DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Robert Morris University has led many lives, and it has changed many more.

RMU has humble origins. It began in 1921 as the Pittsburgh School of Accountancy, with 26 students. But the man who founded that school had a vision, and that vision has guided this institution through all its growth and changes: to “maintain a small, distinctive, professional school of advanced business practice. Appeal is made particularly to the student who prefers the personal attention, and that individual instruction, which is not always available in the larger institutions of learning.”

Were Andrew Blass able to see Robert Morris University today, he might assume we had become one of those “larger institutions of learning” that he eschewed. This past May, 819 students participated in commencement, and in the past year we awarded 1,230 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees. Total enrollment for fall 2011 is approximately 5,000, and this year we have a record number of students—1,700—living on campus.

Likely Blass would quickly see that we have remained true to his founding values by continuing to provide professionally focused, engaged learning experiences with the kind of personal attention from faculty that allows our students to succeed beyond their dreams. We have continued to fulfill his vision even as we have added programs in a range of fields outside of accounting and business, fields in which our graduates have excelled—including nursing, actuarial science, engineering, education, and communications.

Then again, we don’t need to tell you this. You’ve lived it. A university’s story isn’t the story of its founders. It isn’t the story of its presidents, or its board members, or its buildings. It’s the story of the young men and women who come to learn. It’s the story of the faculty who teach them. It’s the story of alumni, which they tell to the world through their own achievements. It’s the story they share as mentors to the students who come after them.

RMU’s story is your story, and we are grateful for each new chapter that you write. None of what we have achieved, none of the accomplishments we celebrate in this issue of Foundations, would be possible without your hard work. Traditionally, in the fall issue, we acknowledge our donors and thank them for their generous support of the university. And we do so again this year. Your gifts change the lives of our students. It’s as simple as that.

But we want to thank you as well for the imprint that each of you has left on this university. No matter what Robert Morris looked like when you were a student, whether you attended classes in downtown or at Moon, whether you earned your degree online or in the classroom, Robert Morris is what it is today because of you and everyone who came before, and everyone who will come after. Your story is still being written.

Sincerely,

GREGORY G. DELL’OMO, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

GARY R. CLAUS ‘74
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Everywhere at the Same Time ............... 18
The Pittsburgh executive known as “the ubiquitous Dave Malone” busies himself with a host of good causes, including leading the university’s $40 million capital campaign.

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It was 50 years ago that the Pittsburgh Steelers introduced cheerleaders to the NFL, and it was Robert Morris secretarial students shaking the pom-poms.

A Twist on Tradition ............... 24
Wedding bells will ring soon for two lovebirds from the RMU family. But instead of a blender, the gift they want most is a donation to help them create a new scholarship.

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Our eyewitness joins a group of RMU cyclists biking from McKeesport to Washington, D.C., along more than 300 miles of repurposed rail lines and canal towpaths.

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Taking the lead at the Sewickley Valley YMCA, Trish Hooper M’03 gets a new workout for her management skills after almost two decades in newspapers.
Global Ambassadors

Lisa Nutt, associate director of the university’s Center for Global Engagement, was selected by NAFSA: Association of International Educators for its new Grassroots Leadership Program. She and 10 others chosen from universities around the country will spend the next year developing and documenting methods to promote international education. Nutt’s plan is to create a “Connecting Communities Corps,” with international students, faculty, and staff sharing their perspectives with other schools and colleges. Over the summer, she was invited to join representatives of nearly 200 universities, at a White House event on interfaith and community service in education.

Women at the Top

The deans of all five university schools are now women, thanks to the appointment of Mary Ann Rafoth, Ph.D., as the new dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences. She succeeds John Graham, Ph.D., who rejoins the full-time faculty. The former education dean at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Rafoth led that institution’s College of Education and Educational Technology through NCATE accreditation and oversaw the creation of a number of degrees and programs, including a Ph.D. in communications media and instructional technology. She holds a bachelor’s in social science education from Miami University of Ohio and a master’s in education and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.
> Best of the Best

Gregory Dell’Omo, Ph.D., presented his annual President’s Awards at the fall convocation last month to Alan Smith, Ph.D., for Distinguished Scholarship; Nell Hartley, Ph.D., for Distinguished Teaching; and Jacqueline Klentzin, Ph.D., for Distinguished Service.

Smith, university professor of operations management, was published in, or had in press, 76 articles in various journals, as well as three book chapters, in the most recent academic year. His scholarly interests range from RFID technology to the subprime mortgage crisis and corporate social responsibility.

Hartley, professor of management, was recognized for her emphasis on peer teaching and collaborative learning, as well as her use of the Socratic method and her mentoring of student research, all of which have earned her excellent peer and student teaching evaluations.

Klentzin, professor of learning resources, was recognized for her extraordinary efforts to promote understanding and use of library resources. Last year Klentzin conducted 117 graduate and undergraduate student library instruction sessions, as well as numerous special sessions. She has long been active on various university boards and councils.

Winning the Staff Distinguished Achievement Awards were Todd Hamer, head strength and conditioning coach; Nicole Hitt, secretary for the department of English studies and communication skills; and Carla Lombardo, accounts payable manager.

> Working Toward a Cure

The journal Progress in Neurobiology published a paper co-authored by Gavin Buxton, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, entitled “Mathematical Modeling of Microtubule Dynamics: Insights Into Physiology and Disease.” The paper describes a computer simulation the authors developed to study the impact of a new form of treatment for Alzheimer’s disease.

> Engineering Success

Maritza Jimenez, a junior majoring in biomedical engineering, has received a two-year, $10,000 scholarship from the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. She is the second RMU engineering student to receive this national scholarship. Chris Chavez, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, received the scholarship last year.
> Sharing What They Know

Three nursing students—juniors Abigail Hebb and Alissa Newton, and master’s student Donna McDermott—gave a presentation about student workers at the International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource Center Conference in Orlando in June. Janice Sarasnick and Chuck Simon, staff members at the university’s Regional RISE Center, also gave a presentation about solving technology glitches.

> Leading the Way

RMU and Duquesne University have teamed up to launch a Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association of Women M.B.A.’s. The organization’s 11th city-based professional chapter will host networking and career development events to enhance the leadership and business skills of local women. For more information, contact chapter president Stefanie McNansky ’08 at pittsburgh@mbawomen.org.

> Movers & Shakers

Valerie Powell, Ph.D., university professor of computer and information systems, has co-authored a book, Integration of Medical and Dental Care and Patient Data. Powell, an expert in electronic medical records, has long advocated integrating both kinds of health records because overall health can impact dental health.


Yildirim Omurtag, Ph.D., head of the department of engineering, was the keynote speaker in the Conference of International and National Engineering Education in Phuket, Thailand.
> Revolutionary Resurrected?

To the general public, Robert Morris may be one of the forgotten Founding Fathers. But Shirley MacLaine’s latest book shows that at least one person remembers him unusually well. In her new book, *I’m Over All That*, the Oscar-winning actress and frequent commentator on reincarnation, extraterrestrials, and mysticism says she senses she may have been the Financier of the Revolution in a previous life. She lists several traits she and Morris shared, including being good with money, love of the sea, curiosity about China, and dedication to the U.S. Constitution. Future commencement speaker, perhaps?

> A Changing Lives Expert

Carl Ross, Ph.D., university professor of nursing, was chosen to receive the Catalyst for Change Award from a Delaware nonprofit of the same name. The award recognizes those who make a difference in the lives of young children in the areas of health, education, community service, and international services. For years, Ross has led nursing students on trips to Nicaragua, where they volunteer at clinics in poor neighborhoods.

