Foundations

TOM JULIAN ’84 TAKES A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Well Connected
RMU’s linkage agreements give pre-med students a guaranteed path to success

Trading Spaces
Wall Street meets Campus
Drive with the new PNC Trading Center and U. S. Steel Videoconferencing Center

Pump Up the Volume
RMU joins the Internet-radio revolution with RMU Radio
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Accountability has become the watchword of education.

In 2001, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, which requires K-12 schools to demonstrate yearly progress on the part of their students. The law grew out of concerns that schools were failing disadvantaged children, and that America’s long-term competitiveness was threatened by a mediocre educational system.

Colleges and universities had escaped this scrutiny. Not any more. The rising cost of higher education has prompted lawmakers to demand that we be accountable for what our students learn. No sweeping law like No Child Left Behind is on the horizon, but elected officials have made it clear that they expect us to prove students get what they pay for.

RMU excels at preparing students for their careers – we have a 93-percent job placement rate – and so I welcome the opportunity to demonstrate how we hold ourselves accountable for their achievement. We already gather data to measure how well we serve our students. This allows us to identify our weaknesses and develop plans for improvement, with quantifiable outcomes to judge success.

For example, students who major in nursing and education must pass professional exams before they graduate, and the rate at which students pass the exams is a reflection of the quality of teaching and the curriculum.

RMU is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which has its own standards for assessment. The University also has three discipline-specific accreditations – in information systems, nursing and engineering – and is in the final stages of attaining two more, in business and education. By 2009, two-thirds of all RMU undergraduates will be majoring in academic programs that have attained specialty accreditations.

Recently, we launched an easy-to-use website that lists our criteria for success, measurements associated with those criteria and explanations of what we do when we need to improve. Here you can find links to our accrediting bodies so you can see for yourself the standards we must meet.

Think of it as a report card on RMU. Now all we need is a refrigerator to hang it on.

Sincerely,

Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D.
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Dan Murtha ’08 and Ron Hendrickson ’08 had a vision for a University radio station as a way to connect students. Today, their vision is a reality as RMU Radio broadcasts worldwide via the Internet.
President Clinton Speaks at RMU

On April 18, RMU’s student organization, the College Democrats, welcomed former President Bill Clinton to the Robert Morris University campus as part of his Pennsylvania tour supporting the presidential candidacy of his wife, U. S. Sen. Hillary Clinton. The event, which was held in Sewall Center Arena, drew a crowd of a few hundred people, including members of the local media. Other notable attendees included Allegheny County Commissioner Dan Onorato, former Pittsburgh Mayor Sophie Masloff, and Susan M. Kapusta, Ph.D., ‘81, general manager of community affairs and the United States Steel Foundation at U. S. Steel.

Presidential Election Fever Hits RMU

The RMU campus was abuzz with political fervor in March as events focused around the upcoming presidential election. On March 24, RMU-TV televised a live campus debate, with students representing presidential candidates U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton (N.Y.), U.S. Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) and U.S. Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.). The debate was part of a service-learning assignment for the Department of Communications’ Media Management course. In the project, students also ran separate campus campaigns for each candidate, producing bumper stickers, buttons, fliers and websites. The Obama supporters even created a YouTube.com video entitled “Obama PSA - Colonial Chapter.”

On March 31, an Internet mock-election was held for RMU faculty, staff and students. McCain won the election with 219 votes, edging out Obama (207 votes) and Clinton (126 votes). “Clearly, Obama and Clinton split the Democratic vote to their disadvantage,” said Rex Crawley, head of the Department of Communications. McCain won despite the fact that a majority of respondents – 50.2 percent – indicated they are Democrats. Approximately 93 percent of election participants reported that they are registered voters.

“CLEARLY, OBAMA AND CLINTON SPLIT THE DEMOCRATIC VOTE TO THEIR DISADVANTAGE.”
RMU Hosts Autism Speaker Series and Exhibit

On Feb. 21, the Prism Gallery, a touring exhibit of artwork created by children and adults with autism, opened in Rogal Chapel with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony led by RMU President Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D. The gallery ran through Feb. 29 and was in conjunction with the Autism Speaker Series, which enables parents and teachers of autistic children to learn about best practices, resources and ideas to support them. The series included an opening presentation by organizer Shellie Hipsky, Ed.D., assistant professor of education; a parent panel, “Parent Perspectives on Autism”; and “Teacher Tips for Working with Students in the Autism Spectrum,” presented by Rebecca Klaw.

Club Ice Hockey Team Championship

The Men’s Division I club ice hockey team was named the 2008 regular-season champion for the Eastern College Hockey League (ECHL), finishing with a season-ending record of 15-14-3. The team also earned a spot in the American College Hockey Association (ACHA) National Tournament, which took place March 1–5 in Rochester, N.Y. There, the Colonials lost to eventual national champion Illinois, 4-1, in the first round.

AcoustiCafe LIVE at RMU

AcoustiCafe, a volunteer promotional organization for the regional music community, recently partnered with Robert Morris University to present “AcoustiCafe LIVE from RoMo’s Café.” The weekly show, Songwriter Sessions, is hosted by singer-songwriter J. Shields on Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. in RoMo’s Café in the Nicholson Center. The first show was held on Feb. 15 and featured artists Joel Lindsey and Lauren DeMichiei. Songwriter Sessions will be broadcast live on RMU’s new Internet radio station, which can be streamed from www.RMUradio.com. (see story p. 24)

Visitors

On Feb. 27, author Salman Rushdie spoke to RMU students, faculty and guests at Rogal Chapel. Rushdie, the author of more than a dozen books and the recipient of several literary prizes, is best known for his novel, Satanic Verses (1988). On March 26, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt spoke at Rogal Chapel. McCourt has written numerous books, including the bestselling Angela’s Ashes (1999) and Teacher Man (2005). Both authors later spoke at Heinz Hall as part of the Pittsburgh Speakers Series.

On March 31, RMU welcomed Pittsburgh native and Wall Street veteran Jack Perkowski to speak on his book, Managing the Dragon: How I’m Building a Billion-Dollar Business in China. Perkowski is the chairman and CEO of ASIMCO Technologies, one of China’s most respected companies, which he founded in 1994. His new book discusses his experiences building ASIMCO from the ground up and the lessons he learned in developing the company’s local management team.

On April 28, Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO and past president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), spoke at the Sewall Center and gave a lecture in the John Jay Center for Wayne Grim’s Labor Management Relations course. As president of the UMWA, Trumka brought stability to a union that was long associated with violence and corruption. He also brought about significant advances in employee-employer cooperation and enhanced mine workers’ job security, pensions and benefits.
OverAchievers

Donald “D.J.” Klinefelter, a senior media arts major, was awarded a prestigious Broadcast Education Association (BEA) award for his video, *Untitled Keyframe Animation #6*, which won first place in the annual Student Video Production Awards in the Animated/Experimental/Mixed category. Klinefelter received his award at the BEA annual conference in Las Vegas, April 16–19.

Lori Rankin has been named the 2007–08 Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (AMSE) Pittsburgh Section. Rankin, who received her M.S. in engineering management, works as a project engineer at FedEx Ground in Moon Township, where she manages conveyor systems projects.

Garrett Kaiser, a junior management major in the RMU International Cooperative Education Honors Program, was recognized as a “Top 100 Intern” by the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. Kaiser, an intern at Northwestern Mutual Financial in Pittsburgh, ranked 79 out of 1,500 interns nationwide.

VanDieren Presents at ASL Meeting

Monica VanDieren, assistant professor of mathematics, presented Stability in Abstract Elementary Classes at the Association of Symbolic Logic (ASL) Annual Meeting, held at University of California, Irvine, March 27–30. She was also invited to discuss her research at the Midwest Model Theory Meeting, April 19–20 in Chicago. VanDieren, who is RMU’s first research-oriented female faculty member in mathematics, was one of the organizers of the Expanding Your Horizons Conference, held in October 2007, which encourages young women to explore careers in mathematics, science, technology and engineering. Recently, VanDieren received a $111,211 Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), based on her research in model theory, a branch of mathematical logic.

