

SENIOR Sampler



Mary Schvetz

It was cold inside the quinzhee in Yellowstone Park, but not as cold as the outside air, remembers Mary Schvetz about the ice caves they built and slept in. Being chilled in the Park is still one of the Rocky Mountain College senior's most memorable moments.

Another was near Westby, snug against the Saskatchewan and North Dakota borders, where her advanced biodiversity class camped and captured "some really cool mammals, like an arctic shrew and a short-tailed weasel," she said.

Those memorable times cap an unforgettable college career, where the summa cum laude graduate won two department awards for outstanding academics. Schvetz was the recipient of the highest academic award in environmental science and in environmental studies.

According to Kayhan Ostovar, RMC assistant professor of environmental science, Mary is one of those students that "make me happy to have chosen a career in education. Her inquisitive nature will do her well in the crisis oriented conservation world."

Ostovar was so impressed with Mary, he has already recommended her as a member of the board of the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society.

"I started out as a biology major, but felt like that was very medically oriented, and I've always been more interested in animals and the outdoors, so I switched to environmental science, which was very focused on ecological and wildlife issues. A year after that, I added the environmental studies

*(Please see **Mary Schvetz** on back page)*

RMC Photo

Mary participated with a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks research project in winter at Cooney Dam Reservoir. The project involved ice fishing for ling and documenting their condition. Below, Mary's journal blends first-hand scientific observation and demonstrates her artistic talent.



SENIOR

Emily Lambert

Emily Lambert did something during her college career that only one other student in her class -- Steven Koston -- accomplished. She earned the highest cumulative grade point average in her class.

Lambert, who graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education, missed a perfect GPA by only .07.

Earning a 3.93 cumulative GPA didn't mean she was a study-aholic, she said. A social life was still very important and she learned how to balance her time.

"I was in the talent show my freshman year, twirling baton, and I won second place," she laughs. "I enjoyed all kinds of outdoor rec activities. I participated in rock climbing, hiking, snow shoeing, tubing, ice caves, and much more. Also, just hanging out with all the great people made life enjoyable."

There was little doubt among faculty and staff that Emily would be an award winner.

"She was simply a wonderful student," said Brad Nason, vice president and dean of student life. "She made the most of what we have to offer and really did a good job with her educational experiences."

The Helena, Mont., native, whose dad is a professor at Carroll College, chose Billings because she had some medical issues, which were mitigated by close proximity to nearby hospitals and clinics.

"Plus I had a good friend who went to Rocky and really

loved it," she said.

Her work ethic was something cultivated in a well-educated family.

"I took my studies seriously. I did my homework and often went beyond what was required. I tend to be a perfectionist and wanted my work to be done well," she said.

To those who want to follow her path, her advice is to "go into something that you enjoy and is your passion. Don't blow off what your classes and professors have to offer you. Get involved. Try new experiences. Explore beyond the campus."

Her career goal is to work with kids.

"I want to help them academically, emotionally, socially, physically, mentally, in every way I can," she said.

She'll begin that mission this fall with student teaching, and then plans to join the Peace Corps.



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

David Lambers

By **AUSTIN TAIT**
RMC Sports Information Officer



If you watched a Rocky Mountain College football game over the past four seasons, chances are you didn't pay much attention to the player wearing #73, but you should have.

If you were on campus at any point in time over the past five years, chances are you probably didn't pay much attention to the quiet, unassuming David Lambers, but you should have.

You see, David Lambers is what being a student-athlete at Rocky Mountain College is all about.

As a student, David, who hails from Bozeman, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree this spring. He worked tirelessly in the training room at Rocky, devoting over 200 hours each semester for four straight years in order to fulfill his obligation to earn his degree as an exercise science major.

As an athlete, David was an offensive lineman for the Battlin' Bears football team. As the center and anchor of the offensive line, David earned first team all-Frontier Conference accolades for the 2008 and the 2009 seasons. His accomplishments in the classroom and on the field earned him a spot on the academic all-conference team for four consecutive seasons, and the scholar-athlete award in 2009.

It is for these reasons, among many others, that David was awarded the 2009-2010 President's Athletic Award. The President's Award is voted on by all of the members of Rocky's coaching staff and is given to the student-athlete that best represents the institution and the athletic department in the most positive way.

When asked about receiving the award, the always humble Lambers said, "receiving the President's Award means

a lot to me. It will always remind me of the work that I put in both in the classroom and on the football field. It will remind me of all of the good times I had with my teammates and all of the great people I met along my journey at Rocky."

