



ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605

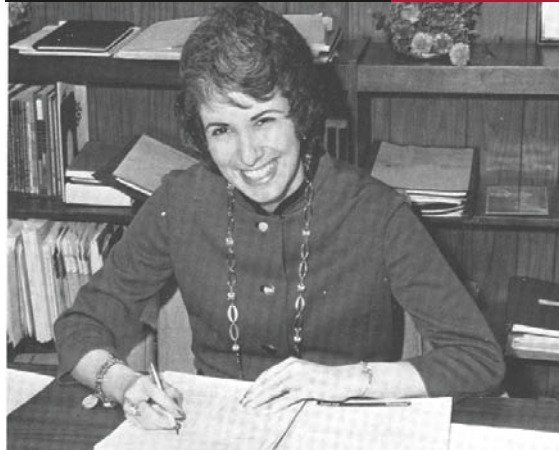
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RMC LOOKS BACK



*Marie Giacomelli -
around 1975- at the
Robert Morris College
Carthage campus.*

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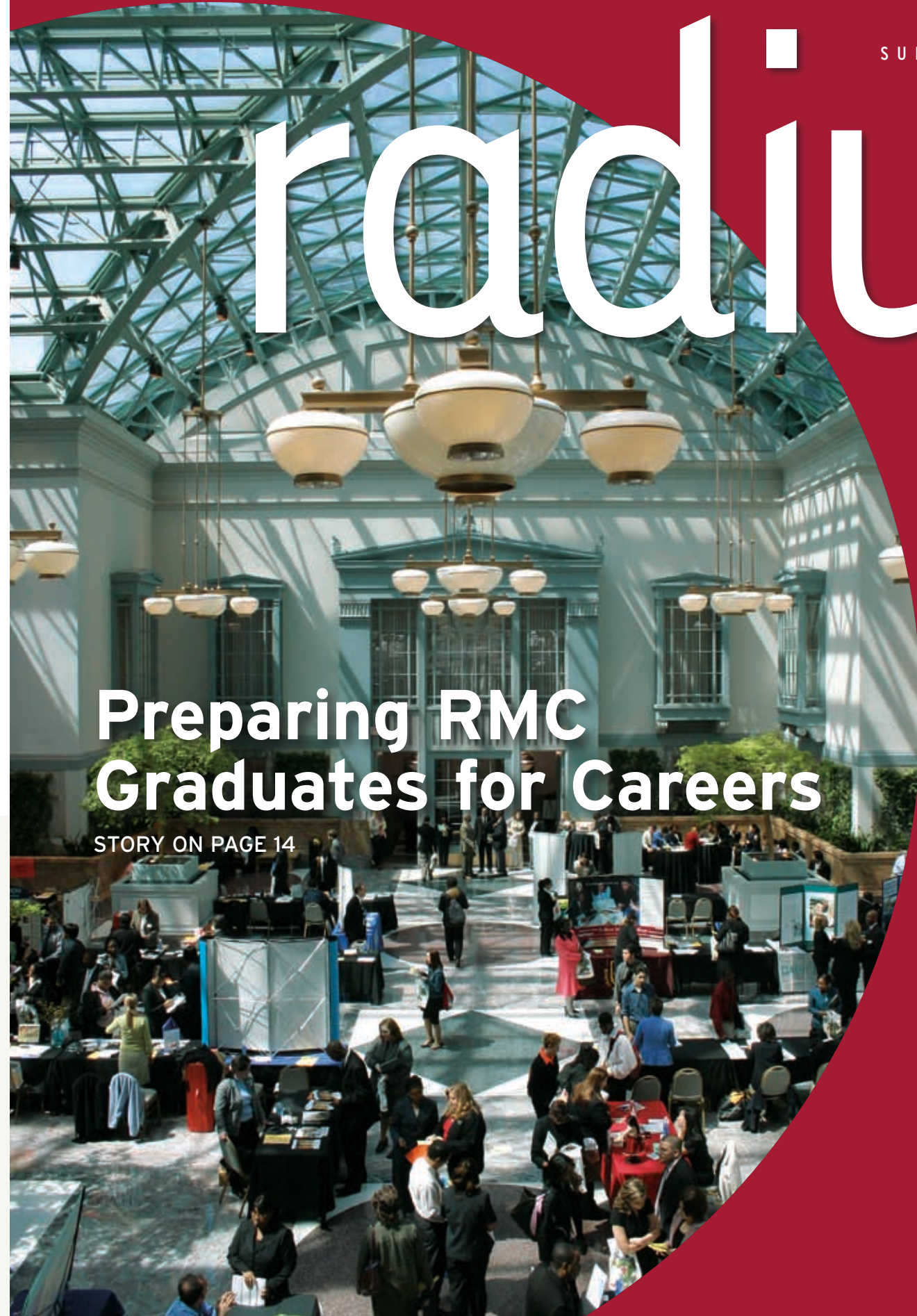
REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY OF ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE

SUMMER 2006

radius

Preparing RMC Graduates for Careers

STORY ON PAGE 14



RADIUS
SUMMER, 2006

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Robert Morris College is a private, not-for-profit baccalaureate and graduate degree granting institution. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the north Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago IL 60602, 312-263-0456.

Radius is published by Robert Morris College, 401 S. State Street, Chicago, IL 60605

For more information, visit the RMC website at www.robertmorris.edu

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Dear Members of the Robert Morris College Community

Reaching for the stars has become common practice at Robert Morris. We have built the university on the premise that first-generation students deserve the same access to high-quality faculty, facilities, educational programming, and activities that, for generations, have only been available to the fortunate few.

Over the past six years, we have built an infrastructure that allows us today to compete with the top career-focused universities in the state. Our goal to become the “College of First Choice” in our sector of higher education is the pivot point of our new long-range plan. While the plan is the result of big dreams with new directions for Robert Morris, it is a realistic and deliverable plan. We will build upon our national

reputation in intercollegiate athletics and expand opportunities for students to participate in all aspects of collegiate life that happen outside the classroom. The quality of our immersion education will be enhanced by completing experiential and simulation labs in all curriculum areas and by giving new meaning to “real world” internships. Within this framework for career-focused professions, education is a commitment to insure that Robert Morris graduates show the foundation skill set that is part of the nation’s expectations for every graduate of a quality university.

By providing all of this, our students will be able to grasp the stars that only seem beyond their reach. We can only imagine their possibilities.

MICHAEL P. VIOLTT
PRESIDENT, ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE



Thank you, Dr. Giacomelli...

If you're driving around Springfield any day soon, and happen to see a white Mini Cooper zipping around the area with an elegant-looking, silver haired woman behind the wheel, don't be surprised if she takes to the road with a bit more "joie de vivre" than a typical driver. It could be the newly-honored Dr. Marie Giacomelli, who is about to begin a new chapter in her life in central Illinois.

At the June 3, 2006 Robert Morris College graduation ceremony held at the Arie Crown Theatre in Chicago's McCormick Place, **MARIE GIACOMELLI**, vice president for external affairs and an employee of the College for 33 years, was presented with an honorary doctorate degree.

For most RMC alumni and employees, Marie Giacomelli has been a constant in their connections with the College. As an instructor and an administrator, her work in higher education has always been hallmarked by her efforts to provide the best preparation possible for RMC students.

Now it's time for Marie, and recently retired husband Mike, to dedicate some time to themselves. While she's looking forward to kicking back a little, she will continue her employment with RMC, and chances are good that continued involvement in civic and higher education will still garner more than a bit of her time.

Mrs. Giacomelli has served in numerous academic affairs, student services and institutional support roles during her career at the College. She was appointed Vice President for the Springfield Campus during its planning and building stages from 1986 to its opening in July, 1988. Throughout her professional life, she has been active in her home community of Springfield and in higher education organizations. At RMC, her efforts have been pivotal in obtaining accreditation and approval for the College's ongoing expansion of degrees, academic programs and the addition of new campuses.

At the Chicago graduation ceremony when Mrs. Giacomelli addressed the Class of 2006, many of whom are first generation college graduates, she encouraged them to focus on ability, motivation and attitude in their future endeavors. "Attitude is the most important marker," she said, and quoting Olympian Scott Hamilton, "the only disability in life is a bad attitude."

After her remarks, **MICHAEL VIOLLT**, president of Robert Morris College, and **NICOLE SKALUBA**, vice president for human resources, helped Mrs. Giacomelli into her official robes. Mr. Violtt then placed the doctoral hood around her neck. Clad in her new regalia, Marie Giacomelli offered her appreciation to the students, staff and faculty of Robert Morris College, her "second family" over the past thirty-three years. She also acknowledged her husband and her late parents. "I am a first generation high school graduate," she said. "My parents did not have the opportunity to complete high school, but were supportive of my own work in education, support they still give from their heavenly home."

Dr. Marie Giacomelli has devoted her career to an institution that is better for her direction, her efforts and her ongoing determination to achieve that which is "the greater" for what is most important at any college or university: the success of its students. For a career so dedicated, Robert Morris College is truly thankful.

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR



President Michael Violtt, center, officially opens the new RMC Student Center at the Chicago campus with the assistance of Nick Jarmuz, director of the student center (to his left) and RMC students from every program at the Chicago campus.

Robert Morris College students and staff at the Chicago campus watched as workmen got off the elevator on the seventh floor, and disappeared behind tarps and plastic sheeting. From the eighth floor, especially in the Culinary kitchens, the sounds of construction could occasionally be heard amid the sounds of slicing, dicing and sautéing, but the big question of “what is happening on seven?” still remained. Last year, Chicago students lost one of their lounges on the second floor when it was converted to the operating room suite for the Surgical Technology Program. The third floor lounge took the overflow and students also sought out the second floor of the library for meeting and snacking.

