Fans fill the new Colonial Crazies section of the remodeled Charles Sewall Center.
It’s a proud yet bittersweet moment for a parent: the day you drive your child to college and move them in to their new home. They’re pushing you out the door, but you keep reminding them of things they need to do, something that needs to be fixed in their room — anything to put off saying goodbye. Believe me, I know. I’ve done it three times.

Move-in Day is one of those great university traditions I spoke of in the last issue of Foundations. This year’s move-in was particularly special for RMU, as it saw us welcome the largest freshman class in our history as well as our largest group of residential students. Our job that day is to make students feel instantly at home while easing the concerns of their parents — not to mention helping them lug boxes under the hot August sun.

The task was made easier this year by the RMU Alumni Association Council, whose members took time out of their busy schedules to assist our students and their families and share stories about their own experiences at Robert Morris (read more on page 25). It was a great start to what has been the most exciting year at RMU in recent memory, certainly the most successful during my tenure as president.

Among our highlights: The RMU football team won the NEC championship and a berth in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. The Colonials were buoyed by the throngs of fans who cheered them on week after week at Joe Walton Stadium. Many of you were there when RMU stomped Albany during Homecoming weekend, the biggest Homecoming we’ve ever had. A lot of you returned two weeks later when the Colonials beat our cross-town rivals, Duquesne.

Another big win for the university was when we received $5 million from the Richard King Mellon Foundation (see page 15). Our proposal to the foundation cited the achievements of our graduates, so we received this gift in no small part due to your success and hard work. Just recently, more good news: $10 million for RMU from the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for the new business school facility and a planned nursing simulation center.

Our academic programs continued to flourish. The doctor of nursing practice program received a $250,000 grant from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation to support student research. The sport management program celebrated its 35th anniversary (read about that on page 26). And we gave each of our veteran students their own iPad as part of our ongoing commitment to veterans education.

Yes, it’s been a great year, but we still have much to accomplish. In addition to the School of Business building, we’re building a new residence hall to accommodate the growth of our residential population. Next up will be a facility for our media arts program, which will move its classes from Pittsburgh to Moon in 2012, and beyond that we plan to build a simulation center for our nursing programs.

The bottom line is that we could not have come this far without our alumni, and we can’t take the next step without you either. I look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks as the men’s and women’s basketball teams make their run for the NCAA tournament, and I’m excited for everything we still have to achieve together at RMU.

Sincerely,

GREGORY G. DELL’OMO, P.H.D.
PRESIDENT
The RMU-produced documentary, "What Does Trouble Mean? Nate Smith’s Revolution," won the Award of Merit at the University Film and Video Association conference in Burlington, Vt. The juried prize is the association’s top award for documentary filmmaking. "What Does Trouble Mean" was a project of the university’s Center for Documentary Production and Study, and tells the story of African American labor leader Nate Smith, who fought to integrate Pittsburgh’s building trade unions. The film also was screened at the Three Rivers Film Festival in Pittsburgh and the First Glance Festival in Philadelphia.

Talk About Changing Lives…

Random Willard, a counselor in the university’s Center for Student Success, received the HOME is Where the Heart is Award from Community Human Services for his work coordinating RMU’s Sleep-In for the Homeless. During the event, students sleep overnight in downtown Pittsburgh to raise money and awareness for homeless residents of the city. Community Human Services operates Wood Street Commons, which includes a homeless shelter and low-income housing.

Broadcasting Needs More Like Her

María Satira, a senior TV production and journalism major, has received the Alexander M. Tanger Award, a scholarship worth $5,000, from the Broadcast Education Association. She will be recognized at the association’s conference in Las Vegas in April. Satira is the student representative to the Middle States re-accreditation team, vice president of programming for Delta Zeta, the president of Voci Italiane, and a staff writer for The Sentry.

No Trouble for RMU Documentary

In October, RMU sold its classroom building at 601 Fifth Ave. in downtown Pittsburgh — known as the Pittsburgh Center — to Drexel University. RMU purchased the Pittsburgh Center, the university’s primary location for several years, in 1959 from the Rust Engineering firm. But the university recently was using only about one-third of the 100,000-square-foot facility. (For more on how RMU originally moved to Moon Township, see page 22.)

Proceeds from the sale will help to fund the construction of a facility on campus for the media arts program, which currently holds many classes downtown. That facility is slated to open in the fall of 2012; media arts students will continue to study in the downtown building until then.

Most of the other programs offered in the downtown center will be relocated next fall.

The university is stepping up services to nontraditional students, many of whom formerly studied downtown. RMU now offers eight wholly online degree programs, and will continue to offer courses for graduate and nontraditional students at satellite locations in the Pittsburgh region.

Don’t Challenge These Guys to a Math Contest

Senior actuarial science major and student government association president Matthew Feryus was awarded the John Culver Woody Scholarship, a $2,000 award granted to a select few seniors nationally by the Illinois-based Actuarial Foundation. Feryus, the third RMU student to win a Woody Scholarship, already had passed three of the professional actuarial exams going into his senior year, while maintaining a 3.97 GPA.

Sophomore actuarial science major Philippe Rigaud is a recipient of the The Actuarial Foundation’s Actuarial Diversity Scholarship. Rigaud, who was awarded $1,000, is one of only 23 recipients of the award nationwide.
Congress Shall Make No Law

On March 21, RMU will host the Festival of the Five Freedoms, a journalism symposium and celebration of the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Supported by a Liberty Tree Initiative essay contest for high school students, as well as an all-media contest for RMU students. The keynote speaker will be Ken Paulson, president of the Newseum, Freedom Forum, and Diversity Institute, and the former editor and senior vice president for USA Today.

Toots & Touchdowns for Tots

The RMU Band, under the leadership of Betsy Charles, and the department of athletics combined forces in November and December to benefit the Beaver County U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. The band played Christmas carols in the Nicholson Center rotunda for two weeks, raising $200 in contributions.

The athletic department invited fans to donate unwrapped toys for free admission to football and basketball games and posted bins around campus. Thanks to Colonials fans, they collected more than 100 new toys for disadvantaged youngsters. 2010 marks the third straight year that the athletics department has played a role in the Toys for Tots effort.

New Award for DNP’s

The Jewish Healthcare Foundation has made a five-year, $250,000 grant to the doctor of nursing practice program to support research that improves patient care and safety. The gift will establish the Alvin Rogal Research Award in Safety and Quality Improvement. Eligible doctoral students will receive $10,000 annually.

