A Strategy for Success
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

There’s a saying: You can’t improve what you can’t measure.

It’s a philosophy that has animated the career of Norman Gottschalk Jr. ’67, who received the 2012 Alumni Heritage Award at the President’s Council Dinner in December. Norm is the president and CEO of Marmon Distribution Services, Inc., the largest specialty tubular products distributor in North America.

By all accounts Norm is a data-driven decision maker, a leader who believes, in his words, in “management by walking around”: talking to employees at all levels of the organization about their jobs, what they think works and what doesn’t, and what they would do to improve the company.

I’d like to think that Norm’s approach took root while he was an accounting student at Robert Morris. Norm certainly gives plenty of credit for his success to RMU, as you’ll read on page 8 of this edition of Foundations. “Everything we have to this day,” Norm says, speaking of himself and his wife, Patty, “our beautiful children, some of the things we’ve acquired, we all owe to this institution.”

It’s a testament to the high regard in which Norm holds his alma mater that his grandson Brett Carb chose to enroll here. Brett has lived with Norm and Patty since the death of his mother, who was the oldest of their four children. Because Norm took all his classes in downtown Pittsburgh, a visit with Brett was his first time on the Moon campus. Norm says it left quite an impression: “My mouth just dropped. I couldn’t believe this was Robert Morris. It was so different.”

Brett is now a junior, and the changes at RMU have continued apace, even since that first visit with his grandfather. We are pleased with the progress we’ve made, though – at the risk of sounding immodest – not entirely surprised. After all, we charted it all back in 2007 in our five-year strategic plan, which is detailed for you in a special section of this magazine. Not only did we set goals, we also specified how to measure our progress, which now allows us to identify the challenges and opportunities that we will tackle in our next strategic plan.

It’s the same formula that any smart organization follows to grow in a highly competitive industry, to thrive while navigating turbulent times. Just ask Norm Gottschalk. He might just tell you that he learned it here.

Sincerely,

GREGORY G. DEL’OMO, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
Executive Report: A Strategy for Success

In this special 16-page section, we review the university’s performance against its 2007-12 Strategic Plan benchmarks and look ahead to the priorities in the next plan.

Welcome Home, John

Legendary coach and Moon Township native John Calipari brought his Kentucky Wildcats to Sewall Center, where the Colonials pulled off the biggest upset in their history.

Creating a Legacy

Norman Gottschalk Jr. turned a delivery truck route into a college diploma, a successful business career, and now the 2012 Alumni Heritage Award... and a legacy at RMU.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Find out more about how the university’s Student Engagement Program gets students prepared for the world outside the university by being involved in learning outside the classroom.

10 Questions

When RMU athletes need to work on their muscles, they know it’s Hamer time — as in Todd Hamer, their strength and conditioning coach, who’s a former Virginia state champion powerlifter.
The Newest Rising Star

Corporate communications major Jasmine Tate ’13 is the latest recipient of the Rising Star Award, given to a graduating senior who demonstrates academic success, individuality, determination, passion and potential. Tate has a 3.8 GPA and has been on the Dean’s List every semester. She is a point guard on the Colonials basketball team, and despite concussion symptoms last year and a knee injury this year keeping her off the court, she’s been the team’s biggest fan, cheering from the bench at every practice and game.

A self-taught guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter, Tate sang two original songs at the President’s Council dinner at Heinz Field in December. She plans to pursue a career in programming or creative development in media, and is the host of an upcoming online talk show, “The Outcry,” on the Christian streaming video website RevTV.com.

Town and Gown

More than 200 students volunteered in Celebrate Coraopolis, a December festival hosted by the Coraopolis Community Development Foundation. Events included an elf training academy, a Christmas obstacle course, and a wreath auction, while music throughout the day was provided by the Colonial Glee singers and the band ensemble. All proceeds benefitted the foundation, which focuses on emergency relief, community resourcing, and community development.
Welcome Aboard

John Beehler, Ph.D., has been named the new dean of the School of Business. Beehler comes from the University of North Texas at Dallas, where he was most recently vice president for research, economic development and public engagement; he is also former dean of business schools at Northern Kentucky University and Wichita State University. A certified public accountant, Beehler earned a bachelor’s degree from Penn State and an M.B.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Beehler takes over from interim dean Patrick Litzinger, Ph.D., professor of economics and head of the department of economics and legal studies. The previous dean was Derya Jacobs, Ph.D., now RMU vice provost for research and graduate study.

Hail to the Chief

The Board of Trustees approved a new five-year contract for university President Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D., who has overseen a historic transformation of RMU’s Moon Township campus since he was named president in 2005. This latest agreement between Dell’Omo and the board runs through May 31, 2017.

It comes on the heels of the university’s completing its $40 million capital campaign, the largest in RMU’s 91-year history and a symbol of how the university has evolved under Dell’Omo’s leadership. The campaign paid for two new academic buildings, contributed to a 63 percent climb in the value of RMU’s endowment, and added 30 endowed scholarships and a new endowed research center. Perhaps nothing epitomizes the changing character of the RMU campus than an almost 60 percent increase in the number of students living at the Moon campus during Dell’Omo’s tenure. The transformation to a residential campus reflects new and renovated campus housing, but also the increased emphasis on student engagement and campus life that is at the heart of Dell’Omo’s legacy and is encapsulated in the Student Engagement Program, which you can read more about on page 20.

Dell’Omo also has sought to bolster RMU’s academic reputation, and during his tenure the university has strengthened its honors program, hired talented faculty, and placed an increasing emphasis on international education.

A Good Accounting

The Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants has awarded scholarships to five RMU students: Stephanie Vanscavish, Brandon Grannas, Mark Waugh, Rachel Elder, and Keegan Beemsterboer. Assistant professor of accounting Vickie Fratto, Ph.D., helped the students in their applications. Senior Michael W. Wenger was named an Outstanding College Senior by the organization.

recycle this magazine

Give it to a neighbor who’s in high school and help spread the word about RMU.
> Not Just a Day at the Beach

Two of the "best paper" awards given at the International Association For Computer Information Systems annual conference in Myrtle Beach went to RMU faculty. Jamie Pinchot, D.Sc. and Karen Paullet, D.Sc., were honored for “What’s In Your Profile? Mapping Facebook Profile Data to Personal Security Questions”; while Jeanne Baugh, Ed.D., and Paul Kovacs, Ph.D., received recognition for “Large Programming Projects for the Beginning Programmer.” Fred Kohun, Ph.D., spoke on the conference’s keynote panel. Of the 139 papers accepted at this conference — all of which will be published in Issues in Information Systems — 24 had RMU affiliations, representing 31 different authors.

