IN THIS ISSUE

An Unforgettable Gift
The incredible story of the liver transplant that saved senior Jeff Harold’s life

Behind the Steel Curtain
How Kevin Colbert ’79 helped to build the Steelers into Super Bowl champions

A Presidential Journey
Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D.
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

I hope you enjoy the inaugural issue of Robert Morris University’s new magazine, Foundations. As you know, RMU recently began articulating its distinct brand of education – an applied, professional education that provides students with four “Foundations for Success”: skill, support, experience and confidence. It is in keeping with this brand that we decided to call our new magazine Foundations.

Since my arrival last summer, I have observed much positive change at our institution, including the third consecutive record freshman class; the construction and improvement of Joe Walton Stadium, John Jay Center, Braddock and Concord Halls; the addition of new academic programs and accreditation of existing programs; and the offering of new scholarship funds.

I have met many of you during your visits to campus and through programs in places such as Cleveland, Philadelphia and New York. These encounters have convinced me further that it is only through the commitment of our alumni and friends that RMU has achieved so much success in recent years – from your help in recruiting high-quality students, to your participation at on-campus activities, to your gifts that help to fund new initiatives.

While we take great pride in our ability to provide students with the foundations for success in their careers and lives, we are also appreciative to have a supportive and accomplished group of alumni who serve as the foundation for our institution’s success.

I look forward to meeting and working with more of you in the years ahead to help others realize what we already know: that Robert Morris University is one of the most innovative, comprehensive private institutions in the northeastern United States.

GREGORY G. DELL’OMO, PH.D.
PRESIDENT
Departments

2 CAMPUS REPORT
Check out the latest happenings on campus, including new degrees and accreditations, the John Jay Center ribbon-cutting and more!

4 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
A roundup of the latest faculty news, including awards, grants, books published and a look at RMU’s newest dean.

5 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Meet some of RMU’s best and brightest, and learn how some students spent their spring break at the Gulf, but not on the beach.

6 SCOREBOARD
Catch up with the Colonials with this review of 2005-06 fall and winter sports – and meet the NEC Men’s Basketball Rookie of the Year.

17 ADVANCEMENT
See who won this year’s Alumni Awards and learn more about RMU’s growing scholarship program.

19 CLASS NOTES
Check in to see what your former classmates are up to!

24 UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark your calendar now for these upcoming alumni events.

A Presidential Journey . . . . . . . . 8
How New Jersey native Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D., found his way to the president’s office at Robert Morris University – and where he plans to take RMU in the years to come. Also, highlights of Dell’Omo’s November 2005 inauguration.

An Unforgettable Gift . . . . . . . . 12
Less than a year ago, RMU senior Jeff Harold wasn’t sure he would ever see 2006. Now, after a life-saving liver transplant, he’s not only back in school, but also a vocal advocate for organ donation.

Behind the Steel Curtain . . . . . . 14
You rarely see his face on TV, but Kevin Colbert ’79 played a key role in building the Pittsburgh Steelers into Super Bowl champions. He and two of his coworkers got their start through RMU’s renowned sport management program.

ON THE COVER: Robert Morris University’s seventh president, Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D.
> NURSING PROGRAMS ACCREDITED
In Fall 2005, the School of Nursing and Allied Health earned initial accreditation of five years from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for both its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) and Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree programs. Five years is the maximum period of accreditation granted for new programs.

> NEW HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION DEGREE
This spring, RMU launched a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration degree, designed to enable experienced professionals to become health care leaders. The degree is offered jointly through the School of Nursing and Allied Health and the School of Adult and Continuing Education.

> FIRST NURSES’ PINNING CEREMONY
On Dec. 2, the School of Nursing and Allied Health recognized its inaugural class of graduates at the first annual Nurses’ Pinning Ceremony. The 13 students completing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing received RMU’s new nursing pins, while eight students were recognized as the first to complete the Master of Science in Nursing.

> KAPPA ALPHA PSI SCHOLARSHIPS
RMU and the fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi have partnered to offer two Presidential Scholarships to African-American students interested in attending RMU. Based on academic achievement, the awards cover a student’s tuition costs for four years at RMU.

> CENTER PREMIERES NEW DOCUMENTARY
In February, RMU’s Center for Documentary Production and Study premiered the student/faculty-produced documentary Portrait of a Campaign, which followed the campaigns of incumbent Jim Roddey and successful challenger Dan Onorato in the 2003 Allegheny County chief executive race. After the screening, both candidates provided personal reactions to the film and the campaign, and joined producers in answering questions from the audience.

> BAYER CENTER LAUNCHES NEXUS
RMU’s Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management has launched Nexus: The Pittsburgh Dialogues for Volunteers, Philanthropists and Activists, an 18-month project funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation. Nexus links the best of national thinking with promising work in Pittsburgh communities to build trust and civic engagement in an effort to shape a comprehensive action agenda for Western Pennsylvania. The first dialogue in January was led by Lewis M. Feldstein, co-author of Better Together: Restoring the American Community, who discussed powerful community solutions forged across America. In April, the second dialogue featured panelists from the Greater New Orleans Community Foundation, Ashé Cultural Arts Center and Tulane University discussing efforts to recreate the fabric of civic life in the Gulf region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

> CAMPUS REPORT

2006–2007 LINEUP
RMU’s Pittsburgh Speakers Series will celebrate its fifth season in 2006-07 with another spectacular lineup of speakers. The schedule includes: screenwriter and director Nora Ephron (Sept. 27); Apollo 13 commander James Lovell (Nov. 8); former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell (Dec. 6); CNN chief international correspondent Christiane Amanpour (Jan. 31); nationally-syndicated radio talk show host and film critic Michael Medved (Feb. 28); environmental attorney and advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (March 21); and former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer (April 25). RMU alumni receive a 10 percent discount off the series subscription price. For tickets, call 412-392-4900 or visit www.pittsburghspeakersseries.org.
> **MASSEY CENTER ON THE FASTTRAC®**
To help the region’s women in launching and expanding their own businesses, RMU’s Massey Center for Business Innovation and Development teamed with Chatham College’s Center for Women’s Entrepreneurship to offer the nationally recognized FastTrac® training program exclusively for women. RMU has offered FastTrac® training to veterans and entrepreneurs since 2003.

> **ROONEY INTERNATIONAL VISITING SCHOLARS**
The Rooney International Visiting Scholars program continued in 2005–06 with visits from United Kingdom metallurgist John Campbell, Ph.D., in the fall, South African political analyst Daniel Silke in early spring and Indian bioinformatics expert Ordetta Mendoza, Ph.D., in late spring. Each scholar presented a series of campus lectures on his or her area of expertise while at RMU.

> **ZONN NAMED VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL**
RMU appointed Sidney Zonn, Esq., as vice president and general counsel. Zonn has served as outside counsel to RMU for more than 25 years and is currently secretary to the Board of Trustees. He was most recently managing partner at Littler Mendelson, PC.

> **ISC TRAINER AMONG NATION’S BEST**
Eleanor Calgaro, assistant director of the fitness center at the RMU Island Sports Center, was recognized as one of the 100 best fitness trainers in the nation in the December 2005 issue of Men’s Journal.

> **KARNOFF JOINS DEVELOPMENT STAFF**
Last fall, RMU welcomed Larry Karnoff, J.D., CFRE, as assistant vice president for development. Karnoff is responsible for a broad range of fund-raising duties, including major gift strategies, planned giving efforts and donor stewardship. He previously was director of planned giving for the southeast region at American Friends of the Hebrew University.