The doctoral program prepares advanced-practice nurses to use research-based evidence to provide preventive and diagnostic medical services. The first two cohorts graduated in May and December.

Alvin Rogal, a longtime member of the RMU Board of Trustees, was the founding chairman of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. He was president of the Montefiore Hospital board of trustees and served on numerous other local boards. Rogal died in 2007 at age 84.

The Least We Could Do

Each year, the university honors students, faculty and staff who have served in the U.S. armed forces at a Veterans Day breakfast open to the entire campus community. This year was extra special: Every student veteran received a free iPad, with which they could launch RMU Vets, the first iPad app designed specifically for veterans attending college. The university distributed more than 150 3G iPad devices with the university-designed app, which provides fingerprint access to a campus directory and maps, event listings, emergency phone contacts, videos, news, and even an RMU veterans’ blog. The university is developing more features for the app, including course catalog and registration.

RMU was the first Pittsburgh-area university and one of the first private universities nationwide to announce that veterans enrolling under the new G.I. Bill would earn their degree free of charge at the university. This past summer, RMU opened the Veterans Education and Training Service Center, which provides enrollment and academic advising and other services.

RMU recently was named to the 2011 list of Military Friendly Schools by G.I. Jobs, an education and career guide for veterans and members of the armed services.

Visit Foundations Online to see news coverage about the RMU app.

Our Credentials are in Good Order

RMU’s bachelor of science degree programs in computer information systems and information sciences have been re-accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, the accrediting agency for programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. Only 39 information systems programs worldwide are accredited by ABET.

In addition, RMU’s engineering programs have been re-accredited by ABET’s Engineering Accreditation Commission.

The Bayer Essentials

Matt Dieterich, a sophomore environmental science major, has received the Bayer Scholarship in Environmental Science from the Bayer Foundation. The scholarship is worth $4,000 over four years. Dieterich also is paired with a mentor at Bayer, which has offered him a part-time job.

Green Vegetables

Senior honors student Sara Meier will present her thesis on grocery stores and sustainability at the 2011 Northeast Region Honors Council Conference in Portland, Maine, this March. Meier is a marketing major who works for the university’s public relations and marketing department. (Read her first piece for Foundations on page 26.)
Mentoring Magic

Shellie Hipsky, Ed.D., assistant professor of education, has co-authored Mentoring Magic: Picking the Card for Your Success along with Claudia Armani D’08. The book is a practical guide for college students as they prepare for the next step in their life, and came about as a result of the mentoring relationship when Armani was Hipsky’s student. Mentoring Magic is being adopted for RMU’s First Year Studies Program, so every freshman student will receive a copy.

In other news, “A Taste of Broadway,” which Hipsky headlined, raised $15,000 for charity on Oct. 29 at The Priory on the North Side. The show benefited the Homeless Children’s Education Fund and also featured RMU students Channing Frampton and Logan Williams.

Cream of the Crop

Carl Ross, Ph.D., university professor of nursing, has received the Pennsylvania Nurse Educator Award from the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. The award recognizes those who contribute to the advancement of nursing education while demonstrating strength of character, commitment and competence.

Ross certainly fits the bill. Twice each year, he leads a trip of RMU student nurses to Nicaragua, where they provide health care and health education to poor residents of the Managua barrios. Ross made his 74th trip to Nicaragua in November, including those during his previous tenure as a nursing professor at Duquesne University.

Ross, the president of the RMU Faculty Federation, has been on the faculty at RMU for six years, and has also worked as a nurse educator at UPMC Shadyside Hospital.

“When one of my students touches a patient’s life, I feel like I’m touching that patient’s life through my student. That is the most rewarding part of my job,” said Ross.

Ross also was one of three RMU professors to receive the new President’s Award during the fall faculty convocation, for distinguished teaching. The President’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship went to John McCarthy, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, and the President’s Award for Distinguished Service went to Jill Maher, Ph.D., professor of marketing.

Communication Skills

Seven members of the School of Communications and Information Systems faculty and staff presented research at the annual Pennsylvania Communication Association’s conference at East Stroudsburg University in October. John Lawson, Ph.D., recited original poetry at one session.

Communication Professor Rex Crawley, Ph.D., was the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Service Award from the African American Communication and Culture Division. Crawley, the chair of the RMU Council on Institutional Equity, received the award in November at the association’s national convention in San Francisco.

A Diverse Knowledge Base

Beatrice Gibbons, Ed.D., associate professor of organizational studies, presented a paper at the International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations at the University of Montreal in July. Her manuscript, “Celebrating Diversity in Organizations: An Analysis of Workplace Initiatives,” was published in The International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management.

Co-authored studies, presented a paper at the International Conference on Knowledge, Culture and Change in Organizations at the University of Montreal in July. Her manuscript, “Celebrating Diversity in Organizations: An Analysis of Workplace Initiatives,” was published in The International Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Change Management.
A SEASON TO REMEMBER

As the first playoff game in the football team’s 17-year history came to a close and the players finished shaking hands with the victors at midfield of the Fargodome, the Colonials didn’t move directly to their locker room. First they walked over to a section of the stands to thank the contingent of fans who traveled over 1,000 miles to support them.

“It was just our way of saying thank you,” said senior linebacker Alex DiMichele. “Our fans and families have come out to watch us all season, even traveling to a lot of our away games. They were as much a part of what we accomplished as the players who suited up and played every Saturday. We wanted to make sure they were reminded of that.”

Greeting the fans and families of the Robert Morris faithful became a tradition in 2010, as the Colonials climbed back to the top of the NEC rankings for the first time in a decade. Their 7-1 conference record also earned them the NEC’s first automatic bid in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs, drawing a matchup with the North Dakota State Bison. In that game, the Colonials scored first, led at halftime, and were behind by only a field goal early in the fourth quarter; in the end, they couldn’t stop a final Bison stampede of 23 unanswered points, and lost 43-17. Still, it was a season to remember, with RMU’s 100th victory and NEC-record sixth championship.

The Colonials swept the conference’s major awards. DiMichele, the team leader in tackles and anchor of a defense that yielded a league-low 18 points per game, was named NEC Defensive Player of the Year. Senior running back Myles Russ, the university’s all-time rushing leader, was named NEC Offensive Player of the Year after gaining 1,363 yards in 2010 and scoring 10 touchdowns. The architect of Robert Morris football, Joe Walton, was named NEC Coach of the Year for the fourth time.

