DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

This fall at RMU began much as last fall did — with the opening of a major new academic building at our main campus in Moon Township. The new Wheatley Center for the School of Communications and Information Systems is another signature building, with modern classrooms and dozens of new faculty offices, several computer labs and extensive studio space, a student art gallery, a café, and a three-story atrium flooded with natural light. Both it and the new School of Business building that opened last year were made possible through our recently completed $40 million Changing Lives, Building Futures capital campaign.

This summer brought a lot of great news. We opened RMU Downtown in the Heinz 57 Center to offer undergraduate and graduate programs, including the M.B.A., to working professionals. We introduced our first endowed chair and an endowed Research Center on Black Male Educational Student Success, thanks to a $900,000 gift from the Heinz Endowments. Our School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science was part of a consortium picked by the White House for a $70 million project to spearhead development of 3-D printing and additive manufacturing. And besides their successes on the field, court, and rink, our athletes won the Institutional Academic Award for having the best grades in the Northeast Conference — including five NEC Student Athletes of the Year.

Yes, it was a fantastic summer, and it has been an even better fall. More than 1,800 students live on campus this year, a new record, including those living in the newly christened Yorktown Hall, part of the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport. We purchased the hotel, just down the road from our Moon campus, and will ultimately convert the entire building to a residence hall for 500 students.

Whether you live on campus at Moon, or take graduate courses at RMU Downtown, or are earning a degree from RMU online, you benefit from the Robert Morris brand of education: personal attention with a professional focus and an emphasis on engaged learning. It’s the reason that 95 percent of our students have a job — most of them in their field of study — or are enrolled in graduate school within a year of graduation. Of all the changes that have taken place at RMU over the years, that is the one constant our students can count on.

Thank you, and here’s to a great year for all of us!

Sincerely,

GREGORY G. DELL’OMO, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
City of Championship 8
Colonials hockey first laced up its skates less than a decade ago. Now RMU is hosting the first NCAA championship in Pittsburgh in 50 years.

Laser Focus on Success 18
Changing young lives is the focus of the new RMU Research Center on Black Male Educational Student Success.

Civil War Cider 20
This Colonial Couple turns locally grown apples and other fruit into tasty libations in their historic Lawrenceville rowhouse.

10 Questions 32
Talk about your unlikely first dates… He’s from Austria. She’s from Germany. But Colonial Couple Manuel and Yvonne Bitschnau met at RMU.
Manufacturing the Future

A $70 million White House plan will create a national research institute to develop the next generation of manufacturing technology, and Robert Morris University is part of the team that brought it here.

In August, the White House announced it had chosen a bid from a consortium of nine universities including RMU, 40 companies, five community colleges, and 11 nonprofit organizations in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia to create a National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute. Researchers look to additive manufacturing, also known as 3-D printing, to revolutionize factories and make it possible to build custom plastic or metal objects as easily as copiers recreate documents.

The initial three-year plan calls for $30 million in federal funding, matched by $40 million in contributions from the winning consortium partners. The institute, part of a plan to replace the "Rust Belt" moniker with "Tech Belt," opened its research hub in a renovated building in Youngstown in September.

RMU’s portion of the initiative, valued at approximately $700,000 in government grants and in-kind contributions, will involve the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science. The school’s laboratories are equipped with 3-D printing equipment, and will provide research, education, and workforce development and training.

> GO TO FOUNDATIONS ONLINE AT RMU.EDU/FOUNDATIONS TO LEARN MORE.
Back to the Future

RMU is leading the way in enterprise systems. And we’re not talking about Captain Kirk and Spock either. In September, the university hosted a meeting of the IBM Regional Planning Group to discuss ways to improve programs in enterprise systems — the mainframe computers that many businesses rely on to run their operations. The event included faculty from the School of Communications and Information Systems along with representatives from IBM, PNC, BNY Mellon, Highmark, UPMC, Bayer, and K&L Gates.

IBM has developed new mainframe systems, and last year the company asked RMU to revive its enterprise systems programs, which had been phased out years ago as faculty focused on newer technologies. The university now offers an M.S. in information security assurance with a concentration in enterprise systems at its new Downtown campus on Sixth Avenue.

When the demand for enterprise systems professionals began to grow again, companies like PNC and Highmark also approached RMU to bring back courses teaching COBOL, one of the main computer languages of mainframe systems. Nineteen students completed COBOL and Advanced COBOL this past year, and this fall the COBOL and Enterprise Operating Systems courses have full enrollment. The Advanced COBOL course and the DB2 Database Management System course will both be offered this spring; CICS/COBOL will be delivered in the summer.

John Turchek, professor of computer and information systems, said the university’s enterprise systems program is in such high demand that students are being offered full-time positions before they even complete their degrees. IBM has even provided access to one of its newest zEnterprise mainframes to teach students, something that would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars on its own. If you are interested in earning a degree or certificate in this burgeoning “new” field, go to rmu.edu/downtown.

Doing Us Proud

Jaclyn Bosiljevac, a senior actuarial science major, was awarded the 2012 Actuary of Tomorrow – Stuart A. Robertson Memorial Scholarship by The Actuarial Foundation. Bosiljevac also won two other national scholarships: the John Culver Wooddy Scholarship and the Insurance Scholarship Foundation of America Marsh Scholars Award. She is the first student ever to win both the Wooddy and the Robertson scholarships in the same year.

Senior accounting and finance major Josh Blum is the ninth RMU student to earn a Next Generation stipend from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance. A national professional development organization, the alliance offers a nonprofit professional certification program and prepares students for professional positions in the nonprofit sector. The $4,500 stipend will support Blum’s internship with the American Middle East Institute.
Setting the Standard

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education has reaffirmed RMU’s accreditation through 2022, validating the quality of the university’s governance and curriculum. The commission, the accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in the Mid-Atlantic region, conducts a major evaluation of each of its member institutions every 10 years.

RMU received commendations from the commission for the quality of its self-study process and report, which was assessed by a team of peer evaluators from other member colleges and universities. The commission imposed no requirements for improvement upon the university.

More than 100 RMU faculty, staff, and students participated in the self-study process, evaluating programs and governance based on 14 standards. The team was led by Ann Jabro, Ph.D., university professor of communication, and David Majka, Ed.D., director of institutional research and associate professor of learning resources.

Good As Gold

The School of Business building has received the LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The building got high marks for environmental sustainability for including lots of natural light in the design, and for using both recycled materials and wood raised using sustainable methods in its construction. What tipped the scales was the university’s decision to purchase "green" power for at least the next two years. In addition, the construction itself had a minimal impact on the environment.

Staying Out of the Hospital

Unnecessary hospitalizations among nursing home residents cost Medicare and Medicaid approximately $8 billion each year. The agency that administers those programs has awarded a grant to a regional partnership between RMU and four area health care organizations to reduce those preventable hospital admissions.