> Dominance in Design

For the fifth time, RMU had the best student work in Neographics, an annual tri-state graphic design competition sponsored by the Graphic Arts Association. In fact, two RMU graphic design students won—judges split their decision for Best of Category, Student, between Jeanine Sandora, for her typographic poster, and Tiara Neal, for her shopping bag. Awards of excellence were also given to a dozen other RMU students, all enrolled in classes taught by Ferris Crane, M.F.A., associate professor of media arts.

> A Few Good Volunteers

A contingent from the Veterans Education and Training Services Center assisted at the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Pittsburgh in August. Joining VETS Center Director Dan Rota, Ph.D., were students Ryan Dietz, John and Kate Lavalla, and Daniel Lutz and staff members David Ausman and Heather Jericho.

> Hail to the Chief

Valerie Howard, Ed.D., director of development for the health sciences at RMU, was elected president of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning in July. The 1,300-member organization promotes the use of simulations in health care training. Howard, an associate professor of nursing, has attended simulation summits in Hong Kong and London as president.
Artemis Spanou is pretty accustomed to racking up double-doubles. The 12 times she posted double-digit scoring and rebounds for the Colonials last season ranked second in the Northeast Conference, a big reason the lanky Greek center was named NEC Rookie of the Year.

Now Spanou has a triple to go with all those double-doubles. The 18-year-old won her third MVP award in a European youth basketball tournament, this time in the U20 European Championship Women Division B held in Ohrid, Macedonia, in July. Leading Greece to a bronze medal in the 11-team event for athletes age 20 and younger, the 6’3’’ Spanou topped all scorers with 19.4 points per game and four double-doubles. After putting up 24 points and 12 rebounds in a 72-70 semifinal loss to eventual gold medal winner Sweden, she posted 17 points and 10 rebounds in the bronze medal game against the Czechs, including the last rebound in the final seconds to seal a 60-59 thriller.

It has been a streak of stellar performances. Spanou was named MVP of the U18 tournament last year and of the U16 championship in 2008, where she also led Greece to the gold medal. Ironically, that victory may have scotched her chances to make it four straight MVPs–by winning, Greece was promoted to the stronger Division A, and while Spanou was a force again in the 2009 tournament, finishing with seven double-doubles and sixth in scoring, the team struggled against more powerful squads from Russia, France, Belgium, and Turkey.

Spanou is a “special talent,” according to Sebastian Montag, spokesman for the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Europe. “She impressed us with good overall skills and the ability to play multiple positions. While she was the tallest player on her team, she was also handling the ball, and spent the most minutes on the court in the tournament without seeming to get tired. Outclassing this competition in the MVP voting speaks a clear language and is a great promise for her future development.”

Greece has high hopes for Spanou, who recently became the only teenager on the women’s national team. For now, the Olympics are out of the question; the team isn’t ranked high enough to be invited to the 2012 London Summer Games. But Artemis—named after the ancient goddess of the hunt—no doubt has her aim firmly fixed on such a target. For now, it’s Colonials fans who get to enjoy her talents.

WRITTEN BY MARK HOUSER
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY FIBA EUROPE
FALL SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Look for the Colonials to open up the aerial attack this season as they defend their NEC title. Jeff Sinclair led the league with 22 passing touchdowns, and his favorite target, tight end Shadrae King, is back to torture defenses. Lineman Nolan Nearhoof is a threat to opposing quarterbacks, piling up 5.5 sacks last year.

**THE BIG GAME:**

**HOMECOMING**

**OCT. 8 VS. ST. FRANCIS**

The fireworks show after this first night game at the Joe could well be a repeat of the action on the field. The Red Flash have a speedy back and return man in Kyle Harbridge, but they managed only one win last season, while the Colonials had just one conference loss.

**BLOWOUT BOYS**

The Colonials had an average margin of victory of more than two touchdowns against NEC opponents last season.

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<tr>
<th>Points/Game Scored</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. RMU</td>
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<td>2. C. CONN. STATE</td>
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<td>3. MONMOUTH</td>
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**MEN’S SOCCER**

Four of the team’s top scorers last year were freshmen, including Daniel Calabretta and Miro Cabrilo, who each booted three game-winners. Goalkeeper Toba Bolaji is one of the most suffocating netminders in the NEC.

**THE BIG GAME:**

**OCT. 2 VS. FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON**

A grudge match against the team that snatched the Colonials’ chance to get back to the playoffs after a four-year drought. The teams fought to a 1-1 double-overtime draw and tied for the final NEC playoff berth, but the Knights got the nod thanks to tiebreaker rules. Good news: the Knights’ star striker, Dominic Reinold, signed this summer with a Portuguese pro team.
PREVIEW

MEN’S BASKETBALL

In a season stacked with challenges—a new coach, a season-ending injury to a promising young star, a brutal slate of nonconference matchups—the Colonials came up big. Led by Velton Jones, the team caught fire in the postseason and nearly made NEC history with a third straight title, falling just short in overtime in Long Island. With four of five starters returning, expect another run at the championship.

THE BIG GAME: NOV. 11 VS. RIDER

The Broncs should pose a strong early challenge. The alma mater of legendary Fighting Irish coach Digger Phelps had 26 wins last year and made it to the MAAC semifinals.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Playoffs seem a foregone conclusion for this perennially strong team. Scoring threats include NEC Rookie of the Year Artemis Spanou, who led the conference in rebounds, and Mary Durojaye, who shot a deadly 52% from the floor.

THE BIG GAME: DEC. 3 VS. MONMOUTH

When these teams last met, Spanou’s desperation heave banged off the rim at the buzzer, and the Colonials were out of the playoffs. NEC Defensive Player of the Year Alysha Womack brings the conference’s stingiest defense to “The Chuck.”

VOLLEYBALL

Each of the last 12 years, the Colonials have qualified for the conference tournament. Can they make it a lucky 13 this season with eight freshmen on the roster?

THE BIG GAME: HOMECOMING OCT. 8 VS. BRYANT

You’re coming already for the football game. So take a break from tailgating and head down to Sewall Center to watch some digging and spiking. A loud crowd should give RMU’s young guns a big boost against the Bulldogs.

FIELD HOCKEY

Top scorers Chantele Crow, Julie Gabriel, and Ally McGuire are all back for their senior year. Meanwhile, coach Olivia Netzler recruited three freshmen from her native Australia, where the sport is just called “hockey” and the women have three Olympic gold medals—or two more than the men.

THE BIG GAME: OCT. 16 VS. SIENA

STARS TO WATCH

#7 SHADRAE KING
The team’s receiving leader, King racked up 531 yards and seven touchdowns last year, putting him near the top of NEC charts. The senior has been picked by pigskin prognosticator Phil Steele as one of the best tight ends in the entire FCS.

#2 HANNAH VEITH
Last year’s team had five seniors; this year, Veith is it. After leading the conference in blocks and finishing second in hitting percentage at .347, she’ll need to be a leader on the court for a very young team.

#7 DANIEL CALABRETTA
The smallest player on the team, Calabretta packs a lot of firepower into his 5’6” frame. The NEC Rookie of the Year led the Colonials with 29 shots last year and was second in scoring with four goals—three of them game-winners—and an assist.
Back in 1921, when Robert Morris first began as the Pittsburgh School of Accountancy, the Underwood No. 5 typewriter was considered state-of-the-art technology. Now RMU’s business students learn through giant touchscreens, interactive whiteboards, and telepresence capabilities.