Even though you might not have paid much attention to David Lambers over the past five years at Rocky because he played 'in the trenches' on the offensive line and was 'holed up' in the training room, his peers and the coaching staff at Rocky did. And they should have. That is why David Lambers is what being a student-athlete at Rocky is all about.

David's plans for the immediate future include taking some courses that would permit him to become a certified EMT worker with an ambulance service and he would like to work towards becoming a firefighter later this summer. He still has designs to go back to school to obtain his masters degree in Athletic Training to help keep him close to the playing field.

"I would like to thank Shelly Turner and the coaches at Rocky that believed in me and for all they have done for me. That is what made my time at RMC special," he said.



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Kristin Mullaney

By AUSTIN TAIT
RMC Sports Information Officer



Rocky Mountain College will be a little different next year. You won't see Kristin Mullaney on the football field or on the basketball floor, cheering the Battlin' Bears athletic teams on to victory as a member of the Rocky cheerleading squad.

You won't see her walking across campus greeting every single student and staff member while giving a campus tour as a Rocky student ambassador.

You won't see her headed to class to fulfill her double major in biology and professional communications. But, even though you won't see Kristin on campus next year and the years to follow, you can take comfort in the fact that she'll be out making the world a better place. That is the kind of person that Kristin Mullaney is - everywhere she goes she makes it a better place.

She certainly made Rocky a better place for the past four years. A native of Livingston, it seems like Kristin always has a smile on her face and it is her infectious personality that makes her a symbol of what it means to be a student-athlete at Rocky Mountain College.

As a student, Kristin excelled in the classroom, earning a Bachelor of Science degree.

As an athlete, Kristin was a four-year member of the Rocky cheerleading squad and was named captain for two of those seasons. Also, in 2009, she was given the Champions of Character award on the cheer team for her work at Rocky and in the community.

It is no wonder that Kristin was recently awarded with the 2009-2010 Arthur and Linda DeRosier Athletic Award by the coaching staff at Rocky, given annually to the student-athlete that best represents the institution and the athletic

department in the most positive way.

Kristin's response to winning the award is maybe the best indication of the kind of person that she is, and the reason that she was the clear-cut choice to be the recipient.

"Receiving this award is not only an extremely great honor, but it is also a reminder of why I am so proud to be a Battlin' Bear. Knowing that I left at least a little bit of a legacy behind at a place that made such a big mark on my life is extremely humbling," she said.

As you can see, there is no doubt that without Kristin Mullaney around, Rocky Mountain College will be a little different.

Over the course of her summer, Kristen plans to keep busy job shadowing physician assistants and doctors at Riverstone Health. Her vision for the future includes pursuing a graduate degree in a PA program, "hopefully at Rocky."

Kristin will continue to work part time locally in Billings as well as going back home to Livingston where she will fill in at a local dentist's office. Her time at home will revolve around her family and church where she is a member of the church choir.

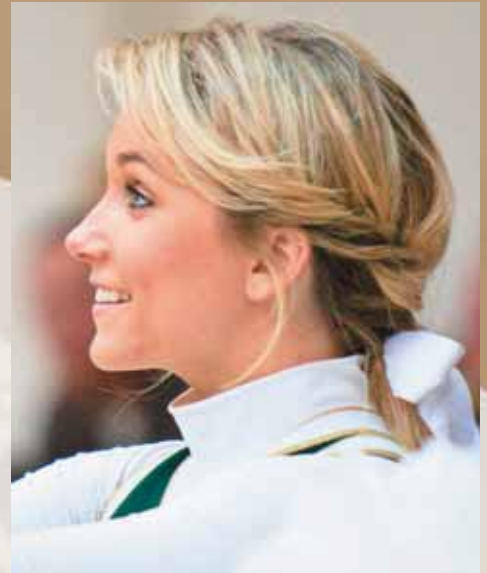


Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Dustin Schneider



Dustin Schneider, of Lewistown, Mont., achieved something no other Rocky Mountain College graduating senior ever managed to do.

Schneider, who graduated magna cum laude during RMC's 128th commencement on May 8, captured the top academic honors in three departments.

Schneider was named the outstanding senior in psychology, communication studies, and Services for Academic Success.

He is one of a handful of graduates with a double major (psychology and communication studies). The SAS award was for tutoring and mentoring other students.

"He's a diligent worker who also found time to help others," said Dr. Jane Van Dyk, RMC associate vice president and director of SAS. "He exemplifies our kind of student, one who overcomes challenges to achieve his dream."