> **NICHOLSON RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD**
Edward A. Nicholson, Ph.D., president emeritus and professor of management, received the University’s prestigious Patriot Award at a dinner on Oct. 2. The award recognized his leadership to RMU and significant contributions to the Pittsburgh community. The dinner included a special performance by the River City Brass Band, during which Nicholson had the opportunity to act as guest conductor.

> **JOHN JAY CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING**
On Sept. 12, RMU held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated John Jay Center. U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy and State Rep. Mark Mustio were guest speakers. Renovations to the 38-year old building include new state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, wireless connectivity and multimedia instruction capabilities, a nursing laboratory featuring the latest technology, and enhanced engineering laboratory space. The facility is home to the School of Nursing and Allied Health and the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science.

> **ADMISSIONS MARKETING AWARDS**
Several RMU admissions and general University marketing materials earned Awards of Merit from the Admissions Advertising Awards, the largest annual awards competition in the field of educational marketing. The materials were produced by Pittsburgh-based branding, design and communications firm BD&E.

> **BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS**
Willy Scherf, president and chief executive officer of Bayer Corporate and Business Services, was recently elected to his first term on RMU’s Board of Trustees, while three other members – chair Joseph W. Nocito ’70, president of Nocito Enterprises; civic leader Beverlynn Elliott; and Thomas W. Sterling, senior vice president for human resources with U.S. Steel – were re-elected, Nocito for a sixth term, and Elliott and Sterling for a second term.
CARL ROSS, PH.D., RN, CRNP, BC, CNE, professor of nursing, received both the Nurse as Global Citizen Award and the District 6 Distinguished Nurse of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association. The first award recognizes a nurse who has demonstrated citizenship in the community and whose strength of character, commitment and competence inspires nurses to make a difference. The second award recognizes individuals who have contributed to nursing excellence in their respective fields. Ross also was one of the first nurse educators certified by the National League for Nursing last fall.

MARIA V. KALEVITCH, PH.D., founding head of RMU’s science department and associate professor of science, was named associate dean of the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science in the fall.

JIM VINCENT, director of online training for the School of Adult and Continuing Education, was recognized with the Excellence in Online Training Award during eCollege’s Center for Internet Technology in Education Conference in March.

HYLA WILLIS, M.F.A., assistant professor of media arts, received an Individual Creative Artists Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for two of her projects with subRosa, a group that creates interactive performance art, installations and publications focusing on biotechnology’s impact on women.

DARIA CRAWLEY, PH.D., assistant professor of management, was one of four recipients (along with former Pittsburgh Steeler Jerome Bettis) of Duquesne Light’s 2006 African-American Leadership Award in February.

PHILIP HAROLD, PH.D., assistant professor of political science, received a $1,000 research award to assist in completing his work on a book on French ethical thinker Emmanuel Levinas.

CAROLINA LOYOLA-GARCIA, M.F.A., assistant professor of media arts, was one of 20 faculty across the nation chosen to attend a seminar through the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation in Los Angeles in November. The seminar featured panel discussions, visits to production facilities and access to television producers and network heads.

DANIEL P. BARR, PH.D., assistant professor of history, recently published two books: The Boundaries Between Us: Natives and Newcomers Along the Frontiers of the Old Northwest Territory, 1750-1850 (Kent State University Press, 2006), a book of 11 original essays which he edited; and Unconquered: The Iroquois League at War in Colonial America (Praeger, 2006), which he authored.

NELL T. HARTLEY, PH.D., professor of management, was among a small group of scholars invited to participate in a focus group examining trends and needs in organizational behavior education during McGraw-Hill’s annual meeting in Amelia Island, Fla., in February.

VALERIE J. HARVEY, RT(R), PH.D., professor of computer and information systems, was appointed editorial advocate for AERS Quarterly, published by the Association for Educators in Radiological Sciences.

HENRIETTA F. ANGUS, head acquisitions librarian and associate professor of learning resources, was appointed to the PALINET Electronic Information Resources Advisory Group for a two-year term. PALINET is one of the nation’s largest governed regional library networks.

WILLIAM KELLY, PH.D., retired professor of statistics, was a member of the gold medal softball team in the over-75 division of last summer’s Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh.
Several RMU students received prestigious awards for video projects completed through the Academic Media Center. Seniors LINDSAY BERGGREN (media arts) and BRIAN TIRPAK (communications) received a Communicator Award of Distinction, an Aegis Award and a silver Telly Award for a FedEx training video. Sophomore JUSTIN SEAMAN (media arts) received a Communicator Award of Distinction for his public service announcement on child abuse, as well as an Aegis Award, Communicator Award Honorable Mention and bronze Telly Award for his Povertyneck Hillbillies music video. SEAMAN and sophomore KEN VEDDER (communications) received a bronze Telly Award for their video “Fallen Heroes.” Sophomore DAVE WELDON (communications) received a Communicator Crystal Award of Excellence for their video “Fallen Heroes.”

Sophomore JUSTIN SEAMAN (media arts) received an Aegis Award and a silver Telly Award for his Povertyneck Hillbillies music video. SEAMAN and sophomore KEN VEDDER (communications) received a bronze Telly Award for their video “Fallen Heroes.” Sophomore DAVE WELDON (communications) received aCommunicator Crystal Award of Excellence for their video “Fallen Heroes.” Sophomore DAVE WELDON (communications) received a Communicator Crystal Award of Excellence for their video “Fallen Heroes.”

Five senior sport management majors – MARK ANDERSON, ALYSSA BLUMLING, DIANE DALLOS, LAUREN DELAHANTRY and DEREK MEARS – were among approximately 100 students invited to the National Basketball Association (NBA) Job Fair in March. Last year, three RMU students attended the fair, were offered positions, and are working with NBA teams in Orlando, New Orleans/Oklahoma City and Cleveland.

Senior finance, applied mathematics and communications major BENJAMIN PEGG was one of 175 students from 15 countries chosen to attend Princeton University’s Business Today International Conference in New York City last November. The conference provides the opportunity to interact with political leaders and business executives. Pegg was the 2006 recipient of the Charles R. Cubelic Award, presented to an outstanding senior by the RMU Alumni Association.

Human resource management major STACEY KINSEL was recognized as a Gates Millennium Scholar by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The scholarship program benefits academically talented students from underrepresented backgrounds.

JESSICA KRAYNAK, a senior accounting major, was named an FEI Scholar for 2005–06 by the Pittsburgh chapter of Financial Executives International (FEI) and received a $1,000 scholarship award.

As college students everywhere set off on spring break this past March, 36 RMU students skipped the sunny beaches to assist with Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts. Sixteen students, accompanied by community and volunteer services coordinator Aviance Taylor and campus minister Craig Giles, spent the week in Gulfport and Biloxi, Miss., assisting with painting, clean-up, rebuilding and repair projects. Twenty students from the Chi Alpha campus ministry organization spent the week at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., assisting with painting, on-campus clean-up, and in helping MSU’s Chi Alpha chapter resume operation.