The School of Nursing and Health will team up with UPMC Community Provider Services, Heritage Valley Health System, Excela Health, and the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, working with 16 nursing homes in western Pennsylvania to keep their residents from returning to the hospital unnecessarily. Joseph Angelelli, Ph.D., director of RMU’s health services administration program, is overseeing the university’s efforts under the grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. RMU will educate and support nurse practitioners and staff in each participating nursing home.
> Young World After All

For some of the international delegates who came to Pittsburgh in October for the One Young World Summit, their visit included a stop on campus. As a sponsor of the summit, the university hosted sessions on sustainability and on health care leadership on campus. Derya Jacobs, Ph.D., vice provost for research and graduate studies, then invited the delegates to her home for a dinner party.

Editor Mark Houser was a member of the local planning committee for the event, which brought more than 1,200 delegates from around the world to the city. Carl Ross, Ph.D., met with delegates for a panel discussion in Oakland to share his experiences as a nursing professor bringing nursing students to Nicaragua to provide health care to low-income families.

The university sponsored Sara Meier ’11, now an M.B.A. student and a regular contributor to Foundations (see page 22), and Besart Stavileci ’12, an assistant actuarial analyst at Sun Life Financial in Boston and last year’s class president; Stavileci carried the flag of his native Kosovo in a parade of nations at the event. Bayer Corp. sponsored Katie Kirkpatrick ’08, a senior communications representative at Bayer who also attended the One Young World Summit in Switzerland in 2011. The Heinz Endowments sponsored Sean Callahan-Dinish M’10, a counselor in the university’s Center for Student Success.

> The Distinguished Gentlemen

The university awarded its Distinguished Achievement Awards this year to Dennis Jochmann, director of IT customer service, and Arif Sirinterlikci, Ph.D., interim head of the department of engineering and director of engineering laboratories. Jochmann was recognized for acting as a mentor for student IT workers, and Sirinterlikci was praised for outreach to local communities and schools through education programs. Each received $1,000 for the award.

> Focus on Military Families

RMU is one of the first 100 institutions in the country to join Operation Educate the Educators. Coordinated by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Military Children Education Coalition, the program prepares teachers to work with the children of military personnel. Military children face special difficulties, including long periods when a parent is deployed overseas, frequent moves, and stress from having a loved one in danger.

As a part of the university’s efforts, all student teachers attend weekly seminars to discuss these issues. Faculty members work with student teachers to enhance their understanding of the methods they can use when teaching children with parents in the military, whether they are deployed, stateside, or veterans.
> **She’s the Inspiration**

Led by **Shellie Hipsky**, Ed.D., associate professor of education, students in the School of Education and Social Sciences are helping homeless mothers and their children at Adagio Healthy Start Home in Duquesne. The students are painting a mural, helping with “mommy makeovers” and family portraits, and bringing donated toys.

> **Our Own Michael Phelps**

**Michael Yahr**, M.B.A., professor of management, won gold in the 200-yard and silver in the 500-yard freestyle swimming events in his age group at the 2012 Pennsylvania Senior Games in Harrisburg. Yahr qualified for four freestyle events at the 2013 National Senior Games.

> **On the Road Again**

**Sushma Mishra**, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer and information systems, gave a presentation at the University of Buffalo this summer entitled “Security and Privacy Issues with Electronic Medical Records: Future Reasearch Directions.”

**Jon Radermacher**, M.F.A., associate professor and head of the department of media arts, was one of 40 people invited to Think Tank, a symposium on craft at the Touchstone Center for the Crafts in Farmington, Pa., this summer.

**Val Howard**, Ed.D., associate professor of nursing, co-chaired the Global Network for Simulation in Healthcare meeting in Switzerland this summer. Howard is also the director of the university’s Regional RISE Center and assistant dean for external affairs for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.
New Weapon Against Cancer

A computer simulation by Gavin Buxton, assistant professor of physics, demonstrates how to reduce the severe side effects of chemotherapy by manipulating nanoparticles to deliver cancer-fighting drugs directly to tumors. The results of his study, co-authored by Nigel Clarke of the University of Sheffield (U.K.), have been published in the Journal of Soft Matter by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

On the Road, Virtually

Larry Tomei, Ed.D., professor of education and vice provost, spoke in an online symposium sponsored by IGI Global this summer. His presentation was entitled "Technology-Based Instruction: What are You Missing?"

A Successful Experiment

Seven current and former professors in the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science published a paper in the Journal of STEM Education demonstrating how RMU students who received four-year scholarships in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through a National Science Foundation Grant outperformed their peers.

A Global Perspective, On Camera

"La Mia Strada" or "My Road," the latest documentary by Michael DiLauro, M.F.A., premiered in October at the Palestrina Movieclub Film Festival in Rome. In his film, the director of RMU’s Academic Media Center offers his perspective on ethnicity as it links ancient Italian traditions and contemporary culture. The film will premiere at RMU on January 31.

Carolina Loyola-Garcia, M.F.A., an associate professor of media arts, has received a $20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to complete her documentary, "Inheritors of a Burden." The film explores the history of flamenco arts in the United States, focusing on the legendary Jose Greco, and addresses the contemporary artists who continue to develop this art form.

Anthony Moretti, Ph.D., associate professor of communication, traveled to the Republican National Convention in Tampa and the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte as the faculty leader for The Washington Center’s Leadership in Communication program, a seminar in which college students examine the media and political process. Moretti teaches journalism.
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CRAIG COLEMAN, M.D., AT A CEREMONY AT CONSOL ENERGY CENTER ANNOUNCING ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY AS THE HOST OF THE 2013 NCAA MEN’S FROZEN FOUR IN PITTSBURGH.
CITY OF CHAMPIONSHIP

When the nation’s best college hockey teams come to town in April for the NCAA Men’s Frozen Four, hosted by Robert Morris University, it will be the first time in 50 years that a national sports champion is crowned in Pittsburgh. Expect Marty Galosi to be right in the middle of it all with a big smile on his face.

“I’m not sure people ever thought of Robert Morris in that light. This is really symbolic of where the university and the athletic department are now,” says Galosi, the university’s senior associate athletic director. It was Galosi who, as chairman of the city’s organizing committee, worked with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Consol Energy Center, and VisitPittsburgh to woo the NCAA men’s hockey finals here.

Hosting the Frozen Four is a big step for a program that’s not yet a decade old. But American college hockey is in an expansion phase, trying to stretch beyond its traditional base in the Northeast and the Upper Midwest. Last year’s Frozen Four was in Tampa. Pennsylvania’s total number of Division I teams just shot up 50 percent this year, as Penn State threw its helmet in the rink to join RMU and Erie’s Mercyhurst. Organizers anticipate more than 13,000 visitors coming to town for the tournament, with an estimated economic impact to the region of $12 million, according to Galosi.