> It’s a Young World After All

A mural painted at the One Young World summit was given to the university in recognition of its participation in the event, which drew 1,300 delegates from 182 countries to Pittsburgh in October. Local artist Christina Todd painted the mural — a large panel featuring the word "love" in 22 languages — during a One Young World session hosted by the MLK Project. The organization involves Pittsburgh-area youths in community beautification projects, and it unveiled a 3-story mural Downtown, facing the Boulevard of the Allies, at the same session where Todd painted the RMU mural.

Vice provost Derya Jacobs, Ph.D., who hosted a One Young World dinner in her home and who oversees RMU’s international programs, accepted the mural with President Dell’Omo in December. Editor Mark Houser took part in the planning of the One Young World summit and arranged for RMU to participate in the creation of the mural. Jacobs said she will recommend displaying the art in a prominent campus location.

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> Movers & Shakers

Five D.N.P. students at RMU have received Jonas Salk Fellowships from The Jewish Healthcare Foundation and Health Careers Futures: Kristen Graziano, Emily Starn, Allison Pavlov, Jesse Hamitz-Shenk, and Gwen Harper. These prestigious fellowships are awarded based on the applicants’ leadership, clinical expertise, and scholarship potential.

Assistant professor of education Vicki Donne, D.Ed., and students Tyler Lanciotti, Amy Burak, Jennifer Kuglar, and Ciara Slaiman-Cutone gave a presentation at the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children Conference on the classroom use of apps for the iPad and other devices to aid students with disabilities.

Denise Ramponi, D.N.P., assistant professor of nursing, spoke on suturing, minor office procedures, and chest x-ray interpretation at the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners conference in State College. She also spoke at the state-certified emergency nursing review course and at the UPMC St. Margaret’s certified emergency nursing course in Aspinwall.
Colonials = Techies

Five doctoral candidates presented research at the Fourth Annual Laurel Highlands Conference on Communications, at a panel on “The Use, Impact, and Implications of Technology in Diverse Contexts” chaired by university professor Ann Jabro, Ph.D. Brian Stevens spoke on clinical research, Jennifer Harlan on business process management, David Scibelli on business policy on personal devices, Michael Curran on social media, and Kevin Slonka on virtualization in the classroom. Assistant professor Sun-A Park, Ph.D., and lecturer Yvonne Bland also presented at the conference, along with their students.
Poor John Calipari. The former Moon Area High School junior prom king had about as awful a homecoming as a person can imagine.

Just one year removed from seeing his Kentucky Wildcats cut down the nets in the Louisiana Superdome, the legendary coach had watched his team bumble its way through a lackluster season to become one of the very few teams in Division I basketball history to miss the NCAA Tournament a year after winning it all.

A top seed in the NIT tournament was barely a consolation for Calipari, and it quickly turned more sour. Kentucky’s princely Rupp Arena was booked for the NCAA Tournament first round, so the ‘home team’ Wildcats would have to come play at the visitors’ house, Sewall Center — which has about 20,000 fewer seats.

For the Robert Morris Colonials and their fans, it was a chance to forget a dispiriting home loss the week before that bounced them from the NEC playoffs and the NCAA Tournament. For one improbable night, an elite program was coming to town, led by a hometown boy, no less. With March Madness fever building but the tournament still a couple days away, the national media focused on Moon Township.

ESPN brought its A-team. A first-time sellout crowd of 3,500 ‘Packed the Chuck.’ As far as coach Andy Toole was concerned, it was “probably the greatest consolation prize you can possibly have.”

Then came tipoff. The crowd roared as the Colonials got the first basket. Roared louder as they took a 10-0 lead. Louder still as the underdogs fought off a Kentucky run and took a 28-27 lead into the locker room at halftime. And when the Colonials tore ahead by 13 in the second, and Sewall’s wood bleachers seemed tested to the limits of their structural integrity, fans began to wonder in the booming, overheated gym if this was all really about to happen.

Of course Kentucky fought back to tie it in the last minute. But then Mike McFadden coolly dropped two free throws for the Colonials, and the final three-point attempt by the Wildcats at the buzzer clanged out. Pandemonium. RMU 59 – Kentucky 57.

And give Calipari credit — the hometown boy with the big-time program was gracious in defeat. “This is a shot in the arm for them and they deserve to win the game,” he said. “If we’d have won at the buzzer, it would have been a shame.”

Luckily, that’s one “what-if” the Colonials will never have to ask.

WRITTEN BY | MARK HOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY | MITCH KRAMER ’08
He helped turn a nearly broke Butler company into the largest specialty pipe and tube distributor in North America, and in the process, got himself on the cover of several trade magazines. But none of that makes Norman Gottschalk Jr. ’67 light up quite the way he does when he remembers the job that paid for his accounting degree at Robert Morris.

“I had an orange juice route. And I can still remember the numbers for that. Before I took over, the last guy in the truck was selling 62 bottles a week. When I left, I was selling 230 bottles a week. Whenever I had any time between studying, I would take this bottle of orange juice and knock on doors, and get people to taste it,” Gottschalk says.

“Even though my degree is in accounting, I’ve always been a salesman.”

The president and CEO of Marmon Distribution Services, Gottschalk is the recipient of RMU’s 2012 Heritage Award. The university’s highest award is given for distinguished achievement that brings honor upon the alumnus and his or her alma mater.

Gottschalk’s company buys large quantities of steel pipes and tubes from mills, keeping it in warehouses and delivering it overnight to customers in pieces cut to order. The inventory runs the
gamut from enormous pipes big enough to crawl through to pieces a person could bend bare-handed, and it is used to make pumps for oil and gas drills, framing for tractors, tubing for locomotive engines, armor for military vehicles, even material for an artificial heart.

Legacy

The company has been in an expansion mode since Gottschalk took over as CEO in 1989. From eight locations then, it has grown to 61 locations in the U.S. and Canada. But despite his natural gift of salesmanship, Gottschalk decided not to push too hard with his grandson, Brett Carb, when the young man was deciding where to go to college.

"I was worried that he was going (to choose RMU) only because I had gone there and I was somewhat successful," Gottschalk says. "What happened is, Brett went to a college fair, and he came back and said, 'The only one that was nice to me was Robert Morris. I want to tour it.' I said, 'Okay, but I want you to tour some other schools too.'"

Gottschalk attended classes downtown, so the campus tour took him by surprise. "My mouth just dropped. I couldn't believe this was Robert Morris. It's a real university. I've been lucky enough to spend some time with the teachers and Greg (Dell'Omo), and the caliber of the whole school and teachers has really just grown. I'm really proud that I'm even a little part of it."

Carb says his grandfather, despite his busy life as an executive, always made time for him. "I'm not the best basketball player, but I played basketball in grade school. And he would be out there every night — he brought a medicine ball — and we would take shots with the medicine ball. We were always working on that, getting better."