Early in March, faculty and staff were notified that they were welcome to the new Student Center on the seventh floor before the official grand opening so that the center’s staff could try out the food service items and the system. They were also invited to try out the different amenities and offer suggestions for improvement. Needless to say, there were many willing guinea pigs to check out the new digs and sample the cuisine.

Then, on April 3, students gathered for the grand opening of the RMC Student Center and Eagles’ Landing Cafe. And the wait was well worth it.

“This is just fantastic,” said one student as she checked out the lounging area near the huge windows overlooking State Street. In the mini theater, a bunch of medical assisting students were watching a movie in between classes. A guys vs. gals 8-ball competition quickly got



going at the pool tables. Hot dogs, pizza, sub-sandwiches, nachos, coffee and cookies started selling in the cafe.

One by one, students started filling in at the dozens of computer stations on the south side of the Center, logging on to the Internet and completing assignments. A printing station in the center of the area also serves as an information desk and provides pool cue rentals. The large expanses of windows on the north and west sides of the building afford a view up State Street and of the Harold Washington Library.

Students are using the Center for independent study, for meetings to discuss team projects for classes, for study groups and especially for socializing. Every effort was made to accommodate student needs in this large, student-centered space.

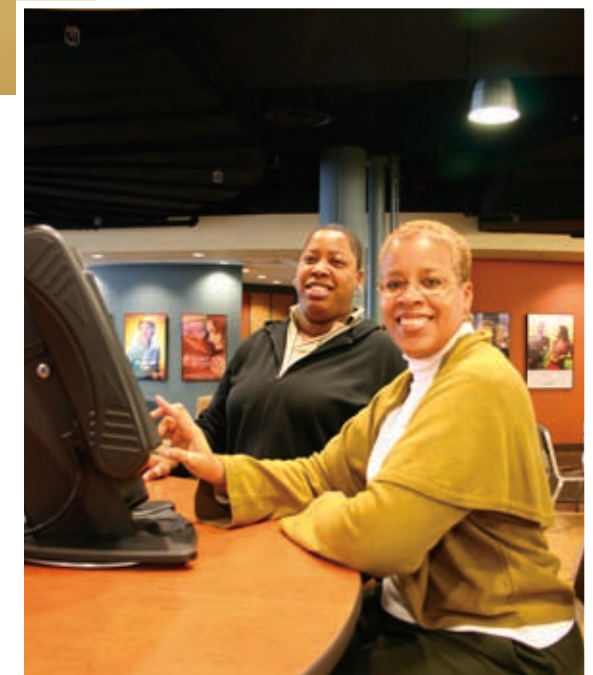
Each day during the first week Student Services held a different activity for the students to get to know their new surroundings, including open mic day, bingo day and RMC trivia day.

When RMC moved into the Second Leiter Building (the original and landmark name for the structure) in 1998 from its former location on LaSalle Street, the College occupied the first, second, third and part of the fourth



floors. Today, RMC has expanded to occupy all of the lower level, the first, second, third and eighth floors and most of the fourth and seventh floors. The new Student Center is a complete renovation of previously used office space. The area was gutted and redesigned to include student services offices, a newsroom for the student newspaper, the computer center, the theater, two television viewing areas, conversation pits, the Cafe and a large eating area. The entire project covers approximately one-third of the north end of the seventh floor.

Designed by Phelan and Associates Architects of Roselle and furnished by S. Stein & Co. of Chicago, the new Student Center provides a mix of ultra modern decor in a 100+ year old building.



PARTICIPATION, IMMERSION, FOUNDATIONS:

TODAY'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF RMC



LONG-RANGE PLAN

1. Improve Student Educational Outcomes
2. Expand professional graduate education
3. Add offerings in critical need health care fields
4. Become a state leader in the hospitality field
5. Increase experiential learning opportunities
6. Expand competitive opportunities for athletes
7. Enhance the overall student collegiate experience
8. Assist students in building a foundation for life
9. Create the infrastructure of a "First Choice College"
10. Bring offerings to new communities.

On a Friday morning in May, **MICHAEL VIOLLT**, president of Robert Morris College, walked into room 304 at the Chicago campus to begin one of many presentations he would be making throughout the month at different campuses and at different times. The room was nearly filled with RMC employees - faculty members, administrators, maintenance staff, techs - the session was open to everyone. Once the lights dimmed, he began the Powerpoint presentation on the College's Long Range Plan. In any other organization

the questions, 'what drives us? what do we do best? and how do we do it most economically?' For example, the structured education we offer works best when students are hoping to complete the program quickly. It enables us to do it at a low rate of tuition and in the process, we use our resources more efficiently."

RMC faces competition with at least eighteen other institutions of higher education in the greater Chicago area. Some of those colleges focus on career oriented education and others on the collegiate setting. "It is our goal to put the two together," President Viollt said, "in our

college environment. For example, goals such as expanding competitive opportunities for student athletes, enhancing the overall student collegiate experience and creating the infrastructure of a "first choice college," all fall into this area.

Immersion promotes the long-held belief by RMC that students learn more when they are involved in experiences that are connected to their career choices. Creating an onsite operating room for the Surgical Technology program prepares students for their actual hospital rotations. Also, increasing offerings in critical need health care, increasing experiential learning

*"We know we have a great business program.
We want others to see us as a leader in that field."*

or company, such a discussion might be met with yawns or schemes for getting out of the meeting. But at Robert Morris College, not only do employees take part in opportunities to learn from their president, but they actually look forward to hearing from him.

President Viollt started with a question similar to one that might be posed in a job interview: "Where would you like to see Robert Morris College in five years?" It gave everyone pause as each person considered the future of the institution with a sense of ownership and mutual participation. The answers all expressed desires for growth, recognition and prominence in higher education - as well as a team approach to accomplishing those goals.

"We know we have a great business program. We want others to see us as a leader in that field."

"More opportunities for student involvement in extracurricular activities."

"More graduate programs."

President Viollt felt all responses were definitely in line with the College's plans for the future. He said that in establishing priorities, "we asked

ongoing effort to be the college of first choice."

Throughout the history of the College, the projections, needs and changes in the workforce have had a direct impact on the ongoing evolution of the different curricula. Labor projections over the next five years indicate that urban employment, technology, and smaller sized companies will be major influences on what jobs will be available. Fifty of every hundred jobs will be filled by first generation college graduates and thirty of every hundred will be filled by Hispanic individuals. RMC incorporates these projections with its emphasis on health care programs, business, technology and hospitality - the major areas of demand in the near future.

In turn, these considerations impact how the College plans for its future and how it works to maintain and improve the achievements of its graduates. A Long Range Plan, covering a five year projection, sets in place a road map for each school of study, department and employee as RMC continues to serve its students.

There are three building blocks to the Long Range Plan. Participation stresses the expanding involvement of students in the

opportunities and increasing programs that will move the College to a leadership role in the hospitality field, support this effort.

Foundations, the third building block, helps to round out the collegiate experience for RMC students. This includes efforts to improve student educational outcomes, expand the graduate program, assist students in creating a foundation that they can build upon with continued higher education and bringing programs to new communities in Illinois.

The Long Range Plan includes expanding and refocusing the student target markets to include prospective surgical technology and nursing students, out-of-state graduate and Hispanic students, and building on the successes of the art, accounting, and culinary programs.

Growth and expansion are integral outcomes of the Long Range Plan, but retaining the "constants" of the Robert Morris College mission is equally important. "Students will get service above and beyond what they have gotten anywhere else," emphasized President Viollt. "It's the key to survival."

AROUND RMC

GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMPLOYEES

The Robert Morris College School of Graduate Studies completed its first quarter this spring and already has a solid starting enrollment of nearly 200 students. However, the College expects to increase in enrollment upon extending a special invitation. A limited number of full-time employees from any community college in the state can take part in the RMC Master of Business Administration or Master of Information Services program at the same reduced rate as Robert Morris College employees.

Classes at the Robert Morris College School of Graduate Studies began in February, at the Chicago, Orland Park and DuPage campuses. RMC employees were able to begin classes one quarter earlier, and at the reduced cost of \$500 per course. The College's Board of Trustees has committed significant resources to extend this graduate school opportunity to community college employees.

"Robert Morris College has a history of forming partnerships with Illinois community colleges, particularly enabling undergraduate students to complete their bachelor's degrees at RMC with a very smooth transition and transfer of credits," explained **MICHAEL P. VIOLLT**, president of RMC. "This new initiative expands the program to community college employees and provides an opportunity for graduate study. Increasing the number of employees with advanced degrees is beneficial to both the administration of these colleges as well as to the students they teach."

Most community college instructors already have master's degrees in the fields in which they teach. However, there are many who do not. Some instructors may also be interested in pursuing an additional advanced degree in a different area, and the opportunities are also wide open for college staff members.

"An MBA, in addition to a master's in another subject, can dramatically improve an individual's employability. For example, an instructor with a master's in nursing will find increased opportunities in the medical field when combining that expertise with an MBA," Viollt continued. "The MIS program also expands an executive's understanding of the technological potential of his or her workplace. This area is only going to expand as 'newer, faster, smaller and better' become the key words for designing the technology hubs of any school or business."

Offering this opportunity to community college employees in Illinois is the result of the College's reaching out to form a more cohesive network with other educational institutions. By collaborating with the presidents and human resource representatives, Robert Morris College is looking to provide more postgraduate study to more individuals who work in education throughout Illinois.

DUAL ADMISSION AGREEMENT MADE WITH MORTON COLLEGE

In February, Robert Morris College and Morton College entered into an agreement to ensure the transfer of student academic credits from Morton College to Robert Morris College. The agreement improves the sequencing of student learning experiences by enabling them to enroll simultaneously in both institutions.

