

RMC TO GRADUATE 229 AT 127th COMMENCEMENT

LARGEST NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN COLLEGE HISTORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College will graduate its largest class in its 131-year history at its commencement Saturday, May 9, 2009, in the Fortin Education Center gymnasium, at 1 p.m.

The 127th RMC Commencement will confer a total of 229 degrees, including master of accountancy, master of physician assistant studies, master of educational leadership, bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees.

Commencement is free and open to the public.

RMC Baccalaureate will be celebrated Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2420 13th Street West. Bill Dreiksoen, RMC Battlin' Bear head basketball coach and NAIA Coach of the Year, who guided RMC to its first national men's basketball championship, will speak.

The annual RMC President's Reception and Dinner, hosted by President Michael Mace and his wife, Karen, with Guest of Honor Ann-Margret, will be held Saturday, May 9, in the Great Hall of Prescott Commons, beginning with the reception at 6 p.m. and dinner, under the tent on Rocky's Green, at 7 p.m. Tickets for this event are available through the RMC Development Office by calling Shari VanDelinder, director of development, 406-657-1173. Tickets for the reception, with photo and autograph opportunities with Ann-Margret are \$100; dinner tickets are \$25.

Maryann Reese, executive vice president and chief operating officer of St. Vincent Healthcare, will deliver the commencement address, "If 99.9 percent were good enough."

Four people will receive honorary doctorates, including Ann-Margret, Maryann Reese, John B. Mowell, and Thorm R. Forseth.

The invocation and benediction will be offered RMC Chaplain, the Rev. Kristi L. Foster.

President Cup winners, Andy Babb and Katie Kitchen will deliver remarks; RMC Academic Vice President Anthony Piltz will confer degrees; and marshals, Prof. Gearld Roe and Prof. Gavin Kirton, will lead the procession.

The RMC Band, directed by Anthony Hammond and the RMC Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Steven Hart, will provide music.

BIOS for HONORARY DOCTORATES:

Ann-Margret is one of America's most alluring and enduring actresses, who has won the Golden Globe on five separate occasions; has been nominated for Academy, Emmy and Grammy Awards throughout her career; has performed in well over 50 major films, over 35 television productions, and produced 12 albums including five soundtracks. She is famous for her fabulous Las Vegas performances, as well as live theatre performances on Broadway.

Two movies with Ann-Margret are in production, to be released this year and in 2010. They include "A Handful of Bean," with Peter Fonda, and "All's Faire in Love," with Christina Ricci. She appeared in "The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond," with Ellen Burstyn in 2008.

She made her film debut as Bette Davis' daughter in Frank Capra's "Pocketful of Miracles" (1961), and released her first album "And Here She Is, Ann-Margret." In 1963, she co-starred in the film adaptation of the Broadway play "Bye Bye Birdie," alongside Dick Van Dyke. In 1964's "Viva Las Vegas," she was critically acclaimed for her performance with Elvis Presley. She shed her glamorous image to give a convincing performance as a sickly Iowa farm wife in "Who Will Love My Children?" (1983). The following year, she played Blanche Dubois in the ABC remake of "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1984), and in 1987, she was cast in her first television miniseries, "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles." In the '90s she alternated between TV and films. She was introduced to a new generation with her role in the 1993 comedy hit "Grumpy Old Men," and it's popular 1995 sequel

“Grumpier Old Men.” She continued her television success, receiving her fourth Emmy nomination for the miniseries “Queen” (1993).

Maryann Reese is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of St. Vincent Healthcare. She came to St. Vincent’s from Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho, where she helped lead that organization in achieving a number of quality awards including a Top-100 Hospital Award, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Top Idaho Hospital Award, and numerous Best Healthcare Awards from Total Benchmark Solution.

She is a Registered Nurse and Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Maryann holds a Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota.

John B. Mowell is the chairman and chief executive officer of Mowell Financial Group, Inc., of Tallahassee, Florida; chairman of the board for EMS Technologies, Inc., in Atlanta, Georgia, a leading, worldwide provider of wireless, satellite and broadband communications; and chairman of the board of Entegriion, Inc., an early-stage, bio-technology development company, in Research Triangle Park, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina.

Mowell, recently appointed to the RMC Board of Trustees, earned his Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a 1956 graduate of the Wharton School of Commerce and Finance. He subsequently served in the military as a Naval Aviator engaged in carrier based anti- submarine warfare operations in the North Atlantic.

Active in public service, he was appointed by the Governor of Florida to the Florida State Board of Administration, the agency responsible for the management of over \$70 billion of state retirement assets where he served two terms as chairman. Mow ell was also a founding director and treasurer of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, a founder and director of the Governors Club in Tallahassee, past chairman of the Tallahassee Arts Alliance, and past director of the Economic Development Advisory Council for the State of Florida. He was founding president of the prestigious Economics Club of Florida, served as its chairman for five years and is currently chairman emeritus of that organization.

Thorm R. Forseth, a Rocky Mountain College alumnus and long-time supporter of the college, founded the successful business, Rimrock Stage,

Inc., a Montana intercity and charter bus company. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1958 to 1966, he earned a degree at RMC in Economics and Business Administration in 1969. Forseth has been an advocate for the industry as a member of the Trailways Bus Association and a board member of the American Bus Association. He served Montana by chairing the Montana Transportation Commission from 1993 until 2001. He has served RMC as a member of the RMC Board of Trustees since 1992, and since 2007 as chairman of the RMC Board.

Maryann Reese is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of St. Vincent Healthcare. She started her position October, 2007. Reese came to St. Vincent's from Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho, where she helped lead that organization in achieving a number of quality awards including a Top-100 Hospital Award, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Top Idaho Hospital Award, and numerous Best Healthcare Awards from Total Benchmark Solution. She is a Registered Nurse and Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. Reese holds a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota.

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