The Gottschalks' first love is boating, and for many years they have enjoyed taking their boat on voyages, whether down the Allegheny and Ohio rivers or sailfishing off the Florida coast. Sometimes it can be a distraction, since grandpa isn't shy about texting. "I'll be sitting in class at 9:30 a.m. and I'll get 10 pictures in the middle of class, and it's my grandpa with a fish this big in his lap," Carb says. "And then I'll go back a month later, and the captain's like, 'We went out last time and caught some big fish!' And then we'll go out and catch some really little fish. And I'm like, one day I'll catch my big fish, but my grandpa's probably caught five without me."

Gottschalk says he has appreciated having a child grow up in his house again, though it's quite different from the first time around. "Everybody always says grandkids are just so much nicer than kids. Grandkids are easier. That's probably because you can watch them and give them back," he says.

"We've got a lot of grandkids. Brett's the only one that lives with us. But you get the same feeling towards Brett — even when your toolkit disappears and you don't know what happened to it, that kind of stuff — you still have that feeling, you just know that you love him."

"I think maybe it's because you're older, you appreciate it more. It's better the second time around."

WRITTEN BY MARK HOUSER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WILL '08
This special executive report is a comprehensive review of Robert Morris University's performance with the conclusion of the institution's first Five-Year Strategic Plan. The plan, which covered the period 2007–2012, focused on growth and development in five targeted initiatives.

Each of the initiatives is detailed in the following pages, along with a mission statement and measures of progress. The report also includes the top achievements at each of the university's five schools, as determined by those schools' deans. It contains a detailed look at the Student Engagement Program, one of the most significant additions to the university's mission. Finally, it lays out priorities and next steps as RMU prepares its next strategic plan.
INTRODUCTION

Every time I address our readers in Foundations, I'm sharing news of yet another university milestone: The opening of new buildings. The completion of our fundraising campaign. Record-setting undergraduate enrollment.

It may seem like chest-thumping, but the reality is that the previous five years have witnessed the most deliberate growth in the history of Robert Morris University, a history that has seen the university transform itself dramatically just about once every decade since its founding in 1921.

Practically every achievement we have enjoyed in the past five years is a result of our first strategic plan, which you can read about it in the pages that follow. The improvements to campus facilities, the Student Engagement Program, accreditations and new degree programs, the capital campaign – all were goals we identified in the plan, and all were realized thanks to the steps outlined in the plan.

An oft-quoted passage from the Book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” I was fortunate when I became president to have inherited an institution of great vision that had grown from a small school of accountancy into a comprehensive university in scarcely 80 years.

But RMU faced steep challenges. Population decline in the Pittsburgh region, which still supplied the vast majority of our students, meant fewer and fewer college-age students. Many of our competitors, including lower-cost state schools, had made significant upgrades in residence halls and academic facilities. And we relied too heavily on tuition dollars for our operating revenue.

We also had many advantages, such as a beautiful, spacious campus in a safe, suburban community with easy access to downtown Pittsburgh. We offered 23 NCAA Division I sports – more than Pitt, Duquesne, or West Virginia – including college sports found nowhere else in western Pennsylvania, like ice hockey. And we boasted a consistently high placement rate for our graduates, among them the leaders of Pittsburgh’s foremost employers.

The overriding question we faced, that any organization faces, was how to build on our advantages in order to meet our challenges and position ourselves to compete into the future. The answer was our strategic plan, which a large cross-section of faculty, staff, and administrators hammered out in 2007. We identified problems and aspirations, solutions and goals, and measures of success.

Which is not to say that everything went according to plan, so to speak. We couldn’t have foreseen, for example, how the national economy would crater in 2008. That made fundraising more difficult and added additional pressure to keep tuition in check, but also made that sterling placement rate even more attractive to prospective students and their parents.

We didn’t achieve everything we wanted to, and I daresay we didn’t achieve everything we needed to. But we did put RMU in a position of strength to meet those challenges that remain in the next five years, with even more advantages to help us do the job.

– PRESIDENT GREGORY G. DELL’OMO, PH.D.
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

"RMU will strengthen all academic programs in order to maximize opportunities for students' academic success and career preparation."

RECOGNITION
The university attained its goal of having at least two nationally recognized programs. Actuarial science is designated by the Society of Actuaries as a Center of Academic Excellence, the veterans program has led to RMU’s listing in the Top 5% of Military Friendly Universities, and online degree offerings have earned the institution a spot in SuperScholar’s Smart Choice 25 Best Online Colleges. The target of at least four regionally recognized programs also was met by nursing, nuclear medicine technology, health services administration, sport management, and journalism.

DIVERSITY
The number of black and Hispanic faculty members increased, as did the number of faculty members with disabilities. Minorities make up 12% of the instructional faculty, the same proportion as in the student body.

FACULTY CREDENTIALS
Sixty percent of classes are taught by full-time faculty, up from 58% at the start of the five-year period. All new full-time faculty hires have a terminal degree in their field.

ENDOWED CHAIRS
With a $900,000 grant from the Heinz Endowments, the university established its first endowed chair in 2012 to head Uzuri, the new research center on black male educational student success. The original strategic plan aimed to establish at two endowed chairs, so the university continues to seek opportunities.

ACCREDITATIONS
In 2012 the university’s academic quality was unreservedly confirmed by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which commended RMU for its rigorous self-study process and extended its accreditation through 2022. Also, the School of Business sought and received AACSB accreditation – something only 5% of college business programs worldwide can boast. The School of Education and Social Sciences was the first in Pennsylvania to earn TEAC accreditation for its education and teacher training programs. Engineering and information systems programs were reaccredited by ABET, and the nursing school by CCNE.

online PROGRAMS
The university launched online bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in 2010. This past fall, 300 undergraduates and 200 graduate students were enrolled in RMU online courses in business, information systems, health services administration, psychology, and programs have earned top rankings from SuperScholar and U.S. News and World Report.
WHY ACCREDITATION MATTERS

Colleges and universities may make many public claims about their educational and community mission, the strength of their degrees, the quality of their programs, or the value proposition they present. The term “accreditation” describes a philosophy that the best way to determine the truth of those claims is to subject them to objective evaluation according to a consistent set of standards, guided by peers who have appropriate background to make such an assessment. Accreditation, therefore, is a critical means of self-regulation adopted by the academic community.

Universities are accredited by one of seven regional accrediting bodies, all of which develop performance measures and standards by which they will evaluate the institution and its programs. For example, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, RMU’s university-wide accrediting body, measures its member institutions against 14 “characteristics of excellence.” The characteristics evaluate the institution’s mission and goals, its leadership, its resources, the quality of its academic programs, support for its students, and, perhaps most importantly, its processes for assessment of its work. Measured by these standards, we are proud to say that RMU, in its 2011-2012 re-accreditation, was found to be in full compliance with all standards.