RMU Named to Community Service Honor Roll

On Feb. 18, the Corporation for National and Community Service named RMU to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees were chosen based on a series of factors including scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

College Bowl Team Places Second in Region

The RMU College Bowl team finished second in Region IV during the annual tournament at California University of Pennsylvania, Feb. 22–23. RMU defeated every team in the region except for the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Team members included graduate student Jessica Thompson ‘07 (captain), sophomore finance major Justin Mosovsky, freshman actuarial science major Matthew Feryus, senior social science major Sam McCoy and sophomore actuarial science major Steven Stanovich. The team, which was coached by Provost David Jamison, J.D., and Joe Laneve ‘05, achieved this result in dedication to their late teammate, Michael Tatalovich.
Students Cast in Pittsburgh Musical Theatre Production

Seniors David Toole and Kathlene Queen were cast as Tony and Maria in the Pittsburgh Musical Theater (PMT) production of West Side Story, May 8–18, at the Byham Theater. Toole and Queen played the same roles in RMU’s production of the musical in November 2006. In PMT’s production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, which ran from Jan. 24 to Feb. 3, Toole portrayed Joseph and Queen was in the ensemble. Toole’s Colonial Theatre resume also includes the Balladeer in Assassins, Cain in Children of Eden, Berger in Hair, Robert E. Lee in The Civil War and Edward Rutledge in 1776. Queen’s Colonial Theatre resume also includes Squeaky Fromme in Assassins, Yonah in Children of Eden and Sheila in Hair.

Media Arts Faculty Participate in Local Arts Events

Carolina Loyola-Garcia, M.F.A., assistant professor of media arts, recently curated an exhibition entitled Deliciously Disposable Earth, which appeared at the Three Rivers Arts Festival Gallery and featured her film, Pascua Lama: A Contemporary Quest for El Dorado. Co-directed by her sister, Gloria Loyola, the documentary follows the confrontation between a Chilean valley farming community and a Canadian mining company.

The work of Hyla Willis, M.F.A., assistant professor of media arts, was also featured in the gallery. Her project, Cell Track: Mapping the Appropriation of Life Materials, is about the patenting and privatization of the human body. Part-time media arts faculty member Cara Erskine, M.F.A., was the curator of an exhibition entitled Plastic Poetics, which was featured at the Regina Gouger Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University, where she also works as exhibitions coordinator.

> SINCE 2002, RMU HAS ADDED 19 NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

Community

On March 27, at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, the Pittsburgh Symphony Chamber Orchestra welcomed the MBA Network, an organization that connects Pittsburgh’s business professionals. The event was collectively supported by the deans of various Pittsburgh business schools, including Robert Morris University’s School of Business.

RMU’s student chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) received a $1,000 grant to help a community nonprofit organization. In a strategic partnership with the Girl’s Hope Foundation of Pittsburgh and the Young Leadership Board (YLB) of Pittsburgh, the chapter assisted in the planning, preparation and promotion of the Hearts & Hopes event on Feb. 8, which raised approximately $23,200 for the Girls Hope Foundation.

Since 2002, RMU has added 19 new degree programs.
> Commencement 2008

Robert Morris University held its 83rd annual commencement on Saturday, May 10, in the Sewall Center at its Moon Township campus. For the first time ever, the University held separate ceremonies for graduate and undergraduate students. Mark Roosevelt, superintendent of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, was the keynote speaker of the graduate ceremony; alumnus Norman F. Mitry, president and CEO of Heritage Valley Health System, spoke at the undergraduate ceremony.

> CARES Receives Grant

The Center for Applied Research in Engineering and Science (CARES) received a $60,000 grant from Pittsburgh-based Innovation Works to fund the development of an automated storage and parts feeding system for Glassautomatic Inc. Glassautomatic provides glass decorating services for glass manufacturers, large retailers and catalog companies. CARES serves as the industrial outreach arm of the School of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science (SEMS) and offers contract research, joint grant development and continuing education opportunities to industry.

> RMU HAS A 93-PERCENT PLACEMENT RATE

> Movers & Shakers

Not So Disposable, a video by Dana Hackley, student media adviser, was named winner of the Green Your Routine video contest held by Ziddio, a national video-sharing website. Entries had to focus on how the creator would change his or her routine in order to better the environment. Hackley, who is the mother of a toddler, focused her video on the waste created by disposable diapers, which are the third largest source of waste in landfills.

Daniel P. Barr, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, was awarded the Philip S. Klein Pennsylvania History Prize from the Pennsylvania Historical Association for his article, A Road for Warriors: The Western Delawares and the Seven Years’ War, which appeared in the association’s journal, Pennsylvania History. The article examined the strategies and motivations behind the Delaware Indians’ decision to fight with the French in the French-Indian War.

Daniel J. Shelley, Ph.D., professor of education, received the Pioneer Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology (PAECT) at the annual conference held in Hershey in Feb. 2008. Shelley received the award for his work in the early days of technology implementation as a teacher at RMU, and also for his work at the Connellsville Area School District and Edinboro University.
> Nuclear Medicine Program Unveils New Laboratory

RMU’s School of Nursing and Health Sciences celebrated the launch of its two new degree programs with a dedication ceremony on April 25, outside the newly renovated Benjamin Rush Center.

Following the dedication ceremony, the school held an open house inside the center, featuring student demonstrations of diagnostic imaging and presentations by nurse practitioner students on a variety of health topics. The Benjamin Rush Center, formerly the RMU Admissions Building, was renovated to house the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology and the Doctor of Nursing Practice programs, both new programs launched last fall. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is the first State Board of Nursing-approved program of its kind in Pennsylvania, while no other institution in Western Pennsylvania offers a four-year degree in nuclear medicine technology. The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree aims at preparing nurse practitioners at the doctoral level, and enhancing the practice of advanced practice nurses with experience as clinical specialists, registered nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives or practitioners. Nuclear medicine is a highly sensitive diagnostic imaging tool that allows physicians to detect diseases and study organ function. Because it produces low-resolution images, it is increasingly combined with other imaging techniques, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

“The lab will further enhance THE REGION’S FIRST AND ONLY Bachelor of Science program in nuclear medicine technology.”

> Memorial Garden Groundbreaking

On April 22, RMU held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Memorial Garden at Rogal Chapel. Initiated by the RMU Patriot Scholars, the garden is being given by the RMU community in memory of Jonathan Gilbert and Michael Tatalovich, who were killed earlier this semester; Josh O’Bannon ’07, who passed away in April; and other deceased members of the RMU family. Other contributors to the project are the 2008 Senior Class, Delta Zeta Sorority, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

> Scholarships

On April 6, RMU presented freshman Jen Sabol with the first Bayer Scholarship in Environmental Science. The scholarship, which is worth $1,000/year for four years, is awarded to a student who enters the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science program, has an SAT score in excess of 1100 and has maintained a QPA of 3.5 in his/her freshman year at RMU.

On Feb. 7, Lisa Richbourg, a student in the School of Adult and Continuing Education, was awarded a $500 scholarship by the Continuing Education Association of Pennsylvania, which awards only two such scholarships each year. To qualify, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, be enrolled as a non-traditional student and have completed 24 credits at their current school. Richbourg is majoring in organizational studies and currently has a 3.6 GPA.

On April 9, RMU held its annual Scholarship Luncheon. Over 100 guests attended the event, which is held to recognize the University’s scholarship donors and recipients. This year’s luncheon featured brief speeches by Ross Pisano, national vice president of the National Association of the Wolves, and student scholarship winners David Toole ’08 and Erin Neely ’09.
RMU put together one of its best seasons in school history in 2007–08 under the direction of first-year head coach Mike Rice, finishing with an overall record of 26-8. The team claimed its first NEC regular-season championship since 1992 and appeared in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) for the first time in the history of the program. The Colonials dropped an 87-81 decision to Syracuse in the first round of the NIT. In all, RMU established a total of 13 school records in 2007–08, including wins (26), Northeast Conference victories (16), consecutive wins (14), road victories (14), consecutive road wins (10), points (2,550), field goals (932), field goals attempted (2,021), three-point field goals (280), three-point field goal attempts (747), assists (597), games (34) and winning percentage (.765). Senior guard Tony Lee was named the 2008 Northeast Conference Player of the Year. Coach Mike Rice was named the 2008 NEC Jim Phelan and NABC District Three Coach of the Year, establishing a league record for victories by a first-year head coach.

The men’s and women’s basketball programs at Robert Morris University have combined for more than 60 years’ worth of exciting team play. While records are made to be broken, nothing could have prepared the average fan for what took place on the hardwood in 2007–08. Tony Lee and Sade Logan led their respective teams to new heights and, in the process, stamped their names as two of the most exciting players ever to wear Colonials uniforms.

