

ROCKY NOW



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Fresh news every day at www.rocky.edu

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

All about our students

Brittney Penberthy, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, maintains a better than 3.6 grade point average, is president of the chemistry club, serves as a student



ambassador and tour guide for prospective students, and is active in student government. Now the Rocky Mountain College senior can add another laurel to her achievements. Brittney received the Student Employee of the Year award given by the Western Association of Student Employment Administrators.

According to Professor John Barbaro, who nominated her, Brittney is a diligent, dependable and responsible work-study student for the chemistry department. Brittney's duties center on performing the behind-the-scenes necessities that keep the chemistry laboratories running smoothly. Every week during the semester Brittney prepares the samples and solutions for the students.

"Her performance in these duties has been excellent over the two years -- at no time over the last two years was the lab not properly prepared for the week's experiment, even if it meant her having to work extra hours at night and on weekends to get everything prepared in time," said Professor Barbaro.

Brittney is the daughter of Timothy and Kelly Penberthy of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Virginia City, Here We Come!

The home of Montana's oldest professional acting company will be operated by the state's oldest institution of higher education when the curtain goes up in Virginia City Opera House this Memorial Day.

The Montana Heritage Commission has designated Rocky Mountain College as the official managing operator of the historic Virginia City Opera House, announced Tenlee Atchinson, commission program director.

"History lives in Virginia City and, besides our work with preservation of historic sites, we have a commitment to education about the history. Partnering with Rocky Mountain College is exciting because of the importance of that educational role," she said.

For Rocky, the opportunity to have a high profile at a major tourist location, coupled with the opportunities for Rocky students to serve as the historic Virginia City Players, "is a wonderful challenge and a wonderful opportunity," said RMC President Michael Mace.

Overseeing the project will be Gearld Roe, RMC professor of theatre arts.

RMC will offer a number of paid internships for students. These will include positions for actors, a stage manager, a technical director, a business manager and an education program director.

"This is especially exciting for us because we want to create a strong educational component with what we're doing," Roe said. "Educating people about the history of the opera house and the history of Virginia City is as important as the entertainment we'll provide."

RMC will provide a curriculum for area school teachers who can arrange student field trips. Students will have a guide book that mirrors the lesson plans.

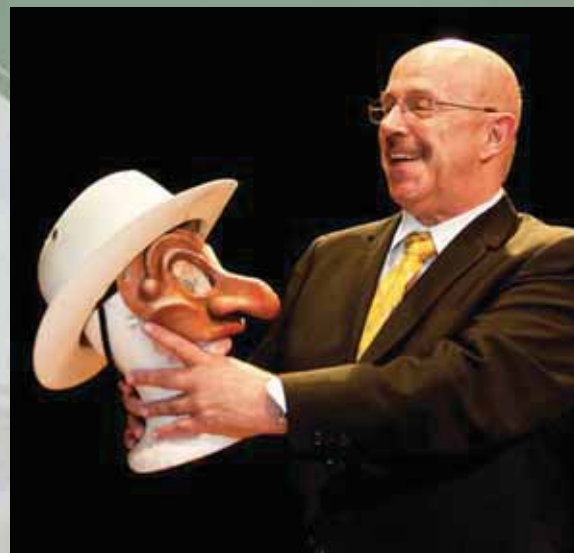
Roe is also enthusiastic about Rocky's involvement because of the connections to other RMC alumni already involved in Virginia City projects. Adjacent to the historic opera house is the Bale of Hay Saloon, operated by Gave Rossow, RMC '91; and the educational component was crafted by Lynn (DeBree) Al, RMC '91.

Roe's link to the opera house dates back to 1978 when he first came to Montana to teach at Montana State University.

"I was told about it, went to see it, and the next thing you know, I was in it," he remembered.

Under RMC's management, three shows will be performed: "Rustle Your Bustle" (a musical melodrama written by company member, Jimmy Moore); "Sweeney Todd" (the nonmusical melodrama by George Dibdin Pitt); and "Aggie, the Mail-Order Bride" (which Roe will adapt from Moliere's "School for Wives," setting it in the West.)

Performances are presented from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Tuesday through Sunday. President Mace is also planning a special alumni event with a day touring Virginia City and Nevada City, followed by a pitchfork BBQ and an evening show.