These spring break projects were part of a series of RMU efforts to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. Last fall, many individuals and groups from RMU joined in the nationwide response to the tragedy. The Catholic Campus Ministry worked with the Little Sisters of the Poor to adopt 33 former Louisiana residents who were relocated to Pittsburgh. The National Society of Collegiate Scholars’ “Operation Backpack” provided students from the affected areas with school supplies. Members of the Faculty Federation contributed their dues to help with travel costs for students assisting in relief efforts. The Media Arts Department and Academic Media Center collected art and school supplies for Louisiana State University’s art department. And executive director of the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management Peggy Morrison Outon was invited by Louisiana’s governor to help organize the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, which provided assistance through a network of charities and nonprofit and governmental agencies.
**CROSS COUNTRY**
RMU’s men’s squad finished fourth at the 2005 Northeast Conference (NEC) Championships, while the women’s team placed 10th. Sophomore Mike Booth earned All-NEC honors after finishing eighth individually (27:08). Sophomore Sarah Antonaitis paced the women’s team, finishing 44th (22:43).

**FIELD HOCKEY**
In its second season, RMU posted a record of 3-13 (2-6 NEC). Sophomore goaltender Kate Dunlap was named to the All-NEC Second Team, leading the league in saves (195), saves per game (12.19) and save percentage (.823). The team’s 3.43 GPA ranked third among Division I schools, according to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association.

**FOOTBALL**
RMU christened Joe Walton Stadium with a 49-13 victory over Butler, but finished 2005 with a 2-8 record. Senior linebacker James Noel, senior defensive end Jason Forrest and senior return specialist Tyjuan Massey earned First-Team All-NEC honors, while Massey also earned second-team honors as a wide receiver. Noel tallied a team-high 107 tackles to extend his career record to 437. Massey set RMU single-season records for receiving yards (899) and touchdown receptions (10), and single-game records for catches (10), receiving yards (272) and all-purpose yards (349).

**MEN’S SOCCER**
RMU claimed its third NEC Tournament championship and NCAA Tournament bid by downing Monmouth 3-2 in overtime. Sophomore forward Jacek Przednowek was named Tournament MVP after recording a hat trick against the Hawks. RMU fell to West Virginia in the NCAA opening round, 1-0, to finish 11-8-1 (5-3-1 NEC). Przednowek and sophomore midfielder Ryan Zabinski were named to the All-NEC First Team, while junior midfielder Jason Pelletier earned second-team honors. Przednowek led the NEC in goals (14) and points (31).

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**
RMU finished the 2005 campaign with a record of 3-13-2 (1-7-1 NEC). Senior defender Angela Story was named to the All-NEC Second Team after leading the club in goals (5), assists (7) and points (17).

**VOLLEYBALL**
RMU advanced to the NEC Tournament championship for the seventh straight season, but fell to Long Island, 3-0, to finish 16-13 (7-1 NEC). Freshman libero Alaina Gibson was named NEC Rookie of the Year after leading the league in digs (528). Gibson and senior outside hitter Megan Bell were named to the All-NEC First Team, while senior middle blocker Cyndi Dunslove and junior middle blocker Janette Schneider garnered second-team honors. Bell finished her career with a school-record 1,435 kills.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**
RMU posted its first winning season in six years and advanced to the NEC Tournament semifinals, finishing 15-14 (10-8 NEC). Junior forward A.J. Jackson was named to the All-NEC First Team after leading the club in scoring (17.0 ppg) and rebounding (9.3 rpg). Freshman guard Jeremy Chappell (14.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg) was named NEC Rookie of the Year. As a team, RMU set a single-season school record for three-pointers made (260).

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**
For the second straight season, RMU finished with 20 wins, notching a 20-9 record (15-3 NEC) and advancing to the NEC Tournament semifinals. With 2004-05 NEC Player of the Year Sugeiry Monsac playing in just five games due to injuries, the Colonials relied on juniors...
Psyche Butler and Natasha Summerville, who led the team in points (15.2) and rebounds (10.1) per game and were named to the All-NEC First and Second Teams, respectively.

MEN’S ICE HOCKEY
In its second season, RMU posted a 12-30-3 record and a 7-11-2 mark in College Hockey America (CHA) to finish fourth. The Colonials advanced to the CHA Tournament semifinals before falling to Niagara, 3-2. Freshman forward Chris Margott was named to the All-CHA Rookie Team, leading the club in points (27) and goals (13). Sophomore goalie Christian Boucher (914 saves, .903 save percentage) earned an Easton Three-Star Award.

WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY
In its inaugural season, RMU posted a record of 5-24-2 (2-10-1 CHA). Freshman goalie Brianne McLaughlin was named to both the All-CHA Rookie and Second Teams and earned an Easton Three-Star Award after leading the nation in saves (1,088). Freshman defender Samantha Ullrich also earned All-CHA Rookie Team honors.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
The men’s team finished second at the 2006 NEC Championships, with Head Coach Michael Smith named NEC Coach of the Year. Sophomore Mike Booth was named Most Valuable Performer and Outstanding Track Performer after winning the 3,000-meter run (8:32.01) and mile run (4:16.48) and anchoring the distance medley relay team, which set an NEC Championship record (10:15.82). Freshman Joe Wagner won the 500 meters (1:04.69). The women’s team finished seventh at the NEC Championships. Senior Katie Fisher placed second in the weight throw (55’4.25”) and junior Brittany Humphress was second in the triple jump (37’2.50”).

THE CHAPPELL SHOW A HIT AT RMU
It’s not as if sixth-year head coach Mark Schmidt hasn’t had a freshman become a key part of his team before. Yet no one probably foresaw what would transpire in 2005-06. After losing three starters that combined for almost 60 percent of the club’s offense in 2004-05, Schmidt needed some new players to step up, and freshman guard Jeremy Chappell quickly did so.

One of just four players in school history to start his first collegiate game, Chappell went on to rewrite the RMU freshman record book on route to garnering NEC Rookie of the Year honors. Starting 28 of 29 games, Chappell led the team in steals (54), was second in scoring (14.1 ppg), and third in rebounding (5.7 rpg) and assists (75). His 410 points and 151 field goals were RMU freshman records, while he ranked second in scoring average and three-pointers (53), third in rebounds (165) and steals, and fifth in assists.

If Chappell’s toughness was ever in question, look no further than the 2006 NEC Tournament. Down by two against Mount St. Mary’s in the quarterfinals, Chappell buried a three-pointer with 12.6 seconds to lift the Colonials into the semifinals with a 67-66 win.

“I didn’t really expect to start my first game as a college player,” Chappell said. “The coaches told me before the season that through hard work it was a possibility. I worked hard in the offseason and the preseason to not only show the coaches that I could play, but that I deserved to start.”

“When he plays with effort every night and does it on a consistent basis, he has the ability to be special,” said Schmidt.

With a year of collegiate basketball under his belt, the future looks extremely bright for Chappell and the men’s basketball program.
New Jersey native Gregory G. Dell’Omo, Ph.D. learned his first lesson about the differences between the East Coast and the Midwest at a McDonald’s in Madison, Wisconsin in 1983.

“I remember ordering food, and the young woman could not understand a word I said,” says Dell’Omo. “You would have thought I was from Mars. And my wife [Polly] was laughing, and she was saying, ‘Don’t talk so fast.’ At that time I realized I wasn’t in New Jersey anymore.”

