

DISCOVER



THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
AT ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



PHILIP J. HAROLD, PH.D.
Interim Dean
School of Education
and Social Sciences

At the Robert Morris University School of Education and Social Sciences, we educate students for lifelong learning and professional success. Our goal is to maximize the potential of each student through curricula integrating technology, communication skills, and the application of theory into practice in all our programs.

Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs in the school have practicums and internships that directly relate to student career paths. The teacher education program is among a select group in Pennsylvania with accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. Students in the social sciences learn from award-winning and dedicated professors in the fields of criminal justice, economics, history, political science, psychology, and sociology, with opportunities to pursue their education in our Crime Lab, Psychology Clinic, and Oral History Center.

The RMU Teacher Education Makerspace, supported by a grant from the Grable Foundation, is a hands-on laboratory for project-based learning implemented by a consortium of local school districts. The new Bob and Joan Peirce Center for Structured Reading Teacher Training provides certified teachers with the skills to offer literacy instruction for students with reading disabilities, as well as providing tutoring for these children. The Ph.D. program in Instructional Management and Leadership prepares skilled educators with the knowledge and skills they need to take the next step in their careers.

These pages include success stories of just a few of our students and recent graduates. We look forward to welcoming more excellent students to write their own success stories.



- Variety of teacher certification programs available with bachelor's and master's programs or standalone, plus Ph.D. in Instructional Management and Leadership both traditional and online
- Oral History Center and Iran and Afghanistan Veterans Project
- Nationally ranked in *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges, Best Online Bachelor's, and Best Online Graduate Education Program

“The school is full of wonderful people who saw potential in me and valued my dedication to educational aspirations.”

When **JOSHUA CASKEY** enrolled at RMU on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, the former Marine had two combat tours of duty in Iraq and nearly 13 years of military leadership experience under his belt. That kind of discipline helped him juggle college and family life — he and his wife, Kelly, have five children.

Joshua chose RMU because of its small class sizes, suburban campus, and reputation as a veteran-friendly university. From the start, he set high goals for himself, and within four years had a bachelor's degree in history with a 3.99 GPA, a master's in instructional leadership with a perfect 4.0 GPA, and a special award and recognition from the university president that was announced at commencement ceremonies. He also

spent two years interviewing fellow veterans for the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Project, creating an online archive for future research. Now Joshua is a logistics operations manager with Amazon in Charlotte, where he manages more than 100 employees who process 25,000 packages each day — a job that requires both people skills and operational decision-making abilities.

RMU recognizes the needs of veteran students like Joshua. The Yellow Ribbon Program helps cover the difference between the cost of tuition and Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits, while the Center for Veterans and Military Families, open 24/7, provides a place to study and relax with others who have answered the call of service.



DANIEL P. BARR, PH.D.
University Professor of History
Colonial and Revolutionary America, Native American history, Pennsylvania history



WILLIAM M. BEAVER, PH.D.
Professor of Sociology
Social policy, higher education, energy issues



CARIANNE BERNADOWSKI, PH.D.
Professor of Education
Qualitative research, bibliotherapy, early literacy



JAMES A. BERNAUER, ED.D.
Professor of Education
Qualitative methodology, quantitative methodology, learning theories



ROBERT A. DELGRECO, D.ED.
Associate Professor of Education
Educational leadership, educational administration, service learning



KATHRYN DENNICK-BRECHT, ED.D.
Professor of Sociology
Social problems, deviant behavior



JUSTIN P. DEPLATO, PH.D.
Assistant Professor of Political Science
American presidency, voting theories and elections, Constitutional theory



“Attending a smaller private university with manageable class sizes has been a key to my success in the classroom.”

Robert Morris University was the culmination of a dream for **NATALIE FRASER**. The native of Ottawa had set her sights on playing NCAA Division I college hockey at a Division I school ever since she was a little girl. When the recruiters called, Natalie was impressed with the positive atmosphere surrounding the women’s team as well as the entire athletic department.