“We knew we had a chance to do something special after closing out last season with five straight wins,” Russ said. “It was important for us to work hard in the offseason and then stick together as a team this season, and that’s exactly what we did. Our fans joined us for the ride and became our 12th man, whether it was at home or on the road, and we couldn’t have done it without them.”

Walton, who has seen the program’s ups and downs over the last two decades, said what transpired this season ranks near the top of his career highlights in over 50 years in the sport. “Obviously, I’m proud of what our team accomplished,” he said. “Football is the ultimate team sport, and you can’t win unless you have leaders develop in the locker room. This year that’s what happened. It started there and then translated to the field.”

WRITTEN BY JIM DUZYK
PHOTO BY JASON COHN
WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

WOMEN’S LACROSSE

Following their best season so far, in which the team finished 10-5 and broke into the national rankings for the first time, the Colonials look to build on their budding reputation. Attacker and NEC Player of the Year Trevor Moore is back to lead the NCAA’s No. 1 scoring offense.

THE BIG GAME: MARCH 19 VS. BELLARMIN

The battle of the giant killers. Bellarmine and RMU both took down Ohio State last year. The Colonials have knocked off Penn State two years running.

FILL ‘ER UP

The Colonials had the highest-octane offense in all NCAA Div. I lacrosse.

GOALS/GAME
1. DUKE 13.5
2. VIRGINIA 13.4
3. NCA A AVERAGE 10.0

At the NEC semifinals last spring, Colonials star Angela Pace put up a career-record 30 points against the Red Flash. But RMU led by one point to St. Francis, who went on to win it all. Pace is a pro now, but St. Francis still has Samantha Leach, who leads the NEC in scoring.

THE BIG Game: FEB. 14 VS. ST. FRANCIS (PA.)

MEN’S HOOSIER

Pack the Chuck! That’s what the two-time league champions hope their fans will do this year, especially for this matchup against their perennial rival. A noisy “sixth man” could be a big boost for a young team (with just one senior) led by the youngest head coach in the program.

THE BIG Game: FEB. 24 VS. MOUNT ST. MARY’S

THE BIG DOUBLEHEADER — FEB. 19

The Orange are a critical test. Syracuse cleaned up in the College Hockey America awards last year, including Coach of the Year Paul Flanagan, who led the team to a Top 10 ranking, and Rookie of the Year Isabel Menard, who ranked up 34 points.

THE BIG DOUBLEHEADER — FEB. 19 — MEN VS. RIT, 7 P.M.

Faceoff No. 3 in a budding rivalry with the Tigers, last year’s Frozen Four Cinderella. RMU opened in Rochester, losing to the defending Atlantic Hockey Association champs in overtime. At a Dec. 30 rematch in front of 7,000 fans at Consol Energy Center, the Colonials lost another nailbiter as the Tigers broke a 3-3 tie with just over a minute left.

The Top 20 Colonials, now playing in the bigger, badder AHA, already have eclipsed last year’s win total. A big reason is continuity; the 23 of 27 returning players include top scorer Andrew Toole and top goalie Brooks Ostergard.

THE BIG Game: APRIL 3 VS. LONG ISLAND

The Blackbirds won their third league championship in four years last spring, then followed up with a three-point debut in the NEC. Last year’s Frozen Four, a big reason why: The Colonials plan to make another run at the NEC title, and clutch hitters have eclipsed last year’s win total. A big reason is continuity; the 23 of 27 returning players include top scorer Angela Pace put up a career-record 30 points against the Red Flash. But RMU led by one point to St. Francis, who went on to win it all. Pace is a pro now, but St. Francis still has Samantha Leach, who leads the NEC in scoring.

THE BIG Game: APRIL 3 VS. LONG ISLAND

The Blackbirds won their third league championship in four years last spring, then followed up with a three-point debut in the NEC. Last year’s Frozen Four, a big reason why: The Colonials plan to make another run at the NEC title, and clutch hitters have eclipsed last year’s win total. A big reason is continuity; the 23 of 27 returning players include top scorer Angela Pace put up a career-record 30 points against the Red Flash. But RMU led by one point to St. Francis, who went on to win it all. Pace is a pro now, but St. Francis still has Samantha Leach, who leads the NEC in scoring.

THE BIG Game: APRIL 3 VS. LONG ISLAND

The Blackbirds won their third league championship in four years last spring, then followed up with a three-point debut in the NEC. Last year’s Frozen Four, a big reason why: The Colonials plan to make another run at the NEC title, and clutch hitters have eclipsed last year’s win total. A big reason is continuity; the 23 of 27 returning players include top scorer Angela Pace put up a career-record 30 points against the Red Flash. But RMU led by one point to St. Francis, who went on to win it all. Pace is a pro now, but St. Francis still has Samantha Leach, who leads the NEC in scoring.

THE BIG Game: APRIL 3 VS. LONG ISLAND

The Blackbirds won their third league championship in four years last spring, then followed up with a three-point debut in the NEC. Last year’s Frozen Four, a big reason why: The Colonials plan to make another run at the NEC title, and clutch hitters have eclipsed last year’s win total. A big reason is continuity; the 23 of 27 returning players include top scorer Angela Pace put up a career-record 30 points against the Red Flash. But RMU led by one point to St. Francis, who went on to win it all. Pace is a pro now, but St. Francis still has Samantha Leach, who leads the NEC in scoring.

THE BIG Game: APRIL 3 VS. LONG ISLAND

The Blackbirds won their third league championship in four years last spring, then followed up with a three-point debut in the NEC. Last year’s Frozen Four, a big reason why: The Colonals had the highest-octane offense in all NCAA Div. I lacrosse.

GOALS/GAME
1. DUKE 13.5
2. VIRGINIA 13.4
3. NCA A AVERAGE 10.0

Women’s basketball

At the NEC semifinals last spring, Colonials star Angela Pace put up a career-record 30 points against the Red Flash. But RMU led by one point to St. Francis, who went on to win it all. Pace is a pro now, but St. Francis still has Samantha Leach, who leads the NEC in scoring.

THE BIG Game: MARCH 19 VS. BELLARMIN

The battle of the giant killers. Bellarmine and RMU both took down Ohio State last year. The Colonials have knocked off Penn State two years running.
I enjoy talking about jazz as much as I enjoy listening to it.

That's how I met Heather Pinson, Ph.D., at a lecture about Pittsburgh's jazz history given by a prominent local pianist. After the presentation, we stood outside talking about what we had heard. It was immediately obvious that we shared the belief that you can learn a lot about America's history by looking at the origins and evolution of jazz. It was also immediately obvious that I could learn a lot by talking with her.