ANA MENDEZ, RMC's dean of admissions, and **COURTNEY KOHN**, director of admissions, worked on the agreement with Morton. To be eligible for dual admission, students must apply separately to each institution, expressing that the application is for the Dual Admission Program. A designated advisor will assist the student as he or she progresses toward a bachelor's degree. During the sophomore year at Morton, students may enroll in one class per quarter at RMC without charge of tuition or fees for that class.

"We expect this agreement will help to streamline the process for students transferring from Morton College to RMC," explained Courtney Kohn. "The number of transfer students from Morton has grown over the past years and it helps the students get on track toward their bachelor's degrees from the start of their college education."



Mark Escamilla from Morton College signs a dual admission agreement with Ana Mendez from Robert Morris College. Standing are Fernando Figueroa, Roslyn Castro and Veroncia Duron from Morton and Courtney Kohn from RMC.



Robert Morris College was recognized by the Friends of Downtown for contributing to the improvement of the Chicago Loop through its State Street Art Gallery. On Michigan Avenue, (left to right) Kerry Malm, assistant to the President; Janice Kaushal, dean of the RMC Institute of Art and Design; Mablene Krueger, senior vice president for academics, and Ron Arnold, vice president for business affairs, walk back to campus after the presentation at The Tavern Club.

RMC SIFE TEAM WINS FIRST RUNNER-UP SPOT

Seven Robert Morris College students recently participated in Regional Competition as members of the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team. The competitions are being held across the United States during March and April.

The RMC SIFE team presented a 2005-06 Annual Report to a judging panel of corporate representatives including managers and CEOs. The team successfully fielded questions from the judges and placed as first runner-up in the competition.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization active on over 1000 university campuses in more than 40 countries. SIFE teams create economic opportunities in their communities by organizing outreach projects that teach market economics, entrepreneurship, personal financial success skills and business ethics. Their projects are judged at competitions on creativity, innovation and effectiveness.



Back row, left to right: George Tzinares, co-president; Eric Bennett, faculty advisor; Larry Nieman, faculty advisor; Sarita Ivery, vice-president; Michael Schwartz, co-president; Lisa Wirth, faculty advisor; Whitney Thomas and Aislinn Harris, faculty advisor. Front row, left to right, Rafael Mendoza, Daniel Sanchez, Emmy Trujillo, secretary; Judy King, Jacqueline Callery, faculty advisor; Shamontelle Lewis, David Jackson, vice-president.

RMC HOSTS 2006 ANNUAL COLLEGIATE ARTISTS COMPETITION

The Chicago campus of Robert Morris College was selected as the site for the Annual Collegiate Artists Competition sponsored by the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Office of the Governor. Fifty-six finalists were selected for the exhibit among 282 student-artists who submitted 699 entries in the third annual competition.

The exhibit opened on May 6 with the Awards Ceremony and continued to June 16. The ceremony included the final judging and naming of winners of various artistic categories and winners of four \$1,000 purchase awards. In addition to IBHE and the Office of the Governor, the major sponsors were the Illinois Community College Board, the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities and Robert Morris College.

RMC junior **SALVATORE JIMENEZ** was a winner of the *Best in Category* for his drawing entitled, "I."

ALUM BOARD BEGINS PLANNING

In May, Robert Morris College welcomed new members of the Alumni Board under the direction of **SANDY GRICE**, recently appointed director of alumni affairs. The group is looking to organize events for RMC alumni over the next year, hoping to increase attendance and participation. RMC alumni in Illinois are located all over the state and in nearly every state in the union. Any alums interested in participating in planning or in the events themselves should check the College's website for information, or call the Alumni Relations Office 630-787-7807.



Alumni participating in planning events include (left to right) Adrian Mendieta, '97; Laura Valle, '99; Renee Rodak, alumni relations director; Sandy Grice, '03; and Monica Sullivan, '05.

12 x 12

New Artists
x
New Work

Jason Lazarus



MCA FEATURES JASON LAZARUS IN EXHIBITION

In April, the Museum of Contemporary Art hosted an exhibit that included the work of RMC photography instructor **JASON LAZARUS**. Titled "12 x 12: New Artists/New Work," the exhibition included Lazarus's photographs that are part of his series called "Self-Portrait as an Artist." In a release announcing the exhibit, the MCA described his work as playful and irreverent. "Gold locket, skinny-dipping and writing with sparklers are the subjects of Jason Lazarus's unique self-portraits...which use considerable wit in looking at the often ambiguous identity of a contemporary artist and his role in society. Lazarus came to the contemporary art world after an education and career in business, intending for his "conceptual portraits" to simultaneously confirm and disrupt our expectations of artists. He also examines other aspects of his life, including the fact that he has arthrogyryposis multiplex congenita, a rare condition of the musculoskeletal system." The exhibition ran in conjunction with the MCA programming for the city-wide *Bodies of Work: The Chicago Festival of Disability Arts and Culture*.

RMC CULINARY STARTS PROGRAM OF EXCITING DINING EXPERIENCES

The Robert Morris College Institute of Culinary Arts at the Orland Park campus has been growing and thriving since it opened in September. The newly constructed addition to the College's Technology Center provides the perfect setting for special events and unique dining opportunities.

Recently, the Culinary Program started a series of dinners, open to the public, that feature the tastes and flavors of faraway places in a five-course gourmet event. In March, student chefs hosted a Brazilian fete, complete with gaucho-style beef, lamb and Portuguese pork sausage dishes, spicy black bean soup, empanadas and orange flan. In May, it was a Caribbean Fiesta, including touches of the islands. The menu included pumpkin salad, pepper pot soup, calypso chicken with island salsa and rice pudding in a butter crunch cup.

"We're very excited about providing these dinners to the Orland Park community," said **NANCY ROTUNNO**, executive director of the Culinary Program. "We're hoping to be able to have this component of the program grow each quarter. It gives the students an opportunity to learn all aspects of the dining experience from early prep to the intricacies of unique cooking to proper service. By including menus from different countries, they also get a sample of food preparation that goes well beyond American fare." Cost is \$35 per person and includes two glasses of wine with dinner. Each event is limited to 35 diners and interested individuals can make their reservations by calling 708-226-5333.

In July, the Institute started the series on American Cuisine. This includes menus from different parts of the United States, such as Southwestern Tex-Mex, the seafood of the Pacific Northwest, Southern Comfort and Heart Healthy California. Subsequent series are: The Traditional/Classical Series with Italian, French and Bavarian style German cuisine, and the Exotic Series, featuring menus from Morocco, India, Ethiopia and Viet Nam.

In June, the Culinary Program in Chicago helped the Essex Inn on Michigan Avenue kick off the opening of the King Tut Exhibition at the Field Museum. Chef **BRYAN FLOWERS** and Chef **LAURA KALTNECKER** worked with culinary students to create an Egyptian tasting feast in the lobby of the hotel. Guests were treated to such delights as spiced goat cheese and stuffed okra, hummus with olive tapenade, apricot glazed chicken smoked with apple tobacco on mini hibachis, Egyptian bread pudding, chai flan and coconut macaroon pyramids.



An RMC culinary student prepares the graham cracker "sand" along the River Nile at the Essex Inn Kickoff Celebration.

JUNE GRADUATION CEREMONY HERALDS CLASS OF 2006

Nearly 500 students gathered with family and friends in the Arie Crown Theater at McCormick Place along sparkling Lake Michigan on June 3 for the Chicago area 2006 Baccalaureate Graduation Ceremony. The Springfield and Peoria campuses held their ceremonies during May. **STELLA MACH**, director of student information, had several busy weeks leading up to the event, insuring that all candidates completed and passed their courses, paid their final bills and picked up their caps and gowns.

The ceremonies are special events, not only for the students, but for the parents and family members of each graduate. At Robert Morris College, a significant number of students are the first in their families to attend college. "The pride and happiness parents feel as they witness the celebration of their children's accomplishments is very evident on graduation day," explained Stella. Even though she has participated in many ceremonies over the years, each one is unique.

In the last year, over 900 students completed their bachelor's degrees at Robert Morris College.



On Thursday evening prior to the ceremony on June 3, students achieving cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude honors were invited to an Honors Reception in the State Street Art Gallery at the main campus. Picking up their honor cords from President Michael Viollt was a contingent from the Lake County campus who had most of their classes together. From left to right, Jamie Barenbaum of Round Lake Beach, Kenneth Seymour of Waukegan, Michael Viollt, RMC President; Erica Jimenez of Waukegan, Bryan McGinn of Gurnee and Michael Castiglia of Round Lake Beach.



Sharon Brabson, dean of the RMC School of Business Administration, proudly presented her son Brian with his bachelor's degree at the June 3 ceremony.

Going to be in downtown Chicago? Include a visit to The State Street Gallery at Robert Morris College. The following exhibitions have been scheduled for the upcoming year:

PERMANENT COLLECTION AND STUDENT/FACULTY EXHIBITIONS

August 28 - October 6, 2006:

Institutional Art Exhibition

Opening Reception September 7, 2006

October 9-November 24, 2006:

Artist in Residence: Salvador Jimenez

Opening Reception October 19, 2006

November 27, 2006 to February 2, 2007:

Vintage Poster Collection

Opening Reception December 7, 2006

January 8 - February 2, 2007:

Gallery Exhibition Posters

Opening Reception January 11, 2007

February 26 - March 30, 2007:

Institutional Senior Exhibit

Opening Reception March 1, 2007

April 2 - June 8, 2007: Banner Collection

Opening Reception April 12, 2007

VISITING ARTIST EXHIBITIONS

July - August 11, 2006:

Ricardo Gonzalez and Israel Reza

November 6, 2006 - January 5, 2007:

Margaret Burroughs Retrospective

Opening Reception November 17, 2006

February 5 - 23, 2007: SWSC High School Exhibit

Opening Reception February 16, 2006

February 26, - April 13, 2007: Nathalie Gribinski

Opening Reception March 9, 2007

April 16-June 1, 2007: Group Exhibition:

Paul Erschen, Carl Kauffman and Joseph Vanderstappen

Opening Reception April 27, 2007

INSPIRATION FROM ACROSS THE POND

EMPOWERING STUDENTS, ALUMNI: CAREER SERVICES PROVIDES RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

You're a junior at the RMC Springfield campus, working towards a bachelor's in graphic arts and thinking about an internship.