Welcome to the future of business education.
On September 6, during a celebration of its 90th anniversary, the university officially opened the doors of its brand new, $8 million School of Business complex, the centerpiece of a $40 million capital campaign. Adjacent to the colorful blossoms of the Rudolph Family Gardens, the 18,000-square-foot building provides the business school with its first official home on the Moon Township campus.

The new building allows RMU to “replant the flag of who we are,” says Daria C. Crawley, Ph.D., associate professor of management. “We’ve always been strong in business,” she says. “This new building will show how we do things differently and better now.”

On the first floor, The ATI Center, funded by a grant from Allegheny Technologies Incorporated, is equipped with advanced computer stations and online research capabilities covering international trade, emerging market, financial, economic, and political information and data. The facility not only serves as a resource center for faculty and students but for regional industry as well, which benefits from a global laboratory and the opportunity to partner with RMU’s experts in international business.

The center’s main attraction, the Interactive Learning Module, is “like a giant iPad,” says Dean Derya A. Jacobs, Ph.D. The module is similar to the interactive touch-screens on major news programs, and it gives students a hands-on tool for accessing the latest market and financial information. The center also will have a student project room, the first such space on campus for business students. “That room was our students’ idea,” says Jacobs. “Now they have a dedicated space of their own in which to work.”

Crawley, who teaches international business, says the technology in The ATI Center “really pulls us closer to that international marketplace, and it will enable students to engage in more colorful, diverse, deeper conversations too. The goal is to have them say, ‘Wow! I saw the world a little differently, and I understand your viewpoint better now.’”

The distinctive, glass-encased PNC Business Center, funded by a grant by the PNC Foundation, features a fully functional trading room with real-time stock tickers, market information, and analytical software. Faculty will incorporate the center into several courses, giving students a powerful educational experience that transcends the traditional classroom.

Up on the second floor, the United States Steel Corporation Video Conferencing and Technology Center, funded by a grant from the United States Steel Foundation, serves as an economics research center as well as a distance-learning and corporate-training resource for companies and other organizations. The center’s multimedia workstations familiarize students with software and databases that drive
modern business decision-making. It also offers students direct exposure to the day-to-day workings of the professional world, giving them the experience they need to compete and succeed in an international business environment.

The center’s Bloomberg lab gives students access to all major stock exchanges, the entire Lexus/Nexis database, and economic and financial data from the major central banks. Human resources students can utilize the Bloomberg technology to compare productivity across industries. Strategic management students can use it to model board-level best practices. Nursing students can retrieve clinical trial data earlier than any other source. Foreign language students can read foreign newspapers and periodicals as soon as they are published.

“No other source is as all-encompassing,” says Frank Flanegin, Ph.D., department head of finance. “These terminals have real-time trade data from every market in the world. If we have a Chinese student, she can have real-time Shanghai trade data at her fingertips.”

One of the center’s coolest features is the “telepresence center.” With three 65-inch plasma monitors and two 52-inch LCD screens, the center gives students an immersive videoconferencing experience, allowing participants feel as if they are sitting in the same room even if they’re on opposite sides of the world. RMU is the only university in western Pennsylvania now offering this technology to its students.

“The video conferencing capabilities will also enable students to talk to the alumni who work in the industry but who might not be able to make it back to campus,” says John S. Clark, Ph.D., director of the M.B.A. program and professor of sport management. “These alums will be able to interact with and teach the students, as they share some of the particulars of the industry.”

Clark, who’s teaching sports sociology this fall, says the new computer lab will allow his students to use some of the
Council. Its architectural features complement nearby Massey Hall, the building that replaced the original Kauffman house; most School of Business faculty members continue to have their offices in Massey.

Minutolo sees the new building as a "next step" for RMU. "It allows our business program to establish a solid brand for itself," he says. "The technological link is important for our students. After all, this is the world they’re going out into."

Jill K. Maher, Ph.D., professor of marketing, is teaching consumer behavior and marketing research this semester. She says giving her students access to labs where they can utilize databases containing consumer and market information will be invaluable. "Some of these databases will be the very same they will use in industry," she says. "The administration, faculty, and staff have worked so hard over the past 10 years to earn AACSB accreditation. Now, along with this recognition, we have our own home. Our students deserve a place to hang out and socialize with each other and the business faculty."

Marcel C. Minutolo, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, says the new technology in the building will create a more effective learning experience for the students. "I’ll be able to directly link the concepts we’re covering in the class with real-world data during lecture time itself," he says. "It’s difficult for some students to absorb the textbook info without having something concrete. Drawing the connection between the textbook and what we can tangibly grab will reinforce the learning process and make a better connection."

The building also houses the new presidential suite and conference room, along with reception areas and space for administrative and I.T. staff. It is LEED-certified, meeting environmental design standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Its proprietary software and national databases that deal with sports consumers. "For M.B.A. students who will be coming here to take classes, the lessons they are learning can be illustrated better in these new facilities," he says. "It will drive the teaching point home better and make abstract ideas more tangible."

Written by Valentine J. Brkich
Photography by Joe Appel & Valentine J. Brkich

Tour the new building at Foundations Online.
It’s hard to fathom now, but in 1961, few Pittsburhers were very excited about Steelers football. The team had ended the previous season near the bottom of the NFL Eastern Conference standings, and games at Forbes Field in Oakland could be desultory affairs.

Team entertainment coordinator William V. Day thought it might help to have cheerleaders ginning up crowd enthusiasm from the sidelines. Day was also public relations director at what was then the Robert Morris School in downtown Pittsburgh, so he organized tryouts among the secretarial students.

The Steelerettes commemorate the 50th anniversary of their founding this year. They will gather during Homecoming festivities on Saturday, Oct. 8.

While the squad disbanded in 1970, the bonds among the former cheerleaders remain strong. “It’s a small sorority,” says Valerie Mafrice Miller ’65. “It’s a one-time snapshot in history.”

The brief run of the Pittsburgh Steelerettes began a decade before the Dallas Cowboys would introduce the concept of cheerleader as a hair-whipping dancer wearing as little clothing as possible. Being a Steelerette meant megaphones, woolen turtleneck leotards, and sneakers. “The original uniforms involved hard hats and bib-overall jumpers with skirts down to our knees,” says Norreen Mercer Modery ’65, one of Miller’s fellow squadmates.

That changed briefly in 1964, when a choreographer from the Clairton High School Honeybears was hired. “She
was ahead of her time, really,” Modery says. “Back then cheering was about building pyramids and tumbling. She taught us some nice routines, and high kicks. But she wanted us to wear a leotard without a skirt, and go-go boots. We balked… She left after a couple of games.”

Barbara Pawlesh Kruze ’65 was a head cheerleader about to graduate from McKees Rocks High School when she learned about the Steelerettes. She scrambled to register for Robert Morris classes earlier than she’d planned in order to try out for the team. “I was able to do the acrobatics: cartwheels, backflips. We became more of a dance team, but I truly enjoyed it all,” she says.

Accompanied on the field by musicians led by popular jazz band trumpeter Benny Benack, the troupe performed dance routines to “Hello, Dolly!” and even “The Stripper,” the trombone-driven instrumental tune that had topped Billboard charts a few years earlier. The squad appeared on local TV programs and passed out tiger tails at gas stations for Exxon’s “Put a Tiger in Your Tank” campaign. They performed during halftime at Robert Morris basketball games and danced the Charleston for the charitable Dapper Dan Club’s events. When Andy Williams performed at the Civic Arena, a few select Steelerettes who were shorter than the 5’6” crooner were tapped to shimmy behind him during his big “Music To Watch Girls By” number. “They gave us costumes to wear,” recalls Kruze. “It was a thrill.”