Lee, despite standing just 6’0’’ tall, showed during his final season what it’s like to bring a complete package to the table. While records are made to be broken, nothing could have prepared the average fan for what took place on the hardwood in 2007–08. Tony Lee and Sade Logan led their respective teams to new heights and, in the process, stamped their names as two of the most exciting players ever to wear Colonials uniforms.

Lee recorded 225 rebounds as a senior to push his career total to 751. This tied the RMU career record originally established by Anthony Dickens, who stood 6’6’’. If that wasn’t enough, Lee consistently ranked among the national leaders in both assists and steals. He finished the season with 217 assists, which is a new Colonial single-season record. Lee also recorded 95 steals to pace RMU and led the Northeast Conference (NEC) in per-game averages for both assists (6.38) and steals (2.79).

The only player in school history to compile at least 400 points, 200 rebounds and 200 assists in a season, Lee finished his stellar career with totals of 1,489 points, 751 rebounds, 487 assists and 275 steals. The only player in NEC history to eclipse 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 250 assists and 250 steals, Lee ranks sixth all-time at RMU in scoring, while ranking second in assists and third in steals.

Lee also became just the sixth player in NCAA Division I history to record a triple-

RMU BASKETBALL

double in back-to-back games in early February, when he turned the trick against Long Island and Central Connecticut State. Thanks to the accomplishment, Lee joins a list of names that includes Shaquille O’Neal and Anfernee “Penny” Hardaway. Not bad for a player who had just two Division I scholarship offers coming out of high school.

In 2006–07, when RMU advanced to its first NCAA women’s basketball tournament, the 6’0” Logan was relegated to the sidelines while working on her academics. A year later, she led the Colonials to their second straight NCAA Tournament appearance. Logan’s sharp-shooting exploits have put her name atop both the RMU and NCAA record books. During the 2007–08 campaign, she connected on 126 three-pointers, tying the NCAA Division I single-season mark. She also smashed RMU’s single-season marks for points (815), scoring average (24.7 ppg) and field goals (305).

Twice during the season, Logan scored 38 points in a game, establishing a new single-game record. Over three games in the 2008 NEC Tournament, she averaged 27 points per game to help lead the Colonials back to the Big Dance.

“We knew as a team that we had the ability to defend our conference title and get back to the NCAA Tournament,” said Logan. “We just had to go out and prove it. I wanted to play my part. We lost a few great players from last year’s team, and I needed to help fill the void. I never expected to have this kind of season, but it feels good that we were able to get to where we wanted to go.”

> TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

RMU hosted the 2008 Northeast Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships at the Island Sports Center on May 3–4. The meet included over 500 student-athletes from the 11 institutions of the NEC, competing in events such as javelin, pole vault, steeplechase, hurdles, 10k run, relays and more.

> TICKER

MEN’S ICE HOCKEY > The Colonials reached the .500 mark for the first time in school history by posting a record of 15-15-4 in their fourth season as a Division I program. The Colonials finished third in the CHA with a record of 10-7-3 and fell to Niagara in the CHA Tournament quarterfinals, 6-3. Senior forward Ryan Cruthers was named the 2008 CHA Player of the Year, finishing with 22 goals and 27 assists for 49 points – all new RMU single-season records. Senior forward Joel Gasper was named the CHA Student-Athlete of the Year after maintaining a 3.92 GPA as a manufacturing engineering major. WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY > In its third year as a Division I program, RMU posted an overall record of 12-22-1, including a CHA mark of 2-11. Junior goaltender Brianne McLaughlin took home All-CHA First Team accolades after posting a goals-against average of 2.82, 926 saves and a .913 save percentage. MEN’S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD > RMU took home a fourth-place finish at the 2008 Northeast Conference Indoor Championships in Landover, Md., compiling 66 points. Three Colonials took home individual championships: Senior Jeff Witmyer won the high jump (6’10.75”), sophomore Nasim Siddeeq the triple jump (50’2.50”) and freshman Chris Spataro the pole vault (15’1”). WOMEN’S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD > RMU finished in sixth place at the 2008 Northeast Conference Indoor Championships with 55 points. Senior Jordanna White claimed gold in the 60-meter hurdles (8.95 seconds), while sophomore Melitta Brown won the long jump (18’7”).
Making connections. In pursuing your career of choice, isn’t that really what it’s all about? Robert Morris University thinks so. For years now, RMU has been helping students make connections and putting them on the fast track to successful professional careers through hands-on learning. RMU is always striving to provide real-world experiences and engaged learning through internships, international travel opportunities, and corporate and academic partnerships.

The importance of connections is nowhere more evident than in the medical field, where just getting into a medical school can be a challenge. That’s where RMU’s new pre-medicine linkage agreements come in. Successful completion of these cooperative programs guarantees acceptance into some of the best medical schools in the nation. These valuable agreements provide students with an excellent undergraduate education and valuable hands-on training, putting them on the fast track for success and giving them an edge in this highly competitive field.

A 2005 RMU study found that of the 8,400 physicians in Western Pennsylvania, only 36 percent attended medical school in-state. Even more troubling, the study found that students who leave Pennsylvania for their medical education
often do not return. This is a big problem for Western Pennsylvania in particular, where there’s an aging population and a shortage of qualified physicians to care for it.

It was this shortage that prompted RMU to start a pre-medicine program in 2005. Housed in the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science (SEMS) and led by Associate Dean and Professor of Science Maria V. Kalevitch, Ph.D., the program provides students with the tools necessary to get accepted into medical school. Now, through three new linkage agreements, RMU’s pre-medicine students will have a clear path to admission into some of the nation’s top medical schools.

The Scholars-Articulation Program is a unique collaboration between RMU, Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) and the Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. Officially kicked-off in Feb. 2008, the goal of the program is to attract highly qualified, committed pre-medical, medical and graduate medical trainees to serve the tri-state area through an early assurance admissions program. It’s a valuable program for a region that is in desperate need of qualified medical professionals.

“This partnership represents a commitment on the part of our three institutions to train doctors to serve in Pennsylvania, which is facing a critical shortage of physicians,” said RMU President Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D. “This is also an opportunity to attract exemplary students who otherwise might not have chosen to enroll at Robert Morris University or to attend college in Western Pennsylvania.”

The Scholars-Articulation Program focuses on recruiting qualified high school seniors to enroll in RMU’s pre-medicine program in preparation for attending medical school at Drexel. Preference will be given to students from Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and to those who want to pursue careers in family medicine, general internal medicine or general pediatrics. Students enrolling in RMU in the fall of 2008 will be eligible to participate in the new program. This exclusive program will accept a maximum of five students each year.

During their undergraduate career, students in the Scholars-Articulation Program will complete a pre-professional internship at AGH, which is a regional campus of Drexel University College of Medicine. “We are delighted to partner with RMU and the Drexel University College of Medicine in an endeavor that we believe is critically important to the long-term health and well-being of our region,” said Connie Cibrone, AGH president and chief executive officer. “The education and training of tomorrow’s health care professionals is one of the cornerstones of our mission as an academic medical center, and we look forward to helping make this wonderful opportunity available to local high school students.”

After receiving their undergraduate degree from RMU, students will be admitted to Drexel University College of Medicine through a guaranteed acceptance, as long as they achieve the prerequisite GPA and MCAT score. These students will not be required to go through the usual medical school application process.

“We are very pleased to build upon our strong academic relationship with AGH through this new affiliation with Robert Morris University,” said Richard V. Homan, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs and dean of Drexel University College of Medicine. “This unique partnership will enable more students to attend medical school, and
ultimately enter local residency training programs and practice in Western Pennsylvania in order to serve their communities.”

During their third and fourth years at Drexel, students will return to AGH for at least one required third-year clerkship and one fourth-year rotation. In addition, they will be able to complete even more clinical rotations at AGH, which agrees to organize and conduct a clinical educational research experience for the students after they complete their third year at Drexel.

RMU also recently partnered with the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) on a similar linkage agreement. LECOM is the fastest growing medical college in the country and offers some of the most innovative learning programs available today. Best of all, its unique selection of learning pathways provides the necessary educational foundation for students to pursue a career in their desired medical field.

The program, which reserves 10 places for RMU students each year, is a 4+4 linkage agreement, meaning students first complete four years of undergraduate study and receive their bachelor’s degree from RMU before attending LECOM in Erie, Pa., for four years of medical school. Once they receive their bachelor’s degree, students enter LECOM’s Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree program. This unique program allows students to choose from three student-centered learning pathways: traditional lecture-discussion courses; small-group, problem-based learning; and independent study based on self-directed learning modules.