You graduated from RMC in 1999 and the company you work for has just been bought out. Everyone in your department has been laid off.

It's your last quarter at RMC. You'll have your bachelor's degree in a matter of weeks. Your class load, internship and family responsibilities seem to be more than you can handle. It's a time management emergency!

You're a RMC alum from the class of 1982 and you are looking to brush up your resume and practice your interviewing skills now that your children are in middle school.

Who ya gonna call? Career Services!



When **JILL MCGINTY**, RMC's director of Career Services, started as a pre-med undergrad at Indiana University, little did she know that her classes in physiology, her internships in the hospital's cardiac rehab center, or her stints of late night/early morning shifts as a sorority pledge would contribute to her position of managing one of the College's largest departments.

"Everything helps," she says, "whether the job teaches you time management, or the class simply drives home the fact that this is not what you want to do for the rest of your life, it's all a learning experience."

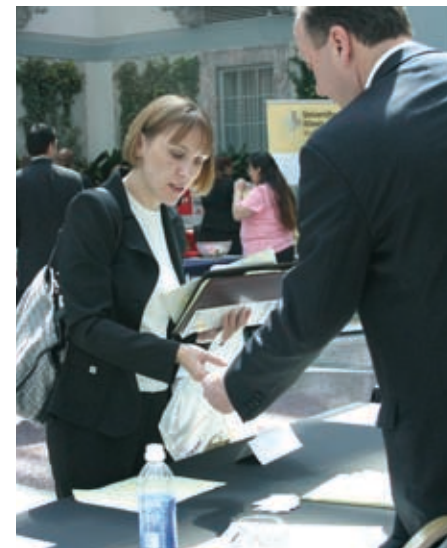
And this is the advice she gives to students and alumni alike. "Sometimes it takes a while to find the right fit," she continued, "but over time we can see that each individual has to develop certain competencies to land the job. They have to be confident, they have to be good communicators, and they have to be intuitive about what the position demands."

Jill sees the focus of her department's efforts as falling into two areas: empowerment and service. Her department offers currently enrolled students and alumni one-on-one assistance, tools, and workshops to successfully manage their professional development. Currently enrolled students are encouraged to take advantage of the department's services early and often.

One way that students can do this is through internships. Students are encouraged to seek out internships through Career Services and, just as for a full-time position, they need to approach the prospect of getting that internship in a professional manner.

"For some students, it requires a major balancing act to include an internship in their schedule when it is already packed with a full course

load, an outside job and family responsibilities," says Jill. "Still, internships require a lot of extra work and in turn, they open doors for a lot of new graduates. Even if it doesn't result in a job offer, students have experienced an average of ten weeks of professional job development." A number of RMC programs require an internship or externship to complete the degree.



An alternative to an individual internship is the classroom internship in which an entire class works on a project for an employer as if they were an outside vendor such as an advertising agency, marketing or accounting firm. Students in the RMC Art and Design program have done creative projects for companies such as direct mail campaigns, marketing classes have prepared long range marketing plans and management classes have created business contracts and accounting classes have worked on tax preparation.

In Springfield, RMC classes have worked for Catholic Charities, Ronald McDonald House and medical accounting firms. Classes at other campuses have been involved with such companies as Pampered Chef, TCF Bank, the CHA, and H&R Block. These class internships are beneficial to the College in many ways. "The faculty member usually has the professional ties that help us get the connection," Jill explained. "They act as project managers and oversee the work of the students so there is a considerable amount of close guidance and attention to the finished results. The company representative also comes in and meets with the students, not only establishing a contact, but giving students the experience of making a presentation and fielding questions by a potential employer."

Helping students land full-time positions as they prepare to graduate also takes another level of fulltime persistence on their behalf. "We have a lot of companies who have hired dozens of our graduates over the years," said Jill, "and they are familiar with the RMC training these students have received. There are law firms, banks, computer networking companies, nonprofits, hotels, and now restaurants that turn to us regularly for new employees."

While there are some fields such as medical assisting and accounting that actively recruit RMC students long before they graduate, Career Services must consistently turn over every rock looking for opportunities to create the perfect fit between new grad and a new career. "Information Technology has gotten better over the past year, paralegals are snapped up right away, Interior Design students who work at forming contacts and learning the ins and outs of the retail side of the business have a better chance, and students from the Business School are finding that they have the most adaptable degrees and can fit into a wide variety of positions," she said.

When art instructor **MARY RUSSELL** attended a word and image seminar at Louisiana State University last year, she didn't anticipate how far networking with other attendees would take her - all the way to the Swansea Institute in Wales.

During the LSU program, she met **DR. ANN OWEN PRICE** and the two women immediately clicked when talking about their experiences as art educators. The more Dr. Price learned about Mary's classes at RMC and her work as an artist and videographer, the more she knew Mary should visit her college, the Swansea Institute, to participate in another seminar with famed filmmaker **PETER GREENAWAY**.

"As much as I've attended lots of conferences on art education and media, I never thought I'd find myself traveling halfway across the globe, by myself, to pursue something that fit so well with my own art," she said. "Ann was very convincing and insisted I stay with her." Mary ended up making the sojourn as a visiting artist and over the course of the ten days, became totally saturated with Greenaway's approach to art and film.

Greenaway, perhaps best known for his film *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, conducted lectures, seminars and workshops that focused on his performance piece entitled "The Fall: success and failure." The multimedia work is the creation of a world consisting of individuals entrenched in different ways in the metaphor of flight. He creates their identities based on interviews with real people and he gives them names based upon listings beginning with the letters FALL in the phone book. The stories he attributes to the characters are a combination of fact and fiction. Greenaway presented his work to students and faculty, and the students were then assigned to create artwork in any medium that responded to "The Fall..." This assignment culminated in one big event with



theatrical performances, videos, and art pieces using all forms of media.

Mary spent time with Greenaway, discussing his past and future projects. "It was a source of richness for me, to talk with him, to work with him. It was like taking an intensive course in his craft." They also discussed her own work, as well as projects with RMC students. Over the years, she has created many video pieces that incorporate her images with the poetry of **GERRY WOZEK**, RMC instructor of English. Together, Mary and Gerry have participated in presentations of their work at conferences, seminars, exhibits and showings throughout the country. Their most recent project, "Dance of the Electric Moccasins," received the first place award for Video Poetry at the 2005 Potenza Film Festival in Italy.

While in Wales, Mary also presented her own work to faculty and students and conducted round-table discussions to get feedback and impressions. Throughout her stay, she videographed much of the experience plus comments and works in progress of students. She is presently working on creating a documentary on her time as a visiting artist at

Swansea, and plans to use it as a teaching tool. She also hopes to enlist RMC students in the editing and titling of the piece. "Once I started shooting, I just couldn't stop. Eventually, Greenaway became so used to me with the camera he was practically unaware of me being in the classroom."

"Swansea and Robert Morris are similar in many ways," she explained. "The schools are very career-oriented in their curricula and also have growing art programs. I think they would be perfect for sharing students, faculty and visiting artists. Opportunities in international scholarship are based on what you can bring to the students and faculty from each institution. The students at Swansea told me, 'we want to talk to you about what we are doing and also learn about what your students are doing.' They are so eager to share. It would be great to do an exchange."

Another possibility would be an instructor exchange. "They could come to the United States as a visiting artist as I did in Wales, and perhaps end the quarter with an exhibit that illustrates the focus both instructors and students took during their time together. I feel it's very important for the students to see their instructors immersed in their work."

The whole experience left Mary with a deep appreciation for the opportunity on a personal as well as professional level. "I didn't think I would do something like this on my own and it really has affected me - and my work - in a positive way. Both Gerry and I are shy in certain ways and this has helped me to be more expressive and outgoing about my art." She has already incorporated her experiences into her teaching and into the joint projects of English and Art that she and Gerry regularly bring into the classroom. "It's so good for students to learn how to work collaboratively and bring the two disciplines together. It can truly inspire them."



PHIL CARRIER: ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE BUSINESS LEADER 2006

TAKING THE ROUTE MORE
SLOWLY, DOESN'T ALWAYS
MEAN YOU KNOW WHERE
YOU'LL END UP...

Phil Carrier, center, is congratulated by Sharon Brabson, left, dean of the School of Business Administration, and Larry Nieman, right, business school faculty member and director of the RMC Business Institute.

In the early 1960s, River Grove, Illinois, was probably a lot more like the town of Mayberry than a typical suburb of Chicago - despite being a couple miles from the city border. The intersection of Grand and Thatcher had a currency exchange and doctor's offices in an old Victorian-style building, a Polk Bros., where you could buy a new oven in one department and the latest '45 by the Four Seasons in another, Johnson's Pharmacy with a counter that sold hot fudge sundaes for 39 cents and Calcagno's Supermarket where most villagers did their weekly grocery shopping.