Wiggin gathered them together for a segment filed on Sept. 7, 2001. The story’s airing – and the NFL season – was delayed after the terrorist attacks four days later, and what should have been a celebratory time was awash in sorrow.

The unease of the Steelers-owning Rooney family with the whole cheerleading concept spelled an end to the Steelerettes when the team moved to Three Rivers Stadium in 1970. The women lost touch until a decade ago, when local TV reporter Sally Miller and former cheerleader and squad coach Diane Battiste Zinkham ’65, they began getting together several times a year for lunch, and making annual weekend trips to Deep Creek, Md., or Roanoke, Va.

They also visit nursing homes to brighten the spirits of residents with Steelers trivia quizzes and cheers. Their pleated skirts and leotards have been replaced with jeans and black-and-gold sweatshirts, but the Steelerettes still shake a mean pom-pom. As recently as 2007, Zinkham was still dropping splits for photographers. She died of cancer three years ago, at the age of 62. The Steelerettes placed a plaque in Zinkham’s honor at the Sen. John Heinz History Center in the Strip District.

A commemorative bench at Joe Walton Stadium salutes the Steelerettes, and four of them – Miller, Modery, Kruze, and Lynn Gran Moran ’67 – are active in RMU’s alumni association council. “The Steelers kind of forgot about us, but Robert Morris has always been so welcoming,” Kruze says. “We’re trying to give back to them.”

They call themselves the Rah-Rah Sisterhood, riffing on the title of a novel and film about the friendships of childhood companions over time. “We had a good time,” Kruze says. “And we’re still having a good time.”

WRITTEN BY BONNIE PFISTER

PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY DIANNE FEAZELL ROSSINI ’64
A lot has changed since 1921. Back then an automobile was a luxury; today it’s a necessity. Back then movies were silent; today, not only do they feature sound, many are in 3D. And back then, “tweeting” was literally for the birds; today it’s how we communicate.

As we celebrate Robert Morris University’s 90th anniversary on Sept. 21, we thought it would be fun to look back at how much life has changed both on and off campus. It’s amazing to think how our first graduating class in 1925 had just a couple dozen students; last year we had 819. Our students used to study downtown; today they have a 230-acre campus to explore. Best of all, in addition to accounting, RMU now offers 59 other undergraduate and 20 graduate degree programs.

Here’s to 90 years of changing lives! Looking forward to the next 90… and then some.
When David Malone’s children were small, they saw him as something of a giant, towering to well over six feet, strong, agile and prone to the quick bursts of energy that defined his days as a basketball star at Allegheny College. Now that they are grown, Zachary, Max, and Callahan Malone describe their father as a man of giant character. Words that best sum him up, they say, are integrity, courage, persistence, big-heartedness—and, oh yes, funny as all get-out, thanks to his dry humor. “He’s pretty much given us the best life that anyone could ask,” says Max.

Malone gives to a lot of people. Aside from his duties as president and CEO of Gateway Financial, a downtown Pittsburgh investment, insurance, and wealth management firm catering to Fortune 500 companies and high net worth individuals, he works on so many community and nonprofit boards—including RMU’s—that some have taken to calling him “the ubiquitous Dave Malone.” As chairman of the university’s capital campaign cabinet, he has led a successful effort despite a recession, raising $36 million so far toward a goal of $40 million.

In appreciation of that effort and his lifelong devotion to worthy causes, the Board of Trustees surprised their vice chairman with a special honor at the opening of the new School of Business building on September 6. They created a new annual university award, the David J. Malone Volunteer Service Award, and presented him with the first one.

“Dave is the epitome of someone who makes volunteer service a real art form,” says President Gregory Dell’Omo, Ph.D. “He has an unbelievable passion for success in everything he does, so I had all the confidence in the world that he would make this campaign a real game changer for RMU—and he has. I’ll never be able to thank him enough.”

“He does seem to be everywhere at the same time,” says Gary Claus ’74, chairman of the Board of Trustees. “I think that’s the nature of who he is. He is very much a dedicated community servant.”

“David has a forward-looking attitude that is evident in all he does for Robert Morris University and the community at large,” says Trustee Patricia Rooney, honorary chairwoman of the capital campaign cabinet.

The list of organizations whose boards Malone serves on is impressive: Pennsylvania Workforce Investment, Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Allegheny County, YouthPlaces, Western Pennsylvania Surgery Center, The Technology Collaborative, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, Strategic Investment Funds and the Holy Family Institute. He served on a panel tasked with solving Pittsburgh’s city employee pension problems. He’s an activist at work for the Pittsburgh Promise, a scholarship program for students who graduate from Pittsburgh Public Schools, and he has received a Lifetime Legend Award for his volunteer work for Community College of Allegheny County.

His work with RMU is particularly gratifying, Malone says, because the university has a keen focus in an area he is passionate about—preparing young people not only to find jobs when they graduate, but to be successful at their jobs as well. “If you talk to employers,” he says, “you find that
universally they will tell you that Robert Morris graduates are ready to work.”

RMU’s emphasis on communication skills is the key, he says. “If you are not a good communicator, you start out in a hole,” he says. “Robert Morris has had a focus on communications for a long time. When kids come out, they are highly confident. They are ready to do a PowerPoint presentation—or whatever—in front of people. They are comfortable doing that. In this current environment, employers want people to be in working groups; they want them to be able to communicate; they want them to be able to solve problems.”

Civic leader and philanthropist Elsie Hillman serves with Malone on the advisory council of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. She considers him one of the region’s best assets. “He is a very special person,” she says. “He cares about what he does. It’s not a sort of casual, ‘I’m here for now and I’m out of here tomorrow.’ He is committed.”

Last year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pittsburgh chose Malone as their honoree—or victim—for its 31st Annual Corporate Roast. More than 400 guests at CONSOL Energy Center roared with riotous laughter as roasters David Morehouse, Dr. Ken Melani, Sy Holzer and Art Rooney poked fun at Malone. The event raised $265,000 to support one-on-one mentoring for young people across Southwestern Pennsylvania. “It was brutal,” Malone recalls with a grin.

“It was one of the funniest nights of my life,” says Nancy, his wife of 32 years. “He can take a joke. He’s been a good sport his whole life. He’s a good guy—honest, funny, sincere—and, most importantly, he’s a great, great dad.”

The Malone children go back home to Pine Township for dinner every Sunday to visit their parents and Cooper, the family dog. A mutt the Malones adopted from an animal shelter, Cooper has a mischievous streak. “He’s bad. He will steal. Just the other day, my little niece had a sandwich in her hand and Cooper came by and grabbed it,” Malone says. “One of our neighbors called the police because our dog was walking around. Now Cooper has a police record.”

Malone says his volunteer work is inspired by wanting to give back blessings he received from his parents, Mary and R.J. “Bob” Malone. “I think the opportunities that were presented to me were in large measure because of my family and what was given to me—the good fortune of having the parents I had. Not everyone has that opportunity.”

Many young people are blocked from higher education by circumstances of birth, he says, citing a study showing a 90% correlation between pre-kindergarten education and performance on standardized achievement tests at the entry level of college. “If kids get some relevance into their education system along the way—whether it’s a good teacher, some experience, an uncle or an aunt, whatever—they can turn it around. We absolutely must focus on this, as a county and a region.”