She brings a lot to a conversation. A classically trained violinist who also plays bluegrass and has an extensive performance resume, Pinson studied art and philosophy for her doctorate and is an assistant professor of communication and media arts at RMU. She publishes on popular music, jazz, aesthetics, and race theory.

I took full advantage of a chance to ask questions, and the more we talked, the more animated she became. Her enthusiasm mirrored my own, and when we got around to discussing her new book I knew it would be filled with the kind of insights that make you say, “hmmm.”

In her book *The Jazz Image: Seeing Music through Herman Leonard’s Photography*, Pinson tells us photographs have become as “necessary in the definition of jazz as the music itself.” I know just what she means by that. Music invariably causes us to visualize, to conjure an image. Much of what comes to me when the music is jazz is one of Leonard’s images, or one inspired by him. I never thought about it, though, until I read this book.
Leonard, who died in August at the age of 87, began by using his camera as a way to get free admission to the clubs where the music was happening. He would then give prints to the club owners and musicians, who would use them to promote appearances. This was a change from the more traditional promotional headshots that were used in the 1940s. The difference between a picture that only puts a face to a name and photography produced by an artist is striking. Close your eyes for a moment. Picture a black-and-white photograph of a young African American man holding a saxophone. Add some curling cigarette smoke to that image. I’ll bet you’ve seen such an image before. That’s the legacy of Herman Leonard.

Pinson’s book is about investigating why one photographer “has been so instrumental in representing what a jazz musician looks like.” Her investigation is extraordinary thorough and reflects her unique musical and academic background.

She introduces Leonard and the concept of visual culture simultaneously. His work is rooted in the years when America became increasingly reliant on visual images. Leonard’s love of jazz and his love of photography were his inspirations, and because there hadn’t really been any predecessors in the field to influence his work, he was free to follow his own instincts. At first there was little financial value attached to his work, and that too allowed him a freedom that he might not have had if he were satisfying commercial interests. Pinson explains how Leonard’s contributions to the circulation of jazz imagery helped establish a market for it, and how his work, when turned into album covers, placed in storefronts, and featured in magazines, gradually solidified into a canon of jazz imagery.

Imaginative people found new applications for photographs. Pinson relates an example of one of her colleagues, RMU media arts professor Lutz Bacher, Ph.D. Bacher, a musician and jazz advocate, was the manager of many well-known acts in the 60s and 70s. His use of photography in promotional materials fostered increased circulation of jazz images.

When Pinson says that Leonard’s work, adapted for posters, was the first thing he hung on his wall. Leonard posters followed. They are an expression of how my son sees himself in the context of the world, something members of my own generation often accomplished by the way we kept and displayed our LP record covers.

Pinson concludes that the jazz image has remained constant since it was set more than 50 years ago. I do a lot of reading about the history of the music, the musicians, and the times they lived in, and I completely agree with that statement. Contemporary jazz photography often imitates Herman Leonard’s technique. Moreover, contemporary musicians quite often seem to be influenced by those images of what she sees as the golden age of jazz, which solidified the music’s position as an intellectual pursuit.

Herman Leonard’s work defined an era. That era came to define jazz. The Jazz Image takes you deep inside the reasons this happened.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HERMAN LEONARD www.HERMANLEONARD.COM

Pittsburgh native Bob Studebaker is the production director and longtime morning jazz host on WNUQ-FM 90.5. He has written and produced several award-winning documentaries on local musical traditions, and enjoys studying all aspects of jazz history.

You can hear Bob Studebaker’s WNUQ radio interview with Heather Pinson, and a personal message to Pinson from Leonard, on Foundations Online.

Making a BIG difference

In October the Richard King Mellon Foundation awarded Robert Morris University a $5 million grant. The School of Business will receive $3 million toward its new building, now under construction, and $2 million will provide an endowment for RMU’s Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management.

“This gift is such an endorsement of 11 years of work. We’re here because of the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and they have now secured our future in perpetuity,” said Peggy Oulton, the executive director of the Bayer Center.

The downtown Pittsburgh center, which was founded with a gift from the Richard King Mellon Foundation in 1999, has worked with 3,000 nonprofits in southwestern Pennsylvania. It provides management support services, including consulting in board development, business planning, collaboration and alliances, financial management, fund development, organizational effectiveness, and technology planning. The center is among the very few capacity-building organizations nationwide to receive an endowment.

The 18,000-square-foot business school faculty is set to open in the fall of 2011, and will include classroom space, the FNC Trading Center, the U.S. Steel Videoconferencing and Technology Resource Center, and the Allegheny Technologies Global Library.

“The Richard King Mellon Foundation’s support is a vote of confidence for RMU’s track record and vision for the future. We are pleased and sincerely appreciate their generous gift, and feel confident that their investment will pay dividends for the region,” said David J. Malone, vice chairman of the RMU Board of Trustees and president and CEO of Gateway Financial.

RMU is in the midst of a period of unprecedented growth. In addition to the business school building, an apartment-style residence hall is under construction and is set to open in the fall of 2011. It will house 190 students. RMU welcomed 900 freshmen students this fall, the largest incoming class in its history. Approximately 1,500 students are living on campus, also a record.
Angela Earley ’05 must have been paying attention in her business classes. Even before graduating, she already had a management job supervising staff at the bar where she worked, plus a couple of investment properties.

But it took more than business acumen to open a fresh seafood place in the Strip District, just up the road from the legendary Wholey’s. It took raw courage.

“Angela Earley ’05 must have been paying attention in her business classes. Even before graduating, she already had a management job supervising staff at the bar where she worked, plus a couple of investment properties. But it took more than business acumen to open a fresh seafood place in the Strip District, just up the road from the legendary Wholey’s. It took raw courage.

“We got a little bit lucky,” Earley says of Penn Avenue Fish Company, the hip eatery and fish market launched by her and business partner Henry Dewey in 2007. “Business wasn’t always as good as it is now. We just work really hard.”
A wise man once said to a not-so-wise man, “Be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it.” The not-so-wise man replied, “Get serious! Give me what I wish for and I’ll be at the end of my troubles.” “Yes,” replied the wise man, “the front end.”

When the Pittsburgh Penguins decided to move into a new home at Consol Energy Center, I was project manager for most of the technology integration. Scoreboards, LED signs, the in-house cable network, the video control room, IT — if it had a microchip in it, chances are I had a hand in it. The new place had everything I had dreamed of in the 12 years I worked at Mellon Arena. I quickly found out the difference between dreaming about a new facility and actually being a part of the process.