St. Cyprian's Grammar School on Clinton had over 700 students in the old and new school buildings. Most of the teachers were nuns and until 1963, the two eighth grade classes were separated - boys in one and girls in the other. One student in the graduating class of 1963 has made some significant strides since the days of getting in trouble with the nuns during the school day or jumping off the diving board with soap tablets in the pockets of his swimming trunks at the summer evening swim sessions at Elmwood Park High School. **PHIL CARRIER**, now a resident of Hinsdale, probably got into more trouble than Opie Taylor, but thoroughly enjoyed growing up on Indian Boundary Lane near the DesPlaines River.

Recently, Robert Morris College recognized Phil Carrier as the 2006 Business Leader of the Year. He is president and a founding partner of Cleveland Dovington Partners, Inc. (CDPI), a Chicago based firm that specializes in professional services in Information

Technology. He's come a long way since those days of (not so) innocence. He has found his professional niche as well as his motivation for giving back by encouraging and helping students who are following the same path in his industry.

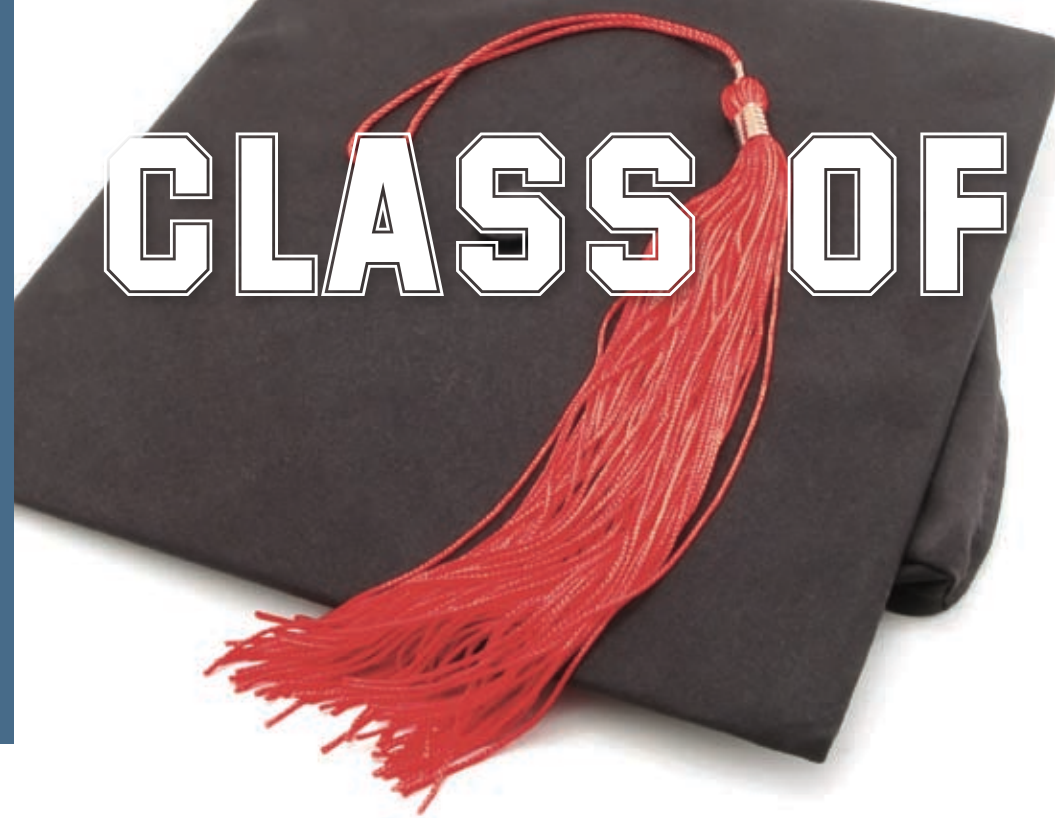
"We had some fun times growing up," he reminisced at the luncheon held recently in his honor. In addition to attending St. Cyprian's, he is a graduate of Holy Cross High School, the University of Illinois/Chicago Circle (as it was then called), and he holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Business of Northwestern University. He also spent three years in the Army and served in Viet Nam. While he will admit he didn't start out that way, Phil Carrier came to take his approach to education seriously. He knew an advanced degree was essential if he wanted to be successful in starting his own company, and that gave him the determination to complete his MBA at Northwestern. Today, CDPI provides management consulting, planning and development, staffing services and application development to many companies, such as Sears, Bank One, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Abbott Laboratories and Amoco.

Aside from his role as head of CDPI, Phil has been an involved and active member of the information technology community for over 30 years. Before establishing CDPI in 1991, he was a senior IT consultant for DASD/IBM, the Director of Information Systems for Bunker Ramo and the CIO/Vice President for United States Can Co. Throughout his career, he has managed the data processing, finance and accounting aspects of many businesses.

In addition to his business endeavors, he has been active in education as an adjunct professor at North Central College in Naperville where he taught business management and computer science courses. Since he became involved with Robert Morris College, he has provided invaluable counsel in the continually evolving curriculum of the Business School and has become further involved by providing seven internships to undergraduates, completed three group internships with marketing classes and has hired three RMC graduates as full time employees.

Mr. Carrier has passed the enthusiasm for business education on to others at CDPI by encouraging staff members to speak at honors management classes on human resource topics and participating in RMC Career Fairs.

LARRY NIEMAN, faculty member and director of the RMC Business Institute, presented the award to Mr. Carrier, indicating that, "The Business Leader of the Year is recognized as someone who supports the mission of the Business School of Robert Morris College, which is to provide a profession through a career-focused education in a collegiate setting. That individual offers outstanding, direct experiences and opportunities for RMC students and exemplifies effective communication and relationship building in his or her career, as well as with the people of the university. Phil Carrier, in his professional and personal efforts, has provided all these opportunities for our students. We are extremely grateful and fortunate to have him affiliated with Robert Morris College."



1996

TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE CLASS OF 1996 RECEIVED THEIR BACHELOR'S DEGREES FROM ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE. WE ASKED MEMBERS OF THAT ANNIVERSARY CLASS TO SEND UPDATES ON THEIR CAREERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR LIVES SO THAT OTHER ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE CAN READ ABOUT HOW FAR THEY HAVE GONE AND WHAT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST DECADE.



DIANE L. ALLEN

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE BENSENVILLE CAMPUS

As a graduate of the Robert Morris College Bachelor of Business Administration Program, I can certainly attest to the doors it has opened for me. As a single parent with two young teenage children it was not an easy journey for me to go back to school for my bachelor's degree but it certainly was a necessary one. I knew in my heart that the only way to achieve the success and happiness I wanted for my family and myself was to earn a bachelor's degree.

It was inspiring to see so many others just like me in the program; working adults with a passion for learning and the determination to earn a bachelor's degree, which would ultimately lead to a higher quality of life for us all.

After graduating, I was hired at Robert Morris College, by **DEB DAHLEN**, senior vice-president of academics, at that time. My title was Administrative Coordinator of Academics.

Deb was a mentor and role model to me. I learned so much from her passion, leadership style and institutional successes.

Approximately two years after I began working at Robert Morris College, I decided to further my education and enrolled at DePaul for a master's degree. Not long after enrolling in the program, I was promoted to Program Director. Three years later, I became Director of Education at the Bensenville Campus, my present role.

Each day my job brings me satisfaction. I enjoy managing and leading my team of professionals. I enjoy sharing the successes of the students and join in on their learning experiences whenever possible.

Earning a bachelor's degree from Robert Morris College provided me with the applied education I needed to become successful in a business environment.

Robert Morris College also opened so many other doors for me. The satisfaction of being able to continue my education to a master's degree and the pride of progression in my positions at the college, have been the most fulfilling experiences of my life.

ELAINE AZPEITIA STEVENS

Wow, I can't believe that it has been that long since I graduated from RMC with my BBA. I currently work for Geminus, Corp. in the Prevention Department under the "Afternoons R.O.C.K." government grant. I am a grant monitor for all of the three Defined Service Areas (DSA'a) in the Northwest Indiana Region for the State. I basically make sure that the subcontractors that are running our programs from the Grant are running them according to guidelines and that they get paid in the end. I also monitor how the programs in each of the cities are doing and how the children like them. If changes need to be made, I send surveys and other info down to the Indiana Resource Center and they take this to state level to get approval. Let me give you a little background on R.O.C.K.:

It is an after school prevention program in Indiana, which targets youth 10-14 years of age. When I say prevention, this means

showing them how to work on resistance skills of ATODs (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs). We help children become leaders and not followers. I also work with four other State grants in aiding against drugs and tobacco and alcohol for our communities. We work hand in hand with the "Indiana Prevention Resource Center" and the "Division of Mental Heather and Addition Center." I work with fourteen DSAs and local Prevention Services Coalitions across the state of Indiana as well as with our local sheriff and mayors. I really have RMC to thank for showing me how to open up to the community, in speaking in front of large groups as well as working with large communities. RMC helped me overcome my shyness and now I am able to help the children and adults in my community. I really enjoy what I do everyday with helping our children, it has become very rewarding for me.

I am married with two daughters, Autumn (4) and Haley (6). My husband Robert, works for United Services, as a lead carpenter and does fire and disaster restoration or homes and buildings. We live in the Hammond/Hessville area and love it.

I don't know what more to say, but that I do miss RMC. I owe a great deal of thanks to the professors and alumni who aided in my education. Thanks.

SANDRA C. CASTILLO



When Sandra first became a college student in 1990, she found that RMC could provide her with more than her freshman classes - she became an employee as well.