WRITTEN BY DAVID BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WILL ’08
When a university needs to take the next step forward in its evolution, the traditional method is with a capital campaign. With the opening of its new School of Business building, Robert Morris University announces its own $40 million fundraising effort, along with some good news—the university is already most of the way to the finish line.

Under the leadership of David Malone, the Board of Trustees capital campaign cabinet and the university’s office of institutional advancement have raised $36 million in the “Changing Lives, Building Futures” campaign.

Donors at all levels of the philanthropic spectrum have put RMU in position to plan and carry out major projects and programs, including the new business building and future homes for the schools of nursing and communications and information systems. Four years ago, the university had only 10 donors of $100,000 or more; now it has nearly 40. Where RMU formerly had fewer than 30 donors of between $10,000 and $100,000, it now has almost 120. A $5 million grant from the R.K. Mellon Foundation and $10 million from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program have rounded out the fundraising effort.

“This has been the largest, most successful comprehensive capital campaign in the 90-year history of the university,” says Jay Carson, senior vice president for institutional advancement. “And it was done quickly, especially given the volatility and uncertainty of the market over the past few years.”

Carson attributes much of the success to Malone’s high energy, which he said is not always the case for a busy executive working in a voluntary trustee position. That enthusiasm radiates out to others on the Board of Trustees, many of whom have made their biggest gift ever to the university in recent years, Carson said.

Malone turns credit back on the institution he serves. “It is no secret that the economy has forced donors to be highly selective with respect to their philanthropic initiatives,” he says. “The success we have had is reflective of the region’s positive opinion of the entire RMU community. The administration led by Dr. Dell’Omo, the staff, and most importantly, the performance of our students, have received high marks from our contributors.”

The cabinet also was inspired in its early days by the late Alvin Rogal, who served as an honorary chairman.
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A well-traveled couple getting ready to take their vows is so enthusiastic about RMU that they are forgoing the traditional wedding registry to leave a legacy on campus instead.

Bride-to-be Kristina Fausti ’97 and her fiancé Shahriar Broumand, both active with the School of Business Board of Visitors, plan to ask the 200 invited guests at their wedding this fall to help them build a scholarship in their names for future RMU students. “We’re ordinary, everyday people looking to make a difference and give back,” Fausti says.

“There are a lot of great institutions in the world, but there’s something special at RMU,” says Broumand. He first visited campus with Fausti at Homecoming, and later she brought him to a Board of Visitors meeting. “The people were remarkable and the offerings amazing. There was such a welcoming spirit that it felt like family. I was right at home,” he says.

The couple met by chance two years ago through an online introduction. For months they exchanged lengthy conversational emails. They were astonished by how much they had in common. Both come from families with
strong values, have noteworthy achievements and a lifelong passion for learning, travel extensively and want to explore everything the seven continents have to offer.

“Our first date was a four-hour dinner. I knew instantly I had met the right person,” Broumand says. Fausti agrees: “On the second date, we looked at each other and it was clear we were destined to be together.” A long-distance relationship developed over the next year; he was an executive for Bank of Scotland in the United Kingdom and she was a lawyer in Pittsburgh.

They travelled back and forth, explored Europe together, and had weekly dates on Skype. He proposed in Paris at the romantic Pavillon De La Reine hotel, overlooking the Place des Vosges. “The ring was on a plate covered by a silver bell. It totally caught me off guard,” she says.

The couple will exchange vows September 30 at a ceremony at the Pittsburgh Opera building in the Strip District, where they reside. Friends and family will be gathering from all parts of the globe. The reception tables will have names of continents the couple has explored and cities that have special meaning in their lives. “I’ve attended 49 weddings. This will be my 50th,” Broumand says.

The Broumand & Fausti Family Scholarship will be offered to an incoming business student with a 3.5 GPA who resides in Beaver County and has demonstrated financial need. Broumand and Fausti donated the initial $2,000 to start their scholarship fund, which will build through donations.

“I want to give back to a student like me,” Fausti says. She grew up on a small farm in Conway, in a family that was relentless about the value of education. She attended RMU on two scholarships, majoring in accounting and computer and information systems. Fausti attributes a legal seminar taught by associate professor of legal studies Louis Swartz, J.D., with changing her life’s direction. “His creativity in incorporating current events into his lectures was amazing,” she says. After graduating, Fausti earned her M.B.A. and law degree from Georgetown University, went to work at a Washington law firm, then became a special counsel for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Two years ago, she came back to Pittsburgh to become director of legal and regulatory affairs at the Bridgeville firm Fi360, which provides fiduciary training and software to investment professionals.

Broumand was six when his family fled Tehran, Iran, amidst political turmoil. “We were one of the last planes out before they shut down the airport. All we had were two suitcases that were by no means filled with money,” he says. He grew up in London and Belgium in a financially struggling family with a father steadfast on getting his son an education. That quest paid dividends; Broumand attended European University in Brussels and Loyola Marymount University. As an executive with Pittsburgh-based FreeMarkets, he built the business auction website’s European commercial operations, then became a vice president for Ariba after it acquired FreeMarkets. He is now a managing partner with BrainNet, a Swiss-German supply management consulting group, and is responsible for the company’s North American operations.

As for their honeymoon, Broumand is keeping the destination secret. “She loves surprises, and this is one I’ve been thinking about for a long time,” he says. “All I know is it’s somewhere warm,” says Fausti. “I won’t know where we’re going until we actually get to the airport.”

WRITTEN BY RUTH HAWK
Maybe I should have trained for this, I thought, as I pedaled my mountain bike along the wooded trail near Meyersdale, Pa. I was two days into a five-day journey from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. And I still had well over 200 miles to go.

This spring, I joined a group of 22 Robert Morris University staff members, students, alumni, and friends in a ride to our nation’s capital. During the first two days, we followed the Great Allegheny Passage, a 150-mile multi-use trail that snakes its way along the abandoned routes of former railroads. For the final three days we continued along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Towpath, which runs 185 miles to D.C.

The trip, organized by a committee led by RMU strength and conditioning coach Todd Hamer, offered a chance to see some incredible sites, from the lush, rolling landscape of the Allegheny Mountains to the dozens of old canal locks along the C&O, to Great Falls, just outside of D.C. However, we also had to overcome a few minor mishaps, including several flat tires and a couple crashes that left some riders bruised and a little bloody. We came across a variety of wildlife, too, including grumpy snapping turtles, kamikaze chipmunks, poisonous copperheads, and some sort of beetle/caterpillar/crustacean-like creature, a.k.a. the Black Scorpion Monster Thingy from Hell.

The biggest challenge was riding through blustery thunderstorms that drenched us as we crossed into Maryland between Meyersdale and Cumberland. The torrential rains and hailstorms turned what should have been a comfortable coast down out of the mountains into an ordeal, and made the next day’s ride to Hancock one big muddy mess as we slogs our way along the C&O Canal Towpath.

Seth Dickerson, a student in the online M.B.A. program, was one of the
lucky few who stayed ahead of the storms. The Natrona Heights resident, who completed the ride with a broken wrist and a broken toe from playing indoor soccer, says coming down from the Eastern Continental Divide was his favorite part. “We climbed uphill for almost 50 miles until we reached the Divide,” he says. “I believe I actually shed tears once I got there because I thought that hill would never end. Coming down into Cumberland was an awesome feeling. And I’m glad I made it to the hotel before the rains came down.”