Penguins spokesman Tom McMillan says he expects the Frozen Four to help build an already burgeoning local hockey fan base, which in turn helps the Penguins. “Our business is NHL hockey, but we’ve always looked for ways to promote hockey in Pittsburgh at all levels. More and more kids in Pittsburgh are playing college hockey, and the Penguins have a lot of guys in management who came up through college hockey,” McMillan says, starting with coach Dan Bylsma (Bowling Green) and manager Ray Shero (St. Lawrence). The Colonials have played showcase games against marquee opponents each winter on the Penguins NHL home ice, most memorably upsetting No. 1 Miami in 2010. This year the Colonials will face off in a four-team tournament against Miami, Ohio State, and the brand new Penn State squad in the Three Rivers Classic on December 28-29.

And what are the chances that the Colonials will play again at Consol this season? You know, in April?

Of the 58 teams in men’s Division I hockey, 16 are invited to the NCAA playoffs. The Colonials need to capture the title in their conference, Atlantic Hockey, and earn an automatic bid to the field of 16. But, once there, the tournament is single elimination, so two more wins gets a team to the Frozen Four in Pittsburgh. And while we’re getting our hopes up, just two more wins and…

Well, do you believe in miracles?

WRITTEN BY MARK Houser  |  PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON COHN
The Colonials return four starters from a team that finished 26-11 overall and 13-5 in the NEC and advanced to their fourth-straight NEC Tournament championship game before falling at LIU Brooklyn. The team’s overall record of 117-56 over the last five years ties Robert Morris with Kent State for the ninth most wins among mid-major programs in that span. Third-year coach Andrew Toole has added height to his roster with two new forwards, freshman Stephan Hawkins (6’9”) and junior Vaughn Morgan (6’6”).
WOMEN’S

Only one starter returns from last year’s Colonials team that finished 18-14 overall and 11-7 in the NEC, appearing in its eighth-straight NEC Tournament. But what a starter she is — junior forward Artemis Spanou, whose 20 double-doubles last year ranked fourth in the country. Spanou won her fourth MVP in the FIBA European women’s basketball championships this summer, scoring a career-high 33 points in the title game for Greece. Coach Sal Buscaglia will add some new pieces to build on his 160 wins with Robert Morris.

TEAM LEADER

ARTEMIS SPANOU
ALL-NEC FIRST TEAM
LED TEAM WITH
16.8 POINTS,
10.8 REBOUNDS/GAME

NEW FACES

JOLIE OLINGENDE
FROM: ARIZONA WESTERN J.C.
15.5 POINTS, 10.8 REBOUNDS/GAME
ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

RANDI JACKSON
FROM: BISHOP O’DOUD TWO-YEAR CAPTAIN OF CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONS

WOMEN’S HOME SCHEDULE

JAN. 5 @ 4 PM
RMU VS CENT. CONN.

JAN. 7 @ 7 PM
RMU VS BRYANT

JAN. 9 @ 4 PM
RMU VS QUINNIPIAC

JAN. 21 @ 2 PM
RMU VS MT. ST. MARY’S

JAN. 26 @ 4 PM
RMU VS WAGNER

FEB. 9 @ 4 PM
RMU VS ST. FRANCIS

FEB. 11 @ 7 PM
RMU VS FA. DICKINSON

FEB. 23 @ 4 PM
RMU VS MONMOUTH

FEB. 25 @ 7 PM
RMU VS SACRED HEART

NOV. 9 @ 7 PM
RMU VS NIAGARA

NOV. 28 @ 10 AM
RMU VS STONY BROOK

DEC. 2 @ 1 PM
RMU VS DUQUESNE

JAN. 5 @ 4 PM
RMU VS CENT. CONN.

JAN. 7 @ 7 PM
RMU VS BRYANT

JAN. 9 @ 4 PM
RMU VS QUINNIPIAC

JAN. 21 @ 2 PM
RMU VS MT. ST. MARY’S

JAN. 26 @ 4 PM
RMU VS WAGNER

FEB. 9 @ 4 PM
RMU VS ST. FRANCIS

FEB. 11 @ 7 PM
RMU VS FA. DICKINSON

FEB. 23 @ 4 PM
RMU VS MONMOUTH

FEB. 25 @ 7 PM
RMU VS SACRED HEART
I thought I’d be driving up to a storefront, but instead my phone’s GPS leads me to the end of a cul-de-sac. I’m on my way to a place called Beecher’s Coffee & Premium Tea, and as I pull into the driveway, I spy several large sacks of coffee beans in the garage. Smoke wafts up from the chimney, and the air is thick with the aroma of roasting coffee. Hundreds of snowflake-like things float down from the sky.

“Those are the coffee husks,” says Dave Beecher Brauer M'09, who comes out of the garage to greet me. “Welcome to Beecher’s!”

“Many poor families can’t afford to be registered as fair trade. We actually know our growers, and we work hard to build personal relationships with them.”
while at RMU that set the company on its current path.

After earning his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh, Brauer worked as a financial adviser for a few years and spent a little over a year at law school. Then, in 2007, he enrolled in RMU's human resources management graduate program and met the program's director, Darlene Motley, Ph.D., who took Brauer on as a graduate assistant and guided his research into organizational sustainability. "The friendship and mentorship we've developed really set the track of where I am going in life," he says. It was Motley who motivated him to pursue his Ph.D. in economics at the prestigious University of Durham in Great Britain. The program requires an enormous amount of travel; not only does Brauer meet with his advisor in England four or more times a year, but his small group of 13 doctoral candidates meets for classes every eight weeks not in England, but at Fudan University in Shanghai. Brauer plans to become a professor.

Today sustainability plays a big part in the Beecher's Coffee mission. The company buys directly from regional farmers who harvest shade-grown and organic coffee beans, and then ships the coffee in compostable packaging. Induction lighting illuminates their garage-based operation, and natural gas powers the roaster. And as for those snowflake-like coffee husks, Brauer and his dad reuse them as mulch.

Now he's embarked on a new initiative to support the poor people of Haiti and, at the same time, revitalize the country's once-thriving coffee industry. Back in the 1970s, Haiti was the world's third largest coffee exporter, producing some 7 million pounds annually. Last year, however, the country exported 60,000 pounds, which is less than Beecher's annual output. Now Brauer hopes to help the poor of Haiti by restoring the country as a leading coffee producer. "Our goal is to get 1,000 Haitian families involved in the coffee industry again," he says.

Recently he was asked to join the board of directors of the Friends of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, which supports projects in collaboration with the hospital's mission to improve the health and well-being of the people in Haiti's Artibonite Valley. Now he's working with the hospital to launch an exclusive, $100-per-pound Haitian coffee known as the "Pearl of the Antillies," the sales of which will help support the Haiti Timber Reintroduction Project.