With their 2-year-old daughter, Lara, and golden retriever, Sunshine, in tow, the couple had just traveled to Wisconsin so Dell’Omo could pursue his doctorate in industrial relations/human resource management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They had left behind family and friends in New Jersey and a successful career in New York City, where Dell’Omo worked in human resources for retail giants such as Macy’s and Saks Fifth Avenue for six years.

Just months before, Dell’Omo had shared with Polly his dream of leaving the corporate world and becoming a college professor. Without hesitation, she responded, “Let’s do it.” And just like that, Dell’Omo took his first steps toward becoming Robert Morris University’s seventh president.

After earning his Ph.D., he landed a teaching job at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., a private Jesuit college. Although on the path to tenure, he and Polly, now the parents of the three young children (with the additions of Nicholas and Vincent), wanted to be closer to their families. So in 1991, when an assistant professorship opened up in the business school at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, they seized the opportunity.

Dell’Omo was perfectly content teaching at Saint Joseph’s while carving out a reputation as a skilled arbitrator in the
private sector. But when the chair of his department stepped down, the administration asked him to step in.

“I was excited to combine my education and consulting experiences in a way that could make an impact at Saint Joseph’s,” Dell’Omo says. “As part of the administration, I had the opportunity to utilize my knowledge of what a faculty member needs to teach and research effectively, as well as my negotiating skills and my ability to manage limited resources.”

During his time as department chair, the university named a new dean of the business school. The dean promptly named Dell’Omo academic associate dean of the school, in charge of leading a massive accreditation process. Not long into the job, Dell’Omo’s boss resigned, and the president and board of trustees offered him the job. “It’s just like I was in the right place at the right time, all the time,” Dell’Omo jokes.

From 1996 to 2000, Dell’Omo led the Erivan K. Haub School of Business into a new era of growth. The school earned accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International and built an impressive new state-of-the-art $30 million home.

It was during this time that Dell’Omo realized how much he enjoyed the administrative challenges of higher education. For the first time in his career, he saw a new path emerging – one that veered away from full-time teaching and into full-time administration.

As he transitioned to his next roles at Saint Joseph’s – associate vice president for academic affairs (2000–2002) and vice president for external affairs (2002–2005) – his passion only intensified. He now knew, undoubtedly, that higher education administration was where he wanted to be. And he knew the next logical step – president.

A former Saint Joseph’s colleague and current president of the University of Dayton, Daniel Curran, Ph.D., called Dell’Omo and told him that the president of Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh would soon be retiring. Curran thought Dell’Omo would be a good fit for the school. Although he didn’t know a great deal about RMU at the time, Dell’Omo contacted the search firm.

“At many other first-time visitors to RMU, when I first drove on campus, I was extremely impressed,” he recalls. “But more importantly, I was excited about the University’s philosophy. RMU’s unique brand of higher education combines a practical, applied education with the skills necessary to become successful in today’s world. It truly is a different kind of private institution.”

Dell’Omo was sworn in as Robert Morris University’s seventh president during a special inauguration ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11, 2005, at the Charles L. Sewall Center Arena. President Emeritus Edward A. Nicholson, Ph.D., made it official when he placed the RMU presidential medallion around Dell’Omo’s neck.

The ceremony featured several speakers – elected officials, students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni – before Dell’Omo addressed the crowd and shared his vision. Among the 700 in attendance were many family members and relatives, as well as numerous delegates from colleges and universities around the country, decked in full academic regalia.

The ceremony was the highlight of “Inauguration Week,” which included a series of special events on campus for faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community.

Dell’Omo now is working hard to implement the initiatives he outlined at his inauguration, not the least of which is a new school of osteopathic medicine. Although there is a great deal still to be done, the goal is to have the first class of medical students in place by the fall of 2008.

And that’s just the beginning. Dell’Omo sees allied health as a significant part of the strategic plan for RMU. He envisions a day when there are programs in pharmacy, occupational and physical therapy, and nuclear medicine, to name just a few. Not only would these programs offer tremendous potential for growth, but they would blend perfectly with the region’s health care niche.

Dell’Omo also plans to expand international opportunities for students and faculty. “It fits right into our mission. We focus on applied professional education. And as we
prepare people to enter the work force today, particularly in a global environment, if we’re not giving them every opportunity that they can get to develop an international perspective, we’re not really living that mission.”

Also high on Dell’Omo’s list of priorities is growing enrollment beyond the five-county region, where RMU has traditionally had the most success recruiting students. More than anything else, demographics demand it. Beginning in 2010, the number of 18-year-olds nationally will begin to shrink. And in the Pittsburgh region, the pool is expected to be especially shallow.

Fortunately, RMU began making progress in this area before Dell’Omo arrived. From fall 2003 to fall 2004, incoming freshmen from outside the region jumped a record 33.7 percent. Dell’Omo credits part of this success to the recent growth of the athletics program.

“Our 23 Division I sports programs attract student-athletes from all around the country and Canada. We have students now from 34 different states and 27 different countries,” he explains.

This infusion of students from further away is creating an infusion of energy on campus and a greater need for student housing, two things Dell’Omo welcomes. “It’s forcing us to change the nature of the campus. We really aren’t a commuter school anymore. Over 40 percent of our undergraduates live on campus. We want to increase that to more than 50 percent. We’re building more residence halls. We really are much more of a traditional residential university that provides a complete college experience.”

Beyond bigger-picture issues, Dell’Omo admits the most challenging part of his job is staying connected with students and faculty. Meetings dominate his days, which often begin at 7 a.m. with off-campus breakfasts with community officials, and spill into the evenings.

“I try to be as available as possible, given the time constraints,” he says. “I really have to manage my schedule so I find time just to have some of that informal interaction with faculty and students. It’s very important, I think, for a president – and for me personally – to learn firsthand what’s going on with campus.”

That’s why he’s no stranger to the food court. It’s not uncommon to see Dell’Omo sitting with students, faculty or staff and casually enjoying a bite to eat. It’s also why he often can be found at RMU sporting events. He and his wife attended nearly every home men’s and women’s basketball game this year, which also allows Dell’Omo, a self-proclaimed “sports nut,” to feed one of his passions.

At heart, Dell’Omo says he’s just a regular guy who loves his family. He and Polly live in the South Hills of Pittsburgh with 16-year-old Vincent, a high school sophomore and member of the varsity soccer and wrestling teams. Son Nicholas, 19, coincidentally attends the University of Pittsburgh, a decision he made before his dad ever heard of the opening at RMU. And daughter Lara, 24, is an interior designer at an architectural firm in San Francisco.

During his first year as president, Dell’Omo says he has become even more impressed with RMU than he was that first day he drove on campus. “RMU is truly an academic success story. This is an exciting time for us, as we look to build on our tradition of excellence and elevate our regional and national reputation. I am honored to be a part of such a special institution.”

**BY MIKE RANSDELL**
“Today, the name of Robert Morris has grown to symbolize our institution’s spirit of independence, entrepreneurship and progress, evidenced by the University’s willingness and ability to transform itself as the need for new knowledge continuously evolves in our changing world.”

“We will continue to be a different kind of private institution, providing a highly practical university education through small classes taught by an outstanding faculty who encourage a hands-on approach to learning through participation in scholarship outside the classroom.”

“The faculty are the heart and soul of a university. We have an outstanding faculty here at RMU, a faculty with the passion and power to continue the academic rise of RMU. And as we continue to add to our faculty in the future, we will seek to hire the best, the brightest and the most passionate within the RMU tradition.”