For students interested in chiropractic careers, RMU also signed a 3+4 linkage agreement with Palmer College of Chiropractic (PCC) in Davenport, Iowa. This valuable collaboration gives students the opportunity to earn an RMU undergraduate degree and a Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree in just seven years. In this 3+4 linkage agreement, students complete three years of undergraduate study at RMU followed by four years of study at PCC. Students are awarded a bachelor’s degree from RMU after completing their first year of medical training at PCC.

Palmer College of Chiropractic is one of the most prestigious chiropractic colleges in the nation and is widely accepted as the birthplace of the discipline. It was founded in 1897 by D.D. Palmer – the “father of chiropractic.” Today, Palmer alumni make up one-third of the approximately 75,000 chiropractors practicing worldwide.
Remember that scene in Ferris Bueller’s Day Off, when Ferris’ friend, Cameron, is mocking the wacky hand-signaling of the traders on the floor of the Chicago Stock Exchange, and he ends up looking more like Curly from The Three Stooges? That’s probably what most of us see when we watch news clips of the daily doings at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

On the surface, the NYSE is a confusing, disorganized landscape where chaos rules. In reality, however, it’s a purposeful, systematic platform for buyers and sellers to trade shares of stock in companies. The NYSE is the barometer of the American business climate. The question is: How do you give your students hands-on experience in this important yet perplexing business environment when you’re so far from Wall Street? It’s quite simple, really – you bring Wall Street to your students.

That’s just what Robert Morris University’s School of Business will be doing with its innovative new PNC Trading Center and U. S. Steel Videoconferencing and Technology Resource Center. These exciting additions will be housed in a planned 8,000-square-foot building across from Lafayette Center on the Moon Township campus. The new building will complete a School of Business quadrangle, set within the stunning surroundings of Massey Gardens.
The PNC Trading Center, which was made possible by a $520,000 grant from the PNC Foundation, will be a state-of-the-art facility offering students dynamic, hands-on experience in financial trading strategy. The U. S. Steel Videoconferencing and Technology Resource Center, made possible by a $500,000 grant from the United States Steel Foundation, will enable the School of Business to provide distance learning and corporate training, and will link the school’s undergraduate programs in Moon Township to its graduate programs in downtown Pittsburgh.

The PNC Trading Center will simulate the NYSE floor and feature a fully functional trading room, complete with real-time stock tickers and computer stations with market information and analytical software. It will also include workstations in a two-story stadium arrangement, allowing for ease of observation and instruction – a feature that will set it apart from similar trading rooms at other business schools.

The center will have applications for research that will expand the financial literacy of RMU students, faculty and the broader community. It will not only serve as a showroom for the School of Business and the University but also as a tangible example of RMU’s cutting-edge curriculum. Most important, it will provide yet another opportunity for the kind of applied education that RMU strives for.

“The PNC Trading Center will provide RMU business students with an exceptional learning experience,” said Whitford. “It will allow them to understand the real-world impact of certain financial trades in a unique educational setting.”

The U. S. Steel Videoconferencing and Technology Resource Center will feature multimedia computer workstations, including Dell and iMac.
computers, which will familiarize students with the software and databases that drive modern business decision-making in global and virtual organizations. The videoconferencing center will be fully integrated into the School of Business graduate and undergraduate curricula, and will serve as an important business and economics research center as well as a corporate training resource for companies and other organizations.

“U. S. Steel has supported the RMU School of Business for three decades, and now it is helping the school give our students the hands-on experience with technology they need to compete in an international business environment,” said Dell’Omo. “The U. S. Steel Videoconferencing and Technology Resource Center will be a valuable asset to the Pittsburgh business community.”

Derya A. Jacobs, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business and professor of operations research, sees the center as a sign of the school’s commitment to its students. “This state-of-the-art facility will reflect the high standards that we have set in the School of Business and is indicative of our intense professional focus at both the undergraduate and graduate levels,” said Jacobs. “Our faculty and students are very excited about the new resource center and they are anxiously awaiting the official ground-breaking.”

RMU alumna Susan Kapusta, Ph.D., ’81, general manager of community affairs for the United States Steel Foundation at U. S. Steel, sees the new center as a benefit to both U. S. Steel and RMU. “We’re looking for the high-quality talent you’re growing here at Robert Morris University,” said Kapusta. “In the corporate arena, recruiting and retaining quality employees is always a challenge. RMU is helping us meet this challenge. We think this is a great investment for U. S. Steel, and we’re very proud to be a part of it.”

Currently, RMU has 150 alumni working at U. S. Steel, including 160 interns.

“The trading center and the videoconferencing facilities reflect today’s fast-paced, high-tech business environment,” said David L. Jamison, J.D., RMU provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “They are definitely exciting pieces of applied technology, and, more than that, they are essential to today’s applied, professional business education.”

Another exciting change in the School of Business involves the school’s downtown Pittsburgh location. In Dec. 2007, RMU announced plans for a multi-million-dollar investment in its signature property at 600 Fifth Ave., the sale of a smaller downtown property at 718 Fifth Ave., and the expansion of its M.B.A. program offerings beginning in 2008.

“Our signature downtown building has been the home of our M.B.A. program and will continue to be,” said Jacobs. “However, with the University’s investment plans for the 600 Fifth Ave. property, we’ll be expanding the number of offerings at this location, which works well for our students.

“Our new facilities, both in Moon Township and in downtown Pittsburgh, will reflect the important role that the School of Business plays in the region’s economic life,” said Jacobs. “These generous grants from the U. S. Steel Foundation and the PNC Foundation will greatly enhance the school’s ability to attract quality, diverse and international students and faculty.”

The School of Business is also in the process of acquiring accreditation from AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. AACSB International accreditation is a prized certification that represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide.

Currently, RMU is in the process of voluntary, non-governmental review of the University and its business programs for AACSB International accreditation. In order to achieve accreditation, RMU must measure up to a set of rigorous standards that are relevant and applicable to all business programs worldwide, and which support and encourage excellence in management education with measurable outcomes.

RMU has recently been appointed an external peer review and will be submitting a self-study report to AACSB
International by Aug. 1, 2008. The peer review team is scheduled to conduct a campus visit Feb. 8–11, 2009, for a final evaluation.

“Approximately one-third of U.S. business schools and 15 percent of business schools worldwide have achieved AACSB International accreditation,” said Jacobs. “Achieving this highest of standards for business schools worldwide will demonstrate. RMU’s commitment to quality and continuous improvement among our peers, both nationally and internationally. It will enable us to enhance our partnerships with national and international universities and organizations, which will in turn generate greater opportunities for our students and faculty. Accreditation will also help RMU recruit and retain faculty from top Ph.D. business programs.”

RMU started out as a reputable school of accountancy. Today it’s a comprehensive university, nationally recognized as a leader in business career training. Currently, the School of Business has over 1,900 students spread throughout its B.S.B.A, M.B.A., M.S. Human Resource Management, M.S. Nonprofit Management and M.S. Taxation programs. The new School of Business quadrangle, the renovations downtown and the pursuit of AACSB accreditation reflect the University’s commitment to remaining the premier business institution in the region.

“The goal of the School of Business is to give our students an advantage as they head out into the real world,” said Dell’Omo. “These new facilities will do just that by enabling us to broaden the students’ understanding of the complexities of the global arena and promote the thinking skills necessary to chart the evolving technological marketplace.”

WRITTEN BY VAL BRKICH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN COOKE

SUSAN M. KAPUSTA, PH.D., ‘81, general manager of community affairs and the United States Steel Foundation at U. S. Steel, was instrumental in acquiring the $500,000 grant for the new U. S. Steel Videoconferencing and Technology Resource Center.

“Today’s fast-paced, globally oriented economy demands that participants be comfortable using the latest technology when conducting business with colleagues and clients in the office next door or in foreign countries,” said Kapusta. “We are proud to support the creation of this videoconferencing center and Robert Morris University’s efforts to prepare today’s students to be tomorrow’s key contributors to the workplace of the future.”

While progressing through assignments of increasing responsibility up to her current position at U. S. Steel, Kapusta earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from RMU in 1981, a master’s degree in corporate communication from Duquesne University in 2001 and a Ph.D. in corporate communication from Duquesne in 2006. At various times, she has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Community College of Allegheny County, Shadyside School of Nursing, Duquesne and RMU.