Full accreditation, as we have achieved, is important in that it continues to make our students eligible for all federal and state aid programs, but equally importantly, it is a mark of excellence that prospective students and parents can rely on in selecting our institution. A fully accredited institution attracts stronger candidates when we are recruiting for faculty and staff positions. And for current students and alumni, a degree from a fully accredited institution carries weight in the marketplace.

In addition to university accreditation, the world of higher education has a number of programmatic accrediting bodies. The goals are similar to institutional accreditation, to provide objective evidence of program quality that results in attracting quality students and faculty to the programs and enhancing the value of the degrees earned.

– PROVOST DAVID JAMISON, J.D.
UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE

“Enhance the quality of academic programs and student life experiences to promote enrollment of students with diverse backgrounds who show promise of success, to engage students in their own learning, and to provide appropriate support for their retention and graduation.”

Last year 32% of incoming freshmen had graduated in the top 25% of their high school class, a share that has risen each year. The average GPA of new freshmen is 3.44, up from 3.24 at the start of the five-year period. SAT scores also have increased.

RMU was among the first private universities to guarantee free tuition to all veterans eligible for the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which covers tuition only up to the rate of state schools. Thanks to that commitment and other initiatives, including the new VETS Center in Jefferson Center, nearly 250 veterans are now enrolled at RMU, compared to 30 in 2008.
EXECUTIVE REPORT

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
The university created a graduation requirement of achievement outside the classroom in six categories, including leadership positions, research projects, international and cross-cultural experiences, and pre-professional work and internships. To support this effort, RMU named its first dean of student engagement. (See full story on page 20.)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
The office of student life met targets for creating new extracurricular activities, new professional and social clubs and organizations, new community service projects, and multicultural and diversity programs, as well as increased student participation in each to create a true living-learning environment.

ENROLLMENT
The university exceeded targeted growth in full-time traditional undergraduate enrollment, climbing 17% over five years to 3,517 this fall. More than half of those students reside on campus, another measure that outstripped the plan target. While enrollment in master's degree programs fell a bit short of growth goals, doctoral program admissions exceeded them.

GRADUATION AND RETENTION
The university met targets for raising the six-year graduation rate, which climbed three points to 59%. The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate also met growth targets; four of every five freshmen continue as sophomores.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
Students on the NEC Commissioner’s Honor Roll (with a 3.75+ GPA).
"Develop a strategy to modernize RMU's facilities infrastructure so that it is a key factor in the students' and faculty's decision to attend and work at RMU. A strong focus will be placed upon creating a positive living/learning environment and a sense of place."

**technology UPGRADES**

All classrooms have been provided with presentation equipment, or "smartboards." The IT help desk was expanded to 24/7 coverage.

**athletic facilities**

A new softball field was built, lights were installed to allow night games at Joe Walton Stadium, and improvements were made at Sewall Center arena and Island Sports Center.

**NEW ACADEMIC & ACTIVITY SPACE**

A new academic building was built for the School of Business, and another campus building was completely transformed to create the Wheatley Center, the new home of the School of Communication and Information Systems. The nuclear medicine program was moved to renovated space in the Benjamin Rush Center and the School of Education and Social Sciences moved to a new and improved location in Nicholson Center. Student dining spaces were added or renovated, and the Jefferson Center remodeled to include a veterans center and 24/7 computer lab. Reorganization has opened more space for both the Center for Student Success and student health and wellness center.

**STUDENT HOUSING**

Several of the residence halls that date back to the opening of the Moon campus 50 years ago underwent comprehensive exterior and interior renovations. RMU went beyond the plan's initial vision, building two new apartment-style residence halls and buying the Holiday Inn, which is now used for campus housing with plans for further renovation. With more than half of undergraduates now living in campus housing, the transition from commuter to residential school is increasingly evident.

**DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

New campus electrical and sanitary sewer systems were installed, and main water lines and storm drains were updated. New roofs and HVAC upgrades were added for most buildings, as well as security systems and cameras.

**PITTSBURGH**

The two Downtown buildings were sold, with the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management and some part-time undergraduate and graduate programs moving to a new downtown location at the Heinz 57 Center. The one remaining downtown full-time undergraduate program, media arts, moved to the Moon campus, unifying the School of Communications and Information Systems.

**CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION**

The goal of one project a year was met, with the gazebo, memorial garden at Rogal Chapel, renovation of Rudolph Gardens, plazas and stairways in the residence hall area, and other projects.

**CAMPUS BUILDINGS**

30 CAMPUS BUILDINGS GOT NEW ROOFS.

13 CAMPUS BUILDINGS UNDERWENT MAJOR RENOVATIONS.

**PARKING SPACES**

500 PARKING SPACES WERE ADDED TO ALLEVIATE A GROWING CAMPUS PARKING CRUNCH.
SOLIDIFY & LEVERAGE REPUTATION

"Increase and enhance market awareness of RMU. Stress core competencies, promote signature programs, bring focus to main campus, highlight athletics."

MEDIA COVERAGE
Stories about RMU in local media outlets, higher ed and trade publications, and online more than doubled in the last five years, far exceeding targeted expectations.

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING
Despite a significant cut in the advertising budget, the university created the award-winning "Change a Life" commercials and related materials. That campaign underlines RMU's holistic approach to education — that students can prepare for successful careers while also giving of themselves and serving others.

RANKING
The university has steadily risen in the U.S. News & World Report annual listings — rising 12 places last year alone — and is currently No. 70 in the North regional rankings, which includes 11 states from Maryland to Maine. A key component of rank is a survey of university officials in peer institutions throughout the region; RMU's current peer ranking score of 2.8 of 5 is its best ever, up from 2.6 five years ago.

ATHLETICS
Half of the goal of having a nationally ranked team at the end of the season in a men’s and a women’s sport was met in 2010, with football finishing at No. 25 in the FCS coaches' and overall polls. Men's hockey and lacrosse programs have also held national rankings during their seasons. While no women's team was nationally ranked, individual athletes excelled, including Team USA hockey goalie and Olympic silver medalist Brianne McLaughlin and Greek basketball star Artemis Spanou, a four-time MVP in European championships. Student attendance at games has exceeded a targeted 10% increase each year, and enthusiasm is high, as seen by the Colonial Crazies and other fans. Boosters now can support the program through the new 1921 Club.
STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL POSITION

"Strengthen the university's fiscal and capital position through enhanced and diversified revenue streams, increasing private, state, and federal support, and optimizing existing and new auxiliary enterprises."