“The living-learning environment represents both a place and a mindset that has students, faculty and staff engaged and interacting through all activities, an environment where the day doesn’t end when class is over, but is rather just beginning … It is a campus that is dynamic intellectually, socially, athletically and spiritually – one that is safe, fun, supportive, encouraging and emotionally and physically healthy. It’s a campus with passion.”

“There is nothing more transformative for a college student than spending time living and learning in another country – learning about different cultures, the ways people think and see their place in the world, how others view and think about the U.S., where there are differences and similarities. These are all vitally important for preparing young adults for a global economy.”

“This is an exciting time at Robert Morris University, a time of seemingly unlimited possibilities and potential. As our faculty, students and programs continue to improve and grow, so do the opportunities available to us throughout the region and the world.”
How do you begin a letter to parents grieving the loss of their 19-year-old son, whose death saved your life? Robert Morris University senior Jeff Harold, 21, struggled to find the words as he sat in front of his computer one evening in September 2005. Just two weeks prior, his life hung in the balance as he waited on a donor transplant list for a liver to become available.

Two days after being placed on the donor list at the Cleveland Clinic, he and his brother Steve were serving as co-best men at their older brother Greg’s wedding. Though visibly weakened from the illness, Jeff was determined to keep the focus on the bride and groom that day. And since he and his family thought it would be weeks or months before they would get “the call,” everyone, for the most part, was enjoying the occasion.

But things took a turn for the unexpected. As the wedding party headed off to the reception, Greg raised a glass to toast his new bride. In the middle of the toast, a cell phone rang. A liver had become available. Jeff was needed at the Cleveland Clinic immediately. Jeff collapsed into Greg’s arms and began to cry.

At the insistence of Jeff and his parents, the reception went on as scheduled, while the three of them, along with Jeff’s girlfriend (now fiancée) Carrie, rushed to Cleveland. At 5 a.m. the next day, surgeons began removing Jeff’s diseased liver and replacing it with a healthy one.

Since age 15, Jeff had been battling autoimmune hepatitis, a genetic disease that prompts the immune system to attack the liver. Medicine had kept it in check over the
years, but in the summer of 2005, his health took a turn for the worse – quickly. Within about six weeks, his 5-11, 185-lb. frame had shrunk to 149 lbs. He had little energy, and his body increasingly craved sleep. His eyes became a dull yellow from jaundice. His skin itched so unbearably that at times, he scratched it until it bled. Although he wouldn’t learn it until after his transplant, without a new liver, his chances of seeing 2006 were not good.

For matters of privacy, organ donation networks do not share much information between the two parties. They do, however, act as liaisons, passing correspondence anonymously from the recipient to the donor’s family.

Some recipients take up to a year to write a letter to the donor’s family, but Jeff was determined to do it quickly. He knew the donor’s parents were experiencing a pain he could only imagine. He hoped that sending a letter right away, explaining how grateful he was and how he planned to live his life in honor of their son, might bring them some comfort.

Jeff also hoped that putting his feelings in writing might help to relieve some of his private suffering. Physically, he was well on his way to a full recovery. But survivor’s guilt – knowing he was alive because someone had died – weighed heavily on his mind.

After much contemplation, he began to type, and his emotions poured onto the page.

“How do you express to the parents how thankful you are because their son died and you’re alive because of it?” Jeff remembers. “It was hard emotionally to get it together enough to form the thoughts on paper, but as for actually writing the letter, I think it helped me deal with my grief.”

Jeff told them a little about himself – that he was earning two degrees (a bachelor’s in marketing and master’s in information systems management through a five-year program at RMU), that he was engaged, and that he planned on becoming a vocal advocate for organ donation.

Since the letter, Jeff has made good on that promise.

He has been approved by Students for Organ Donation (SOD) to start a chapter at RMU. In the fall, he hopes to gain approval for SOD to become a recognized student organization on campus. Once finalized, he wants to organize events and educational programs to encourage people to become organ donors.

“All you have to do in Pennsylvania is to get it denoted on your license when you renew it or get it, or you just have to carry a donor card,” Jeff says. “One person can save eight lives that are in critical condition and improve the lives of 50 or more people.”

Weeks after he mailed his letter, Jeff received a letter from the donor’s parents. They thanked him and told him about their son. His name was Derek. He was an Eagle Scout who volunteered in the community. They thought the two of them would have been friends, because they had much in common. They shared how Derek’s organs had helped other people, too.

Every now and then, Jeff opens his original letter on his computer and rereads it “to make sure my head is in the right place” and remember why he’s still here.

“Every day I live is because of [Derek] and everything I do is credited towards him,” he says; “so anything I do that’s good is thanks to him and his family. I’ll never forget that.”

BY MIKE RANSDELL

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facts about organ donation

- Eighteen people die each day awaiting organ donations.
- One organ, tissue and eye donor may help between 50 and 75 people.
- More than 88,000 people currently await life-saving transplants.
- Every 12 minutes, another name is added to the national transplant waiting list.

You’ll rarely see his face on TV when the Steelers play, but Robert Morris University alumnus **Kevin Colbert ’79** has a big say in the faces you do see – including guys like Ben Roethlisberger, Troy Polamalu and Hines Ward. As director of football operations for the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, it’s his job to find players, or find room under the salary cap to keep players, who can help the team win – now.

Having grown up on Pittsburgh’s North Side, not far from where the Steelers play their home games, Colbert, 49, was a fan of the team long before he ever broke into the National Football League (NFL). So when the Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks 21-10 to win Super Bowl XL this past February, the victory was all that much sweeter.

“It does mean more because it’s a team you grew up as a fan of,” Colbert says. “And when you’re fortunate enough to be a working part of it, then you just feel that much better when you finally contribute to what this organization has always been about – another championship.”
road searching for new talent to draft or acquire through free agency. It involves countless hours breaking down game films, crunching statistics, analyzing health reports and interviewing players and coaches – all while keeping a close eye on the team’s personnel budget.

As a member of one of the most successful franchises in NFL history, Colbert has to look beyond a player’s health, speed and vertical jump. He also has to find “character guys” – players who will run through a brick wall for the team, players who will show up early for practice and stay late, players who would rather win than see their names splashed across the sports page – in short, Steelers.

Despite his relatively low profile, it’s no secret that Colbert played a significant role in building the Steelers into Super Bowl champions. In fact, seven of the NFL’s general managers wrote in Colbert’s name on their ballot for the league’s George Young Executive of the Year Award this year – the most write-in votes in the history of the award.

Colbert’s rise to the top of the NFL began in 1977, when he transferred from the Community College of Allegheny County to RMU’s School of Business, which had just begun offering a sport management degree. Colbert knew little about the industry, which was in its infancy. “I wasn’t the greatest athlete, so I knew my career wasn’t going to be as a player, but I knew I wanted to be involved in sport and athletics in some form or fashion,” he explains.

Dr. Albert “Skip” Applin, the first full-time faculty member in the department, opened Colbert’s eyes to the many possibilities the burgeoning field offered – and taught him about the harsh realities of the business. When a coach was fired for reasons Colbert felt were beyond his control, Applin explained that, right or wrong, performance in this business is measured by wins and losses.

“He taught me at that point that the expectations are sometimes unreal,” Colbert says. “It’s a bottom-line business, and you have to win and you have to produce. And that’s how you’re going to be judged, be it fair or unfair.”