For the past six years, Kapusta has helped lead the strategic mission of the United States Steel Foundation and is also a member of its board of trustees. Besides handling community relations for U. S. Steel, she is also responsible for all non-foundation corporate donations. Among her current responsibilities, she manages a multi-million-dollar budget, leads staff and volunteer efforts for hundreds of people and has developed award-winning community outreach partnerships with numerous philanthropic organizations in Pittsburgh. She also oversees U. S. Steel’s annual United Way “Million Dollar Club” employee campaign, and, in 2007, was named a council member for the United Way’s Women’s Leadership Initiative.

Kapusta is a U. S. Steel representative on the $55 million Carnegie Library Capital Campaign Cabinet and is on the advisory committee for Beginning with Books Center for Early Literacy. She is a former member of the board of directors of the Community College of Allegheny County, an active member of the Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society and a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh XVI. Kapusta is a native of Pittsburgh.
Julian spends the majority of his time addressing the needs of his many clients. The rest is spent on researching global views, retail/apparel worlds, and analyzing media/marketplace knowledge. It’s demanding work that requires a solid foundation on the principles of business and marketing, which is just what he received from RMU.

“RMU taught me a lot about marketing, communications and advertising,” said Julian. “In my industry, you can really see how these three disciplines all work together. Here at McCann we have a business approach called the ‘Demand Idea,’ which helps us look at a client’s larger communications concept and figure out how to bring it to life in many different ways. It’s in this process where you see how trends play a role both with the consumers and within the marketplace.”
Today’s marketplace may be a global one, but according to Julian, you don’t have to be intimidated by it. “The world is only as small or large as you make it,” he said. “And, personally, I think smaller is better. Just make sure the world is networked for where you want to go.”

Julian left home for the big city lights of New York 22 years ago, but he still feels connected to his hometown. “Clairton is still home to my family,” said Julian. “So I guess, in a way, it will always be home to me. Although, it’s certainly a very different place than it was in the ’70s.”

Clairton is your typical Western Pennsylvania steel town. In years past, if you lived there, chances were you’d graduate from high school and get a job at a local steel mill or at the Clairton Coke works. Julian’s father worked for the U.S. Steel as an electrician for most of his life.

Julian is also the fashion commentator for Oscar.com, where he writes all copy for the site’s style galleries and serves as a fashion expert. In 1995, he hosted the first-ever Oscar Satellite Fashion Report for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences – a video recap of fashion trends for the 67th Annual Academy Awards. He also serves as a columnist and contributor to American Salon Magazine and Metro newspaper in New York City, and has appeared on NBC’s Today, CNN’s Headline News, CBS’s The Insider, the Fox News Channel and ABC’s Live with Regis and Kelly.

Julian’s position exemplifies the type of global perspective that RMU champions. “Today, we’re all connected,” he said. “The world’s borders are no longer barriers; they’re opportunities. I need to be able to visually reference a shopping neighborhood in Milan alongside Walnut Street in Shadyside, or a lifestyle center in Los Angeles, or the Waterfront in Homestead.”
But by 1980, when Julian graduated from St. Elizabeth’s High School in Pleasant Hills, a steady job in the mill was no longer a guarantee. “Jobs were scarce,” said Julian. “The laid-off mill workers were seeking new career options, and many were also trying to earn degrees and land white-collar jobs. Entry-level jobs were hard to find.”

Julian decided his best option would be to further his education and compete for financial support at some of the better colleges in Pittsburgh. Fortunately, he received a scholarship from RMU where he pursued a bachelor’s degree in marketing. “I was intrigued with marketing at the time,” said Julian, “which seemed to embody communications, promotions and so much more. Of course, I also wanted to acquire a higher degree, and the scholarship afforded me the chance to attend a good school like RMU.”

It wasn’t until he took a part-time job at Proving Ground – a men’s specialty chain in the Century III Mall – that Julian first became interested in style.

As a senior, Julian secured an internship with Preview magazine, a local lifestyle magazine that covered women, business and fashion in Pittsburgh. Located in Oakland, it was an unpaid internship that offered no credits, and it actually cost Julian $20 a day in transportation and parking. But Julian didn’t mind; he knew that he was investing in his career. “At the time, I was getting some experience working for the Minuteman newspaper at RMU,” said Julian, “but I knew it wouldn’t be enough to get me a position at one of the large Pittsburgh marketing firms. The internship at Preview gave me the extra experience I needed.” During the internship, he did anything they asked him to do, from researching articles to answering phones to proofreading galleys.

In the summer of 1984, Julian took his first official job at Gucci in One Oxford Centre as assistant store manager, and in 1985, he was offered a position at the K. Barchetti Shops, once located in downtown Pittsburgh. At the time, owner Katherine Barchetti was the premier retailer in the city and the key anchor for One Oxford Centre. “She was definitely the big game in town during the ’80s,” said Julian, who remembers Barchetti as extremely business oriented. For her, “no” simply was not an option. “Her business always came first,” he said. “I always had to wrap up the day with her, no matter what time it was.” Although working for her was a challenge at times, it was she who taught Julian the ins and outs of marketing. “I learned a lot from her,” he said. “Sometimes I still operate under that same mindset.”

Julian maintained his internship at Preview during this time, which helped him secure an invitation to the Men’s Fashion Association Press Preview in Atlanta. Although the trip was another out-of-pocket expense, he knew it would be a valuable experience that would enable him to meet various influential industry contacts.

Once again, the investment paid off. A year after the event, a representative of the Men’s Fashion Association contacted Julian for an interview at their Madison Avenue offices. He paid for the plane ticket himself, and flew to New York and back on a Sunday – his only day off.

One week later, the company phoned him offering him the position of assistant fashion director. “I didn’t believe it until I received the official job offer in the mail,” said Julian.
The next thing he knew, Julian was off to NYC. “The plane landed, I brought my three suitcases to the office, and worked until 6 p.m. that night.”

Julian stayed with the Men’s Fashion Association for eight years until 1994, when he took a position with Fallon Worldwide – an international advertising agency – as a trend analyst. There, he worked with such blue-chip clients such as Nordstrom, Lee Jeans, Starbucks, United Airlines, Citibank and BMW. Eleven years later, he was hired by McCann Erickson, where he still is today.

Moving to New York City was definitely the right move for Julian, career-wise. But one sunny Tuesday morning changed his life, and his perspective, forever.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Julian was just getting ready to leave his apartment in Battery Park, across the street from the World Trade Center, when he heard on the radio that a plane had just crashed into the North Tower. Julian couldn’t believe what he was seeing outside his apartment window. “It looked like the tornado scene from *The Wizard of Oz,*” he said. “Random objects, dust and debris were just flying around everywhere. It was chaos.”

Julian waited until the second tower fell before deciding to leave his apartment. Around 11:30 a.m., he boarded a Coast Guard boat on the Hudson River and eventually worked his way to a friend’s house in New Jersey.

The events of that day changed Julian’s perspective forever. “The main thing I learned is that today is the day – you have to make it the best and fullest that you can.” He also realized that his life was unbalanced – too much time and energy was dedicated to his work.

From that day forward, Julian has tried to reduce his pace and change his overall approach to life. “Today, besides being more economical and sensible about the travel, I try to live life with ease and enjoyment.”

(Note: As of April 1, Julian has left McCann Erickson and formed the Tom Julian Group (www.tomjuliangroup.com), also based in New York City. This new business enterprise combines global vision and strategy to create branding solutions for a variety of fortune 500 clients.)

Patrick Swan is another former RMU student who went on to be a major player in the world of fashion. Today, he works in London as a professional image consultant, providing expert cosmetic and style advice to celebrities, corporate groups and various other clients.

Swan recognized early on that, in order to be successful in fashion, he’d also have to understand the business side of the industry. That’s what led him to Robert Morris University in the early 1970s. “If you wanted to learn about business,” said Swan, “RMU was the place to be. And it still is.”

Eventually, Swan made his way to New York City, where he worked on photo shoots of up-and-coming models. One of his first clients was a young, then still unknown, Madonna, who was doing the photo shoot for her first album cover.

Later, Swan moved to London where, in 1997, he was hired as a hair and makeup expert on BBC’s *Style Challenge* – a feel-good show that treated two sets of guests to an on-air makeover. Since then, he has appeared on other fashion-themed programs such as BBC’s *The Clothes Show, She’s Gotta Have It, Choices Looking Extra Good,* and Living Style’s *Stylefile;* ITV’s LK*Today* (a Regis & Kelly-type show) and Living’s *Body Beautiful.* He even starred in a Head & Shoulders ad as a celebrity hairdresser.

