

ROCKY NOW

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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



Anne Frickle literally runs from job to job to pay for her RMC education.

PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

This month's "All About Students" feature focuses on Anne Frickle, the daughter of Dan and Sherill Frickle of Billings. Anne first elected to attend the University of Montana, but came home to help when her mom was ill (she has since recovered). Anne discovered something about the college in her hometown. She loved it.

Anne Frickle exemplifies the phrase "working her way through college." To pay for her education, Anne holds down three work study jobs, one with Admissions, a second with Human Resources, and a third with News & Information.

During the summer she also held down a full-time job with Hampton Inn & Suites, where she continues to work during the school year, only on Sundays.

"It's a good thing I love coffee," she laughs.

Working that hard to pay for college matches how hard she works to achieve her goal of going to medical school. With a better than 3.5 GPA -- while pursuing a degree in biology and psychology with a minor in chemistry -- Anne has her sights set on the University of Virginia, the University of New England, Duke University, the University of Washington or the University of Pennsylvania after she takes her Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) in 2011.

She is also a member of the RMC Cross Country Team.

Her spare time? She tutors and mentors academically challenged students at Billings West High School.



PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

With her family looking on, Patti Morledge cuts the ribbon at the dedication of Morledge - Kimball Hall.

A Wonderful Gift

Rocky Mountain College officially dedicated Morledge - Kimball Hall on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009.

Joined by her family, Patti Morledge, the wife of the late Dr. Charles Morledge, cut the ribbon, officially opening the beautiful new building.

"The Morledge family's humble and constant devotion to Rocky Mountain College will be remembered by the name we give this building today, as well as by the name we gave the beautiful walkway bisecting campus. But remembering them is not what they really want. They have not done what they've done to be remembered. They have done what they've done to show they remember us!," said RMC President Michael Mace.

Morledge - Kimball Hall is the result of the renovation of the

existing Kimball Hall, built in 1914 as a women's residence, and a brand new annex, doubling the size of the building. Morledge - Kimball Hall now houses 27 faculty offices, seven classrooms, and conference rooms. The entire project was made possible by generous funding from the Morledge family.

A reception honoring the Morledges and tours of the building completed the evening. So many came for the event that the reception spilled outside the Great Hall of Prescott Commons to the area between Prescott and Morledge - Kimball Hall.

"The dedication of Morledge - Kimball Hall has been an invigorating process. With the staunch

*(Please see **A Wonderful Gift** on back page)*



Insider

Good Things Are Happening at RMC

RMC Academic Vice President Anthony Piltz delivered the following comments at the All Campus Meeting, kicking off the new year.

Today marks the beginning of my 20th year of service to Rocky Mountain College. I began the day by parking my car in a freshly paved lot, an act that 19 years ago would have required that I park at the Billings Clinic, as paved lots were few and far between around here. I then walked on a concrete sidewalk, not an asphalt path, to a fantastic, newly renovated building that in the year of my arrival in Billings was used to host, with very limited modification, a haunted house. After a walk up an allegedly haunted staircase, I was soon in my office, which, oddly, has much of the furniture I had to beg, borrow, and steal from several locations in the summer of 1990. This time, however, there is actually some finish on the wood and much less grime. Next, I was able to log on to Campus Vue to check the status of one of my advisees. Perhaps some disagree, but I do not miss the days of thumbing through manila folders searching for an advisee's file, hoping I had updated it after they changed their schedule. I had the luxury of being able to log on to my very own computer. Well, I shouldn't say my very own computer, because that implies that I had to buy it myself. Of course, that was the case in 1990, because instead of a computer, I was handed a key to a computer "lab" in Alden which held two Zenith computers with 8088 microprocessors and 5 1/4" floppy drives. They might have had ten megabyte harddrives, but I do not remember for sure.

A great deal has changed in the last 20 years, and much of that change has occurred very recently. There are many people who have been here longer than I who could tell similar stories. All of those stories would lead in the same direction: Rocky Mountain College has had its struggles, but things keep getting better.

Students who speak at graduation often make similar references to the idiosyncrasies, past and present, of Rocky Mountain College. In recent years, they have invariably mentioned the "sidewalk to nowhere" between Tyler and Fortin. Of course, that isn't a sidewalk to nowhere. That sidewalk led to a long ago razed building, Montana Hall. So, it is not a sidewalk to nowhere, but is, instead, a sidewalk to the past.