Prior to joining the Steelers, Colbert worked for the Detroit Lions as pro scouting director for nine years and for the Miami Dolphins as a college scout for five.

Though Colbert’s job may seem idyllic to the average Steelers fan, he says few people outside the industry probably realize how time-intensive the job can be. It’s truly a labor of love, and to be successful, says Colbert, a person must have true passion for the work.

“I was told a long time ago by Dick Haley, who used to be the personnel director for the Steelers, that anybody involved in football is going to work a lot of hours, be it coaches, trainers, videographers, scouts – anybody involved with the game. And it’s true. I always tell people who want to get into scouting or personnel work to look at their calendar and realize there’s probably going to be 180 days or so they’re not going to see their families.”

“It’s a seven-day-a-week job,” confirms Steelers assistant video coordinator and RMU sport management alum Rob Brakel ’98, who also has a B.A. in communication. “People always say, ‘You get time off in the offseason.’ But there is no offseason. Right now I’m doing tapes on college players.”
Brakel’s responsibilities include shooting and editing video of the team practicing, which coaches and players use to analyze their progress and develop game plans. Brakel landed his assignment with the Steelers by impressing Video Director Bob McCartney during a two-week internship at the team’s mini-camp just before graduation—skills he honed during his two-year stint as a videographer for RMU’s football team. Brakel says he was prepared for his role with the Steelers because of his undergraduate internships, which his professors continually stressed.

RMU alumnus Mike Marchinsky ’99 (B.S.B.A. in marketing) agrees. He parlayed a part-time internship in the Steelers’ marketing department into a full-time internship upon graduation. This opened the door to his current full-time position as a marketing assistant, in charge of selling sponsorships and overseeing and managing various public relations events.

“Dr. [Dave] Synowka [director of the sport management program at RMU] pretty much took me under his wing,” said Marchinsky. “He’s one of the people I credit for me being here because he took a kid who was in the marketing department [and taking sport management classes] and gave me the same opportunities that he would give one of his own students.”

Having taught in the department since 1979, Synowka has watched the innovative program grow considerably in size and prominence. Undergraduate enrollment reached a record high of 270 students in the fall of 2005.

“We’ve had a number of students who’ve come from different parts of the country simply because they’ve read about the program, or someone’s told them about our program,” says Synowka.

In fall 2006, RMU’s program will turn 30. To celebrate, the University plans to invite all sport management alumni back to campus for a special weekend on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 28-29. Once plans are finalized, invitations will be mailed.

1976 - Program founded under the name Athletic Administration
1982 - Name of program changed to Sport Management
1984 - First graduate degree program launched (M.S. in Sport Management)
1989 - Became first school in the nation to offer M.B.A. with a sport management concentration
1990 - Established first international student exchange program with Deakin University in Australia
1999-2002 - Through a special international partnership, M.S. degree program offered in Athens, Greece
2004 - Established Sport Management Advisory Board
2004 - Held first annual regional Student Sport Management Conference
2005 - Created a sport management track within the M.S. in Instructional Leadership education degree
2005 - A record number of students enroll in the B.S.B.A. program (270)
2006 - Program celebrates 30th anniversary

RMU ALUMS AND STEELERS EMPLOYEES BRAKEL, COLBERT AND MARCHINSKY WITH THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY

BY MIKE RANSDELL
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY PITTSBURGH STEELERS | MIKE FABUS
A LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first issue of our new alumni magazine. I know that this is a publication of which you will be proud. The magazine also will be an important means for sharing your accomplishments with alumni, friends and colleagues and for updating all of you on current events at Robert Morris University.

As president of the RMU Alumni Association and an active member of the Alumni Council for several years, I know that many of you have expressed interest in an alumni magazine that reflects the essence of our alma mater and the success of our graduates. Foundations gives us that avenue.

Success of the magazine – as with all alumni programs and services – will depend on alumni involvement. I encourage you to submit information for Class Notes, especially news of promotions and career moves. Or, if you’ve been on campus to speak in a classroom or to participate in a panel discussion, be sure to notify the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Since restructuring the Alumni Association, we’ve set our sights on engaging more alumni in the life of RMU and the association itself. Our goal is to develop a variety of programs that will appeal to our diverse alumni membership. This year, we’ve worked to get more alumni involved in Homecoming and other alumni events, both on campus and throughout the region. We’ve expanded the Women of RMU Program, partnered with the Career Center to offer the Career Contact and Alumni Network, joined the School of Business to launch the Speaking of Business Luncheon Program and revived the Alumni Awards program.

As a graduate of RMU, you already are a member of the RMU Alumni Association. I invite you to take full advantage of that membership by becoming an active member of the Alumni Association. For details about getting involved, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 412-262-8481 or rmualum@rmu.edu. To review the benefits and services available to RMU alumni, visit the Alumni and Contributors section of the RMU website at www.rmu.edu.

THOMAS A. HUNLEY ’84

2005-06 ALUMNI AWARDS

The Robert Morris University Alumni Association honored three graduates who have distinguished themselves within their professions, communities or both with Alumni Awards in 2005-06. Two awards were presented during Homecoming in October 2005 to Ola R. Jackson ‘87 and Samuel J. Mastovich ’95 M’98, while the third was presented to Mike Yurosko ’83 M’01 at the association’s annual meeting in January 2006.

The founder and publisher of Onyx Woman magazine, one of the few business publications in the country for African-American women, Jackson received the Alumni Achievement Award. She is founder of the Onyx Woman Network (OWN), which provides economic education through her television talk show, OWN With Ola Jackson. She also has hosted two live radio talk shows, Movin’ on With Ola Jackson and Accents on Women. Jackson has been recognized as Entrepreneur of the Month by Women’s Voices and Business Woman of the Year by the Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club, and was a recipient of the Woman of Excellence Award from the Professional Women in Business Club.

A vice president and commercial lender with Sky Bank in New Castle, Pa., Mastovich was the recipient of the Young Alumni Achievement Award, presented to graduates age 35 or younger. He has completed requirements for Series 7 and 63 securities licenses, and in 1998, received Mellon Bank’s Premier Achievement Award. A distinguished member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and member of the board of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, Mastovich has established an endowed scholarship fund at RMU and is an officer and former president of the Colonial Athletic Club.

The recipient of the Alumni Service Award, Yurosko has remained an active volunteer with the Alumni Association since his graduation. This year alone, he created a presentation for the Homecoming Reunion Breakfast, updated a University history display that he had created in 2002, and volunteered the entire day of Homecoming. He also has been a volunteer for the University through his involvement with the 20-Year Club and a number of other programs.
On Monday, April 17, Robert Morris University held its eighth annual Scholarship Luncheon to recognize and thank donors who support the scholarship program at RMU. The luncheon also provides the opportunity for scholarship donors to meet some of the outstanding students who have directly benefited from their generous support.

Through scholarship funds, RMU provides hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to both undergraduate and graduate students. Support from these scholarship funds plays a significant role in allowing RMU to remain one of the least expensive private universities in Pennsylvania.

Senior human resource management major Maggie Bloomgren, recipient of the Dr. William H. Heckel Memorial Endowed Scholarship, was one of three students who spoke at the luncheon to express in their own words what the donors’ support has meant to them.