For Brauer, the work he's doing at Beecher's and in Haiti isn't about financial success, but rather about the legacy he wants to leave to his two sons, Grant, 5, and Christian, 2. "What do I want them to know about me?" he says. "What's really important in life? Business, to me, is no longer just the means to an end. I found a path for my life that's more interesting. Money is a tool, not a goal. You can do good, change lives, and still make money to support your family."

WRITTEN BY VALENTINE J. BRKICH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WILL '08
A year after unveiling its new business building, Robert Morris University in September opened another showcase structure and moved one step closer to its goal: creating a unique home for each of the university’s five schools.

The new Wheatley Center unites students and faculty of the School of Communications and Information Systems under one roof for the first time. Media arts is the last department to leave RMU’s former downtown property; it joins the school’s other departments on campus — computer information systems, organizational leadership, communication, and English.
The soaring, 50,000 square-foot complex, glowing with colored LED accents, is the result of a dramatic architectural makeover. The former Wayne Center, a squat structure that once housed the university’s facilities department and mailroom, forms the skeleton of the new building. Where maintenance workers once parked their trucks, students now relax in futuristic recliners under a three-story skylit atrium. In addition to faculty offices and classrooms, the center has a café, an art gallery, a screening room, and a variety of computer and design labs. At the entryway stands a towering titanium sculpture donated by Allegheny Technologies Inc., which the company originally took to the Paris Air Show to announce a new alloy.

“Our approach to the study and teaching of communications goes to how we view our communication skills program,” said President Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D. “It’s a holistic approach. We clump everyone together, from poets to computer science people. It’s all the different modes of communications in today’s world, because we view communications in a very broad sense. And the faculty helped us to make sure the building was designed to reflect that holistic approach to communications.”
Faculty members rechristened the structure to honor Phillis Wheatley, a Colonial-era slave who became a well-known poet, and whose patriotic ode to General Washington was one of the first works written by any woman, black or white, to be published in America.

The new building was officially unveiled at a September 20 gala, Celebration², which also marked the successful completion of the largest fundraising campaign in the university’s history. More than 8,200 donors contributed to the $40 million Changing Lives, Building Futures campaign, which funded construction of both the Wheatley Center and the new building for the School of Business, as well as numerous other projects, including 30 new scholarship funds and an endowed research center, the RMU Research Center on Black Male Educational Student Success.

David J. Malone, vice chairman of the RMU Board of Trustees, was the chairman of the capital campaign. Last year the Board of Trustees honored Malone, president and CEO of Gateway Financial, with its inaugural David J. Malone Volunteer Service Award. This year the award was given to Barbara A. McNees, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.
McNees, a longtime trustee of RMU, is the first female president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce in its 136-year history. Previously she served for eight years as the regional manager of the Governor’s Action Team, where she oversaw a 12-county district in western Pennsylvania. She has chaired the Port of Pittsburgh Commission, the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta, and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agency. She has also served on several boards and is a member of the International Women’s Forum.

McNees earned a bachelor’s degree in independent studies from Geneva College and certificates from the Institute for Organizational Management, the National Development Council in Washington, and Wood Tobe-Coburn School.

She has two children, Brian and Elizabeth; three stepchildren, Shannon, Patrick and Jason; and four grandchildren, Jared, Rachel, Ethan, and Ava.

"FOR ANY INSTITUTION, $40 MILLION IS A LOT OF MONEY. SO IT TAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE, TIME, AND ENERGY, AND A LOT OF COMMITMENT AND PASSION ON THE PART OF BOTH THE BOARD AND THE COMMITTEES, TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE ROBERT MORRIS STORY, TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THEY'RE INVESTING IN. AND OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR INVESTMENT. OUR ABILITY TO BRING YOUNG PEOPLE HERE, EDUCATE THEM, AND THEN HAVE THEM BE LEADERS IN THEIR PROFESSIONS AND LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES IS OUR COMMITMENT TO BOTH THEM AND THE COMMUNITY."

—BARBARA MCNEES
The beat of hip-hop music and the buzz of excited conversation resound in Hopwood Hall on a hot June morning. It’s the opening session of the Black Male Leadership Development Institute, and the 75 teenagers who make up this year’s class are finding their seats.

Some are bleary-eyed, having found it difficult to sleep with the excitement of spending the night in a college dorm. They are still adjusting to the rules and expectations laid out by program co-director Rex Crawley, Ph.D. For instance, “If you’re walking into the room on time, you’re late,” says Crawley, professor of communication and assistant dean of the School of Communications and Information Systems.

A collaboration between Robert Morris University and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, BMLDI is designed to help black teens develop the skills they need for personal success, while exposing them to role models and helping them discover their own leadership potential. Starting with a one-week summit on campus and continuing through monthly development sessions, participants work under the guidance of successful black men from different walks of life to identify their individual leadership visions, chart a path for success, and achieve their goals.

At the center of it all is Crawley. A community leader, mentor, and scholar on black masculinity, Crawley is passionate about his mission. He worked with Sabrina Saunders, director of education at the Urban League, to expand the BMLDI from its initial form — a one-day summit — to today’s year-long program.

Now, thanks to a $900,000 matching grant from The Heinz Endowments,
Robert Morris University is poised to make an impact not only locally but nationally, with the establishment of the RMU Research Center on Black Male Educational Student Success. It is the university’s second endowed research center (the first was the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management) and its first endowed chair.

Crawley, who occupies that inaugural chair, envisions a center whose director and staff will be experienced in both quantitative and qualitative research. The center will perform longitudinal tracking of BMLDI participants, and also will undertake studies to explore how black males successfully matriculate through the educational system, including higher education. While laser-focused on success factors, the scope of the center is wide, leaving room for issues and research topics to emerge.

The problems facing young black men are well-documented: A 2010 College Board report found that black men are far less likely than their female or white counterparts to attend college or even finish high school. The U.S. unemployment rate among black men is currently 13.4 percent, compared to 7.8 percent for the nation as a whole, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But while many researchers have examined these problems, few have focused on isolating the characteristics of those black men who achieve educational and economic success, according to Crawley.

"I have a 4-year-old son, and in my mind, I am preparing a development strategy for him," Crawley says. "When I search for research and information about what I should be doing to prepare this 4-year-old for success now, I come back with few hits. We feel like we have spent enough time identifying the problem, so RMU and The Heinz Endowments have decided that it's now time to move closer towards solutions."

Crawley has ambitious plans for the new center. "This will position us as a national leader," he says. "My goal is that Robert Morris becomes the definitive resource for information on the positive black male experience in the United States."

Keilynn Burkes moved through several school districts during his formative years, and while he was always eager to learn, he was hesitant to stand out in a group. Recruited by a BMLDI program manager in 2010, Burkes had an experience that changed him from a shy and quiet student into a leader. "BMLDI gave me the necessary tools I need to succeed in life," he says. "It's given me networking, communication skills, understanding, and experience executing goals." Now a cluster leader at BMLDI, Burkes is an intelligence and national security major at Point Park University.