Perhaps those early days as a work study student in the Telecom Department, or the time she spent as a receptionist in Admissions gave her a taste of a career in education. Whatever the inspiration, she found her niche. Sandra soon undertook the ultimate balancing act: completing a degree, working for the College, and being mom to Nikolas and Aliana.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree, she became a recruiter in the RMC High School Relations Department. It was a natural fit for someone who could relate to students on so many levels, someone who had seized opportunities when she found them, and someone who obviously spoke with pride about her alma mater.

In 1998 Sandra decided to look beyond RMC to expand her horizons in education. No stranger to the Chicago Public Schools and the programs designed to encourage learning beyond high school, she accepted a position with CPS and has held a number of managerial positions ever since. As a Program Manager for the Department of Education to Careers, she has coordinated the College Excel Program where she managed a \$3.1 million budget. She works with Chicago colleges to ensure that the opportunities that helped her as a student, continue and grow for the students of today and tomorrow.

Today, she manages the citywide Student Enterprise Program which provides students and opportunity to create and run businesses and provide professional services to all of CPS facilities and coordinates the State approved Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (WECEP) at 14 high schools. WECEP provides students, 14 and 15 years of age with skills necessary to enter a gainful occupation and opportunities to explore career possibilities. Sandra also coordinates all of the vendor board reports for the department along with any other new initiatives.

Robert Morris College is proud to have Sandra Castillo as an alumna on its High School Relations Advisory Board, and shares her voluntary efforts with Northwestern Business College, DeVry University, the Chicago International Charter School-West Belden Campus where she is a Parent Advisory Council Member - and a number of self-starter programs for young people in her community. On the home front, Sandra has added adopted daughter Claudia to her family and has welcomed her mother Linda into her home as well.

Sandra plans to stay involved in community outreach, education, and counseling in every way possible. Her new hobby is running as she has completed the Ravenswood Run, Soldier Field 10 miler, Shamrock Shuffle and plans to run the LaSalle Bank half marathon in the future.

LIGIA COSMAN

I graduated in 1996 from Robert Morris College with my Bachelor's Degree. I worked for Chase Bank - formerly known as Bank One - for eleven years until December 2004. My position as Compensation Analyst was eliminated because of the merger. Then, in April 2005 I began working for the Department of Labor as an Analyst II Contractor. Five years ago, I was married and have been living in Skokie with my husband Giovanni.

CONNIE ESPARZA

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AT
ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE



The RMC tag line when I began working here in 1995 was *Where Dreams Find Direction*. As a full-time evening student and full-time employee at Robert

Morris College, my dreams certainly found direction. Not only was I striving to further my education, I was striving towards working in my field, one that serves a purpose. What better field could there be than higher education? Eleven years later, with a BBA in business administration and an MBA in marketing, I'm happy to report that not only did my dreams find direction, but I've seen dreams come true that I never anticipated. Never did I envision that one day I would fill the shoes of my mentor.

Over the years my title has changed but my capacity within the Admissions Department has always been constant: recruitment of students with the appropriate messages and media directly linked to the goals of the College. The realization of my goals is a direct reflection of the opportunities afforded to RMC students and employees alike. To this date, I credit faculty members who saw in me the possibility to do more and pushed me to do it. They made sure I understood what I was doing beyond a doubt. I credit my past and current supervisors who heard my opinions and suggestions and

allowed me the opportunity to implement my ideas. They believed in my leadership style enough to increase my level of responsibility. My sense of fulfillment comes at the end of each day when I feel good about what I said, accomplished and the people I came in contact with. I feel a sense of fulfillment when I can deliver a class presentation and the students want to know how I did it.

RMC continues to be my family and continues to serve the community that I come from - female Hispanic, first generation. The College has laid out specific goals and objectives that ensure

"After graduating from RMC I have had several wonderful opportunities working for various fortune 500 companies."

that each demographic and market is represented. In my eleven years here, I have seen RMC grow and I'm proud to have grown with it. Together, we have a long and promising road ahead; there are still many things to be done and goals to accomplish. I know that RMC will continue to play a role in my life and I know that while I'm here I will continue to reach out to past, present and future students directly (in the classrooms, hallways, elevators) or indirectly (TV, mail, e-mail). I couldn't feel prouder about my employer and everything it does, represents, and the plans for the future.

STEPHEN LOTHO

Not really sure how to start this off so I will just make a summary. After graduating from RMC I have had several wonderful opportunities working for various fortune 500 companies. However, the path that my career took me is not what I was trained for at RMC. I received my bachelor's degree in accounting from RMC but that stopped after about three years. I didn't find the field to be very exciting and I made the transition to technology when I was working for the Ritz Carlton Hotel. From there I started building my technology experiences with Arthur Anderson, Coopers and Lybrant, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Deloitte and Touche, and now Lyons Elementary School District 103 where I am the Director of

Technology. The adventure has been very wonderful and hard work does pay off. I am very happy where I am now and I still continue to receive job offers from various colleagues of past employers including Executives and CEO's.

As far as personal info: I am still single with no kids. I am currently sponsored by Nissan Headquarters for car racing. I compete at HPDE (High Performance Drivers Education) and SE-R Cup. I own a 91 Nissan Sentra SE-R that is race prep. I also compete in chess tournaments and Texas Hold 'Em (who doesn't this days!). I also take about two weeks in the summer

and bike the Utah Mountains as well as backpack. In the winter time I take about two weeks and head for the west coast mountains for skiing and snowboarding. I will be taking classes this fall on business management.

ANDRE MARSHALL

I'm still looking for my ideal job. Here is a update on my accomplishments since I left RMC.

I received my Master of Arts - Curriculum & Instructions in August, 2001. I'm the owner of a successful Financial & Tax Business, Marshall's Financial & Tax Services in Forest Park, IL.

You can go to my web site, www.matfinancial.com, for a profile on me. My career includes many jobs: I'm an accountant, loan officer, tax professional, and provisional teacher in District 209. As you can see, I've been pretty busy since leaving Robert Morris.

HENRY OLLIE

After graduating from RMC, I completed my MBA in Business Management at Roosevelt University in 2002. I am married and my wife Tamika and I have two kids. I just ended twelve years at Harris Bank where I was an Operations Officers in the Commercial Loans Department. RMC actually help me get

that job, through what was called the CO-OP program. I just started a new career at JP Morgan in early May.

TANYA WAGNER

Tanya writes: I'm employed at Clear Channel Communications. Clear Channel is the parent company of numerous Radio and TV Stations and also owns several entertainment venues.

There are seven Clear Channel stations in Chicago, WLIT-FM, WNUA-FM, KISS-FM, WRLL-AM, WGCI-FM, WVAZ-FM

(V-103) and WGRB-AM (Gospel 1390). I'm currently the Executive Assistant with WGCI-FM and V-103-FM). Since graduating from Robert Morris College, I have purchased a home and car.

IRRONDA M. HANEY

My education at RMC has opened doors for me in the professional sense in the fields of banking and education. I served as a credit analyst for about four years. Since I didn't like the banking industry, I'm currently very happy as an administrator at Moraine Valley Community College.

I am nine credit hours away from receiving a master's degree in communication studies from Governor's State University. As soon as I have completed my master's degree I will teach as an adjunct professor in speech communciations. I have plans to pursue a doctorate degree in communications within the next few years.

CLASS NOTES

1988

LYNDA SIMONETTI, Lynda is the director of public relations for the Hilton Chicago Hotel. She was recently recognized as a 2006 DaVinci Honoree for her contributions as a professional in the hospitality field. She is a member of the National Italian American Foundation, the Italian American Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Chicago Sister Cities International Program/Milan Committee. She is also a board member for Catholic Charities, City Club of Chicago and the Publicity Club of Chicago. After receiving her associate degree at RMC, Lynda went on to complete her bachelor's at Illinois State University. "Robert Morris College gave me the tools and taught me how to use them for a career in the hospitality business."

1999

SHARON DURBIN, In April, Sharon was named the new executive director of Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries. A Hillsboro native and Chatham resident, she now heads the agency that serves 100 disabled adults and operates seven thrift stores in central Illinois. She completed her bachelor's at Greenville College and is working on her master's degree at Benedictine University. Prior to the position at Goodwill, she was employed by Illinois Power company as a customer service employee and manager. The utility also developed and ran "A Hand Up," a not for profit agency supported in part by state grants. She is distantly related by marriage to US Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois.

2002



BRIAN WILSON, Since graduating from Robert Morris College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 2002, Brian Wilson is using the skills he

learned in the classroom to help others in the real world.

In early 2005, he was elected 4th Ward Alderman in south suburban Calumet City. In addition to serving on the city council,

he was quickly appointed chairman of the city's Health, Education, & Welfare Committee, a position that directly oversees the functions of the Health and Youth & Family Services Dept., senior citizens, the Public Library, and waterways.

Brian's committee oversees the community's Faith Bailey Health Center, a city-funded clinic where low-income families receive vaccinations, hearing and vision screenings, and general health care assistance. The facility also conducts a Meals-On-Wheels program for seniors and recently furnished food baskets for over 120 families in the area. The clinic's newest program offers free mammogram screenings to residents.

Brian continued his education at Spertus College (Center for Nonprofit Management) and graduated with a Master of Science degree in Human Services Administration in 2004. Brian's educational experiences have provided him the tools to succeed in his current endeavors.

"In our community, everyone is in it together, just like my classes at Robert Morris," he points out. "The team-building exercises and collective spirit really translated into my new responsibilities. Working together helps solve the tough problems a community can face."

In his professional life, Brian is the Community Resource Coordinator at Chicago's Mahalia Jackson Elementary School through a partnership with Jane Addams Hull House Association. "Serving as a positive male role model to these kids really builds their confidence and lets them know that someone cares about their future," he explains. "Sometimes we don't realize how important that is." He routinely coordinates programs and services for the students and their families, providing opportunities for them to see a world where they can achieve great things.