“Someone once said, ‘Dream what you want to dream, go where you want to go, be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do,’” said Bloomgren. “I feel that scholarships and dreams go hand in hand, because scholarships show that somebody cares about those of us who have dreams and are working hard to achieve them. When someone cares enough to donate to your education and invest in your future, it pushes you to achieve more than you ever thought possible.”

Senior engineering major Lauren Gombert was the recipient of the Frank J. Erevelles Memorial Endowed Engineering Scholarship, created by Dean of the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science Winston F. Erevelles, Ph.D., in memory of his father. Gombert thanked Erevelles for his support not only as a donor, but also as a mentor.

“Throughout my four years here, I have watched Dr. Erevelles switch titles and responsibilities several times. I have seen him take on new projects and improve program after program,” said Gombert. “But regardless of his position at the University, he continued to be that professor that was there helping every student that turned to him.”

Kevin Bazner, a senior hospitality and tourism management major and recipient of both the 20-Year Club of Robert Morris University Scholarship and the Eat’n Park Hospitality Group Endowed Scholarship in Memory of John Viche, gave a heartfelt thanks to all donors for their generosity.

“Thank you, because without donors and scholarship funds such as these, I don’t think that my – or a lot of students’ – education would have been possible … Scholarships provided by individuals like you help to keep a spirit alive within the student.”

For more information on donating to the scholarship program at RMU, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 412-262-8481.
60s

MELVIN D. TEETZ ’62 was the speaker for the second lecture in the Speaking of Business series, launched in Fall 2005 by the RMU School of Business. A member of the RMU Board of Trustees, Teetz is a retired senior vice president of finance for UPS Inc. He resides in Vero Beach, Fla.

MAUREEN O’BRIEN ’79 was nominated for the 2005 Influential Woman in Business Award. She resides in Batavia, Ill.

80s

DEBI LEOPARDI ’80 was named director of business at Value Ambridge Properties Inc. She resides with her family in Economy, Pa.

90s

RANDE SOMMA ’73 was the speaker for the inaugural lecture in the Speaking of Business series in Fall 2005, hosted by the RMU School of Business. Somma is president and CEO of Rande Somma Associates LLC, a leadership and development company in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. He and his family reside in Bloomfield Hills.

BOB FERREE ’81 is president and CEO of Landmark Properties Group, Allison Park, Pa. He and his family reside in Valencia, Pa.


HARRY LECKEMBY ’87 was named corporate sales manager for Doubletree Hotel. He resides in Colorado Springs, Colo., with his wife, Elizabeth.

70s

JEAN GARRETT ’64 is a legislative assistant in the District Office of State Rep. Brian Ellis, Butler, Pa.

RALPH PAPA ’67 was promoted to president of Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. He oversees bank operations in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He resides in Pittsburgh.

DAVID CASTELVETER ’81 was named vice president of communications for the Air Transport Association. He resides in Fairfax Station, Va.

NANCY AUGUSTINE ’88 was promoted to senior vice president of the Association of Directory Marketing. She resides in Moon Township, Pa.

ELLEN LANGAS CAMPBELL ’79 president of NouSoma Communications Inc., Downingtown, Pa., published Raising the Roof, the second book in her Girls Know How fictional series, in October 2005. She resides in Downingtown.

MAUREEN O’BRIEN ’79 was nominated for the 2005 Influential Woman in Business Award. She resides in Batavia, Ill.

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YVONNE BEST-PROCTOR ’87 was named 2004 Americans for the System Educator of the Year and earned K-12 administrative certification in June 2005. She is a business education teacher in the Fort LeBoeuf School District. She and her family reside in Waterford, Pa.

MICHAEL SCHULTZ ’87 joined the Mount Pleasant office of Exit Realty Charleston Group. He resides in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

KATHY MERCADANTE MALLISON ’85 is an executive assistant for ArvinMeritor, Troy, Mich. She resides in Clarkston, Mich.

WAYNE G. HENEMUTH M’88 is assistant vice president for Sovereign Bank, Wyominging, Pa. He also serves as the bank’s

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CRAIG H. SCHURR ’76 is senior vice president and manger of global trade and treasury for National City. He resides in Avon, Ohio.

KATHY MERCADANTE MALLISON ’85 is an executive assistant for ArvinMeritor, Troy, Mich. She resides in Clarkston, Mich.

SUSAN WEIS ’85 was promoted to technology officer at PNC. She resides in Pittsburgh.

NANCY AUGUSTINE ’88 was promoted to senior vice president of the Association of Directory Marketing. She resides in Moon Township, Pa.


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ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATIONS • 19
lead information technology auditor. He resides in Exeter Township, Pa.

CAROL MACPHAIL ’88 was the speaker for the Spring 2006 Women of RMU Luncheon and Program. She is a partner with Deloitte Tax LLP. MacPhail and her husband, DOUGLAS MACPHAIL ’74, and their children reside in Sewickley, Pa.

JOSEPH MOORE ’88 graduated from the Department of Defense’s Executive Leadership Development Program (ELDP). He and his family reside in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

DONALD OLLIO JR. ’88 was named chief operating officer of McKendree Village retirement community, Nashville, Tenn.

TIM WOLFSON ’88, was a guest speaker for the RMU Student Pre-Law Society in March. He is an attorney with Babst Calland Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

TRACIE ARNOLD ’92 M’97 spoke at the inaugural Slice of Life program sponsored by the RMU Alumni Association for graduating seniors in March. She is assistant vice president and consultant for employee benefits consulting with Hill Rogal & Hobbs. She, her husband, TOM ARNOLD ’92 M’97, and their son, Griffin, reside in Gibsonia, Pa.

JOHN COOK ’92, CPA, is a senior accountant at Anneken & Moser, PSC, which serves clients in the greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky regions. He and his wife, Jamie, reside in the Cincinnati area.

M. PATRICK KANE ’92 received the 2005 Citizen Engineer Award, presented by the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is a civil engineer with the consulting firm L. Robert Kimball and Associates Inc., Coraopolis, Pa. He and his family reside in McCandless, Pa.

JOE ONDERKO ’92 was named executive director of the President’s Athletic Conference (PAC), effective July 1, 2006. He will be the first full-time executive director in PAC history. He resides in Wilmington Township, Pa., with his wife, Pam, and daughters, Erin and Lauren.

TERRY COYNE ’93 was promoted to sales manager for Fuhrer Eagle Sales and Service, Pittsburgh. He resides in Scott Township, Pa., with his wife, Jackie, and their three children, Kayla, Terry Jr. and Alexandria.

DAVE DEROSE ’93 was promoted to general manager of facilities for Sodexo Healthcare Services. He and his family reside in Mobile, Ala.

JILL WHITMER ’93 M’99 was promoted to assistant director of human resources and employee development at RMU. She resides in Canonsburg, Pa.

JOHN R. WIEHL ’94 is president of the RMU Alumni Association for graduating seniors in March. He and his wife, Renee, reside in Washington, Pa.

MATT MILLER ’97 was named advertising director for the Observer Publishing Co., which publishes the daily Observer-Reporter and the weekly The Almanac. He and his wife, Renee, reside in Washington, Pa.

DAVID A. VELEGOL JR. M’96 is vice president of industrial projects for ATS Chester Engineers, Moon Township, Pa. He and his family reside in Follansbee, W.Va.

ELIZABETH DAY ’97 is a human resource representative for Champions Golf Course in Houston, Texas.

APRIL DEWEES ’97 joined Countrywide Home Loans as a mortgage processor. She and her family live in Freedom, Pa.