Crawley has been at the center of several RMU initiatives to promote African American achievement on campus, including service on both the Council on Institutional Equity and the Black Male Excellence Network. By conducting primary and secondary research to build upon the body of knowledge around black male educational success, Crawley is aiming to make the center the "go-to" resource for anyone seeking credible information on black male educational success strategies.

WRITTEN BY AMY SCANLON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE APPEL
Arsenal Cider House & Wine Cellar had been open for only a few weeks when the owners realized they had a problem: too much business. "We had to shut down for a month to catch up. We were out of the gate running, that's for sure," says Bill Larkin '96, who, with the help of his wife, Michelle Jankowski Larkin '94, opened the establishment two years ago.

Michelle was surprised that their homemade hard ciders and fruit wines generated so much buzz — and not only because of their considerable potency. "To see that our customers weren't just friends and family is when we kind of realized, uh-oh," she says. "We were way busier than I ever anticipated."

Two years after tapping that first barrel, demand is greater than ever.
Nevertheless, the Larkins continue to produce their crisp, fruity concoctions as they always have: in the basement of their red brick rowhouse at 300 39th St. in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh. Most of the drinks are held downstairs in rows of steel 500-liter and 600-liter tanks, while cider enthusiasts file in upstairs, where the Larkins have converted the first floor of their home into a Civil War-themed serving area and sitting room.

Taking inspiration from the historic Allegheny Arsenal that once stood just across the street, the space is appointed with evocative touches such as a 15-star American flag, antique lantern, and Union military caps on a mantle above the fireplace. Two of the six tap handles are adorned with replica revolvers, just for good measure.

“This used to be our game room, dining room, living room, and kitchen,” Bill says. “We cut off half of our living space, pretty much.” And with three young children, space is at a premium for the Larkins. But these days it’s the customers who are making themselves at home, sampling new selections and chatting with Bill and Michelle before deciding what to buy. And thousands have enjoyed the fruits of the Larkins’ labor, at least judging by the number of individually labeled 1-liter growlers they’ve sold — more than 9,000 and counting. Their ciders also can be found on tap at Fat Head’s in the South Side and several other bars across the city.

Among the most popular is an off-dry cider named for Alexander “Fighting Elleck” Hayes, a Civil War general buried in nearby Allegheny Cemetery. The apples come from Soergel Orchards in McCandless Township. “It’s a crowd pleaser,” Michelle says. “It’s middle of the road. If you’re not sure of people’s tastes, it pleases the bone-dry people and it pleases the people who like something sweeter.” Her personal favorite is Symington’s Sour Cherry Union, named for Allegheny Arsenal post commander Col. John Symington. “It’s almost like a cherry Jolly Rancher. It’s like a party in your mouth because it’s got a lot of flavor.”

But no matter the variety — apple, cherry, grape, peach, pear or some combination thereof — it is served with a quick history lesson. “This guy here on the left, his name is Alfred Pearson,” Bill says, motioning to a framed black-and-white photograph on the wall. “We named our pear cider after him — it’s called Alfred’s Pear, Son! He was a Civil War general who lived right down the street.”

Bill walked away from a career as an accountant, and the past few years have represented what many would consider a daring leap of faith — which, coincidentally, is how he discovered cider in the first place. “I used to do skydiving, and a good friend of mine who taught me to skydive also was an avid cider maker. And that’s how it started,” he says. He continues to make use of his RMU accounting degree. “I still get to play with numbers, but they’re my numbers now. Certainly the nuts-and-bolts skills I learned in accounting and business management, I use that every day,” he adds. “Even in production, we have to keep good inventory records. It made that process a lot easier for me, because I had that background.”

Michelle, who majored in communication and taught in Montessori schools for 18 years, spends much of her time greeting customers from behind the bar, cheerily serving samples and explaining the nuances of each variety. “Considering the amount of work we put into it, just taking that leap of faith as a married couple and still loving each other after all of this, it’s pretty awesome being in business with your spouse and doing so well,” she says.

Together, the couple has created a unique Pittsburgh destination, one that attracts cider drinkers from miles away. “We’ve seen this place packed with maybe 30 or 40 people during the holidays,” Bill says. “From September on, we get crushed. It’s the cider season.”

WRITTEN BY MATT SOBER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES KNOX
Once she found her niche as an education major, Ashley Allem wanted to make a difference on campus in the education department. After changing her major from nuclear medicine to elementary education with a concentration in science, Allem worked with the department to found an RMU chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education, and now serves as its president. "I'm excited that our chapter has achieved a membership base of 80 members within the last few months," says Allem. "We have exciting events planned throughout the school year."

Ronald Perry, Ph.D., the faculty advisor for Kappa Delta Pi, says it is an honor to work with Allem on an organization that will benefit many other students. "Ashley is a very dedicated and self-motivated student," he says. "She will be an exceptional teacher who will in turn instill pride and dedication in her students."

While Ashley is student teaching and completing her courses this semester, she is also driving her younger brother, Ryan, to and from high school daily, cooking dinner, and helping him with his homework. Ryan is a senior and a straight-A student-athlete who also has a part-time job. He plans to become a chemistry professor. "I'm so proud that I've been able to instill confidence and morality in him while giving him support and motivation," she says. "I achieved so much at Robert Morris because I wanted to show my brother the importance of setting and attaining achievement goals."

STUDENT PROFILE

Ashley Allem
John McCarthy, Ph.D., and his students are working to recognize a nearby neighborhood that played an important role in arming the United States during World War II. An associate professor of history, McCarthy received a $15,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission to fund interviews with residents of the Mooncrest housing development and to produce a short history book next year.

Mooncrest was a federal project to house shipbuilders who worked at Neville Island, where many of the landing ships used in D-Day were built. McCarthy’s students have recorded interviews with residents who have lived at Mooncrest their whole lives, children who live there now, and veterans of World War II. He and his students have also worked to create lesson plans for the Moon Township Area School District in its local history curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Jessica Olin ’12 says her work on the Mooncrest project, as well as an internship that McCarthy helped her to get at the Fort Pitt Museum, impressed the history department at College of Charleston, where she is now a graduate student. “He was a mentor to me during my studies at Robert Morris,” Olin says.

McCarthy, the historian, has some historic ties of his own to RMU – his grandfather graduated with the Class of 1950. He says he is pleased to help students achieve their career goals. “I enjoy helping students who come in as freshmen and don’t know what they want to do when they graduate. Watching them grow and helping them become more focused on a specific career path is a rewarding part of being a professor at RMU.”
1960s
HUGH O’DONNELL ’63 owns Babe’s Music Factory and credits Robert Morris for his DJ career. In 1962 he started spinning discs at the dances held at the downtown campus. Hugh has been in the DJ business for over 42 years and lives in West Mifflin.