A project of this size — Consol Energy Center cost over $300 million — moves fast. Plans are in place months, if not years, ahead of time. Very early on in the process, I had to be a part of a lot of technology decisions, many of which were yet to be wholly defined. I distinctly remember a meeting where we were trying to determine how much fiber optic and data cable we wanted. Never mind that we had no solid idea what equipment we were going to put at either end of those cables. The project had to move according to schedule, and we had to come up with answers.

Every item was reviewed, researched, revised, and reviewed again. Someone joked that we had 10 meetings for every dollar spent. It meant getting out of my comfort zone on a lot of things and having to drink from the fire hose. On more than one occasion I found myself in a tech meeting secretly looking up terminology on my Blackberry to be sure that the acronym we were talking about meant what I really thought it meant. It was both humbling and enriching.

In the end, we achieved our goals. We built an arena as advanced as any sports facility in the country, with enough “future-proofing” to ensure that we’re ready for upgrades and new technology.

It wasn’t until a day or so before the home opener that everything crystallized for me. I was standing on the bench watching a rehearsal, and as I looked around at everything I had been a part of, I felt an immense sense of pride in what we had accomplished. Thinking back to the beginning, I realized that we got what we wanted. It may have hurt a little at times, but in the end it was everything that I wished for.

Chris DeVivo is a media technology consultant. He writes BackTeching.com, a blog on technology and media in pro sports.
If the morning coffee ritual is an important part of your day, you should see how Seifu Haileyesus ’90 does it. The Addis Ababa native roasts fresh beans over a flame for an elaborate coffee ceremony every Saturday at his East Liberty restaurant, Tana Ethiopian Cuisine.

“Coffee is everything in Ethiopia,” says Haileyesus. “It’s a tie that connects the community. When a loved one or a good friend comes to visit you, before anything else, you start making coffee for them. It’s labor intensive and it takes time, and you are doing that out of your love and respect for the person who’s coming to see you.”

Taking time and sharing is a key feature of Ethiopian cuisine. Various thick and spicy stews are traditionally served communally on large flatbread, called injera. Everyone helps himself, tearing off a piece of injera and using it to scoop up whatever morsel looks tastiest.

Back in his business student days, Haileyesus and a few other Ethiopian friends used to have to drive to Washington, D.C., to load up on injera. Now there are two Ethiopian restaurants in the city — both, as it happens, in resurgent East Liberty, only a block away from each other (Tana is on Baum, across from PNC Bank). Haileyesus doesn’t mind the competition; he recalls a time when he could count all the Indian restaurants in town on one hand. A former project development director with the Minority Enterprise Corporation who helped several small companies get off the ground before launching his own business, he says he has faith in the free market. “Believe me, I would love there to be three or four more Ethiopian restaurants in our neighborhood.”

Of course, he’s also confident his is the best. It’s the only one that’s Ethiopian-owned and operated, and the only one where you can have an Ethiopian beer or honey wine with your meal. Everything in the kitchen comes from back home, Haileyesus says, including his sisters, who do most of the cooking.

And if you come at lunchtime on Saturday, he’ll take the time to roast you some coffee.

W RITTEN  B Y  M A R K  H O U S E R

PH O TO G RA PH Y B Y  J O E  A PPEL
“Chief flunkie” is how Jack McCartney’s father, J.R. McCartney Sr., describes his role at the Robert Morris University School of Business. Records show his actual title was vice president, which is far more important as any in shaping the future of Robert Morris University.

His father, J.R. McCartney Sr., purchased the for-profit accounting and secretarial school in 1948. The elder McCartney also owned a public accounting firm in Pittsburgh, and he did not oversee day-to-day operations at Robert Morris. So Jack McCartney went to work for his father in 1956, not long after graduating from Notre Dame. He wasn’t yet 30 when, under his leadership, the school purchased the Kaufmann order to build a suburban campus, McCartney said, was a residential home. For recruiters, McCartney hired several IBM typewriter salesmen. The challenge was where to teach all these new students. Robert Morris offered accounting classes at the Times Building on Fourth Avenue and its secretarial program at the William Penn Hotel. In 1959, the school also had snatched up the Rust Engineering Building on Fifth Avenue, which later became known as the Pittsburgh Center.

The way the son saw it, business school was recruiting for growth. Indeed, the township population has doubled during the nearly 40 years that RMU has called it home.

Kaufmann wanted $650,000 for his 230-acre estate, far more than the school could afford. But he agreed to accept virtually nothing up front and allowed the school to pay him the balance over the next several years. The first group of residential students lived in the Kaufmann mansion, where Massey Hall now sits.

Soon after the move to Moon, Pennsylvania changed its certification rules for accountants; candidates for the CPA exam now would need a college degree. In order to keep serving its students, Robert Morris had to become a junior college, which meant seeking nonprofit status. The McCarts formally severed ties in 1966 to seek out other business opportunities. Jack McCartney went on to operate other proprietary schools, including the Pittsburgh Technical Institute, which he rescued from bankruptcy, as well as Robert Morris University-Illinois, which was briefly affiliated with its Pittsburgh namesake and today is a nonprofit school.

McCartan has nothing but praise for the three men who succeeded his father as president — the late Charles Sewall, Edward Nicholson, and current President Gregory Dell’Omo — each of whom has left an indelible mark on the university.

“Robert Morris has been fortunate that we’ve had good people at the helm,” says McCartney. “When you look back on the evolution in terms of program offerings, it’s been slow, steady growth, which is the way to do it — with a consistent focus on quality.”

WRITTEN BY JONATHAN POTTS
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY RMU ARCHIVES

This Christmas, Edith Bryan ’43 kept up a nearly 70-year tradition: She exchanged Christmas cards with her friends from the Robert Morris School of Business secretarial studies program.

Classes were held in the William Penn Hotel, and the bustle of downtown Pittsburgh helped the young women to cement their friendships. “The places to eat were so crowded, so I started carrying my lunch. So did some of the other girls,” says Bryan, a lifelong Duquesne resident. “There were four girls I used to eat lunch with all the time. I started writing to them at Christmas, and we’ve done it to these many long years.”

Bryan’s classmate-correspondents include Dorothy Hall McWilliams’43 and Ruth Barney ’43, other classmates, including twin sisters Elsie McKee ’43 and Dorothy Kiehl ’43, have passed away.