Brian also remains active with his fraternity. He is a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. serving as the Chairman of Community & Civic Affairs. This involvement allows him to coordinate the resources of community leaders and organizations to help make a difference in the lives of low-income families.

Reflecting on his busy schedule, Brian admits enjoying his work as Alderman

in Calumet City the most, with his wife Kimberly and their three children by his side.

"Your community is only as good as you make it. We've got a real good chance of doing some great work in Calumet City and Robert Morris College helped make it all possible."

2003

TOBY GRAHOVEC, The US Touring Car Championship web site reports that an RMC alumnus has hung up his hockey skates and now wears a crash helmet. "Toby Grahovec and Eric Mass have announced their intentions to compete in the US Touring Car Championship in a BMW 330i. Grahovec and Mass, as driver and car owner, respectively, first combined their efforts in late 2005, resulting in a Sports Car Club of America National Championship. Grahovec and Maas have decided to combine their efforts and name the program Team Mobility.

Grahovec has a long and successful history in sports car racing. The Chicago native is a two-time winner of the Fred Wacker Award for being the top racing driver in the Chicago region... (he) won his first SCCA National Championship in 2005 driving a BMW Z4. The 26 year old plans to defend his SCAA national Championship in 2006 and compete in the Short Track Trucks Challenge Series along with his duties in the USTCC. Grahovec was a three-time All American in ice hockey and recently had his number retired by Robert Morris College."



Toby Grahovec and Tom Wendlandt, RMC Hockey Coach



2005-2006 ATHLETIC YEAR IN REVIEW. THE ROBERT MORRIS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER BANNER YEAR DURING THE 2005-2006 SEASON AS TEAMS FROM THE NORTH TO THE SOUTH DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN POST-SEASON PLAY.

ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE ATHLETICS SPORTS WRAP-UP

Even though a slow start led to the end of their five-year string of Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference championships, Head Coach **KURT MELCHER** and his Chicago-NAIA Women's Soccer team compiled a 17-7-1 season record. The Lady Eagles then recovered to claim the NAIA Region VII championship with a 3-2 overtime win against Trinity Christian College (IL). RMC last tasted defeat in regional tournament play in 2001. In the NAIA National Championship Tournament, the Lady Eagles advanced to the Sweet 16 before being eliminated by #4-ranked Houghton College (NY). Outstanding midfielder **ELIZABETH BAIDU** (senior; Accra, Ghana) earned Third Team All-American, 1st Team All Regional, and 1st Team All-Conference honors, while **MAVIS DANSO** (sophomore; Accra, Ghana) earned a spot on the Second Regional Team and an All-Conference Honorable Mention. **ANNE MESHES** (freshman; Rockford, IL) and **FATI MOHAMMED** (sophomore; Accra, Ghana) were also honorably mentioned for All-Conference selection.

PAT PHILLIPS'S Springfield-USCAA Women's Soccer team ended their season with a 10-4-2 record and a second-place finish in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Invitational. Four Lady Eagles earned All-American honors, with a pair of freshman—**MALLORY HAMLIN** (Springfield, IL) and **RACHEL SIMMONS** (Springfield, IL)—named to the first team. Sophomore **BRITTANY KINK** (Riverton, IL) earned national honorable mention honors. **MICHELLE OLDANI** (Junior, Rochester, IL) was named an Academic All-American, while junior **AMY PURVES** (Springfield, IL) earned double honors as an honorable mention All-American and an Academic All-American.

The brand-new Women's Bowling team put together an outstanding inaugural season under the tutelage of Coach **DALE LEHMAN**. Finishing with a Top 30 national ranking and falling just short of a tournament win when they placed

second at the Titan Invitational in Oshkosh, WI, the Eagles received an invitation to the USCBA Sectional Championship tournament. Four bowlers also earned Academic All-American honors: **MEAGAN SYKES** (freshman; Zion, IL), **RACHEL KERNER** (freshman; Antioch, IL), **RACHEL DEBOER** (sophomore; Antioch, IL), and **JOCYLEN BRADLEY** (freshman; Sauk Village, IL).

After another disappointing volleyball season—only a single win in CCAC play—RMC turned to a familiar face in hopes of turning around the program. Former Eagle **CARRIE POGOSE** (2004) has taken the helm and launched new recruiting efforts. New players will join outstanding freshman **MEGAN YERKES** (Chicago, IL) and returning seniors **TAYLOR JOHNSON** (Racine, WI), **NICOLE MASON** (Chicago, IL), and **BETH LABEE** (Romeoville, IL) in the 2006 season.

First-year Head Coach **ROMMEL GUZMAN** led the Lake County-based Men's Soccer team to another successful campaign. The Eagles followed their 2004 USCAA National Championship with a third-place finish at the 2005 National Tournament. After losing a heartbreaker 7-6 to the eventual champion Bluefield College (VA), the Eagle Kickers came back to defeat New Hampshire Technical Institute 6-2 and Southern Maine 1-0 to finish the season with a 9-4-2 record. Earning All-Tourney Honors were **LUPE GONZALEZ** (Waukegan, IL) and **SILVIO MEJIA** (Waukegan, IL). Other 2005 RMC Honors include USCAA Soccer All-American Status for both **SCOTTIE MALAGON** (Park City, IL) and **AARON REYES** (Posen, IL).

It was another great season on the hardwood for all the RMC teams. Heading the pack was the Chicago-NAIA men's team, coached by ten-time Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year **AL BRUEHL**. Coach Bruehl was also inducted into the CCAC Hall of Fame in 2005 and posted his 375th career win as his

team put up a fourth consecutive 30-win season. Although denied the CCAC regular-season championship by a pair of one-point losses to Olivet Nazarene University (IL), the Eagles came back to take the Tournament Championship with a convincing victory over upset-minded University of St. Francis. The Eagles placed seven on the All-Conference team, led by first-teamers **REGGIE GEORGE** (Junior, Chicago, IL), **FREEMAN TAYLOR** (Junior, Gulfport, MS), and **MELVIN COUNCIL** (Junior, Rochester, NY). On the second team, seniors **AARON WELLINGTON** (Chicago, IL) and **JAMES PARKER** (Chicago, IL) were joined by juniors **STEVE STRONG** (Chicago, IL) and **JEROME HARPER** (Columbia, SC). RMC followed that performance by advancing to the Fab Four of the NAIA National Tournament for the second consecutive year and for the third time in five seasons. A thrilling 94-91 overtime win against Azusa Pacific University (CA)—the team that had eliminated RMC in last season's Fab Four—put the Eagles into the national semifinals. Once again they were denied a trip to the championship game as they fell to Oklahoma City University 94-92 on a last-second basket. Reggie George and Freeman Taylor were named All-American and George was placed on the All-Tournament team.

First-year Head Coach **RENEE BOSTIC** looks to have the Lady Eagles on the right track as the Chicago-NAIA team reached the CCAC semifinals for the first time in many a season. Taking over a squad that had won but two games in the previous season, Coach Bostic finished with a 14-18 record. Junior **SHEENITA MCPHATTER** (Great Neck, NY) was named to the All-Conference first team.

Playing a tough schedule that featured many NCAA Division II and Division III opponents, the Springfield-USCAA men's basketball team ended the season with 16-14 record. The Springfield Eagles—coached by **KEVIN GORDON**—

entered the USCAA national tournament as the #1 seed, but fell to eventual national champions Philander Smith (AK) and ended the season #4 nationally. **CORLEY LEE** (Sophomore; Decatur, IL) garner double honors as a member of both the 2006 All-Tournament Team and as an All-American. He was joined on the All-America team by repeat selection **TYLER MORETTO** (Sophomore; Pekin, IL). Senior captain **MATT WISEMAN** (Senior; Athens, IL) also repeated as an Academic All-American.

Springfield's USCAA Lady Eagles also entered the national tournament as the #1 seed before bowing to Southern Virginia College in the championship game. They backed that #2 national finish with a 19-11 won-loss record. Coach **BRAD HANSEN** placed **BETH WHITT** (junior; Catlin, IL) on both the All-Tournament team and the All-American team. Senior **NICOLE DEARING** (senior; Valparaiso, IN) was an Academic All-American.

Coach **JOHN BURKE'S** Women's Hockey team spent the entire season as the nation's #1 team before losing to Lindenwood University (MO) 3-2 in the national championship game. Although they were unable to defend their 2005 national title, the Lady Icers compiled a 27-8-2 season record, putting together an 18-game winning streak after beginning the season 2-7. They utterly destroyed a field of international teams at the Estonia Tournament, outscoring their opponents 42 goals to zero. Eagles dominated All-American First Team as they earned four of the five spots: **ASHLEY BOYE** (Cape Coral, FL), **SAVANNAH VARNER** (Centerville, PA), **JENNIFER NORRIS** (Roselle, IL), and **CRYSTAL ZACE** (LaGrange Park, IL). RMC also placed seven on the ACHA All-National Tournament Team, the four all-Americans plus **LISA GENS** (Baudette, MN), **DANA PAHA** (Homer Glen, IL), and **ALLISON TOFT** (Alexandria, MN).