1970s
CAROL A. CAMPBELL ’73 retired from the internal affairs division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms last fall. She lives in Manassas, Va.

JOHN E. BROWN ’75 retired from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General after 31

KRISTEN GRAZIANO ’09 was chosen for the Jonas Salk Fellowship, a Jewish Healthcare Foundation program that pairs graduate students with medical professionals for eight sessions of discussion and learning. Kristen is studying for her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at RMU while working part-time in the neuro ICU at Allegheny General. She is one of the featured students in the university’s Change A Life campaign. See more at RMU.EDU/CHANGE.

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PLUS OHIO STATE VS. MIAMI
MEN’S HOCKEY ACTION
DECEMBER 28-29 | CONSOL ENERGY CENTER

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RMU FANS IN SECTIONS 103, 104, AND 105.
**SANDRA FANTINI ’88** was named president-elect of the Pittsburgh Legal Administrators Association. She is a legal administrator with Papernick & Gefsky.

**GERALD KEZMARSKY M’89** is finance officer for Robinson Township. He was finance officer in Edgewood for nine years. Gerald lives in McCandless.

**BRYAN THORNBERG ’89** is president of Higher Images, an online marketing company. His daughter, **GINA THORNBERG**, is a freshman at RMU. The Thornbergs live in Oakdale.

**1990s**

**JAMIE L. SCARANO ’90** is director of integrated inclusion and internal operations at UPMC. She spoke at the Society for Human Resource Management conference in June about the health system’s dignity and respect campaign. Jamie lives in North Huntingdon.

**KARA D. RUTOWSKI ’91 M’06** was appointed to the advisory board of the management department in the School of Business. She is the executive director at The Early Learning Institute and lives in Pittsburgh.

**KENNETH CHAPEL ’91 M’01** is senior wealth planner, vice president at PNC Wealth Management. He lives in Pittsburgh.

**KRISTEN GAYDOSH ’94 M’04** was named treasurer of the Pittsburgh Legal Administrators Association. She is a controller with Willman & Silvaggio LLP.

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**1980s**

**BOB BOWELL ’82** is chief lending officer for NexTier Bank. He lives in Trafford.

**GREG MORROW ’82** joined KPMG as a partner in the firm’s federal tax practice in the Stamford, Conn., office. He lives in Ridgefield, Conn.

**WILLIAM MCKAIN ’82** was appointed Allegheny County Manager. Previously he was the assistant to the superintendent for finance and operations for the Baldwin-Whitehall School District and finance director of Mt. Lebanon, where Bill and his family live.

**JOHN DENNY ’85** joined the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh board of directors. John is chairman at Pittsburgh Social Venture Partners, a councilman for O’Hara Township, and principal of Denny Civic Solutions.

**KATHERINE B. RUSSELL ’86** is financial educator/accountant for Primerica Financial Services in Wilmington, Del. She lives in Claymont, Del.

**MARK D. MCKENNA ’86** is an advisor for Henry Schein Medical, consulting with his physician clients to identify point-of-care solutions. Mark and his wife Nancy reside in Mt. Lebanon with their daughter, Elizabeth.

**BOB BRINKER ’88** is managing director and head of sales in North America for BNY Mellon beta & transition management. He lives in Plum.

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**JEFFREY VAYDA M’84** was installed as the new pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in September. He has served in the Lutheran church’s ministry for 32 years. Jeffrey lives in Lubbock, Texas.

**LYNNE HORENSKY ’81** was elected to the board of directors for Women’s Business Network to serve a two-year term. She is a relationship banker for Brentwood Bank. Lynne lives in Venetia.

**CONRAD BRICKER ’86**, a self-employed CPA, joined the board of directors for Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. He lives in Pittsburgh.

**GARY PAINE ’76** was elected to the board of Heartland BancCorp. Gary is president of Pilot Freight Services, Pilot Air Freight, and CMH Pilot Cartage Services. He lives in New Albany, Ohio.

**MARCIE RUBINO HINEMAN ’88**, a 16-year employee at SAE International, is the 2012 recipient of the organization’s Joe Gilbert Award, the highest staff honor. It recognizes employees who demonstrate positive professionalism in the workplace. Marcie is a global field sales manager. She resides in Beaver.

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Michele Papakie McCoy D’02 was selected for Indiana University of Pennsylvania’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. Michele is an associate professor of journalism at IUP. She is a supervisor and chairwoman of Brush Valley Township, where

(cont.)
DOUGLAS RITCHART ’01 and STACY SUSTAR RITCHART ’03 are the proud parents of Aiden Douglas, born December 26. Aiden has a big sister, Ella Agnessa, 5. Stacy works for FedEx Services as a senior account executive and Doug is at Koeberie & Associates. The family resides in Hopewell.

KATIE NOBLE DOOLEY ’03 and her husband, Todd, welcomed their first child, Adelynn Elaine, on April 28. Katie works for the University of Tennessee Foundation as the director of foundation programs. The family resides in Knoxville.

DIANE VERI M’05, a technology teacher at St. Bernard’s School in Mt. Lebanon, was one of 10 educators to win the Diocese of Pittsburgh 2012 Golden Apple Award. She has taught at St. Bernard’s for 14 years and lives in Dormont.

ELEANOR A. WAGNER M’06 is a tax manager at Cottrill Arbutina & Associates, and was elected to the board of the Zonta Club of Three Rivers Pittsburgh North as corresponding secretary. She lives in Cranberry.

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CLASS NOTES

LLOYD GIBSON D’07 has been appointed dean of the school of business at the University of Bridgeport. He was previously dean of education and campus dean at Stratford University. He and his wife, REGINA GIBSON D’08, have coauthored several papers on entrepreneurship and technology acceptance. The Gibsons live in Bridgeport, Conn.

GABRIELLE GRACK HOWELLS ’08 and Jim Howells were married on June 8. Gabrielle works for U.S. Steel and her husband is a firefighter for Allegheny County. The Howells reside in Pittsburgh.

MATTHEW J. ROSE ’09 and JENNIFER AUSTIN ROSE ’10 are the proud parents of Gabrielle Rose, born May 16. Matthew recently passed the CPA exam and is working in audit for U.S. Steel. The Roses reside in Bethel Park.

JOHN KOCH ’05 is assistant vice president, actuarial manager – large account pricing for Selective Insurance Group. He lives in Dingmans Ferry, Pa.

ARDELL MONTGOMERY ’06 is an associate for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Financial Services. Previously, he was a manager at Clearview Federal Credit Union. Ardell lives in Monaca.

CHARLES M. GLYNN ’07 is project accountant for Civil & Environmental Consultants in Robinson. He lives in McKees Rocks.

LAURA GAWRYLA GETHING ’07 is communications manager at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, managing the zoo’s website, advertising, and social media and editing its publication. She lives in Green Tree with her husband, TYLER GETHING ’06, who is a creative services producer for WPXI-TV.