Barney, now of Peters Township, commuted from Burgettstown, a community 30 miles west of Pittsburgh that was a busy commuter rail hub. “I sometimes came running, but I always made it on time,” she recalls. Bryan and McWilliams rode the rails along the Monongahela River to the B&O terminal on Smithfield Street. “The trains were so dirty: the seats, the windows,” said McWilliams, now of Murrysville. “Riding on them, it was hard to keep clean.”

On occasion, the friends would splurge on a hot lunch at the Tic Toc Restaurant in Kaufmann’s department store. They have plenty of memories from their year. Robert Morris offered swimming classes in the hotel pool, but students were barred from using the elevators. “Those were for paying guests only,” Bryan recalls. Still, protocol couldn’t keep the students from star-gazing as the William Penn played host to famous musicians and movie idols. “We got word that Frank Sinatra was going to be there,” McWilliams recalls. “We were hunting for him. I remember a few of us running up a stairway to see him. It was from a distance, but we caught a glimpse of him.”

As graduates, the women found a robust job market. Barney became a secretary at Weirton Steel in West Virginia. Bryan was contacted about office jobs downtown, but opted instead for the steel works back home. “In the mill, I could get better pay, and had no transportation costs or commute,” she says. “I could go home for lunch.”

McWilliams worked for lawyers downtown for a few years before wearying of the commute and taking a job at Westinghouse’s East Pittsburgh facility. There she met her future husband. Once they wed, her career at Westinghouse was over. “Married women weren’t allowed to work. It was a rule,” McWilliams recalls. “Some women kept it a secret and kept working. But since everyone at work knew my husband, I was laid off. We didn’t think anything of it at the time.”

WRITTEN BY BONNIE PISTER
Alumni who come back to campus say it all the time: Robert Morris University has gone through so many transformations they hardly recognize it.

That just adds to the challenge for Warner Johnson, but it also guarantees his work is never boring. As director of development and alumni relations, it’s Johnson’s job to ensure that all graduates — those whose Robert Morris experience was at a downtown business school or a regional junior college, as well as those who collected their diplomas at Sewall Center last spring — know they are equally valued. He wants them all to know they are all important to RMU’s future and the path it’s charting. That means finding ways to keep them involved.

The creation of a new Alumni Association Council last year was a big step forward, Johnson says. In fact, it is probably the most important development in his view since he came to RMU four years ago. The council, a volunteer steering group that currently numbers about 30 members, meets regularly and offers alumni the chance to take a personal role in building the community and network.

That can happen in a variety of ways. Some council members plan new alumni-only programs, like last year’s “speed networking” event at a downtown club where more than 100 people stopped by for cocktails, some low-key practice at self-marketing, and a chance to collect some new entries for their contacts folders. Other council members welcome folks at receptions, or even grill hot dogs at the Homecoming hospitality tent. Several members got to meet the next generation of RMU students in the fall, as the council started a new tradition — helping freshmen and their families on Move-In Day.

Jack Foster M’95 was one of the council volunteers handing out bottled water, reassuring nervous parents, and lending a hand with boxes. “It was a very nice day, and a great gesture on the part of the university,” says the U.S. Steel tax accountant, whose son, Patrick, is now a senior at the university. “Helping out on Move-In Day was just one of the benefits of staying involved, and I will be here next year and for years to come.”

“Move-In Day is something the council decided they wanted to do on their own, and I welcomed it,” Johnson said. “Who better to meet the new freshmen here than the people who already lived and breathed it, and who know the benefits of being an RMU graduate.”

A lot of Johnson’s time is traveling, meeting alumni on the road at basketball games, receptions, dinners, and other events. This year he’s already booked trips to Philadelphia, Washington, Florida, and Dallas, with more to come. After four years, he says he is getting a real picture of the diversity of RMU alumni stories, and an appreciation for the challenges they’ve overcome and the lives they’ve built. “The best part of my job is hearing their experiences from when they were students, and then seeing the successes they’ve had after graduation,” he says.

A commitment to service is a guiding principle for the Benedictine friars at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, where Johnson earned his degree and where he worked as director of alumni relations before coming to RMU. That attitude made an impression on him, he says, and it still motivates him each day. “I think that’s kind of how I view my job at the alumni office,” he says. “We are here to serve you.”

Written by Mark Houser
Illustration by Amy Joy
Homecoming weekend at Robert Morris University was extra busy this year for students and alumni of the sport management program, which celebrated its 35th anniversary with a conference and banquet. The program, part of the School of Business, enrolls nearly 300 students, and the annual conference gives them a chance to network with sports executives at roundtable discussions and break-out sessions.

Murray Cohn ’88, vice president of team sales for the NBA, gave a motivational speech to students on how to network, gain internship experience in the industry, and eventually get a job. Then he invited his listeners to e-mail him their “elevator speech” — a one-minute self-promotion pitch, explaining why a sports organization should bring them on as an intern. Fifty-seven students took him up on the offer, and Cohn within weeks had secured internship interviews with professional teams for eight of them. “I appreciate what my professors did for me as a student, so it is an honor and a privilege to help future students achieve careers in the sports industry,” Cohn says.

“I’m impressed at the number of presenters and alumni who come out to support the students,” says Russ Yurk ’94, who was at the conference for the first time. “These people understand the importance of networking and giving back to the students,” says Yurk, who works in event management for the Frozen Four NCAA hockey tournament, which RMU will host at the Consol Energy Center in 2013.

“The sport management program is all about ‘paying it forward,’” says Angela Churchill ’01. “You feel it as a student, and as an alum, you’re proud to be the one giving it back to the current students.”

The banquet honored David Synowka, Ph.D., who has been an integral part of both the sport management and athletics programs at RMU for more than 30 years. First hired as a trainer, as a professor Synowka has helped prepare hundreds of students for careers throughout the industry, and his former students work at all levels in sports: professional teams, league governing bodies, facility management, recreation programs, athletics departments in colleges and high schools, sales, marketing, and entrepreneurs. Several of them were on hand for a good-natured “roast” of Synowka, before he was added to the program’s Hall of Fame. Synowka got another surprise that left him speechless: The university named the athletic training room after him.

Four others also were inducted into the Hall of Fame this year: Michael Doherty, former chair of the program’s advisory board, now with Sherpa Resources, where he manages the “Heinz Red Zone” promotion with the Pittsburgh Steelers; Harry Leckemby ’87, director of sports and athletic sales at BookMyGroup; Steve Swetoha ’86, president and chief revenue officer for the WNBA’s Tulsa Shock; and Albert “Skip” Applin, RMU’s first department chair for sport management.