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
As called for in the five-year plan, the university and its Board of Trustees planned and carried out a successful capital campaign that raised $40 million, making it the largest in the institution's history. The campaign paid for two new academic buildings, grew the endowment by 63 percent, added 30 endowed scholarships, and created Uzuri, the new research center on black male educational student success.

ENDOWMENT
Like higher education institutions across the country, Robert Morris saw the value of its endowment plunge with the 2008 financial crisis and market crash. But the endowment, which at one point had lost nearly half its value, has fully recovered and now stands at more than $27 million.

ANNUAL GIVING
More than 3,000 people made a yearly donation to RMU last year, beating the final target by 10%. In the last five years, almost 800 new donors committed to supporting the university through annual contributions.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
Supporters giving $1,000 or more annually to the university.

ENDOWMENT

2009
$16 mil
NOW
$28 mil

IN Initiative > 5
RMU needs to complete further upgrades to its academic facilities. The university completed construction of two new academic buildings, overhauled classrooms in the Hale Center, and renovated academic space throughout campus under the last plan. Next on the horizon is a new building for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, which will include a medical simulation center that will serve health care workers throughout the region. Notably, the University Library is in need of modernization, an essential element in maintaining the overall quality of academic programs.

Other facilities are in need of enhancement, including residential and recreational spaces on campus. Most of the traditional residence halls have been renovated, but the largest, Washington Hall, is among those still in need of an upgrade. RMU purchased the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport, which now houses Yorktown Hall, and plans are in the works to convert the entire building to a residence hall with dining and conference facilities. The fitness center in Jefferson Center has not kept pace with skyrocketing growth in residential student enrollment, and the quality of athletics facilities doesn’t always match the performance of the teams that compete there.

The university will continue to improve the quality of its academic programs, upon which the reputation of any university ultimately rests. RMU made great strides under our previous plan, earning several program-specific accreditations, hiring more full-time faculty, and boosting the University Honors Program, to list a few examples. Yet work still remains. An essential part is to encourage and support more faculty research, which informs good teaching. Assessment tools need to be implemented to measure how much students learn. The rising cost of higher education has students, families, and the general public demanding greater accountability for colleges and universities. RMU provides great value, but we shouldn’t expect you to take our word for it.

Finally, we must continue to strengthen RMU’s financial position, and in particular to reduce the budget’s reliance on tuition. The institution took an important step toward this goal with the successful completion of its first comprehensive capital campaign and the growth of the annual giving program. Yet tuition, room, and board still provide 82 percent of the university operating budget, which places an undue burden on students and allows very little cushion in meeting year-to-year enrollment targets. RMU has an obligation to its students to continue to increase philanthropic support for Robert Morris as well as identify other sustainable revenue streams. If we do not achieve this goal, we will not achieve any others.
When Kiersten Metzger '13 graduates in May and starts searching for a teaching position, she knows the competition will be fierce. But she’s not worried. In her time here at Robert Morris University, Metzger, who is president of her class, has built a solid record of engagement as a first-year studies mentor for three years, secretary and media coordinator of the Claddagh Club, historian and secretary for Kappa Delta Rho, and a Colonial Ambassador.

And it’s all being documented on her Student Engagement Transcript.
"My S.E.T. will enable employers to see how active I was in school," she says. "It will show them that I work well with others, that I’m not afraid to try new things, and that I’m a hard worker, too. It’s a valuable companion piece to my resume."

RMU has always tried to give students like Metzger educational opportunities that go beyond the walls of the classroom; ways for them to get their hands dirty, try things outside of their comfort zone, and have real, tangible experiences that will benefit them after graduation. It wasn’t until 2009, however, that the university developed its Student Engagement Program to officially document and mandate these experiences so that students would have something to show employers down the road. It’s a philosophy that underlies RMU’s mission to change its students’ lives.

Through the program, students’ leadership roles, community service hours, international study trips, and internships are officially documented on this second transcript. Students must fulfill requirements in at least two of six categories: Arts, Culture, and Creativity; Global Experience; Undergraduate Research; Service; Leadership; and Professional Experience. This year’s graduating class is the first for whom participation in the program was a requirement for graduation.

Matthew Feryus ’11 is a graduate of the actuarial science program. "The Student Engagement Transcript conveyed the amount and variety of my extracurricular involvement at Robert Morris, and it enabled me to emphasize my professional achievements on my resume," says Feryus, who works for Florida Blue in Jacksonville and was recently named an associate of the Society of Actuaries. He included his S.E.T. while applying for the John Culver Wooddy Scholarship, which gives preference to candidates who demonstrate leadership potential through their extracurricular activities. "I really believe it helped me receive that scholarship," he says.

Shari Payne, Ed.D., is dean of engaged learning at the university. She continuously looks for new experiential opportunities, working closely with students to give them access to the out-of-the-classroom experiences that are part of an RMU education. "Our Student Engagement Program is invaluable to our students," says Payne. "The S.E.T. is an important companion piece to their resume and a real draw to potential students," says Payne. "They understand that employers want people who are well-rounded and aren’t afraid to try new things."

One such employer is Susan M. Suver, vice president of human resources at U.S. Steel Corp., which has long been a supporter of RMU and its students. "Today, many employers are focused on selecting extremely well-rounded individuals as they recruit from college campuses," says Suver, a member of the university’s Board of Trustees. "While strong academic performance in an academic major will continue to be very important, more frequently employers are also looking at community service, students with work experience including internships and co-op experiences, and those with involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, arts and music, special projects, and student leadership. That’s what makes RMU’s Student Engagement Transcript so valuable."

And for students like Metzger, having an official, university-endorsed record of their involvement is just another advantage they’ll have as they enter the job market. "There are a lot of people applying for the same positions as me," she says. "So having the S.E.T. sent along with my transcripts will definitely give me an advantage."

WRITTEN BY VALENTINE J. BRIKICH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WILL ’08
The deans of each of the five schools were asked what they considered the three most significant achievements of their school in the past five years. Here are their responses:

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

1. Unifying all five departments — communication, English, information systems, media arts, and organizational leadership — under one roof for the first time in the new Wheatley Center. This opens avenues for interdisciplinary collaboration and further helps the school forge its identity.

2. Re-accreditation by ABET-Computing Accreditation Commission. Less than 1% of all information systems programs worldwide are accredited by ABET-CAC, and we have two of them: the B.S. in computer information systems and the B.S. in information sciences.

3. Developing converged media as a focus for interdisciplinary teaching and learning and for engaged learning and professional practice, involving at least three academic departments, the Academic Media Center and The Sentry, our online and print student newspaper.

**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE**

1. The National Science Foundation STEM grant, which brought a cohort of 21 engineering, mathematics, and science students to the university. The students are seniors this year; one is three-time Academic All-American (and NEC all-time sack leader) Nolan Nearhoof, a biology major.

