in Billings, and for now, Callie’s satisfied being in one place.

“Billings is the one place I’ve lived the longest,” she said. “It feels like home.”

PHOTOS

Credit

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

FOCUS ON FACULTY: DOC MCDOWELL

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to North Dakota State for my master’s in agricultural economics,” Almond said.

Dave Shumway, a 2007 magna cum laude graduate, talked about the importance of the “out-of-class McDowell.”

“It wasn’t just in class that you learned from Doc. You got a genuine western experience, thanks to Doc. His wild game

feast at his ranch was a great introduction to western life. His annual Christmas tree trimming was another one. Going to his ranch rounded out educational experiences.”

What will Doc do with his new free time?

“I’m going to write a tell-all book about

Rocky,” he said. “It will give the real low-down.”

He will also continue one of his favorite connections to RMC. “Visiting with graduates. I always like to hear how they’re doing.”

And, no doubt, many of them will want to know how he is doing, too.

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