“The historical success of the program is due to the educational foundation in business, engaged learning with internships, projects, and volunteer opportunities to apply conceptual knowledge, a dedicated faculty with an emphasis on the student, and strong industry relationships with our advisory board and alumni network,” Synowka says.

Written by Sara Meier
Photography by Alissa Dorman

See highlights of the Sport Management banquet at Foundations Online.
Abundant with all the literature a child could ever dream about, the office of Carianne Bernadowski, Ph.D., looks like a cross between a busy professor's room and a children's library. Adorning the walls are bookshelves swallowed up by colorful paperbacks, a telltale sign of the effervescent personality who sits just a few feet away.

Bernadowski, an assistant professor of education, has been passionate about literacy since childhood, when her mother used to read to her as part of their nighttime ritual. In 2008 Bernadowski and students launched RMU Educators Advocating Literacy, an organization whose members visit children in the Mooncrest low-income housing development to read together and do other activities. "Those kids look forward to our students," she says. "That one story they hear when our students visit might just be the only book those kids get to read all week."

Scheduling Bernadowski for this interview was a difficult feat, and for good reason. It was spring scheduling, which meant spending quality advising time with over 70 students. And to her, students are top priority.

"When I was an undergrad, I always felt lost," she says. Her professors didn't take the time to get to know her personally. "I swore if I ever taught, I would make sure my students knew I cared. I would know their stories."

And Bernadowski is all about making a difference in the lives of those around her. "Being the change" is what we teach students at RMU. I'm here to give my students the tools needed to positively impact a child's life. But they need to see us as professors doing the same for them."

When you ask Andrea Beats about Robert Morris University, one word comes to mind: opportunity.

"RMU gives you the opportunity to find yourself, to become all that you’re capable of," Beats says. "It helps you figure out a path for your life and then how to follow that path."

The senior accounting and management major from Elma, N.Y., is this year's recipient of the university's Rising Star Award. The award is given each year to a graduating senior who demonstrates academic success, individuality, determination, passion, and potential in his or her field of study.

Beats is co-founder and former president of RMU's American Humanities Program, which prepares students for entry-level jobs in the nonprofit sector. She also is on the board of the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and works as an administrative intern in the local Social Security Administration office.

This past summer, Beats went to Cairo, Egypt, for six weeks for a study abroad program. When she returned, she received two pieces of mail: one, a card a girl made to thank her for all the time she volunteers at the YMCA; the other, a letter from the Central Asia Institute thanking Beats for leading a student fundraiser that raised more than $3,000 for the organization, which builds schools for girls in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"I would say I've had the change to change many lives here," she says. "Everyone who has touched my life here has taken part in molding me to be bold and feel as though I can accomplish anything."

WRITTEN BY VALENTINE J. BIRKICH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MITCH KRAMER '08

"When I was an undergrad, I always felt lost," she says. Her professors didn't take the time to get to know her personally. "I swore if I ever taught, I would make sure my students knew I cared. I would know their stories."

And Bernadowski is all about making a difference in the lives of those around her. "Being the change" is what we teach students at RMU. I'm here to give my students the tools needed to positively impact a child's life. But they need to see us as professors doing the same for them."

WRITTEN BY KAYLEE STUMM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MITCH KRAMER '08
**CLASS NOTES**

**1950s**

**BETTY POLINCHAK ZUBKO ’55** was named president of Allegheny Technologies Inc. this summer. Betty fondly remembers her days at Robert Morris, where she took a 6-month business course and made the dean’s list.

**1980s**

**SUSAN KAPUSTA ’81** was named one of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Hunger Awareness Day winners. Her work, which included coordinating the Scouting for Food Campaign, has raised more than $500,000 worth of donations for the food bank.

**JEFFREY DIANE ’87** was elected CEO of the Pittsburgh accounting firm Malin Bergquist. Diane is a nationally known expert in international financial reporting standards and has helped to grow the firm’s business overseas, particularly in Germany. She resides in New Brighton.

**MAVIS RAINEY ’88** is the newest member of the board of directors for the Port Authority of Allegheny County. She also is executive director of Oakland’s Transportation Management Association. Mavis resides in Pittsburgh.

**1990s**

**AARON MALIGNANI ’93** was promoted to managing director of Durkin Group LLC. Aaron resides in Venetia, Pa.

**VICKI L. MCNAMARA MARSH ’98** was promoted to manager in the tax department of Alpern Rosenthal. Vicki resides in Monroeville.

**MICHAEL CODELY ’98** is a financial advisor with D.B. Root & Co. and recently was recognized for outstanding service in a client-based research study. He also received the 2010 Five-Star “Best in Client Satisfaction”.

---

**2011 Alumni Tour

France**

May 14-23, 2011

A luxurious, private tour of Paris and Normandy with RMU President Greg Dell’Omo and his wife, Polly.

We’ll fly direct from Pittsburgh to Paris, then on to Normandy and the French countryside.

To learn more about the trip and how to join our tour group, contact Jay Carson at (412) 397-5870 or carsonj@rmu.edu.

The tour is open to all alumni and friends of Robert Morris University.

We want to make Foundations your favorite magazine.

Help us do a better job.

Watch your e-mail in the next couple weeks for a link to our new readership survey. And please take a moment to tell us what you like, and what you’d like to see more of.
Wealth Manager award. Cooley resides in Pittsburgh.

2000s

CRAIG BARCH ’00 and Chintsy Knutz were married on Oct. 17, 2009. Craig is a CT technologist at Alle-Kiski Medical Center. The Barches reside in Natrona Heights.

CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS M’00 was promoted from advanced to senior staff member of Herbein + Co. Inc. He resides in Pittsburgh.

MOISE “MO” BAPTISTE ’01 earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Miami University of Ohio. He is now an assistant professor of education at Ithaca College and lives in upstate New York.

VICTORIA MELL ’03 of Collier Township was elected chairman of the board for Clearview Federal Credit Union in June. She is the vice president of human resources & support services for Ohio Valley General Hospital in Kennedy Township. Victoria lives in Columbia Station, Ohio.

MICHELLE TRIMBLE ’03 has reached the 1,000-hour mark in the APHA Ride America Program with her mare Tandy’s Rosy Jomlar while training and competing in horse shows and trail riding in the Cleveland area. Michelle is an inside sales representative for Pennsylvania with Progressive Commercial Auto.