Natalie’s studies were important, too. As a criminal justice major, she was especially concerned that her coursework be grounded in the real world. At RMU, her classes have given her a firsthand glimpse at the processes and procedures she’ll use throughout her career in

police work, especially a hands-on investigations class. And despite the already packed life of a student athlete, last summer she interned with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and says RMU coursework in topics such as surveillance, emergency response, child exploitation, and behavior analysis benefited her during an internship that exposed her to real-world police situations, technology, and equipment.

At RMU, student athletes like Natalie are expected to maintain high academic standards and encouraged to develop into well-rounded employees and citizens. Nearly 60 percent of the university’s student-athletes maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above.

“The professors and advisors on my doctoral research project are committed to supporting me. They really encourage me to stretch myself.”

KENNETH COPE is by most standards already a success story. The Ohio native is president and CEO of Matrix Absence Management, a company based in Phoenix that employs 1,000 people and provides services for companies nationwide when their employees are forced to miss work.

With an eye toward working part time in higher education or doing consulting work in his retirement years, Kenneth became interested in RMU’s doctorate in instructional management and leadership. One factor in choosing RMU for his doctoral work was the online option. Now halfway through the program, Kenneth belongs to a cohort of 11 people from across the country,

and from various fields including health care, higher education, and government. Throughout the year, they connect online, and once every summer they spend a week on the RMU campus to meet with faculty and engage in the dissertation process. It’s also a time for cohort members to network and bond with each other, becoming good friends and potential future colleagues.

With the online coursework and three-year timeline, RMU’s Ph.D. in instructional management and leadership is ideal for working professionals like Kenneth. With a balanced mix of foundational coursework and research, students are well prepared for the dissertation, the culminating project of the program.



SHELLY M. HASER, PH.D.
Professor of Education
Student teaching and field experience, teacher education administration, educational leadership



ADORA D. HOLSTEIN, PH.D.
Prof., Economics
Money and banking, managerial economics, public policy in health care



WILLIAM E. KELLY, PH.D.
Professor of Psychology
Psychometrics, psychodynamic psychotherapy, counseling



BEATRICE A. KUNKA, ED.D.
Professor of Education
Assessment in higher education, K-8 science and math education, science for ESL



FAN-YU LIN, PH.D.
Associate Professor of Education
Precision teaching, behavior analysis, early childhood special education



PATRICK J. LITZINGER, PH.D.
Prof., Economics
Economic education, economic development, transition economies



MIN LU, PH.D.
Prof., Economics
International finance, financial economics, e-commerce



JOHN M. MCCARTHY, PH.D.
Professor of History
Modern American history, urban history, planning history

VICKI J. DONNE, D.ED.
Professor of Education
Special education, reading instruction for deaf students, assistive technology

MARK J. ESCHENFELDER, PH.D.
Prof., Economics
Economic education, assurance of learning, economics of sports

SOREN I. FANNING, PH.D.
Associate Professor of History
World history, Russian history, modern East Asia

RICHARD G. FULLER, D.ED.
Professor of Education
Distance education, technology in education, instructional design and leadership

BRUCE A. GOLMIC, D.ED.
Associate Professor of Education
Educational leadership and supervision, special education, interview preparation

MARY A. HANSEN, PH.D.
Professor of Education
Educational measurement, assessment, quantitative research design

PHILIP J. HAROLD, PH.D.
Professor of Political Science
Modern political theory, American politics, Pennsylvania politics

FRANCIS X. HARTLE, D.SC.
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Crime mapping and analysis, police management and operations, criminal investigations



“I chose RMU because I wanted a stepping stone to something great. And I’ve gotten that.”

Being in the honors program at RMU meant more than just interesting classes and research opportunities for **TAYLOR MILLER**. It also meant her honors professor helped her to draft her law school applications. Taylor credits that editing help with her getting a full tuition scholarship to Villanova Law School, where she is enrolled now.