2. Designation of our actuarial science program as one of only 14 Centers of Actuarial Excellence in the United States. It is a true achievement for a university of our size to receive this designation, since most others are large state institutions.

3. Being one of the nine university partners in of the consortium chosen by the White House to create the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute, a $70 million plan to research 3-D printing.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

1. Introduction of new graduate and undergraduate programs, including the state’s first Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program, a bachelor’s degree in nuclear medicine technology, and online degrees in health services administration and R.N.-to-M.S.N.

2. Launching the Regional Research and Innovation in Simulation Education (RISE) Center. The center uses high-tech mannequins to simulate various patient scenarios. Future plans call for a major expansion of the center so that it can also be used for medical training of other health care professionals in the area.

3. Greatly expanding our international programs and partnerships; now almost half of all B.S.N. students have participated by the time they graduate. Carl Ross, Ph.D., recently made his 80th trip to Nicaragua with students to work in clinics there.

— DEAN BARBARA LEVINE, PH.D. — DEAN MARIA V. KALEVITCH, PH.D. — DEAN LYNDA J. DAVIDSON, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE REPORT

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. Accreditation of our teacher education programs by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC).

2. The Pennsylvania Department of Education’s official approval of our new education programs, including new bachelor’s degrees in early childhood and middle level, new M.Ed degrees in literacy and special education, and certification programs in reading specialist and special education.

3. Other new degrees including the B.A. in history and two new online degree programs — the B.A. in psychology and M.S. in instructional leadership.

– DEAN MARY ANN RAFOTH, PH.D.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

1. Earning initial accreditation by AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, joining only five percent of business schools worldwide with this recognition.

2. The new building that opened last year, creating a quality business educational environment that prepares students for the corporate world. Corporate partners AT&T, PNC, and U.S. Steel have helped ensure the center is equipped with the latest technology, including Bloomberg terminals, a videoconferencing center, an interactive marketing wall, and an electronic stock ticker.

3. New programs and courses in sustainability, including a minor in sustainability and a new annual international conference at RMU focusing on sustainable enterprises of the future.

– DEAN JOHN M. BEEHLER, PH.D.
Here are some of the key measurements showing the university’s growth over the 2007–2012 Strategic Plan.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**
Graduate and undergraduate combined.

**ENROLLMENT**
Total enrollment vs. full-time traditional undergraduates.

**THE BOTTOM LINE**
Total Revenue vs. operating expenses. ($ MIL)

**RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS**
Demand for on-campus housing has increased over the past five years.

**ONLINE STUDENTS**
Graduate and undergraduate combined.
This year the university is in the process of preparing its next five-year strategic plan. Doing so will require a careful and thorough evaluation of priorities for the near future, as well as taking stock of the many institutional changes that occurred during the last plan. This is a time of great change and challenge for higher education, and RMU wishes to approach its future in a thoughtful way.

Prior to embarking on the five-year strategic planning process, the university is undertaking a comprehensive, comparative review of all of its operating units. This review has both retrospective and forward-looking aspects. RMU has launched many new initiatives, and the accompanying infrastructure to support them, over the past five years. Have these initiatives been successful, and are they appropriately supported? The strategic review project is designed to distinguish units that may deserve more resources from those that require maintenance, restructuring, or re-examining. Findings will guide resource allocation and priorities in the next five-year plan.

With the help of a talented, hard-working, and diverse team of 33 RMU faculty members and administrators, I am coordinating the strategic review project, which will analyze 170 operating units of the university. We will present our findings to President Dell’Omo on May 1.

During the spring, the university also will undertake the next steps of the strategic planning process — choosing leadership, assembling teams, establishing timetables — all with the aim of preparing the new plan in the summer and fall. The new 2014-2018 RMU strategic plan is scheduled for completion this December.

— DAVID MAJKA, ED.D., VICE PROVOST FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE
**CLASS NOTES**

**1970s**

MICHAEL C. BARBARITA ’72 is managing director and chief operating officer at First National Insurance Agency, a subsidiary of First National Bank of Pennsylvania. Mike serves on the RMU Board of Trustees.

JAMES V. SACCO ’75 is executive director of stadium management at Heinz Field. He was recently honored with former Steeler Hines Ward at this year’s Dapper Dan Dinner and Sports Auction, where he received the Dr. Freddie Fu Sports Leadership Award. Jimmie started in the Pittsburgh sports industry as an usher at Civic Arena, and later helped to manage Civic Arena and Three Rivers Stadium before moving to Heinz Field.

MICHAEL J. SMITH ’77, president and CEO of Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania, was appointed to the RMU Board of Trustees in September.

**1980s**

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

Mike Belsky ’82 is director of business development for Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. He was recently elected to the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce.

DONALD MORGAN ’83 joined the business development team at Scranton logistics provider Kane Is Able as vice president of customer solutions.

**1980s**

JIM YOUNG ’87 is vice president for residential mortgage for Fifth Third Bank. Previously he was regional sales manager at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. Jim lives in McMurray.

DOUGLAS LEONARD M ’87 is director of consulting services at SSi in Greensburg and has been reappointed to the disciplinary board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

DAVID J. GRECCO ’88 joined the energy law team of Steptoe & Johnson in Canonsburg. Previously he was vice president for legal at Phillips Resources. David lives in Mt. Lebanon.

**LEAVE A LEGACY THAT CHANGES LIVES**

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

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

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

— TOM SHOOK ’50
CLASS NOTES

MATTHEW SCHULTE ’88 M’94 is treasurer and senior administrator for business at Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School in Midland. He lives in Midland with his wife and two children.

MICHAEL WASSIL ’89 M’97 was promoted to consulting partner and director at The Binkley Kanavy Group, an accounting and auditing firm. He lives in Bethel Park.

1990s

P A T R I C K M . K E L L Y M ’93 is executive director at the law firm of Lubell & Rosen in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and executive director of Bold Legal Defense Insurance. He was previously executive director at Fowler White Burnett.

L O U A N N K R I S T O F F M E R E D I T H ’93 is a member of the Pittsburgh Passion women’s football team, which she tried out for in memory of her father, who died in August. Louann works for First National Bank and lives in Follansbee, W.Va.

C R I S T O P H E R K IN G ’94 is director of athletics at the University of Texas-Pan American, and coedited and cowrote a chapter in The Handbook of College Athletics and Recreation Administration. Chris lives in McAllen, Texas.

K E V I N R O A C H ’03 and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of Kaletta Elizabeth, born October 12. Kevin is a senior account executive with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Roach family lives in Coraopolis.

K A R M E L I T A S I N K L E R-P U G H ’87 has joined the legal staffing agency Special Counsel as paralegal search director for the Chicago branch. She lives in Aurora, Ill.

