

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR RUSSELL CHATHAM FINE ART PAVILION

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BILLINGS – With the blessing of one of Montana’s most revered artists, Russell Chatham, Rocky Mountain College launched a major capital campaign to build a Russell Chatham Fine Art Pavilion as part of a new science building.

In addition, RMC is creating an endowed chair in Russell Chatham’s name, which will be initially filled by the artist.

“This unique opportunity presented itself thanks to a gift from Helori Graf, president and CEO of Artcraft Printers. The collection of Chatham lithographs inspired us to find a way to permanently display this extraordinary collection,” said RMC President Michael Mace.

The campaign goal is to raise \$3 million for the new science building. The current Bair Science Center will be renovated and expanded as part of a \$9 million capital improvement.

Part of the \$3 million campaign will supplement financing already in place for the new science building, and part will be used to build the pavilion where limited edition lithographs by Chatham will be displayed.

Chatham will teach and mentor art students, and art classes will visit his Livingston, Mont. studio to see him work. Students will also have the opportunity to see Chatham and his printer work in the print shop where they produce lithographs using an age old process, rarely seen today.

The beauty of Russell Chatham’s work and the clarity of science are not exclusive, Mace said, which was echoed in a letter from Chatham to the College.

“The marriage of science and art is hardly a new concept, and one has only to conduct a cursory examination of the life of Leonardo da Vinci to bear this out. And I’ve heard it argued that Einstein’s theories are fifty percent physics while the equally significant other half is pure art,” Chatham wrote.

Chatham said the concept of his work, as part of a new science building was preferable to an exhibit of it in an art museum.

“What appeals to me most about this Fine Art Pavilion notion, and I consider this to be very important, is that it is not an art gallery per se, isolated from the rest of society where it would otherwise attract only that very small percentage of the population so

inclined to visit one. Instead, by positioning it in the busy thoroughfare of an important building devoted to the study of medicine, biology, physics, chemistry and so forth, a friendly ambush is set with the intent to offer those with other primary interests a glimpse of the twin they were forced to abandon at birth,” he wrote.

Chatham’s relationship with Rocky is a long one. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1994 and has continued to donate his work to help raise money for scholarships. He has visited the campus many times as a guest lecturer.

“Rocky Mountain College is a private college, Montana’s oldest by the way, which shares my own personal and professional motto of quality and integrity without compromise,” he stated.

Chatham said he is optimistic that admirers of his work will help the College achieve its goals.

A mailing to friends and clients of Chatham about the pavilion and seeking support was mailed this week.

Anyone interested in donating to the project is invited to contact the RMC President’s Office, 406-657-1015.

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