PAUL KUCHNICKI ’07 is a senior learning & development specialist at Alcoa. He lives in Pittsburgh.

RICHARD MOSLEN ’07 is the coordinator for international support services at RMU. Rick lives in McDonald.

JOHN HERINGTON M’08 is a mortgage consultant for American Equity Mortgage. Previously he was sales manager with Hampton Inn. He lives in Pittsburgh.

MARK BRISKI ’08 is working in the informational technology services department at Chatham University. He lives in Glenshaw.

ASHLEY HARFF ’08 and KURT BRANAGAN ’06 have announced their engagement after meeting at RMU and dating since 2005. Kurt proposed to Ashley on the beach in Ocean City, Md. Ashley is a CPA and a senior internal auditor at PNC. Kurt is a merchandise planner at Dick’s Sporting Goods.

KRISTA KERNA JAMERSON M’08 D’12 has joined Northwest Savings Bank as professional development and training officer, designing and implementing programs for professional for all employees of the bank, which is based in Warren, Pa.

WEB YEARDIE ’04 is implementation manager at Kinetic Software in Boston. He was previously the manager of conference and facility services at RMU.

REBECCA ONINK ’09 is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army and a registered nurse. She works in the intensive care unit of Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C.

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2010s

JORDAN SEALOCK ’10 is RMU assistant men’s lacrosse coach. He was an assistant lacrosse coach at Seton Hill University.

KAITLYN CASTNER ’10 is athletic communications assistant at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. Kat spent the previous three years working in RMU’s public relations and marketing department, and she also was PR director for the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta.

SHANNON SCHWARTZMILLER ’10 held a benefit in honor of her mother, Gail Ann Schwartzmiller, who died of breast cancer in 2004. About 250 people attended, some $7,000 worth of prizes and food were donated, and the event raised $4,937 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Shannon is currently in graduate school while working as an admissions counselor at RMU. She lives in Pittsburgh.

COURTNEY KING M’11 is a secondary English teacher for South Fayette Township School District. She lives in Wexford.

JOHN SCOTT DAVIS M’11 is the founder and CEO of his own insurance agency with Farmers Insurance in the Pittsburgh area.

KATHLEEN (KAT) CAGGIANO ’11 is sales manager for the Mid-Atlantic region for Marriott International in select service and extended stay hotels. She lives in Rockville, Md.

KAYLEE STURM ’11 is a public relations assistant account executive with Brunner. She lives in Pittsburgh.

BRANDON E. BUPP ’12 joined the audit and assurance team at Horovitz, Rudoy & Rolstein after interning there for two tax seasons. He lives in Pittsburgh.

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> WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

Robert Morris University was well-represented at the 2012 Women of Excellence award luncheon hosted by the New Pittsburgh Courier in August. This annual event recognizes some of Pittsburgh’s most successful and influential black women. Honorees included: JEANNE V. CRICHLOW ’88, director of volunteer and community service at UPMC Mercy, DENISE L. NORRIS M’11, president and CEO of Corporate Planners, ROCHELLE OAKS D’06, president and CEO of The Oaks Group, and CASSANDRA ODEN, director of the RMU Center for Student Success.

What is the connection between this desk chair at Yorktown Hall and an alumnus in California?

STEPHEN LAMBARD ’05 is the owner of Contract Office Reps of Southern California and a sales representative for office furniture. This summer he was giving one of his furniture dealers a tour of a factory his firm works with. Stephen randomly pulled a production tag off the line to demonstrate the company’s automated order tracking system, and was surprised to see that order was for over 300 chairs for RMU.
WHAT YOU MISSED
Here’s a look at a few of the alumni events we’ve featured since the last Foundations.

PAT METHENY CONCERT
The jazz guitar legend and winner of 19 Grammy awards brought his show to RMU.

MOVE-IN DAY
RMU volunteers and alumni helped some teary-eyed moms and dads get their freshmen moved in.

CEO LECTURE SERIES
Kim Tillotson Fleming of Hefren-Tillotson spoke at Massey Hall on September 24.

CHANTAL PRIMEAU ’12 is the account executive, inside sales for Monumental Sports & Entertainment in Washington, D.C.

KIEL MATISZ ’12 is a midfielder for the Ohio Machine of Major League Lacrosse, becoming the first Colonials lacrosse player to make it to the professional ranks. Kiel was named a U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association All-American and NEC Player of the Year during his playing career at RMU.

LOUIS SIMON ’12 was promoted to director of the technology department for Select International. He lives in Pittsburgh.

TREVOR LEWIS ’12 is a forward for the Reading Royals, the ECHL affiliate of the Washington Capitals. He lives in Lititz, Pa.

BRIANNE MCLAUGHLIN ’12 is the RMU women’s ice hockey assistant coach. She lives in Moon.

In July, six alumni gathered at the Links at Spring Church in Apollo for the 12th Great Friends Golf Outing. The annual event was begun to help the family of friend DUFFY RICE ’76 after his death, and it continues to raise money for people in financial need. Pictured are DOUGLAS MACPHAIL ’74, JOHN WILSON ’88, DARRELL SCHIFANO ’75, CURT DEVLIN ’75, TONY DALESANDRO ’76 and KEVIN RICHARDSON ’74.

A group of Gamma Gamma Gamma alumnae and Gallatin Hall freshmen returned to campus in July to reconnect with their sorority sisters and reminisce about their Robert Morris days. Pictured are JUDI MCCONNELL ’80, CHRISTINE LOCCISANO ’81, PATTY KATKIC MARLIN, JAN ESPIN STORK ’81, CLAUDIA JOHNSON SCHEIBEL ’80, CHRISTINE WILHOIT HENNEY ’81 and TRACEY STROUP ’81.

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MARI A SATIRA ’12 is a general assignment reporter for TV-3, the ABC affiliate in Winchester, Va.

MELA MOATZ ’12 is a group sales account executive with the Cleveland Cavaliers. She lives in Cleveland.

ZE TH THOMAS MARSHALL ’12 is an assistant videographer for the Detroit Lions of the NFL.

In Memoriam
MICHAEL J. HARENCHAR ’52 of Richmond, Va., passed away May 27 at the age of 86. He was vice president of marketing and sales for Robertshaw when he retired in 1991. Michael was a World War II Navy veteran. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Veronica.

WALTER J. MCGERVEY ’57 of Moon passed away August 11 at the age of 86. Walt retired from Dravo Corporation after 33 years and then volunteered for Meals on Wheels for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, JANET MCGERVEY ’96, and their five children and five grandchildren.

WILLIAM J. LOUGHAN ’71 of Hadley, Pa., passed away November 16, 2011 at the age of 66. He was an executive at Kemper Insurance for over 25 years.

ROBERT SULKIN ’72 of Hot Springs, Ark., formerly of Bethel Park, passed away July 5 at the age of 70.