K E V I N R O A C H ’03 and his wife, Jennifer, are the proud parents of Kaletta Elizabeth, born October 12. Kevin is a senior account executive with the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Roach family lives in Coraopolis.

A L I S A F A U L K ’99, general manager of the Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh Settlers Ridge, was named vice chair of the executive committee of The Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber of Commerce.

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2000s

J A S O N N O R K E V I C U S ’95 also known as Jason Christopher, is a certified stage hypnotist performing in Pittsburgh venues.

P A T R I C I A S T O C K E ’98 is chief financial officer of fi360. Previously she was CFO of Management Science Associates. She lives in Bethel Park.

P A U L S C H W A R Z M I L L E R M ’00 is vice president for human resources at the Community College of Allegheny County. He lives in Bridgeville.

B R U C E G O O D M A N M ’01 is vice president/commercial loan officer at The Farmers National Bank in Emlenton. Previously he was

(Cont.)
assistant vice president of corporate treasury management at Dollar Bank.

JAYE WILSON ‘01 is director of recruiting for Resources Global Professionals in Pittsburgh.

NORA BORGER ‘02 is head coach of the girls’ softball team at Freedom High School in Bethlehem, Pa.

THOMAS “TJ” WILLETTS ‘04 and TIFFANY WILLETTS M’09 welcomed their second daughter, Corsica Rose, on August 20, joining big sister Verona Skye, 2. TJ is the director of marketing at Burns and Scalo Roofing. The family lives in Bethel Park.

NEIL GAMROD ’05 and his wife, Elissa, welcomed their first child, Logan James, in August. Neil is senior customer support coordinator for FedEx Supply Chain. The Gamrods live in Avella, Pa.

LINDSEY WRIGHT BRADLEY ’06 and her husband, Kyle, welcomed their first child, Eden Catherine, on June 29. Lindsey is an event director with Hello Productions. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

RAYMOND F. GENSLER IV ’07 and his wife, Katelynn, are the proud parents of Grayson Heath, born on July 4. Ray is a senior associate for engineering and construction consulting at Deloitte Financial Advisory Services. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

EVE PHELPS M’04 and her husband, Jim, are the proud parents of Bryn Harper, born April 4. Eve is marketing team leader at Whole Foods Market in North Wales, Pa.

COLLEEN A. LUBAWSKI ‘02 is a financial assistant with Trebuchet Consulting. She was previously a claims operations manager with UPMC. She lives in Bethel Park.

SCOTT KOSKOSKI M’02 is the director of major and planned gifts for the Morris Animal Foundation.

KRISTEN VALERIO ‘04 and Scott Suchy were married on October 12. Kristen is HR manager for Fidelity Bank. The Suchys live in Monroeville.

PATRICIA TUITE M’04 is director of engineering and construction services at Deloitte Financial Advisory Services. She lives in McKees Rocks.

NICHOLAS VUCHENICH M’05 and Jeanne-Marie Bua were married on October 13. Nicholas is a supervisor at Consol Energy. The Vuchenichs live in Bethel Park.

JAMI BURK GREGG ’05 M’07 is a grant coordinator for Westmoreland County Community College. Previously she was a project manager at RMU.

JOEY SPEHAR ’06 is the morning mix cohost on 91.3 WYEP-FM in Pittsburgh. He started as an intern and worked as a production director for “The Allegheny Front,” an environmental program.

DR. ROBERT MAHA M’07 is chief operating officer of MedExpress Urgent Care. He previously was president and chief medical officer of Emergency Resource Management and vice president of UPMC physician services division.

CARLO SUNSERI ’07 and Elsie Wolf were married on July 7. Carlo is the owner and president of Crosse Studios and a volunteer assistant coach for RMU men’s lacrosse. They live in Rennerdale.

JULIE COSTELLO HENDRY ’08 was named to the PR News “15 to Watch” in 2012 at the PR People Awards in Washington, D.C., in November. Julie is a public relations specialist for Direct Energy.
Alicia Booker ’09 is a senior consultant and risk analyst at Verizon Landline in Pittsburgh. Ashley Cain ’09 is a facilities specialist in the office of facilities planning at RMU. Michael Witherele M’09 is the owner of Coffee Buddha, a West View coffee house.

Rachel Cibulas ’07 was voted Coach of the Year by the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. In her first year as head coach of women’s lacrosse at Adrian College in Michigan, the team finished 17-3, winning both the regular season and conference tournament titles and playing a home game in the NCAA Division III Tournament. Rachel was a member of RMU’s first women’s lacrosse team.

Randy Cruthers ’08 was the first player signed by the ECHL Orlando Solar Bears, a new minor league affiliate of the NHL Minnesota Wild. Ryan is team captain and starting center. He played three seasons with the Reading Royals after graduation.

Michael Anderson M’08 is vice president of human resources for the UPMC East Hospital.

Howard B. Slaughter Jr. D’06 was selected to chair the policy committee of the board of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, where he has been a member of the board of directors since 2007. Slaughter is president and CEO of Christian Management Enterprises, which specializes in strategic solutions, project management, small business, and real estate development.

Angela McGee ’05 M’05 and Michael Musillo ’99 M’03 were married on August 11 in Wexford, where they live now.

Amber Boyer ’06 and Matt Walker ’06 got engaged in San Francisco and plan to marry in October. Amber is an education consultant at PNC and Matt is a senior project manager at Agency 1903 in Pittsburgh.

JESSICA KRNARIC TOUTSIS ’07 and STEPHEN TOUTSIS ’07 were married May 27 in RMU’s Royal Chapel. Jessica is a social marketing manager at IMRE and Stephen is a group sales and promotions manager at Towson University. They live in Baltimore. Go to Foundations Online to read Jessica’s story of their romance.

Jessica Krznaric Toutsis ’07 and Stephen Toutsis ’07 were married on August 11 in Wexford, where they live now.

Mandy Fierens ’11 is the founder of Zafitg, an online clothing company for women sizes 10 and up. She does freelance photography and writes “The Curvy Blogger,” which she started in 2009.

Michael Rowse ’11 is assistant men’s lacrosse coach at Queens University of Charlotte. Previously he was the assistant men’s lacrosse coach at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. Mike also has coached with the Maryland Raptors, FASTLAX, and the Pittsburgh Revolution clubs.

Matthew Stewart M’09 and wife Erin are the proud parents of Lucas Matthew, born on December 10. Matt is director of information security at RMU.

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**CLASS NOTES**

**CHELSEA WALKLAND** '10 M'11 is Oswego State women's ice hockey's first full-time assistant coach. She was part of the staff that saw RIT win its first NCAA Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship last year, setting a D-III single-season record with 28 victories.