Dickerson is a medical technologist at West Penn Hospital in Bloomfield, where he works in the stem cell processing lab in the cancer institute. He handles the harvesting, processing, and transplanting of stem cells to patients diagnosed with leukemia or a similar blood cancer, in hopes of putting their disease into remission. Once he completes his M.B.A., Dickerson plans to move into health care administration, banking, or human resources management.

He and his wife, Michelle, a high school history teacher, are the parents of two girls, Cera, 11, and Natalie, 2, with another baby due in September. With a third child on the way, Dickerson says he doesn’t have any new adventures planned for the near future. “Just getting sleep will be an adventure,” he says.

WRITTEN BY VALENTINE J. BRKICH
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY VALENTINE J. BRKICH

To see more photos and read Val’s somewhat humorous, somewhat painful, full recounting of the ride to D.C., go to Foundations Online.
Last summer, John Marshall said “Arrivederci, Pittsburgh!” and “Ciao, Kansas City!” when he took a trip out west for his first professional video shoot. The senior video production major from Butler attended the national convention of UNICO, the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States, to do a recruiting video. “I wanted to get him out of the realm of student production and engage him in a project that was a great professional training opportunity. This was a win-win situation for everyone,” said Michael DiLauro, M.F.A., director of the Academic Media Center, who arranged the job.

The son of Brian B. Marshall M’10 and Jean Ruggieri Marshall ’77, Marshall picked RMU not only because of his mom and dad’s recommendations. He won the university’s B. Kenneth Simon Free Enterprise Scholarship for $24,000 after writing a 12-page research paper about the Founding Fathers and their negotiations and debates while drawing up the Constitution. The Simon scholarship and an endowed professorship in free enterprise were created thanks to a $2 million gift from the former owner of a packaging company who credited a Robert Morris public speaking course for his success.

Marshall’s most recent professional experience has been an internship with Production Masters in Pittsburgh, where he is still doing field work. “I’m excited to put the knowledge I gained from my internship into my senior year projects,” he says. After graduating, he wants to become involved in film production and editing, whether it is for commercials, music videos, or movies.
When professor of marketing Jill Maher, Ph.D., looks at a box of “fruity” cereal or a bottle of juice, she sees an opportunity for parents to make better choices. She has researched how food and beverage products often refer to fruit on the packaging without necessarily including it in the product, such as Berry Berry Kix and Sunny Delight. Her goal is to encourage policymakers and the food industry to ensure that brand names and product packaging accurately and prominently reflect ingredients and nutritional value.

Maher enjoys helping students with their honors theses, especially those focusing on her field of expertise in consumer protection and the consequences of marketing. With Maher’s help, a paper by Danette Bailey Palmer ’04, M’11 about stereotypes of male models in magazine ads won Best Paper in Track at the 2004 Atlantic Marketing Association Conference. “Jill kept me focused on my interests, while helping shape the project into one that was relevant to the research field,” says Palmer, now a market research analyst at Schmidt Consulting Services. “She had a great vision and inspired me to see how far we could take the project.”

Maher has been the advisor for the RMU chapter of the American Marketing Association for a decade. The year she started, RMU won Most Revitalized Chapter at the annual AMA collegiate conference. The chapter has brought back numerous awards at conferences since then.

“I’m a mom first, before I have the title of marketing professor,” Maher says. “In my classroom, I try to teach my students first to become better people and do the right thing in the business world when marketing to consumers.”

WRITTEN BY
SARA MEIER ’11
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
VALENTINE J. BRKICH
1980s

ANTHONY J. PARAVATI ’80 is a commercial services officer with Parkvale Bank, and DEBORAH ZANNELLO PARAVATI ’77 is a business education teacher at Mt. Lebanon High School. The couple lives in Carnegie.

JAMES VITALE ’81 is chairman of the Moon Township board of supervisors. He is an account executive for Tyler Mountain Water. Jim and his wife, LUANNE KOCH VITALE ’85, and their children, Maria and Bob, live in Moon Township.

ROBERT M. MOOREHEAD M’83 is regional president and cross-functional sales leader for the First National Bank of Pennsylvania. Previously he was senior credit officer for First Niagara Bank and executive vice president and group manager of corporate banking at National City Bank in Pittsburgh.

TOM JULIAN ’84 has written his second book, Nordstrom Guide to Men’s Everyday Dressing. Tom is a brand marketing expert, founder of the Tom Julian Group, and is also style expert and commentator for Oscar.com. He lives in New York City.
SUSAN WICKER BURWEN ’81 has been named chief operating officer of FoundCare, a health center in West Palm Beach, Fla. She resides in West Palm Beach with her husband, Robert, who is director of pharmacy services at Hospice of Palm Beach County.

MORGAN K. O’BRIEN ’82, M’85 was elected to the board of directors of Matthews International. He is president and CEO of Peoples Natural Gas. Morgan currently serves on the boards of RMU, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, the Pittsburgh Opera, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society-Western Pa. Chapter, and the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Morgan and his wife, KATHLEEN FLAVIN O’BRIEN ’81, live in Pittsburgh.

JAMES W. SKELLY M’94 was named director of sales for the Americas for Timken Co. Jim has been at Timken for 26 years and lives in North Canton, Ohio.

THERESA A. DRYE M’86 is associate vice president for the University of South Florida’s division of human resources. Previously she was chief administrative officer and vice president of human resources at Nanticoke Health Services in Delaware.

JEFFREY VAYDA M’84 is serving Gloria Dei Lutheran Church as its interim pastor. He is the director of library technology and management services staff operations at Texas Tech. He holds a master of divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Jeffrey resides in Lubbock, Tex.

KATHLEEN DOHMLO ’88 was elected vice president of programs for the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel. She is senior counsel at Lanxess. Kathleen lives in Mt. Lebanon.

ALLISON RADI VAUPEL ’96, M’07 and her husband, Eric, are the proud parents of Nathan Tyler, born March 11. Nate joins big sisters Carlyn, 5, and Shana, 2. Allison is now a stay-at-home mom, and formerly was a sales representative for Sherpa Software in Bridgeville. The family resides in Marshall Twp.

1990s

JACQUELINE MYEROWITZ TRAVISANO ’90 is senior vice president and chief operating officer at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Fla. Previously she was vice president for business affairs and CFO for St. John’s University in Queens, N.Y.

ROB BENDER ’91 is director of recreation and marine operations at Sea Pines Resorts. Previously he was at the Palmetto Bluff resort. Rob, his wife, Heather, and daughter, Jane, live in Hilton Head Island, S.C.

ROBERT W. MCCUTCHEON ’91, managing partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Pittsburgh, has been appointed leader of the firm’s U.S. industrial products practice. Bob and his family live in Sewickley.
KIM PHILLIPS ’03 is CFO of The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center. Previously she was an accountant for the Allegheny County Bar Association. Kim lives in Churchill.

ZOHAR ASHER ’95 is director of business development for Fellon-McCord. Zohar and his wife, DEBRA MYERS ASHER ’95, live in Pittsburgh.

JEFFREY MACKENZIE M’95 is general manager for Classic Industries, a medical molding operation in Latrobe. Jeff lives in North Huntingdon.

CINDY A. KOMARINSKI ’96 was named the 2011 distinguished alumnus at the Westmoreland County Community College commencement ceremony in May. Cindy works at WCCC as an associate professor of culinary arts/hospitality programs.

DAVID D. PARSONS ’96 is assistant vice president and manager of the Metro Bank office in North Cornwall Township, Pa. He lives in Reading.

SUSAN C. DELZELL M’99 is senior tax manager at Alpern Rosenthal. She has been with the company for more than 10 years. Susan lives in Pittsburgh.