Today, Swan does professional styling, hair and make-up for celebrity clients and high-profile projects, and he works on celebrity shoots, album covers and other fashion projects in both New York and London. For the fashion hopeless, Swan offers personal style consultations and personal shopping services.

Swan is most proud of his work with special-needs individuals, especially those who have battled or who are battling cancer. “I had a family member with breast cancer,” said Swan, “so it’s a subject that’s very close to my heart.” Currently, he runs a workshop at the London Haven, a breast cancer charity, where he helps to demystify the realities of hair loss and skin conditions.

When Jack Tumpson ‘68 and his wife, Christine, decided to get into magazine publishing eight years ago, they knew it would be a challenge. “Neither of us had ever been involved with publishing before,” he said. But they didn’t let their lack of experience stop them.

Today, Tumpson is the publisher of Whirl, which he and his wife, Christine, who serves as editor-and-chief, founded in Pittsburgh in 2000 as a social and special events magazine. Today, Whirl has grown into a regional lifestyle publication with a readership of more than 100,000.

Tumpson also publishes At Home With magazine, which features articles on local celebrities’ families, cooking, home decorating, crafts and home entertaining. In addition, he recently launched a new magazine called Edible Allegheny, which deals with the local food movement and focuses on local foods, sustainability and our region’s distinct culinary style.

Tumpson, who’s originally from Mt. Lebanon, Pa., attended RMU in downtown Pittsburgh from 1966 to 1968, where he received an associate in arts degree. After working for 16 years as a manufacturer’s representative in the kitchen and building supply industry, he began a second career in the music business as a concert promoter for Next Big Thing Productions, which he founded with former college roommate, Patrick McArdle.

In 1985, the two landed their first big promotion when they brought alternative newcomers R.E.M. to the Syria Mosque in Oakland. “We were fortunate that Pat had a connection in New York who knew the band,” said Tumpson. “It was a big coup for us.” The year after that, they brought in James Brown.

Tumpson also brought a number of acts to the former Star Lake Amphitheatre (now Post-Gazette Pavilion) in Pittsburgh, including the Spin Doctors, Blues Traveler, Pantera, Rusted Root and the Horde Festival. Consequently, in 1994, he became director of marketing for Star Lake, owned by Pace Entertainment. Then, in 1997, he took a job as executive director of Starwood Amphitheatre in Nashville, Tenn.

In 2000, Tumpson declined an offer to work for SFX in Sacramento, Calif., and instead moved back to Pittsburgh. He and Christine had both grown up in the region and had an idea for a new magazine. Also, with two young children, they felt Pittsburgh was the best place to raise their family. “Whenever I would come back,” Tumpson said, “we would take our kids to the museums and the National Aviary, and we started to see the city’s cultural amenities with new eyes.”

Upon returning to Pittsburgh, Tumpson started to put Whirl together. His goal was to highlight the area’s cultural attractions and show the region in a positive light. “We wanted a way to show active, intelligent people from our community out and about,” said Tumpson, “and to show how vibrant we are as a region and how much we have to offer.”

For Tumpson, publishing Whirl has proven to be both demanding and rewarding. “It takes time to build a readership,” he said. “Magazine publishing is different from the fast-paced world of concert promotion. It’s a much longer, more involved process. But, for me, it’s more gratifying as well.”

Tumpson speaks highly of his time at Robert Morris University. “My time there was truly a life-learning experience,” he said. “I met individuals from all over Pittsburgh and got a real education on people in general. I met people from every demographic and every walk of life, which has proven to be invaluable. I also learned how to communicate.”

Tumpson said the key to being a successful publisher is hard work and persistence. “Keep going,” he said, “no matter what obstacles you encounter.” He also stressed the importance of internships during your college years. “Interning at different organizations gives you an opportunity to see what people are really doing and whether you want to be a part of it or not. Once you find something you like to do, it doesn’t seem like work. And that makes all the difference in the world.”

WRITTEN BY VAL BRKICH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BACHMAN
When Dan Murtha ’08 and Ron Hendrickson ’08 first came up with the idea for a Robert Morris University radio station, many doubted if it was even possible. “We’d heard that RMU could never have a station because of how close it is to the airport,” said Murtha. True, this would be an obstacle for a traditional radio broadcast, where radio waves are subject to interference. But Murtha and Hendrickson’s vision didn’t ride on radio waves; it traveled along the information super-highway.

On Feb. 4, 2008, the vision of these two pioneers became a reality as RMU Radio (www.rmuradio.com) hit the airwaves (so to speak) and the University’s radio-broadcasting era officially got underway.

RMU Radio boasts a diverse, around-the-clock format, with live broadcasting from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday. The weekly production schedule features a mix of music, news and sports, as well as specialty programming including a call-in sports show, Hispanic music, poetry readings and simulcasts of programming from RMU-TV, the campus cable television station.

RMU Radio also serves as a teaching facility that gives students real-world radio experience. It provides a hands-on working environment that includes writing and producing a variety of entertainment and informational programs, offering an unparalleled educational opportunity. Being a Web-based station, RMU Radio is designed for mobility, quality and reliable operation. And since it’s an online broadcast, it has the potential for worldwide distribution.

Murtha, from Conneaut, Ohio, and Hendrickson, from nearby Economy Borough, Pa., have been experimenting with Internet radio since they were freshmen. The two became instant friends when they first met and soon began spending a lot of time together. That’s when the idea for the station first came about.

“Dan told me about his history with radio and his interest in music,” said Hendrickson, who serves as RMU Radio’s program director. Murtha, who serves as promotional director, produced an online broadcast in high school and had a friend who worked for a college radio station. Unlike Murtha, Hendrickson didn’t have any prior radio experience, but he always had an interest in music and entertainment.

“When I was young, I listened to ‘Jon, Dave, Bubba, Shelley’ on B-94, and I always thought to myself, now that would be a great job.”

In 2004, during their freshman year, they first attempted to broadcast from Murtha’s dorm room. Unfortunately, the technology just wasn’t there yet.

Then, in 2006, they decided to give it another go, investing in a larger server and the licenses they needed in order to play music. This time it worked, and soon they were broadcasting
to a full server of listeners. This humble first station, also called RMU Radio, featured a call-in music show during weekend nights. “We’d take requests, talk about music or whatever and give away prizes,” said Murtha. “Basically it was just us being goofy.”

Murtha and Hendrickson may have just been having fun, but their call-in show struck a chord with a lot of students, and soon the station had a devoted following. By 2007, when Hendrickson was a resident assistant, RMU Radio was the talk of the campus. “My residents would listen, our fraternity brothers would listen, and some of our other friends would listen, too,” said Hendrickson. “It got more popular than we ever imagined.”

However, as RMU Radio grew in popularity, it also outgrew its server, which could only accommodate up to 25 listeners at a time. That’s when Murtha and Hendrickson decided to approach the University about going “big time.” They proposed their plans to the University’s Media Arts Department, which was already providing radio production courses but was missing one important ingredient: an actual radio station.

It was an easy sell. Murtha and Hendrickson had already done the market research that proved the radio station would be successful. All they needed to do was convince the University that it would be a worthwhile investment. Not surprisingly, RMU jumped on board almost immediately, realizing that, besides being an enhancement to student life, a radio station would also serve as a nice complement to the University’s
The RMU Radio website (www.rmuradio.com) was designed by media arts student Justin Lotz. Besides serving as an online “front door” for the station, the site enables listeners to log on to the live broadcast anytime from anywhere. “It’s crazy to think that people around the world are going to be able to listen to it,” said Hendrickson. “It’s better than AM/FM radio. Your friend in Italy can listen to it; Dan’s parents in Ohio can listen to it; my parents in Beaver County can listen to it.”

So far, Murtha said the station has remained pretty busy, with only a few minor bumps in the road. “It took a little time for everyone to get used to the board and whatnot,” he said, “but we’re really starting to get into a groove now.”

Hendrickson is both surprised and pleased by how much interest there is in the station, and how many diverse ideas there are for shows. “It looks like I am going to have a lot of involvement [in the station] this summer and probably after that too,” he said.

In the future, RMU Radio plans to simulcast live University concerts on the station. They’d also like to see computers in RoMo’s Café, the Health and Fitness Club and other public areas around the campus where people can log on and listen to the station. Of course, Murtha and Hendrickson understand that they can’t please everyone; but they both feel that, overall, the station is a positive thing because it gives the student body a voice.