**NICOLAS HOLLABAUGH** '10 M’12 and **ERICA FLASCO HOLLABAUGH** '08 are the proud parents of Gia Lee, born October 1. The Hollabaughs live in Moon Township.

**MIKE BOYLAN** '12 is a programmer analyst in the information technology department at RMU.

**KEVIN BROWNWELL** '12 was drafted by the Buffalo Bandits and **KIEL MATISZ** '12 signed with the Minnesota Swarm of the National Lacrosse League.

**In Memoriam**

**RUTH JANE JACOBS LEES** '49 of Sparta, Tenn., passed away October 9 at the age of 81.

**JOSEPH KOPPIN** '50 of Avalon and Observatory Hill passed away December 20 at the age of 91.

He was a World War II Marine Corps veteran and retired from the National Credit Union Administration after 27 years.

**TERRENCE "TERRY" BRENnan** '71 of Sewickley passed away December 6 at the age of 64. He was a teacher at Parkway West Technical Institute and a member of the musical group “Around and Back.”

**RUTH M. SEABERG** '75 of Erie passed away July 11 at the age of 55.

Class Notes would love to

**HELLO, CLEVELAND!**

RMU COMES TO YOU

This month we’re on the road for alumni dinners in Florida and at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**Orlando** – March 25
**Tampa** – March 26
**Cleveland** – March 27

Call (412) 397-6464 to schedule a visit in your city.

And check out RMU.EDU/ALUMNI for pictures of these and other fun alumni events.
JOSEPH WALKO ’84 of Hopewell Township passed away January 1 at the age of 51. Joe was a claims analyst for Aetna Insurance and an event manager at PNC Park and Heinz Field.

DAVID CHARNOCK M’85 of Cranberry Township, retired chief operating officer of Alpern Rosenthal, passed away October 29 at the age of 62.

ALICIA CARNEY ’93 passed away November 3 at the age of 42. She lived in Plum with her husband, Mark, and three sons.

MARK A. CIANCUTTI, PH.D., an assistant professor of mathematics who taught at RMU for 30 years, passed away November 19 at the age of 64. He is survived by his wife, Anne Carson.

LINDA MILLIGAN passed away February 13 after a short but courageous battle with cancer. The former coordinator of student affairs at RMU, Lynne was with the university for 25 years and was known for her wit and positive outlook. She is survived by her husband, Scott, and two children, DEAN MILLIGAN ’90 of Philadelphia and KATHY MILLIGAN DILONARDO ’93 M’02 of Chippewa Township.

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Call 412-397-5200 or 800-762-0097 to find out more.

> FLAG PLAZA ANNIVERSARY
In December, 40 years after its opening, the Alpha Chi Rho Flag Plaza next to Hale Center was rededicated and a new and updated plaque was installed.

> > LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
Page: RMU Alumni
URL: facebook.com/RMUalumni
1. What's something people might find surprising about your job? The depth of the science involved. If one does not understand Newtonian laws, they can’t be a strength coach.

2. What do you find most rewarding about working with student athletes? Being invited to their weddings and other important life events, years after they graduate, is always an honor. To me it shows that I have made an impact.

3. Why do you think we struggle with obesity in the U.S.? A lot of it has to do with the food we eat. We have to make changes. Eat local. I truly believe the answer lies in the current “slow food” movement.

4. What three books should everyone read?Collapse by Jared Diamond, In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan, and The Jungle by Upton Sinclair — everyone should read this 100 times and then we may appreciate our lives more.

5. You've done the Pittsburgh-to-D.C. bike ride four times. What's your next big adventure? I have powerlifting meets coming up, plus the D.C. ride again in May, and then the 34-mile Rachel Carson Trail Challenge in June. Maybe a hot-dog-eating contest? Local meat of course.

6. What do you enjoy most about competitive lifting? The camaraderie of the lifters. I’ll be walking to the platform for an attempt, and a lifter in my class will be cheering me on or helping me prep for the lift. It’s not about winning; it’s about overcoming the battle.

7. What would be your “deserted island” CD? Maybe Van Morrison’s “Astral Weeks.” But I may have to throw some heavy metal in my carry-on too.

8. What's your favorite quote? It’s by Marianne Williamson: “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.”

9. What famous people do you look up to? Many. Abe Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Henry Rollins — I have had the honor of seeing him speak many times — and any Renaissance man or woman.

10. If you weren’t a strength and conditioning coach, what would you be? President of RMU. Ha! I’m not sure. I have many interests. I always wanted to teach music, and I love playing drums, guitar, and piano. But I also would love to own my own deli/used book store. So maybe a hippie.

By Valentine J. Brkich
## Upcoming Events

### MARCH
- **21** March Madness Happy Hour
  - Atria’s at PNC Park, 5 p.m.
- **25** Orlando Alumni Dinner
  - Citrus Club, 6 p.m.
- **26** Tampa Alumni Dinner
  - Centre Club, 6 p.m.
- **27** Cleveland Alumni Dinner
  - Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, 6 p.m.

### APRIL
- **18** Women of RMU
  - Duquesne Club, 11:30 a.m.
- **18** Colonial Theatre presents
  - *The Grapes of Wrath*
  - Massey Theatre, 8 p.m.
  - Through April 21
- **20** Alumni & Friends Bowling Tournament
  - Paradise Island Bowl, 12:30 p.m.
- **22** Nando Parrado,
  - Andes crash survivor
  - Pittsburgh Speakers Series
  - Heinz Hall, 8 p.m.

### MAY
- **7** CEO Lecture Series with
  - Steelers GM Kevin Colbert
  - Duquesne Club, 11:30 a.m.
- **9** Graduate Commencement
  - Sewall Center, 4 p.m.
- **10** Undergraduate Commencement
  - Sewall Center, 9:30 a.m.
- **10** Golden Colonials Reception
  - Sewall Center, 8 a.m.

### JULY
- **13** RMU Night at PNC Park
  - Mets at Pirates
  - Tailgating starts at 4 p.m.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on these and other upcoming events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (412) 397-6464 or rmualum@rmu.edu.

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**EXPAND YOUR RMU NETWORK**

### APRIL 18 – WOMEN OF RMU
- Steelers GM Kevin Colbert ’79
  - At the Duquesne Club

### MAY 7 – CEO LECTURE SERIES
- Psychiatrist Vered Birnbrauer, M.D.
  - At the Duquesne Club

Come to these feature luncheons, hear interesting speakers, and meet your fellow RMU grads.

Call (412) 397-6464 to make your reservation, or to find out how you can be a part of our ongoing luncheon and speaker events.
This year’s Legacy Recognition & Luncheon was on Feb. 23. The event honors RMU legacies and their alumni parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters. We can’t wait to see you all again next year!

See all the pictures at rmu.edu/alumni.