2000s

JILL CLARY ’00, M’04 is the application support analyst for K&L Gates. Previously she was a supervisor computer service with Dick’s Sporting Goods. Jill lives in Pittsburgh.

CHRISTINA ROBERTSON ALBERT ’01 is the human resource manager for Van Ness Feldman in Washington, D.C. She lives in Woodbridge, Va.

MIKE DONNADIO M’03 is development coordinator with the Panther Club, the official fundraising unit for Pitt athletics. Mike lives in Beaver Falls.

KEN ECK M’03 is marketing communications manager for Bacharach. He was formerly manager of direct marketing at Highmark. Ken lives in Cranberry Twp.

PHIL SALERA ’05 is the author of World War III: The Hour of Our Death, a political thriller about how Mideast unrest and the rise of China lead the world on a

Class Notes would love to hear from you. Email us at rmualum@rmu.edu
path to destruction. Phil resides in Pittsburgh.

**Abigail Burkes M’06** and Marc Bator were married July 9 at Oglebay Resort in West Virginia. Abby is a social studies teacher at Mars Area High School and recently completed her principal certification. The newlyweds live in Mars.

**Kristen Fieni ’06** and Bradley Payne were wed on May 21 at Old Economy Gardens in Ambridge. Kristen is a CT tech with Sewickley Valley Hospital and Bradley is a help desk specialist at St. Clair Hospital. The couple honeymooned in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. They live in Ambridge.

**Loren Anderson M’07** is project manager of regulatory services at UniversalPegasus in Canonsburg.

**Eric Wortzman ’00, M’05, M’07** and **Christina Mitteff ’06, M’08** are the proud parents of Tyler Austin, born May 26. Eric is an associate with Lally & Co. and Chrissy is HR business partner with BNY Mellon. The Wortzman family lives in Pittsburgh.

**Heidi Freeman Lewis ’08** completed her Ph.D. in American Studies at Purdue University and is a visiting assistant professor of feminist and gender studies at Colorado College. Heidi and her husband, Antonio, live in Colorado Springs with their son, A.J., and daughter, Chase.

**Zachary I. Mesher ’07** received his juris doctorate degree in May from the University of Akron School of Law.

**Michael Palladini M’07** recently published *Drugs of Abuse: From Doctors to Dealers, Users and Healers*, which describes commonly prescribed, abused, and illegal drugs. Mike is director of client services at Express Med Pharmaceuticals in Monaca. He resides in Beaver with his wife, Erin, and their sons, Noah and John.

**Lisa Wood ’07** is statewide program manager with the minority business enterprise division of the Ohio Department of Development. She was featured in the June issue of *Venturepreneur* magazine for her work with veteran business owners. Lisa is enrolled in the organizational leadership master’s program at RMU. She lives in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

**Aubrey DiVito ’08, M’11** is an account executive at WordWrite Communications, a Pittsburgh PR agency.

**Katie Kirkpatrick ’08** received the distinguished alumni achievement award from the university’s School of Communication and Information Systems. Katie is a communications representative at Bayer. She lives in Sewickley.

**Nicholas Hovanic M’08** and Heather Amistade were married Nov. 28, 2009 in Washington, Pa. Nicholas is an information security analyst at UPMC corporate services.

**Shannon Katzmayr ’08** has been named a fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society after passing the nine examinations administered by CAS. Shannon is an actuarial associate at The Hartford. She lives in Bloomfield, Conn.

**Jason Wunderlich ’08** bowled a perfect game at the USBC Open Championships in June.
> COLONIAL CONNECTIONS
AT THE ROGAL CHAPEL

NICHOLAS PAPPATERRA ‘08 and MARIA MACHEN ‘08 became a Colonial Couple on June 24 in Rogal Chapel. Both are CPAs, with Nicolas employed at Consol Energy as senior accountant and Maria at Schneider Downs as an audit in-charge accountant. The best man was BEAU PAPPATERRA, Nick’s brother, who is currently attending RMU. The newlyweds are living in Moon Twp.

DWAYNE CHIN ‘08 and CHELSEA FOGLE ‘10 became a Colonial Couple on July 1 in Rogal Chapel. Both are accountants and employed at Fogle & Associates in Wexford. Groomsman included JACEK PRZEDNOWEK ‘08, MATTHEW FELICE ‘09, and SEAN RILEY ‘10, who along with Dwayne are former members of the Colonials soccer team. The newlyweds are living in New Castle.

ANDREA MISENCIK PLUMMER ’00 and her husband, Jeremy welcomed their second child, Garrett Daniel on April 11. He joins his big brother, Logan, age 3. Andrea has been employed at RMU since 2000. She was director, conference and facilities services and recently moved to the part-time position of facilities communications specialist. The Plummers reside in Shaler.

CARLEE MERCURI ‘10 is a performer at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. She portrays costumed characters and also dances in various shows and parades.

2010s

KATIE ANDARY M’10 is institutional annual fund manager for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. She lives in Leetsdale.

VERA KREKANOVA M’10 is director at the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board. She is also a board member for Friends of Via. Vera lives in Pittsburgh.

ALEXANDRA LAYMAN ‘10 is an account executive of group sales and service for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

HEIDI YOUNG ’10 is a sales coordinator for Springhill Suites by Marriott, Pittsburgh Airport.

CHASE D. CONTI ’11 is an assistant financial advisor with Legend Financial Advisors.

YOU’RE INVITED
Reception and Dinner
90 Years of Accounting Education
Tuesday, Nov. 1 | Sewall Center
For tickets, contact James Rebele (412) 397-6369 or rebele@rmu.edu
CHRIS KUSHERNIUK ‘11 is a forward for the Wheeling Nailers of the ECHL. Chris was a forward for the Colonials men’s hockey team.

CARA PATTINATO ‘11 is a financial analyst at H.J. Heinz in Pittsburgh. She is the former president of the Class of 2011.

GREG TARANTO D’11 helped lead Canon-McMillan Middle School to “Schools to Watch” recognition in May as the school’s principal. Greg’s has taught fifth grade math, science, and language arts and seventh-grade science, and he also served as assistant superintendent of the district for one year. Greg lives in McDonald.

DENNY URBAN ‘11 has re-signed as a defenseman with the Reading Royals, ECHL affiliate of the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Boston Bruins.

In Memoriam
ANNA PIPER GLASS ‘38 of New Holland, Ohio, passed away on February 7 at the age of 91.

LILA ROLLISON RUNKLE ‘48 of Monogahela passed away on July 12.

FRED HUGO BRANDITZ ‘49 of Zanesville, Ohio, passed away on July 5 at the age of 85. Fred was a World War II veteran and a former senior vice president of Equibank in Pittsburgh.

JOHN V. POREMBA ’51 of Verona passed away on May 6 at the age of 83.

VICTOR A. NICHOLAS ’52 of O’Hara Twp. passed away May 9. Victor was a World War II Navy veteran, a volunteer at St. Margaret Hospital, and retired controller of Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission.

JAMES T. STEPHENS ’60 of Spring Hill, Fla., passed away on February 24 at the age of 76.

DONNA HARTUNG WOJNOVICH ’60 of Baldwin passed away on February 10 at the age of 71.

MILTON ZELKOWITZ ’60 passed away on July 20 at the age of 90. He had been a resident of Braddock.

SYLVIA STUGAN LOVATO ’62 of San Rafael, Calif., passed away on June 20 at the age of 69.