The last few years, wherein we have renovated two derelict historic buildings, have taught me to better appreciate that sidewalk to the past, as it is really a sidewalk to the future -- a future with numerous possibilities, and a future that we get to create. A walk down the sidewalk to the past/future reveals to us a place that has always been special -- a place that continuously improves. Although the walk reveals an imperfect place, it is still ours. It is ours to make better.

Perhaps it is a little melodramatic to suggest that the world economy has collapsed since we last had an opening meeting. Even if this recession is not a total collapse, things are not good. Still, as we always have, we soldier on. We were able to make our entering class this year, and we should be OK financially. Still, the coming year will be a struggle in terms of budgets, because we do not live in the best of economic times. We don't have stacks of cash to throw around, and we will continue to deal with significant resource constraints. Nonetheless let's take a little time to celebrate our good fortune.

New buildings, new resources, new colleagues, new students, new opportunities. It all reminds me of an old slogan, "Good things are happening at Rocky Mountain College."



PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC
Anthony Piltz,
RMC academic vice president

Coming Attractions



PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC
The "tailgater" before an RMC football game is a standard feature.

RMC TAILGATES SEPTEMBER 19, SEPTEMBER 26, OCTOBER 10 & OCTOBER 17

(Prior to games with Carroll College, Montana Tech, Eastern Oregon University, and Montana State Northern)
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
East side of Fortin Education Center
For more information: Vicki Davison, RMC alumni director, 406.657.1005
vicki.davison@rocky.edu

OCTOBER 10 HOMECOMING

Parent's Weekend & 90s Reunion: Friday, Saturday, Sunday (various times). For more information: Vicki Davison, RMC alumni director, 406.657.1005
vicki.davison@rocky.edu

NOVEMBER 6 BTBJ

The 22nd Annual Black Tie Blue Jeans Scholarship Benefit
Friday, November 6, 2009
Billings Hotel & Convention Center
Tickets: \$125.00
6:00 p.m. / Registration, Cocktails, Photos & Silent Auction
7:30 p.m. / Dinner & Live Auction
9:00 p.m. / Midlife Chryslers
For more information: Shari VanDelinder, RMC executive director of development
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cell: 406-697-4230
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PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC
Holly Malloy Hansen, lead vocalist for the Midlife Chryslers, belts out a bluesy tune as RMC Professor Mark Moak accompanies on drums during last year's BTBJ performance.

Focus on Faculty & Staff

Teaching Discourse & Debate in Sarajevo

Back from a summer in Sarajevo, Shelby Jo Long-Hammond still wakes up occasionally in the middle of the night with "Sniper Alley" on her mind.

Even though the infamous killing zone is quiet 15 years after people were routinely gunned down during the siege that pitted ethnic groups against each other in bloody conflict, the echoes from that time made more poignant Long-Hammond's participation in the International Debate Education Association's (IDEA) youth forum in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Since 15 years ago, when people were shot down every day and no one, especially from Serbia or Croatia, could visit the Bosnian Parliament building, there has been a lot of progress, but there are still tensions," said the Rocky Mountain College assistant professor of communication studies, who also coaches the RMC debate team.

Long-Hammond was one of a select group of only five debate trainers from the United States chosen to work with the IDEA forum that brought 300 students from 35 different countries to learn about free speech and debate.

For Long-Hammond, the entire congregation of students from so many different cultures was an

opportunity to instill in them the vital necessity of discourse rather than violence as a way to work on problems.

"While I may have worried some nights (about the tension between students from diverse backgrounds), that was not a preoccupation because in the training labs, we made so much progress teaching how reason could prevail in finding solutions to issues," she said.

The former forbidden parliament building was where the final debate competition was held this year, she noted.

For Long-Hammond this was more than a job to train foreign students in debate; it was also an opportunity to forge relationships that will result in opportunities for prospective high school students from Montana.

"These are all high school students who come to the forum, and my participation will help open doors for high school students from our area who might want this great international experience," she said.

Long-Hammond has helped open doors for international experiences with her Rocky students. She took eight students to Ireland, where she once debated for Trinity College.



PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Shelby Jo Long - Hammond taught students from diverse cultures about debate as a technique for conflict resolution.

Focus on Alumni & Friends

Philanthropist Awards Presented to Almonds

This year marks the first year that Rocky Mountain College presented two awards for philanthropy. The RMC Philanthropist of the Year Award was presented to James R. and Sandra R. Almond on Aug. 20, 2009, at a reception in the Great Hall of Prescott Commons.