Looking into the future, Murtha and Hendrickson’s personal involvement with RMU Radio is up in the air. Both graduate this spring but hope to continue hosting their original talk show, RMU at Night. Murtha said that he wouldn’t mind working in radio on the weekends, but he still has designs on a career in accounting. He’s already accepted a position as staff accountant with Schneider Downs in Pittsburgh’s Strip District, and he plans on pursing his CPA over the summer.

Hendrickson’s future, however, is a little more up in the air after being bitten by the RMU Radio bug. “It’s crazy because, before this year, I always figured I was going to go into business, since that is what my degree is in,” he said. “I’ve had some good offers from different companies. However, now I’m looking at getting my master’s degree and continuing to work at the station. And if that’s the path I choose, I would love to get more involved in radio. Who knows where it could take me?”

Barbara Levine, Ph.D., interim dean of the School of Communications and Information Systems, echoed Jamison’s sentiments. “RMU Radio expands students’ opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills they need for the workplace,” she said. “And it builds on our tradition of linking academics with the professions.”

DiLauro served as host of the ceremony and was as enthused as anyone in attendance. “RMU Radio is another voice for our University that speaks to our diverse and engaged community,” he said. “The station has the potential for worldwide distribution and, most importantly, will be a teaching facility that will offer our students a seamless technical transition into the real world of radio.”

Running a successful university radio station, unlike a dorm-based station, is no two-man operation. RMU Radio is made possible by an entire staff of people including Kathleen Ujhazy, part-time production coordinator for the Academic Media Center, and Joseph Hale, TV (and now radio) engineer for the AMC.
80s
DENNIS J. SHAW ’80 recently relocated to the Pittsburgh area, having lived in Missouri and Maryland for the past 27 years. Dennis joined Trane in late 2006 as district financial manager. He resides in Canonsburg, Pa., with his wife, Nancy. They have two children, Noel and Zachary.

SUSAN RAUSCHER ’84 was recently named executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, after having served as the interim executive director. Susan and her son, Curtis, live in Export, Pa.

LINDA WOSHNER ’84 was elected as council president of the Borough of Bellevue, Pa., in January 2008. She has been a member of council since 2006. Also serving with her is STEPHEN MOSOLANSKY ’84, who was elected to council in 2006. Linda, who is a past president of the RMU Alumni Association (1993-95), is employed with Allstate Insurance Company and resides in Bellevue with her husband, Curtis, live in Export, Pa.

50s
EDWARD H. FOWLER ’58 was recently named Most Eminent Grand Master General of Convent General Knights of the York Cross of Honour by the Freemasons. The position is the highest in the Masonic Order, of which Fowler has been a member since 1953. In the position, Fowler will oversee nearly 13,000 members throughout the United States, Australia, Mexico, Canada, France and the Philippines. Before retiring in 1991, he worked for nearly 40 years as a manager in the tax department of Aluminum Co. of America (Alcoa Inc.). Fowler and his wife, Lois, have been married for 34 years. The couple resides in Washington Township, Pa.

70s
JOHN C. EYERMAN ’70 has been bowling for over 45 years and has a 210 career average. In 1970, he was named most valuable player for the RMU Bowling Team, coached by ROCCO CONSIGLIO ’71. John was named to the Greater Pittsburgh Bowling Hall of Fame in 1999. He has 30 ABC Team Championships, ten 300 games and five 800-series games. John retired in 2005 from the City of Pittsburgh where he served as recreation director.

RAYMOND MORRIS ’71 retired as executive vice president of SAE International, headquartered in Thorn Hill Industrial Park. Recently, Ray was named Non-Profit CEO Communicator of the Year by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. He and his wife, Ginger, are residents of Pittsburgh’s North Hills area.

JOHN DAVENJAY ’74 retired on April 30, 2007, as chief of staff, Office of the Controller, U.S. General Services Administration, in Washington, D.C. After 33 years of federal service, John now resides in Burke, Va.

DAVID FINNEY ’75 has accepted the position of championship director with the West Penn Golf Association beginning in the 2008 season. David, an RMU honors graduate, also has a diploma in horticulture from the University of Guelph, Ontario, and earned an M.B.A. from West Virginia University. He resides in Johnstown, Pa., with his wife, Michelle, and son, Elliott.

JAMES DUNN ’77 is self-employed at Foggy Mountain Lodge. He and his wife, Karen, have three children, Adam, Brittany and Jamie. The family resides in Stahlstown, Pa.

CATHIE (BISHOP) RICHARD ’79 is a real estate broker with REMAX Austin Skyline and serves on the Board of First Tee of Greater Austin. Cathie is also active with Big Brothers and Big Sisters for 8-year-olds. She resides in Austin, Texas.

60s
COMING SOON: RMU Alumni E-mail Account

As an RMU Alumni, you will soon be able to receive a FREE RMU alumni e-mail account.

Check www.rmu.edu/alumni for updates on when this exciting new service will be available and how you can sign up.

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 412-397-2586 or rmualum@rmu.edu.
Ron. Steve is retired from the U.S. Postal Service and resides in Bellevue with his wife, Marcia.

DOMINIC DEL ROSSO ’85 was recently named vice president of financial reporting at Petroleum Development Corp. Previously, Dominic served as vice president of finance and controller for Firearms Training Systems Inc. in Atlanta. Before that, he was employed for nearly nine years by Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. Dominic earned his CPA certification in 1994. He resides in Alpharetta, Ga.

SCOTT BYERS ’87 is president of Diversified Information Technologies, a data and document management company. He and his wife, June, have four children, Elliott, Evan, Bo, and Alexandra. The family resides in Roaring Brook, Pa.

HARRY LECKEMBY JR. ’87 is employed by the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Colorado as a sales manager. Harry and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in Colorado Springs, Colo., with their son, Harry.

KEITH MURRAY ’88 is employed by Life Safety Solutions as an instructor and sales representative. His primary job is selling automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and training people how to use them. Recently, Keith used his AED training to revive an unresponsive man at Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. Keith resides in Jupiter, Fla.

ROBERT KUBITZ ’88 is a quality assurance manager with Bear River Associates in Oakland, Calif. Robert resides in San Francisco, Calif.

RICH KILLIAN ’89 is president and founder of RK Incentives LLC, a

Famous Alumni Campaign

This winter, Robert Morris University launched a new “Famous Alumni” advertising campaign in the Pittsburgh area, highlighting alumni who have found success in life after RMU. Featuring the line, “Found Success Here First,” these striking ads could be found in print and on billboards all around the region. Keep a watch out for more RMU success stories this summer in newspapers and on billboards, featuring even more alumni, friends and students. To see more of the “Famous Alumni” ads, visit success.rmu.edu.
KRISTINA FAUSTI ’97 earned her M.B.A. and J.D. from Georgetown University. Kristina is currently special counsel for the U. S. Securities & Exchange Committee in Washington, D.C. She resides in Arlington, Va.

AMANDA (WILKS) HARDWAY ’97 is employed by GE Healthcare IITS as a senior software engineer. Amanda and her husband, Edward, reside in Washington, Pa., with their children, Hunter, Zach and Ethan.

JULIE HERSTINE ’94 M’97 has joined the New Brighton office of Cottrill, Arbutina Professional Services as an auditor. Julie previously provided accounting and bookkeeping services for a privately held, family-owned trucking company. Earlier she was an auditor with USX Corp., now U.S. Steel Corp., in Pittsburgh. Prior to that, she was a trust accountant with Century National Bank & Trust Company in Rochester, Pa. Julie resides in Monaca, Pa.

PATRICK CAROTHERS ’96 was elected as one of five new partners at Thorp Reed & Armstrong LLP, effective March 1, 2008. Patrick is a member of Thorp Reed’s Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Group. He received his J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law in 2000. Patrick resides in Pittsburgh.

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HEIDI MERTZ ’97 is employed by Brentwood Bank as a commercial credit analyst. Heidi and her son, Ethan James, reside in Bethel Park, Pa.

KATHI JOBKAR ’98 was selected as Education Person of the Year 2005 by the Institute of Supply Management (ISM). Kathi is manager, strategic sourcing with Allegheny Technologies Inc. She lives in Pittsburgh, and has a son, Eddie.

JOANNA (BAUDUIN) FORBES ’99 is a human resources consultant with UPMC Community Provider Services. Joanna resides in Boardman, Ohio.