RMC Professor Gearld Roe



Insider

What Really Changes The World

Rocky Mountain College is a college of professional academics, grounded in liberal arts, where learning is a shared experience. We prepare students, not only for independent and creative thought but also ethical leadership that benefits their careers and the world at large.



This sounds like a great mission statement about who we are at Rocky Mountain College.

I wanted to share this thought because we are living through historic economic times these days, but what we teach at RMC makes a big difference in one's life.

Dr. Bob Moorhead, former pastor of Seattle's Overlake Christian Church, shared the following and it is just as truthful today as it was in 1995 when he penned these words:

The genuine paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings and shorter tempers, wider roadways, and narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. Some times we've done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudices. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. A time when computer technology and a thing called email, can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete.

Remember; spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember, to say, 'I love you' but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there. Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER - 'Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Because we prepare students, not only for independent and creative thought but also ethical leadership that benefits their careers and the world at large, our graduates become the change that changes the world.

Best regards,

Michael Mace, RMC President

Coming Attractions 2009

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Easter Egg Hunt
(For children of RMC alumni, faculty & staff)
Rocky Green
10 a.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Alumni Beer Tasting
Bones Brewery
15th S. Broadwater
6 p.m.

Commencement Events

FRIDAY, MAY 8

President's Reception
(For graduates and their families, hosted by President and Mrs. Mace)
Great Room, Prescott Hall
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Baccalaureate

First Presbyterian Church,
2420 13th Street West
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

Graduation Brunch
(For graduates and families)
McDonald Commons
Bair Family Student Center
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

127th Commencement

Fortin Education Center
1 p.m.

Alumni Reception

(For graduates and their families, faculty and staff)
On the east side lawn
Fortin Education Center
3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Mark your calendars for the
Alumni Golf Tournament
Peter Yegen Golf Course
1 p.m.

Photos by Dave M. Shumway, RMC,
unless otherwise noted.

Focus on Alumni

RMC Alumni chosen for "40 under 40"

PHOTOS: Dave Grubbs, Billings Gazette

Two Rocky Mountain College alumni were selected for this year's "40 under 40," chosen by the Billings Business Journal. The annual profile of promising young business professionals is loaded with those who want to make Billings a better place, boosting arts and culture, making healthcare accessible, mentoring teens and improving education. This is the seventh annual tribute of young leaders in careers and community. RMC is proud to have its alumni acknowledged — Shari VanDelinder, director of development and Lisa Browning, vice president of enrollment services have been recent selections — and salutes Vicki-Lynne M. Tacke and Michael Vicars for being chosen this year.

Vicki-Lynne Tacke loved playing soccer, but it was professional hockey that drew her to Las Vegas where she worked with the Wrangler, that city's professional hockey team. It was rewarding, challenging and exciting, she said, but she missed Billings. She was lured back to Billings by a job with Macerich, owner of Rimrock Mall, where, for three years, she has served as specialty leasing manager.



Outside her professional career, the 28-year-old loves mentoring "teen-age ladies," she told the Billings Business Journal. To make Billings a better place, she would apply lessons she learned at Rocky: Great communities start with an enthusiastic, educated, well-loved, well-adjusted, well-prepared youth population," she said. "We all need to invest in our young people."

Another 28-year-old, Michael Vicars thinks Rocky Mountain College graduates probably have an inside track to success in Billings because he remembers his RMC professors introduced him to key people in the business community. The former Battlin' Bear football player also credits the RMC Career Services office for helping jumpstart a career as a financial advisor with Waddell and Reed, which he chose for its "tremendous team environment." Vicars meshes his career goals with his aspirations for the community. If he can help people make good financial decisions, it may mean they can donate more to charities, schools, and their families.



Focus on Faculty & Staff

Two From RMC Honored With YWCA Award

By Jesse Murphy

Rocky Mountain College News Service

Rocky Mountain College continues to hold its head high. Recently, two women from different sectors of society, and from our campus, have been honored with the annual YWCA Salute to Women award.

Dr. Claire Oakley, professor of biology, professor of allied health, and a professor in the RMC Physicians Assistant program, as well as Cindy Kunz, executive administrator of the Institute for Peace Studies at Rocky Mountain College, are two of this year's honorees.

Highly regarded throughout Rocky Mountain College and the greater Billings area for her efforts in both her professional and personal life, Dr. Claire Oakley has taught at RMC for 23 years, building the biology program from about an eight-student program into the fourth largest program on campus, with her as the sole faculty advisor. During that time, Dr. Oakley and her colleagues have built a curriculum with a strong reputation and impressive graduate school placement rate.