Taylor followed her big brother Jason to RMU. His experience was much different: Jason was an online student, doing his coursework while serving as a Marine in Iraq. For Taylor, who majored in psychology, RMU’s green campus and active student life were also part of the appeal. She jumped in with both

feet her first semester, joining a sorority and volunteering. In four years, Taylor squeezed in a lot — including a semester in Paris and three internships. Working for a congressman, in a county courthouse, and at a nonprofit organization providing school supplies to children helped solidify her career plans to one day open her own law firm focused on children’s rights.

Research from Gallup shows that college leads to career success when students have one-on-one relationships with professors who care and meaningful internships in their field. That’s a recipe students like Taylor continue to follow at RMU.

“The teaching certification program aligns so well with the master’s program that I only had to take a few additional classes to obtain my master’s degree. It seemed almost foolish not to do it.”

COURTNEY KING RABI spent a few years as an inside sales rep when she first got out of college in 2006, but although it was a good job with a big-name company, her heart kept pulling her toward teaching. She eventually applied to RMU, and attended class in the evenings after work. It wasn’t easy juggling a full-time job and being a college student again, but she graduated two-and-a-half years later with a teaching certification in secondary English and a master’s degree in instructional leadership.

One academic highlight for Courtney was when a professor encouraged her to submit her master’s thesis to a conference in Texas; as a result, she was asked to

speak at the event. That experience, as well as student teaching at North Allegheny Senior High School, helped prepare her for a full-time position at South Fayette High School. She now teaches theater, stage production, English, and public speaking, and is helping to put together a student-written play and talent showcase for the high school’s theater.

RMU offers a variety of degrees in education, as well as flexibility for nontraditional students like Courtney. The master’s degree in instructional leadership has a number of concentrations, including fully online options, that can be combined with Pre-K-4 or secondary teacher certification.



NATHAN N. TAYLOR, PH.D.
Assistant Professor of Education
Multicultural education, social studies education, gender and sexuality studies



DARCY B. TANNEHILL, ED.D.
Associate Professor of Education
Online education, higher education management, leadership



LAWRENCE A. TOMEI, ED.D.
Professor of Education
Educational psychology, instructional and educational technology



DAVID A. WHEELER, PH.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology
Industrial-organizational psychology, adjustment, physiological psychology



ZHOU YANG, PH.D.
Assoc. Prof., Economics
Public finance, industrial organization, economic development in Asia



JOHN A. ZEANCHOCK, ED.D.
Associate Professor of Education and Computer and Information Systems
Online learning, educational technology, curriculum and instructional design



YING ZHANG, PH.D.
Assistant Professor of Education
English language learners, English language development, educational linguistics



SAMANTHA J. MONDA, PH.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology
Sport and exercise psychology, counseling, student-athlete development



J. BRIAN O’ROARK, PH.D.
Univ. Prof., Economics
Economics of information security, economics and pop culture



NEHA I. PANDIT, PH.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Family counseling, psychopathology, psychological assessment



SUSAN W. PARKER, PH.D.
Associate Professor of Education
Early childhood education, social issues related to children with disabilities



STEPHEN T. PAUL, PH.D.
Professor of Psychology
Sensation and perception, cognition, research methods



LAUREN L. RAUSCHER, PH.D.
Associate Professor of Sociology
Gender, intersectionality, health, sport and the body



GEORGE W. SEMICH, ED.D.
University Professor of Education
Technology integration, leadership, online learning



DANIEL J. SHELLEY, PH.D.
University Professor of Education
Early childhood education, instructional technology, online learning

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Special Education

Economics

History

Middle Level Education

English/Language Arts

Math

Science

Social Studies

Political Science

Psychology

Clinical

Industrial/Organizational

Sport

Secondary Education

Biology

Business, Computer and Information Technology

English

Math

Social Studies

Social Sciences

Sociology

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Business Education

Counseling Psychology

Instructional Leadership

Literacy

Special Education

Ph.D. in Instructional Management and Leadership



School of Education and Social Sciences

Robert Morris University
6001 University Boulevard
Moon Township, PA 15108-1189

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