A second, new award -- the RMC Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award -- was presented to High Tech Construction on Aug. 27, 2009, at a reception in the Great Hall. The award to High Tech preceded the official dedication of Morledge - Kimball Hall.

Presenting the award to the Almonds were former U.S. Senator Conrad Burns, R- Mont., and Nick Cladis, of Capstone Wealth Management (President Mace was out of town and unable to attend).

The Almonds have been partners in love and life since their days growing up in Hysham, Montana. When Jim was in second grade, Sandy was in first. They have been married for 44 years. The couple have four children: eldest son, James, and youngest daughter, Kate, graduated from Rocky; and middle son and daughter, Carl, and Beth, graduated from the University of Montana.

"We've done everything side-by-side and we still do," Jim said. "Any achievement or honor I've received, she shares because she helped make it possible."

Jim came to Rocky Mountain College after graduating from Hysham High School and earned a degree in business administration with a minor in history, in 1966.

Jim's commitment and dedicated service to Rocky Mountain College has been longstanding and solid. He

served on the College Alumni Board, and, since 1992, as a member of the Board of Trustees.

In 2005, he was elected Chairman of the Board. In appreciation for his loyal and devoted service to Rocky, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 2007.

The award to High Tech Construction was presented by President Mace.

"For vigilant efforts to uplifting the community, from constructing great buildings to constructing good works, it is an honor to present this year's Rocky Mountain College Corporate Philanthropy of the Year Award to High Tech Construction," President Mace said.

Jim Haar, Scott Chartier and the late Dick Popelka founded High Tech in 1984. Rather than name the company after themselves, they chose a name to represent the application of advanced technological solutions to construction, but also because they wanted a name that continued beyond the time of the initial owners.

When Popelka retired by 2000, Kevin Hintt came on

*(Please see **Philanthropist Awards Presented** on back page)*



PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Jim and Sandy Almond

A Wonderful Gift

(Continued from front page)

support of the Morledge family, we see it bustling with energy this fall. Faculty are in new offices. Students are attending new classrooms. Conference rooms find seminars and meetings conducted. There are places to sit and relax, to converse, and to read and study. It is the realization of what this wonderful couple dreamed of accomplishing with one of the campus's most notable aged buildings for many years," said President Mace.

The Morledges have been dedicated advocates for the beautification of the campus and the restoration of the historic buildings. Together, they co-chaired the art committee responsible for the wonderful pieces that grace the Educational Resource Center. A picturesque

new walkway curves through the campus thanks to them. The Morledges were among the primary sponsors of the new Tech Hall Art Gallery, and they took an active role in the renovation of Prescott Commons, where Patti and Charles' wedding rehearsal dinner was held in 1947.

They also spearheaded the new signage project on campus, resulting in beautiful signs for all entrances to campus.

For their belief in Rocky Mountain College education, their philanthropic vision, and contributions of time and energy to benefit all those associated with Rocky Mountain College, they were inducted to the RMC Alumni Hall of Fame. They were the first couple to serve as Honorary Chairs of the annual scholarship benefit, Black Tie Blue Jeans, and they received the RMC Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. They were named RMC Philanthropists of the Year in 2007.

Philanthropist Awards Presented

(Continued from inside)

board, followed, in Bozeman, with Brian Bolton coming on board with the start up of the High Tech Bozeman office.

While the company business grew over the next 25 years, so did the company's involvement in public and private service and philanthropy. They have been engaged personally and professionally in the community.

High Tech has generously helped support the Billings Clinic Classic; the St. John's Summer Concert Series; the St. Vincent Healthcare's Saints Ball, as well as the Heart & Sole Run and Relay for Life; and our own Black Tie Blue Jeans Scholarship Benefit.

The RMC Philanthropist of the Year Award was presented to Sam E. McDonald, Jr. and his wife, Judith C. McDonald, in 2006; the late Dr. Charles C. Morledge, and his wife, Patricia A. Morledge, in 2007; and Nick Cladis, of Capstone Wealth Management, on behalf of the Fortin Family Foundation, in 2008.



PHOTO: Dave M. Shumway, RMC

Flanked by Scott Chartier (left) and Jim Haar (right) of High Tech Construction, President Mike Mace presents the 2009 Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