JOHN S. YOUHAS ’74, age 62, of Hopewell, passed away July 20 after a year-long battle with cancer. John was actively involved in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA and was former protodeacon of the diocese and personal deacon to Metropolitan Nicholas Smisko.

BRUCE A. MAZURKIEWICZ ’77 of Pittsburgh passed away June 2 at the age of 56.

RICHARD RIEHL ’77 of Ocala, Fla., passed away April 27 at the age of 71. He was retired from the U.S. Postal Service in Pittsburgh. Rich was also a veteran of the Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. He enjoyed volunteering at St. Clair Hospital and with the Make-A-Wish Foundation in Pittsburgh. He is survived by Judy, his wife of 40 years.

DONNA J. MCCONNELL ’83 of Ambridge passed away March 6 at the age of 66. She was employed with Coventry Health Care Moon Township. In her honor, Donna’s children provided a $1,000 scholarship to an Ambridge High School student attending RMU.

JOHN A. MORRIS ’80 of Moon passed away April 18 at the age of 46. He was the director of operations for Snow Capital Management and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. John is survived by his wife, Vicki, and children, Rachel and Ethan.

ROBERT F. GOLIGHTLEY JR. ’02 of Bethel Park passed away July 19 after a courageous battle with cancer.

SHAWN TRAIAN PAMFILIE ’02 of Moon passed away suddenly June 24 at the age of 34. Shawn was a member of the Jam Blues Band and the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity.

"I want to help students who may not have the opportunity as I did, and perhaps change the life of someone who’s not otherwise able to enjoy the benefits of higher education."

– TOM SHOOK ’50

LEAVE A LEGACY THAT CHANGES LIVES

Charitable bequests are not subject to inheritance tax, so giving a gift can reduce the tax burden of an estate significantly. Your will or trust can specify a sum of money, a percentage of your estate, or a specific item that you wish to donate to Robert Morris University.

If you would like to learn more about how to include RMU in your estate planning, please contact KIMBERLEY A. HAMMER, ESQ. at 412-397-6413 or hammerk@rmu.edu.

CORRECTION: ROBERT M. CONNOLLY ’77 is the executive director of Massey Charitable Trust. A story in the previous issue included an incorrect job description. We regret the error.

DELTA ZETA SORORITY would like to reconnect with its alumnae of the Xi Chi chapter from Robert Morris University. We would like to hear from all alumnae that attended Pennsylvania universities, regardless of where they live today. Please contact MIDATLANTICDELTAZETA@GMAIL.COM or the Delta Zeta Headquarters directly at 1-800-6-ALUMNA and let Delta Zeta know your current address and email.
**10 Questions with the Bitschnaus**

For a grand tour this summer of the American West, Colonial Couple Manuel Bitschnau '99 and Yvonne Guckland Bitschnau '98 brought their sons, Cedrik and Niklas, as well as Manuel’s mom, aunt, and uncle. Before venturing out to the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, the Pueblo cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde, Lake Tahoe, and San Francisco, the Bitschnaus made a stop in Pittsburgh to see old friends and visit their alma mater.

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<th>Questions</th>
<th>Answers</th>
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<td>1. Manuel is Austrian, Yvonne is German. How did you two wind up at Robert Morris?</td>
<td>Manuel: We both came to Pittsburgh to work as au pairs, living with families and taking care of their children. Each of us took classes at CCAC and transferred to Robert Morris. The Downtown campus, where I went, had a high-quality hospitality degree program, and Yvonne was impressed with the economics degree program and the campus in Moon.</td>
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<td>2. What is it like where you live?</td>
<td>Manuel: We live on a mountainside 3,300 feet up, in a wonderful town called Bartholomäberg near the Swiss border. We also rent guest rooms to tourists. I work as the tourism manager of the region (see <a href="http://www.montafon.at">www.montafon.at</a>) and get to deal with happy people every day. My company also runs the sports and leisure parks in the region. Yvonne: I work as a financial controller for a large construction company that mainly focuses on building tunnels. Our boys live an amazingly happy and unspoiled life in the midst of this beautiful nature. We still travel as much as we can.</td>
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<td>3. When you were at Robert Morris, what thing from home did you miss the most?</td>
<td>Manuel: I missed skiing, Yvonne missed German TV, and we both missed the food — cheese for me, chocolate for Yvonne, and bread for both of us.</td>
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<td>4. When people in Austria find out that you went to college in Pittsburgh, what is the first thing they say about the city?</td>
<td>Manuel: “Isn’t that a steel city?” But Pittsburgh is quite known for the university hospital. Also for Andy Warhol, Bayer, Heinz ketchup, and the Steelers.</td>
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<td>5. How long did you stay in Pittsburgh?</td>
<td>Yvonne: I worked at Mellon Bank for a year until Manuel graduated. Then we went to a university in Monaco and got our master's degrees, and then we moved to Austria and got married in 2002. Friends from Pittsburgh, and even RMU, attended the wedding, which actually took place on a lovely mountain peak.</td>
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<td>6. And what is it that you miss now about America?</td>
<td>Yvonne: I miss being able to shop in the evenings and on Sundays. Here the stores are closed then. And I miss Oreo cream pie. Manuel misses American breakfasts and ranch dressing.</td>
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<td>7. You're the local tourism manager, Manuel. When your friends from America visit, what do you show them?</td>
<td>Manuel: We usually take them up on a mountain by cable car. They all love the mountains, Lake Constance, and Neuschwanstein Castle. We always enjoy great Austrian food with them.</td>
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<td>8. Would you be glad if one of your sons decided to go to RMU?</td>
<td>Manuel: We raised them as little world travellers and really hope that they also will enjoy an education abroad. Why not RMU? It offers so many possibilities.</td>
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<td>9. What was it like for you to come back to RMU and Pittsburgh?</td>
<td>Yvonne: I hadn’t seen Pittsburgh in 10 years. It was great to see all the new developments at RMU and Pittsburgh in general, yet it felt like coming home. It was quite emotional to see all my friends there again.</td>
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Written By Mark Houser  Photo Provided By the Bitschnaus
DID YOU MARRY YOUR SWEETIE FROM RMU?

SEND YOUR STORY TO US AT FOUNDATIONS@RMU.EDU AND IT COULD BE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

LA DOLCE VITA

The 2012 Alumni Tour was a special one for President GREG DELL’OMO. Of course there were magnificent memories for all the alumni travelers in Rome, Pisa, Florence, and the Cinque Terre. But the most memorable might have been a visit to the mountain village of Macchiagodena, the place Dell’Omo's grandfather left as a young man in 1905 to come to America.

KEEP WATCHING THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE 2013 ALUMNI TOUR...
RMU’S LATEST ADDITION

The Wheatley Center, built on the footprint of the former Wayne Center, is the new home for students and faculty in organizational leadership, media arts, communication, English, and information systems. (See p. 14)