The Gold Hockey Team had a very successful 2005-06 season, finishing with an overall record of 23-17-3. After finishing tied for fifth in the ultra-competitive Central States Collegiate Hockey League, the postseason-bound Eagles turned a few heads en route to a 3rd place finish in the CSCHL playoffs, playing some of their best hockey of the year. Qualifying for the ACHA National Championships as a 13 seed, RMC faced a powerful University of Illinois squad in the tournament's opening round. Unfortunately the talented Illini were a bit too much for the Eagles to handle, and after a hard-fought defeat Robert Morris was unable to recover any of its former momentum, bowing to Delaware in the consolation round, 8-3; the loss secured a 14th place tournament finish. Although stymied on the national stage, RMC certainly had a terrific season, with several players earning accolades from the conference: **AARON MERKLE** (Junior; Flint, MI), **STEVE LAFRENIER** (Sophomore; Addison, IL), and **NICK O'MEARA** (Senior) were all named to the CSCHL All-Star Team, and **RYAN TOMASSINI** (Sophomore; Carol Stream, IL) was elected to the All-Defensive Team.

Though often overshadowed by their higher-profile Gold counterparts, the Maroon Hockey Team made some waves of their own this season, compiling an overall record of 24-15-1, good enough to make the Eagles the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Hockey Association regular season champions. Riding high on a wave of powerful momentum as they entered the GLIHA playoffs, RMC surged through the opening rounds, reaching the championship game against Central Michigan. Unfortunately, Central Michigan was able to prevail, 5-3, after a terrific game, with both teams playing their hardest. Although Maroon's season was a great success, they were unable to qualify for the National Championships. Freshman **MIKE BENSON** (Batavia, IL) was named to the GLIHA All-Region Second Team.

The Chicago Softball Team performed admirably this spring, compiling an overall record of 21-26 against some very tough opponents. The Lady Eagles entered the CCAC tournament as a #6 seed, and squeaked out an extra inning nail-biter 5-2 over Cardinal Stritch in the opening round. Unfortunately their postseason success could last no longer, as RMC succumbed to both Olivet Nazarene and St. Francis in quick succession, ending the tournament run. Departing seniors include **JENNY DIGREGORIO** (Lemont, IL), **MEGAN LLORENS** (Winfield, IL), **NICHELE RATLIFF** (Becker, IL), and **SHAUNA ROBERTSON** (Chicago, IL). Their leadership will surely be missed.

Finishing sixth in the hotly contested CCAC, the Chicago baseball team wrapped up a successful season with a record of 22-18-1. Hoping to journey deep into the postseason, the Eagles entered the NAIA Region VII Qualifying Tournament with lofty aspirations that proved to be anything but far-fetched. Despite a tough schedule (four games in three days) and a pitching staff that was stretched dangerously thin, RMC was able to prevail in the first three rounds of the tournament, culminating in an epic final game against Purdue University-North Central that would determine the tournament champion. Unfortunately, the team came up just short, with PNC scoring the game-winning run with two down in the bottom of the ninth. It was a heartbreaking end to a great season, with seniors **JEREMY BURKE** (Alsip, IL), **ADAM CHRZANOWSKI** (Alsip, IL), **CHRIS GREINER** (Darien, IL), **MATT JOINER** (Channahon, IL), **TONY LORENZO** (Orland Park, IL), and **DIRK MILLER** (Midlothian, IL) playing their last game in the maroon and gold.

Head Coach **MARK BRAYFIELD'S** Springfield Softball team certainly has a lot to be proud of after the 2006 season; after all, not every team wins a national invitation! Hosting the USCAA National Invitational Softball Championship in nearby Mattoon, Illinois, the stalwart Lady Eagles came into the tournament as an underdog #3 seed, after a strong regular season. Utilizing their home field advantage and exuding confidence every step of the way, RMC handily defeated Southern Virginia University (10-0), and then took #1 seed St. Mary of the

Woods to extra innings before dispatching them as well, 5-3. As it turned out, SMWC was not finished, and Robert Morris faced them yet again in the later rounds, beating them once 8-7 in extra innings and then finally putting SMWC down for the count in the championship game with a resounding 7-1 victory. RMC took home the tournament title, and pitcher **LORA FISHER** (junior; Casey, IL) earned tournament MVP honors.

The Men's Cross Country team finished third in both the CCAC and NAIA Region VII this fall, establishing itself as a force to be reckoned with out on the course. Senior **PAUL ZAVALA** (Summit, IL) led the Eagles throughout their grueling season, and became the only RMC runner to earn a berth in the NAIA National Championship Meet, finishing 201st on the NAIA's biggest stage. He also garnered All-Conference and All-Region honors this season, as well as setting a personal record on October 15 at Rockford College, where Zavala ran a wicked fast 26:55 en route to a new course record. The team appears to be headed in the right direction, with young, talented runners also performing well this year; in particular freshman **DAVID BROOKS** (South Holland, IL) who was also All-Conference and All-Region in just his first year of collegiate competition.

For the Women's Cross Country Team, it was a rebuilding year. Despite finishing last in both the CCAC and Region VII, the team definitely showed promise, with times consistently improving throughout the year. These young women endured countless miles of arduous cross country terrain; the fact that they were able to not only survive but also improve serves as testament to their universal athleticism and character. Looking ahead, several young runners promise to keep the Eagles competitive for many seasons to come, while the leadership of this year's senior class will be hard, but not impossible, to replace. The graduating seniors are: **LATASHA MCCRAY** (Chicago, IL), **VANESSA SOLER** (Cicero, IL), **MICHELLE HIDALGO** (Chicago, IL), and **GLORIA ARDOR** (Chicago, IL).

The inaugural season for Women's Track and Field went quite well, considering the team had to deal with the uncertainties that are oftentimes prevalent when beginning a brand new program. Nevertheless, the Lady Eagles performed admirably, competing well alongside established and elite programs. Times and distances improved steadily throughout the season, which is a good sign for the future, proving that the potential for success is certainly present. After techniques are honed, miles are logged, and overall team chemistry is cultivated, Robert Morris College will soon be a competitive force in women's track and field.

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No matter how solid the foundation of knowledge in their areas of study or how high their GPA, new grads have to learn to communicate what they want and what they have to offer. "Students have to know how to sell themselves," said Jill. "They are competing with a lot of others for the best positions and they have to stand out as the best candidates."

In working with alumni, the assistance Career Services provides helps improve and redefine skills. The longer alums are out of college, the more they need professional workshops and personal marketing and development training such as resume and interview assistance. The actual number of RMC alumni grows with each graduation and Career Services has a calendar of seminars and workshops geared just for RMC graduates who find themselves back in the job market.

Alumni assistance takes on a slightly different approach for Career Services advisors because the market and alumni expectations evolve over time. Robert Morris College provides the service free of charge to both alumni and employers looking to fill positions. "We get calls from alumni as far back as 1977 on any given day," explained Jill. "A big percentage of our graduates will always come back to RMC when they find they need help in finding a new job."

Many need to brush up on their skills and will also sign up for refresher courses or professional development workshops, which they can also take through RMC. Alumni quickly find they have to improve the package with continued education or expanded experience. A bachelor's



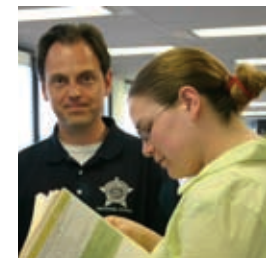
degree removes the cap to earning potential that someone with an associate's degree may be facing, and acquiring additional skills such as another language can improve an individual's marketability. Additionally, someone who is bilingual will be a definite asset in the culinary, banking, medical or legal fields. Spanish is the number one language employers are looking for but Polish is a close second.

The newest tool that Career Services offers is RMC CareerConnect, an online job search and resource management database. Students and alumni can both access the site to, among other things, search the jobs database for open positions with area employers, RSVP for job fairs and other career events, view samples of personal marketing materials such as resumes, cover letters, and thank you letters. The

department rolled-out the system a year ago and has a steadily growing database of nearly 3,000 employers.

The added value of CareerConnect when compared with CareerBuilder, Monster or other job search sites is "We know the employers that make up our database. We have a personal relationship with them and they know what kind of students RMC has," says Jill. "The jobs fit our students." This is yet another tool that students and alumni have at their disposal.

"We work to help our students and alumni find careers, not just jobs," Jill concluded. "But the onus is always back upon the individual to think critically about what they have to offer the employer and improve the package. The best way is to use those communication techniques, and get in there and demonstrate what kind of performance they'll get from you if they make an offer."



The RMC Career Services department assists students and alumni at each of the College's seven campuses. For additional information, call 800-RMC-5960.

RMC JOB FAIRS WELCOME EMPLOYERS

The RMC Career Services Department has long enjoyed a positive relationship with hundreds of corporations throughout Illinois. Many of them are interested in providing internships for junior or senior students, a number of them offer input to the College's curricula through representation on Advisory Boards, and even more turn to Robert Morris College for permanent employees who have completed their degrees.

In April, Career Services held its largest job fair ever, welcoming over 60 businesses to the Winter Garden on the top floor of the Harold Washington Library. Located directly across the street from RMC's Chicago campus, the event was hugely successful from a number of different perspectives. The large turnout of companies was a positive indication of the job market. While many RMC graduates have jobs lined up even before they complete their programs, the prospect of finding a job was not as "automatic" as it had been in

previous years. Career Services staff members used the fair as an opportunity to reaffirm relationships with a number of corporations. It enabled them to learn more about company workforce needs, something that is essential in considering opportunities for new graduates.

More than 300 students were able to use the job fair as a "pre-interview" experience. They were instructed to prepare their resumes, dress for success and use their communication skills in meeting and greeting potential employers.

Encouraged by the success in Chicago, Career Services held equally successful events at the Bensenville and Orland Park campuses in May and June.

"We were very pleased by the turnouts," said Jill McGinty, director of career services. "I think the companies were happy to take part in the events and were encouraged by the caliber of students. Additionally, some of our own alumni are now representing companies and are recruiting our graduates. It's great to see things come full circle."