2001s


CHRISSY DEVIVO ’03 and ELIZABETH JORDAN DEVIVO ’02 welcomed their second child, Aliana Catherine, on Aug. 19, 2009. She joins her big brother, Carter, who is now 4. Chris is a media technology consultant and recently played a major role in the construction of the new Cornell Energy Center (See story on page 18.) Elizabeth spent six years as a TV news producer and is now enjoying full-time motherhood.

A new photo was added of COLLEEN LOYD ’95 and her daughter Morgan. Colleen lives in Clarendon Hills, Ill., where she is responsible for supporting and expanding efforts in energetic informatics, information technology, and virtual reality.

2002s

MAURO MONZ M’00 has joined Robert Morris University’s women’s ice hockey team. He will help develop players on the team and look for new players all around the world.

CARRIE COGGHLAN ’02 was elected to Magpas/Women’s Research Institute & Foundation as the president and cofounder. As president of D.B. Root & Co., she was also recognized by her peers in the Pittsburgh region in the 2010 “Best in Client Satisfaction” Wealth Manager award. She is a member of the RMU Board of Trustees and resides in Pittsburgh.

Adam Sullivan ’03 M’06 is the curriculum and instruction designer for online programs at RMU. He and his wife, COURTNEY MACK SULLIVAN ’04 M’06, live in McDonald.

Amy Frizzi ’06 was promoted to supervisor at Sieteroor & Co. LLP. She resides in Pittsburgh.

JESSICA HOFF ’06 is a Flash developer at Brunnen. She resides in Moon Township.

JOSEPH HOMAN M’06 D’10 is executive director of Energetics Technology Center La Plata, Md., where he is responsible for supporting and expanding efforts in energetic informatics, information technology, and virtual reality.

PAM TURNER M’06 is director of student placement & career counseling at Chatham University. She lives in Pittsburgh.
FEBRUARY 26

WINTERBLAST ‘11

Come cheer on the Colonials — plus fun extras for the whole family!

1 p.m. — Men’s lacrosse vs. Manhattan
4 p.m. — Women’s hoops vs. Mount St. Mary’s
7 p.m. — Men’s hoops vs. Wagner

For details: (412) 397-2586
www.rmu.edu/alumni

SNLEH ATIHOTA M’10 is a business analyst at Highmark BCBS in Pittsburgh. She lives in Moon Township.

CHRISTINA MITEFF WORTZMANN ’16 M’18 is an HR business partner with BNY Mellon. She and her husband, ERIC WORTZMANN ’10, M’15/’17, reside in Pittsburgh.

2010s

STEPHEN ROBERT ’10 joined MetLife as a financial services representative. He resides in Pittsburgh.

MICHELE LANGHEIN D’10 is an assistant professor of business at Point Park University and director of the school’s accelerated bachelor’s degree program. Michele lives in Bethel Park.

JESSICA WEARY ’10 was named an assistant women’s soccer coach at Point Park University.

In Memoriam

BARBARA SEPASIE SAGONA ’59 of Bellville Vernon passed away on July 28.

MICHAEL MARSHALL ’94 passed away on July 5 at the age of 61. He resided in Pittsburgh.

KATHLEEN HOOPER PULIO ’98 passed away on September 4 at the age of 45 after a two-year battle with lymphoma. She resided in her dream home in Barberry Court, Murrysville, with her husband Raymond Pujol, and their son, Clay.

CAESAR GAROFILI, M.D., an Emeritus Trustee of Robert Morris University, passed away October 1. A 30-year trustee of RMU, Dr. Garofoli was a wise counsel, said former President EDWARD NICHOLSON. “Dr. Garofoli was always concerned that we had strong programs to help students find employment,” he said. “He was also sensitive to the cost of higher education for students, often urging us to keep tuition down and scholarship aid high.”

Dr. Garofoli had a distinguished medical career. A former president of the medical staff and trustee of St. Clair Hospital, he was given the Nathaniel Bedford scholarship aid high.”

The first fraternity on campus, Alpha Chi Rho, is renewing its charter at RMU after a 13-year hiatus. Fraternity members and the new class of postulants celebrated at a tailgate party at the Colonials’ home opener. Aided by graduate chapter president and BNY Mellon wealth strategist KEN CHAPEL ’91 M’91 (front row, left), the fraternity also redefined its endowed scholarship, named for brother and longtime advisor NORBERT PIETRZAK, PH.D.

> SOUTHWEST FOR THE WINTER

ROB BRAKEL ’91 and RYAN RECKER ’01 joined a vocal contingent of Colonials fans rooting for the men’s basketball team at their Dec. 22 away game vs. the Arizona Wildcats. A lively alumni reception at Sam Hughes’ Place in Tucson took away some of the sting of an 82-56 loss.

> ALPH A CHI RHO RETURNS

The first fraternity on campus, Alpha Chi Rho, is renewing its charter at RMU after a 13-year hiatus. Fraternity members and the new class of postulants celebrated at a tailgate party at the Colonials’ home opener. Aided by graduate chapter president and BNY Mellon wealth strategist KEN CHAPEL ’91 M’91 (front row, left), the fraternity also redefined its endowed scholarship, named for brother and longtime advisor NORBERT PIETRZAK, PH.D.

> HIGH-SPEED HOBNOBBING

A speed networking event at Cafe Eats in August drew 60 people for an evening of fast, fun, friendly mingling. It was one of the first initiatives of the new RMU Alumni Association Council (see page 25) and was hosted jointly with Pittsburgh Young Professionals. Special thanks to event chairman JEFF SASSANO ’87, owner of Massage Envy in Oakland.
How did getting engaged at Robert Morris help your career?

What's the weirdest thing that's ever happened to you in the music business?

What’s the music biz like?

What’s the hottest band/artist you’ve worked with that you’re most proud of? Why?

What made Robert Morris such a special place for you?

What’s the most passionate and driven artist you’ve worked with and why?

What’s your favorite movie? Why?

What’s the most profound lesson you’ve learned from your dad?

What’s the most memorable moment of your career?

What’s Music Biz Fizzz?

Who is your current favorite recording artist? Why?

What do you do for fun?

What is your favorite type of music? Why?

What’s your favorite memory from Robert Morris University?

What’s your proudest moment from Robert Morris University?

What’s your favorite moment from Robert Morris University?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?

What’s your favorite memory from Colonial Theatre?