Dr. Claire Oakley



Cindy Kunz

In fact, 89.5% of RMC biology and/or chemistry students applying to medical school have been accepted -- compared to the national average of about 33%.

It is always hard to find the perfect equation for a student's success, but, at least in the sciences, Dr. Oakley is almost certainly a part of that equation. From her rigorous classes, the cadavers she procures, the cookies she bakes on test days, the financial advocacy she provides on students' behalf, or the sound and patient advice she gives when shepherding a student through the college experience, Dr. Oakley is a repeating factor in successful students' equations.

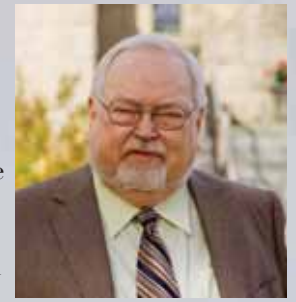
As the executive administrator for the Institute for Peace Studies, Cindy Kunz has "helped initiate a new beginning for [the] mission of peace and justice," according to Dr. Lawrence F. Small, Sr. For almost a decade Cindy has overseen the grant writing, launched the "We are Women, Watch us Soar" conference, and organized the Peace Village, Cultural Diversity Outreach and Festival of Cultures. The conflict resolution program reaches thousands of elementary

(More RMC Honored, please turn to back)

Ordinary People Making Extraordinary Gifts

By Obert Undem

RMC Director of Planned Giving



The future is always purchased at present costs. Fortunately for us, our donors are generous, care about others and are passionate about education as a means to change the future. They are willing to take action now to seed generations to come. There are tax advantages to doing so.

Tax laws, in effect, permit a donor to subsidize larger legacy gifts by diverting tax dollars from tax collectors to local charitable organizations, such as RMC.

For example, a simple \$5,000 planned gift to Rocky's permanent scholarship funds can create a \$2,000 tax credit to pay that year's Montana income taxes, as well as reducing federal taxes. Such a gift, repeated annually for five years, will create a \$25,000 scholarship fund with income for scholarships of \$1,000 a year forever, which will help students not otherwise able to go to Rocky.

Such gifts change lives and realize dreams in magical ways while the tax savings allow ordinary people to make extraordinary gifts.

Each donor, no matter the size of the gift, is important because he or she is choosing to leave a living legacy. In return, he witnesses, time and again, that they receive great satisfaction from giving something back.

An example is one recent donor. Had he not made a planned gift to Rocky, his sole presence in Montana would have been the shadow cast by his tombstone. Instead, he has a living legacy for future students at Rocky — money that otherwise would have gone to the tax collectors. That's a fairly powerful justification to consider a planned gift.

Such gifts can also provide income in retirement years to the donor with the remaining fund going to Rocky for scholarships after the donor's death. Such annuities will pay much more than do bank CDs, government bonds, and most stocks.

Please feel free to call (1.800.877.6259 or 1.406.657.1142) or visit me (Prescott Hall). I will be happy to tell you what such a gift could do for you and Rocky's students. No two situations are exactly the same.

RMC Honored...

(Continued from previous page)

students a year with the message of resolving issues nonviolently.

Cindy's story of personal leadership through hardship started in her childhood, deepened in her parenting years, and continues to this day. Even with three grown children, one unofficially adopted daughter, and three grandchildren, Cindy's courage and dedication to making her world better is undaunted. One of her mantras, "teach them young, teach them forever," propels her work for peace with the thousands of Billings area students through the Institute. Her unwavering devotion to the dozens of international students who have found a safe haven in her office over the past decade is further testimony to her commitment.

Cindy, "a devout Christian, has created a workplace where I feel respected as a Muslim, as have my coworkers -- students who represented Hindu, Buddhist, and Shinto faiths. She is dedicated to family and encourages each of us to feel an important part of her world while reminding us to stay in close touch with our families. We are Kenyan, Rwandan, Brazilian, Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Sri Lankan, Swedish, Croatian, German, Russian, and Lithuanian, living and learning about each other, striving to find common ground," said Farida Mohamed, an RMC student from Kenya.

Cindy's reach is global, her touch is personal.

Both will be honored at the Salute to Women banquet, Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