MATTHEW MILLET ’99 recently joined Delaware State University as assistant athletic director for marketing. Matt was previously employed with the Sussex Skyhawks as director for corporate partnerships. In September 2007, Matt and his wife, Kelly welcomed a daughter, Lily Shea, to the family.

MICHAEL BOHLEY ’00 is an audit manager with Wells Fargo Foothill. Michael and his wife, Libby, have three children, Emma, Mikey and Joshua. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

JAMIE (STAPINSKI) SPERO ’00 was promoted to senior associate attorney in January 2008. Jamie has been with the law firm of Lisa Marie Vari & Associates since May 2003, where she began her career as a law clerk and, after passing the Pennsylvania Bar Examination, accepted a position as an associate attorney in October 2004. She received her Juris Doctor degree in 2004 from Duquesne University. Jamie and her husband, William, reside in Pittsburgh.
JEFF HEIL ’01 is director of business planning with TRG Customer Solutions. Jeff resides in Pittsburgh.

KEVIN NOWICKI ’01 and his wife, Andrea, are the proud parents of Bryce, born Nov. 26, 2007. Kevin is a financial analyst at Carnegie Mellon University. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

ALISSA (BROWN) MCCLELLAND ’02 and BART MCCLELLAND ’02 became the parents of Adelyn Marie on Feb. 10, 2008. Marisa is a customer service representative. She resides in Crafton, Pa. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

BOBBIE JO BELUS ’03 is development coordinator for the Owl Club, the official organization that supports Florida Atlantic University Athletics. She resides in Delray, Fla.

AMY (AUGUSTINE) RILEY ’03 and CHRIS RILEY ’02 were married on May 19, 2007. Amy is a financial assistant at Hefren-Tillotson. Chris is a territory manager for Zoll Medical. Five RMU alumni were members of their wedding party: LYNN FORD ’04, MATT GRAYSON ’02, KRISTEN GUSTAFSON ’03, JARRAD PENCEK ’06 and LISA SOVAK ’03. The couple resides in Ross Township, Pa.

CARLA SWANK ’03 is employed by Sewickley Graphics & Design in business development. She was previously employed at the Beaver County Times / Allegheny Times. Carla is currently working on her M.S. degree in organizational studies. She is also a 2006 Telly Award winner for her webcast on the Hurricane Katrina Benefit Concert. Carla resides in Sewickley, Pa.

MICHELLE TRIMBLE ’03 is employed by Progressive Casualty Commercial Insurance Company as a commercial auto sales representative. Michelle resides in Columbia Station, Ohio.

ALICIA (GLUNT) SHAW ’04 M’04 married Ronald Shaw in October 2007. Alicia is employed by Maronda Homes in real estate sales. The couple resides in Weirton, W.Va.

DONALD NEHEZ ’04 married Jessica Bravar and moved to Pacific Grove, Calif.

JENNIFER SNYDER ’04 married Eddie Miller on June 7, 2008. Jennifer is a client-based administrator for Allied Solutions in Hagerstown, Md. The couple resides in Cumberland, Md.

JAIMA SCHIFFER ’04 is employed by the Dallas Cowboys as a sales consultant. Jaima resides in Irving, Texas.

MICHAEL HEPLER ’04 is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. He resides in Pittsburgh.

THOMAS FEW M’05 is a senior business systems analyst with Federated Investors. Thomas resides in Upper St. Clair, Pa.

JENNIFER OPFERMAN ’05 was promoted to manager of gate operations for US Airways Express at the Charlotte Douglas Airport, in Charlotte, N.C., where she resides.

KRISTEN HOSEY ’05 is engaged to Dan Detwiler and planning a fall 2009 wedding. Kristen is an accountant with Gaylord & Kelly LLC. She resides in Glenshaw, Pa.

BRADLEY EDMISTON ’05 is a fourth-grade teacher with the Wake County Public Schools. Bradley resides in Raleigh, N.C.

MARISSA (ZOMP) SUNDBERG ’06 is employed with HydroGen LLC as a human resources representative. She and her husband, Ted, reside in North Huntingdon, Pa.


BRIAN KELLY ’97 M’06 has accepted the position of vice president with Kaufman Hall & Associates Inc. His primary role is providing strategic financial planning and advisory services for health care organizations. Brian and his wife, Emily, reside in Sarver, Pa.

JEAN ADAMS D’07 received the Distinguished Ph.D. Paper Award from the Education Special Interest Group of the Association of Information Technology Professionals. Jean is the financial manager of contract control for Bombadier Transportation.
In Memoriam:
Josh O’Bannon

On April 28, 2008, Robert Morris University lost a member of its family with the passing of Josh O’Bannon ’07.

Josh was a four-year letter winner for the football team, appearing in 35 career games as a defensive back. Over his career, he compiled 52 career tackles, with four interceptions and 23 passes defended. He also spent the 2004–05 season as a manager with the RMU women’s basketball program.

Josh, who completed his bachelor’s degree in December 2007, was honored with a posthumous degree at Commencement on May 10. A memorial service was held on May 1 in RMU’s Rogal Chapel.

The faculty, staff and administration of Robert Morris University deeply regrets the loss of Josh O’Bannon, and would like to express its deepest sympathy to his friends and family.

LLOYD GIBSON D’07 received the Distinguished Paper Award from the Education Special Interest Group of the Association of Information Technology Professionals. Lloyd is director of the M.B.A. program and assistant professor of business at Seton Hill University.

KATIE LEWANDROSKI ’07 was recently hired as an assistant account executive at Euro RSCG Worldwide, an advertising agency in New York City. Katie resides in New Jersey.

BRENT USELTON ’07 began working for Worldwide Express in Los Angeles as an account executive one month after graduation. On March 12, he was promoted to major account representative for the west L.A. area. He resides in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

In Memoriam
ROSE (IVANCIW) OBERDACKER ’67 passed away on September 21, 2007.


Note: Class notes are submitted by alumni and friends and are not verified by the editor. Foundations magazine is not responsible for information contained in class notes.
Upcoming Events

> JULY 08
17-20 & 24-27
Colonial Theatre Production: Fuddy Meers and Nunsense

> SEPTEMBER 08
19 RMU Night at PNC Park, Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Houston Astros (Fireworks Night), 7:05 p.m.
25 RMU Career Expo, Sewall Center Arena

> OCTOBER 08
1 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Steve Forbes, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall
10 5th Annual RMU Sport Management Student Conference
11 HOMECOMING 2008
RMU Football vs. Duquesne, 1 p.m., Joe Walton Stadium

TBA Speaking of Business Luncheon, Duquesne Club

> NOVEMBER 08
5 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Paul Rusesabagina, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

> HAPPENING NOW
Gandhi-Group, International Arrivals, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Media Arts Gallery, 600 Fifth Ave., through July 26

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these and other upcoming events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 412-397-2586 or rmualum@rmu.edu.

NAME __________________________________________________________________ YEAR OF GRADUATION __________________
PREVIOUS/ MAIDEN NAME ______________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP ______________________________________________________________________________________________
HOME PHONE __________________________________________ WORK PHONE __________________________________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS ______________________________________________________________________________________________
PROFESSION/POSITION __________________________________________________________________________________________
EMPLOYER NAME ______________________________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP ______________________________________________________________________________________________
SPouse’S NAME ________________________________________________________________________________________________
CHILDREN’S NAMES AND AGES __________________________________________________________________________________
NEWS ITEM __________________________________________________________________________________________________

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO: Office of Alumni Relations, Robert Morris University, 6001 University Boulevard, Moon Township, PA 15108-1189. Or, send your news via e-mail rmualum@rmu.edu or fax 412-397-2142.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR! On Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, Robert Morris University will celebrate Homecoming and Parents & Families Day. A full day of festivities kicks off in the morning with hospitality tents and some good old-fashioned tailgating. Alumni and friends will enjoy various pre-game activities, including a temporary-tattoo booth, balloon and caricature artists and entertainment from the RMU pep band. Don’t miss out on all of the fun this year! WE’D LOVE TO SEE YOU!
THE NEW RMU MEDIA ARTS GALLERY, located at 600 Fifth Ave. in Downtown Pittsburgh, opened with an inaugural exhibition entitled "BRIT BY BRIT - CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS BY ROD BUGG AND STEPHEN DIXON," which ran from March 19 through April 19. The gallery was designed by Edge Studio to be one of the most exciting public spaces in the city and a showcase for some of the best artists in the region.