As the outstanding graduate in psychology, he was "an excellent student; creative and intelligent," said Dr. Barbara Vail, RMC associate vice president and psychology professor.

Schneider is also one of only five students who presented a senior honors project. His topic - "The Muting of Gays and Lesbians in Proposition 8" - was an excellently researched presentation of a timely topic, according to Dr. Vickie Christie, RMC professor of communication studies.

"Dustin took every opportunity offered him to expand his

academic credentials," Dr. Christie said. "He worked very hard to be successful."

Ringed endorsements from three department heads is an exceptional feat, and when two are vice presidents, it's extraordinary.

It's no wonder, then, that Schneider has already been accepted to graduate school at the University of Montana where he will also serve as a teaching assistant.

"I'll be teaching introductory speech," he said, while working on a master's in psychology. His career goal is to become a therapist. With his record of achievement, that should be attainable.

His UM students will be learning from an accomplished speech and debate teacher. Schneider squeezed in four years as a successful member of the RMC "Babblin' Bears," the college debate team.



Photo: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Mary Schvetz

(Continued from front)

major because it complemented what I was learning in my science classes with a background in philosophy, ethics, history and politics," she explained.

Those latter interests are why Dr. David Strong, professor of philosophy and environmental studies, discovered she was his top student.

"What more could a professor ask for? I like to say that she has made the most of the best of us," he said. "Mary is a gifted and very intelligent student who is concerned about

things that really matter. She thinks and works independently, and put much effort into her studies."

The opportunity for field studies also helped with her decision. Two "amazing spring breaks, one my junior year to the Galapagos Islands, and one this year to Costa Rica, where we had many adventures and saw a ton of amazing animals," also will be among her college highlights.

Those experiences were what she expected from Rocky when she first decided to attend. A postcard from the ad-



RMC Photo

One of Mary's most memorable trips was to the Galapagos Islands where she made friends with this friendly serpent.

missions department showing students in Yellowstone hotpots convinced the Evergreen, Colorado, native.

Not one to be confined to campus, Mary followed her passion for cross country running to the RMC team, which allowed her trips to meets, including a road trip to Olympia to race at Regionals.

"We had a blast exploring and running," she said. Rocky prepared her very well for her future career.

"I got hands-on experience working with everything from GIS software and radio telemetry to setting trap lines, preparing study skins and culturing E. coli. It was very well-rounded, and gave me a ton of practical experience in the field and the lab, as well as a good classroom experience," she said.

All that certainly helped her land a job with the Bureau of Land Management, where she will be working as a GIS (geographic information systems) technician, mapping software.

For those who will come after her, Mary offers the following advice:

"Find the thing you really love doing; it makes everything easier, and enjoy school while you can - it goes by fast."



Not enough space in publications; always space on campus

We hope you've enjoyed reading our Senior Sampler accompanying this issue of Rocky Now, which is, as advertised, just that - a sampler of some of our outstanding graduates.

We've written about some of our other extraordinary seniors in previous issues of Rocky Now, stretching back to when we first launched this newsletter three years ago. Every issue focused on a student, such as 2010 President's Cup winner, Rachel Ludington (RN Nov. 2009); or Brandon Templeton (RN April 2008), who captained his RMC flight team and graduated summa cum laude; or Maria Robinson (RN, May 2009), who earned academic honors and her degree while raising two children; or Olivia Johnson (RN June 2009) who was in the first class to earn master's of educational leadership degrees; or Luke Shealy (RN June 2007), whose senior honors project established an exchange relationship with the University of Jordan, in Amman.

This sampler of only five 2010 RMC graduates is, therefore, a small sampling of the other 192 who graduated at the 128th RMC Commencement. Their educational and life experiences were a rich blend of what a student may enjoy while attending Montana's oldest institution of higher education.

Of course, our publications budget determines what space we have, and it cannot provide space for articles on all of those who became alumni on May 8th.

But, if space was not available in our publications, it was always available on campus and in the classroom. All 197 completed successful college careers with their diplomas as testimony of their achievement.

Many of you made sure there was space for them at Rocky. You helped provide the scholarships that afforded them the opportunity to accomplish something less than one quarter of Montana's population has accomplished - mirroring the nation as a whole -- namely, earning a college degree.

As always, Rocky Mountain College is here for its students, but they are here because of you. Thank you, alumni and friends, for giving back.

You've made space for all our graduates in your heart.

We hope you will continue to make sure students find space at Rocky Mountain College. The Development officers are always happy to discuss how you can help our students become graduates.