

FORTIN FAMILY FOUNDATION TO BE HONORED  
AS RMC PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

For more information: Shari VanDelinder, RMC director of development, 657-1173

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – A respected and revered family will be honored with the Rocky Mountain College Philanthropist of the Year Award, August 28, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the Great Room of Prescott Hall on the RMC campus.

Nick Cladis of Capstone Wealth Management will accept the 2008 award on behalf of the Fortin Family Foundation.

Honored in previous years were Judith C. and Sam E. McDonald, Jr., in 2006, and the late Charles Morledge and his wife, Patricia, in 2007.

“This award represents a small token of the immense appreciation we feel for how much these good people have done for Rocky Mountain College,” said RMC President Michael Mace. “The Fortin family’s contributions to RMC have provided wonderful facilities for our students, and for the larger community. If you’ve ever seen the stream of people into Fortin to use the pool or other facilities, or come to a state high school basketball tournament, or any of RMC’s events, you have an idea of how big an impact Fortin Education Center has for many, many people.”

For more than three decades, Mary Alice Fortin gave millions of dollars to education and health-care facilities in Montana and Florida. Several buildings in Billings were named in honor of either her, her late husband Philip N. Fortin, or both of them.

Among the buildings is the Fortin Education Center at Rocky Mountain College. The Fortin Family Foundation also gave \$600,000 this summer to RMC for improvements to the Fortin education Center, including new bleachers for the 2,200-seat gym, new seating on the Fortin Auditorium, and other upgrades to facilities.

Mrs. Fortin treasured a photograph she had of RMC students holding a “Thank you Mrs. Fortin” sign.

RMC awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1987.

Mrs. Fortin married shipping magnate Lester Napier Stockard during the Depression. They had two daughters, Susan Stockard Channing and Lesly Stockard Smith, the latter the mayor of Palm Beach, Fla., in 2000. Lester Stockard died in 1950.

She met Philip Fortin, a widower and Montana-born oilman, in Palm Beach and they were married in 1968. Philip Fortin was 86 when he died in 1982.

Mrs. Fortin died March 17, 2007, in Palm Beach, Fla., after an extended illness. She was 97. Her daughters and granddaughter, Danielle Hickox Moore, survived her.

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