JOHN RENDINE ’65 of Tamarac, Fla., passed away on March 27 at the age of 69.

THOMAS YOUNG ’73 of Claremore, Okla., passed away on December 16 at the age of 64. He began his career with Rockwell International in Pittsburgh after graduating from Robert Morris, and retired in 2003 from Boeing.

JANET ANN DANIEL ’79 of Germantown, Tenn., passed away on April 7 after a long battle with cancer. She was originally from Kennedy Twp.

ROBERT WILLIAM MCGEARY JR. M’84 of Chippewa Twp. passed away on April 12 in Roseland, N.J., due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

BETH HELEN MINICH ’84 of Pittsburgh passed away on May 24. She was vice president of BNY Mellon Bank, where she worked for 25 years, and also was a frequent volunteer at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and a member of the Oakwood Presbyterian Church.

SYLVAN RICHARD RÔTUNA JR. ’07 of Hopewell Twp. passed away unexpectedly on May 11. He worked for Accutrex as an account executive. He is survived by his wife, Chevon, and three children.

Are you looking for advancement opportunities? Superbly qualified candidates?

You can find both at the
RMU Career Expo
Wednesday, Oct. 4
11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m | Sewall Center

Free to all alumni and current students.
Don’t miss the chance to meet representatives from local and national companies and organizations.

For more information, contact the university career center at (412) 397-6333.

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RMU HOCKEY SHOWCASE
FRIDAY, DEC. 30
CONSOL ENERGY CENTER

Women vs. Bemidji State @ 1 p.m.
Club vs. Pitt @ 4 p.m.
Men vs. Ohio State @ 7:30 p.m.

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS AT (800) 745-3000
OR AT TICKETMASTER.COM
After almost two decades in the news business, Trish Hooper ’03 made a major career switch this year when she became CEO of Sewickley Valley YMCA. By then she’d gotten accustomed to major life changes: a slip on the ice last year shattered her kneecap, forcing her to switch from running—a lifelong passion—to cycling. And the year before that, she got married in a sunset ceremony on the Outer Banks. Hooper talked with Foundations about the surprises life sometimes holds and the lessons it offers.

Q: When you and your husband (Julian Neiser, a small business attorney in West View) got married, you kept it a secret from both of your families, even from his young daughters. How did that come about? A: We’d enjoyed for several years going down to the beach. We rent the same little house at milepost 11, right in the dunes, so we thought it would be a great place to get married. We also knew it would have been very difficult to get our families and friends down there. So the only witness was our dog, Amber. The dog walked me down to the beach. The person who married us was the same lady who made our cake. We actually were going to get married the day before, but it stormed, so we went bowling instead. I know that sounds like a joke, but it was one of the most special moments of my life.

Q: Running a YMCA seems to be a good job for someone who loves to exercise. When did you start running? A: When I was in grade school my brother was training for high school football, so I would just go and run with him. I’ve always enjoyed it. It’s a great stress reliever, and when you run with a group it’s a great social outing too. We’ve solved a lot of the world’s problems on our runs, and planned weddings, showers, and career changes. It’s amazing what you can accomplish during a run.

Q: What perspective did you gain from being second-youngest in a family of five children? A: You get this whole wealth of experience growing up in a big family that translates into all different aspects of your life when you’re an adult, whether it’s how not to get in trouble, how to make up with someone you’ve been fighting with, how to make sure if you want mashed potatoes that you get the scoop first. I tell my stepdaughters whenever they fight: “One day you two are going to be friends, and something will happen in your life, and the first person you’re going to call is going to be your sister.” They don’t believe me now, and I understand why they don’t believe me, but it will happen. It always does.

Q: What’s the best part about your job at the Sewickley YMCA? A: Every day you have an opportunity to meet people who you’ve been able to make a difference in their lives. You talk with a family struggling to make ends meet, and they need child care so the parents can go to work. We’re able to provide that, and we’re able to provide financial assistance to make that happen. I’ve talked to more than a few people dealing with a sick relative at home. They come to the Y as a way to renew themselves. It’s their break; it’s their respite. To be able to be there for them makes all the difference in the world.

Q: You majored in journalism at Kent State. Have things turned out in your career the way you thought they would? A: No, but I think that’s what’s made it so exciting. I envisioned that I’d be writing for The Wall Street Journal or The New York Times.

Q: You spent 18 years in newspapers, working your way up from an intern at the Valley News Dispatch to city editor, then editor of special projects at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and eventually chief operating officer. What was your favorite part? A: I liked the excitement about it. Every day was different. You could have a plan for the day, and a news event would happen and out the plan went. It really taught me how to think on my feet, and how to not get bogged down in adhering to a plan when the plan wasn’t relevant anymore.

Q: Getting your M.B.A. appears to have changed your career trajectory in the direction of executive positions. What did it add to your existing set of skills? A: I had a lot of different workplace experiences, and working though the M.B.A. coursework really allowed me to put a framework around that. To understand the dynamics of the workplace better, the dynamics of an economy better, some of the finer points of how decisions are made. Because what you see as a frontline employee is really only a small fraction of what goes into making a decision at the corporate level.

Q: What is the latest new thing you’re trying? A: We did our first vegetable garden this year. Tomatoes, peppers, basil, beets—I love beets. We made a rookie mistake and planted a pumpkin vine, and it’s taken over the whole garden. We’ve had to reroute that thing.

Written By Mark Houser
Illustration by Amy Joy
Homecoming 2011

Saturday, October 8
First Night Game at the Joe!

Go to rmu.edu/alumni for details and reservations.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (412) 397-6464 or rmualum@rmu.edu.

CONCERT! FOOD! FIREWORKS!

Upcoming Events

> October
4 RMU Career Expo
Sewall Center,
11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
7 Italy 150 Reception and Concert – DisCanto Abruzzo
Massey Theater, 5:30 p.m.
7 Homecoming Happy Hour
Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport,
7-9 p.m.
8 Homecoming and Reunion
Years Reception. For a complete list of events visit
rmu.edu/homecoming
12 Pittsburgh Speakers Series
Founding Fathers
biographer Ron Chernow
Heinz Hall, 8 p.m.
16 Italian Mass and Reception
Rogal Chapel, 5 p.m.
27 Diversity Speakers Series
Prof. Daria Crawley
Rogal Chapel, Noon
9 Colonial Theatre presents:
Servant of Two Masters
Massey Theater, 8 p.m.
Through Nov. 13
17 Alumni Association
Council meeting
Sewall Center, 6 p.m.

> November
1 90 Years of Accounting
Education Reception and Dinner
Sewall Center, 6 p.m.
2 Women of RMU
Omni William Penn, Noon
2 Pittsburgh Speakers Series
Education reformer
Michelle Rhee
Heinz Hall, 8 p.m.

> December
30 RMU Hockey Showcase
Consol Energy Center
Women vs. Bemidji State, 1 p.m.
Club vs. Pitt, 4 p.m.
Men vs. Ohio State, 7:30 p.m.

> On the Road
This fall we’re visiting alumni in
New York, Harrisburg, Tampa,
Orlando, Dallas, Erie, and
Cleveland. If you’re in the area
and would like to join us, call or
email and let us know.

Check the Events listings
at rmu.edu/alumni for even
more events and up-to-the-
minute information.
The Big Three

At the unveiling of the new School of Business building, President Dell’Omo (second from right) is joined by the CEOs of the major corporate sponsors: (from left) Rich Harshman ’78 of Allegheny Technologies, Jim Rohr of PNC Financial Services, and John Surma of United States Steel.