ADINA HERRMANN ’97, CPA, was recently promoted to manager of the CPA firm of CrawfordEllenbogen LLC, Pittsburgh. She and her husband, RODNEY HERRMANN ’93, reside in Trafford, Pa.

JESSICA ORRIS ’97 received her M.B.A. in May 2005 from York College of Pennsylvania. She resides in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

R.J. CANTER ’98 recently launched Step 1 Management Services, which helps small businesses and nonprofits to realize their full potential. Canter and his wife, Kathy, reside in Fair Oaks, Pa.
CLASS NOTES

ERIC HINNEBUSCH ’98 won an Emmy in September 2005. He is a videographer and editor with WTAE-TV and resides in Pittsburgh.

DAVID MARSHALL ’98 joined KPMG LLP as a senior associate in the Risk Advisory Services Group, specializing in financial risk management. He resides in West Mifflin, Pa.

MICHALE SZUL ’98 is associate athletic director for Middle Tennessee State University.

DAVID CODORI M’99 is a human relations representative for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Pittsburgh. He and his family reside in Irwin, Pa.

JENEA LAYMON ’99 M’03 was a panelist in the RMU Women’s History Month Alumnae Coffeehouse in March. She is employed by JRL Enterprises and resides in Pittsburgh.

MATT MILLET ’99 is director of corporate partnerships for the Sussex Skyhawks, August, N.J. He resides in Branchville, N.J.

MORGAN OSTOP ’99 received her master’s degree in industrial and labor relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is a human resource specialist with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., and resides in Silver Spring, Md.

00s

DAN ESMOND ’00 is director of operations for the United Soccer League Super-Y-League, Tampa, Fla. He resides in Tampa.

JILL CLARY-ROKE ’00 M’04 spoke at the inaugural Slice of Life program sponsored by the RMU Alumni Association for graduating seniors in March. She is an application support specialist with Buchanan Ingersoll, PC. She resides in New Brighton, Pa.

TONI LAUSO ’01 was named pharmacy benefit program supervisor at the Great Lakes Behavioral Research Institute of Allegheny County. She resides in Pittsburgh.

KATIE DELLICH ’04 completed training with Peter Burwash International, the world’s largest tennis management firm, in Palm Desert, Calif., and was first assigned to the Four Seasons, Nevis, in the Caribbean. She then moved to the Maldives, in the Indian Ocean, where she is tennis director at the Kanuhura.

THOMAS WILLIS M’03 is president of Precision Energy and Technology LLC, a fuel cell company that is a spin-off of PIA Group, Cincinnati, Ohio.

CLAUDIA ARMANI M’04 was a panelist in the RMU Women’s History Month Alumnae Coffeehouse in March. She is employed by GlaxoSmithKline. She and her husband, JAMES ARMANI ’92, reside in Clinton, Pa.

JONATHAN BEJSTER M’04 is principal of Crafton Elementary School. Bejster resides in Pittsburgh.

ERIC PURSH ’05 joined the Peters Township office of Cottrill Arbutina Professional Services as an accountant. He resides in Pittsburgh.

CHAZ MCCRUMMON ’04 was selected by the Kansas Cagerz of the United States Basketball League’s amateur draft. He is pursuing a Master of Science in Instructional Leadership at RMU and resides in Pittsburgh.

BREANNE MUELLER ’04 is client services administrator for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She resides in Pittsburgh.

ERICA WISER M’04 is a quality analyst at Allegheny Ludlum. She and her husband, Jeremy, reside in Brackenridge, Pa.

LEXIE ALTON M’05 was a panelist in the RMU Women’s History Month Alumnae Coffeehouse during March. She is employed by Jewish Healthcare Foundation and resides in Coraopolis, Pa.

JANETTE WESTMERE ’05 is a broker team professional with JPMorgan Chase, New York, N.Y. She resides in New York City.

DESIREE WILLIAMS ’05 participated as a panelist in the RMU Women’s History Month Alumnae Coffeehouse during March. She is employed by Avis Rent-A-Car and resides in Cranberry Township, Pa.
Engagements

Kimberly Walker is engaged to ERIC HINNEBUSCH ’98. An Aug. 12, 2006, wedding is planned.

Amanda Cosky is engaged to JASON ROBERTS ’02. Roberts is a stock broker for Scottrade Inc. in Wexford, Pa. A Nov. 4, 2006, wedding is planned.

KELLY SPRINGER ’02 is engaged to KEN PRESUTTI ’05. A May 2007 wedding is planned. Both reside in the Pittsburgh area.

Maria Cannella is engaged to RAYMOND WALKOWIAK ’03. A July 28, 2006, wedding is planned. Walkowiak is a sales representative at Cintas Corp.

Marriages


Maren and DAVID NEMECK ’89 were married in June 2004. The couple resides in Sewickley, Pa.

Michele and DAVID SUTCH ’92 were married on Feb. 27, 2004. The couple resides in Elmhurst, Ill.

ROBIN MARIE O’CONNOR ’93 married Chad Edward Redfern Sr. on May 28, 2005. Robin is the duty sheriff for the Beaver County Sheriff’s Department. The couple resides in New Brighton, Pa.


AMY YURCHICK ’99 married CHRISTOPHER BOOMHOWER ’98. Amy is a planning specialist with Dick’s Sporting Goods in Findley, Pa. Christopher is a database administrator with Contemporary Technologies in Pittsburgh. The couple resides in Mt. Lebanon, Pa.


Katie Svitesic married JASON R. PASCHEL ’02 on May 6, 2006. Jason was recently promoted to international specialist in business development at UPS. The couple resides in Pittsburgh.

Breanna Foster married JACOB WOODLING ’02 on Sept. 17, 2005. Jacob is a sales development specialist for Industrial Scientific Corp. in Oakdale, Pa. The couple resides in Findlay Township, Pa.


AMANDA MOTTS ’03 married CRAIG CARPENTER ’04 on Sept. 17, 2005. Amanda is the head cook at Paradise Island Bowl/Beach. Craig is the general manager of West Pike Bowl. The couple resides in Oakdale, Pa.


STACY SWANKLER ’03 married Justin Sulima on Nov. 11, 2005. Stacy is a department manager at Wal-Mart. The couple resides in Ambridge, Pa.


Class Notes

You’ll want to be part of Homecoming, so be sure to mark your calendar today! More information will be sent to alumni later this summer.

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 412-262-8481 or rmualum@rmu.edu.
ABBY ELINE ’04 married JEREMY TORRENCE ’03 on Aug. 20, 2005. Abby is a sales representative for Cintas Corp. Jeremy is a manager at FedEx in St. Petersburg, Fla.


**Births**

Brennan Coulter was born Nov. 25, 2005, to Michelle and DARRYN CLEARY ’89. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

Skyelar was born March 17, 2005, to Brandi and JOHN GRESS ’89. Skyelar joins siblings Dalton, 6, and Caen, 4. The family resides in Alpharetta, Ga.

Kyan David was born July 4, 2005, to Michelle and DAVID SUTCH ’92. The family resides in Elmhurst, Ill.

Annika was born June 17, 2005, to AMANDA WEIMER ’95 and TIM ROHS ’95. She joins brother Erik, 2. Tim is a finance manager at BAE Systems in Johnson City, N.Y. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

Isabella Jordan was born May 14, 2005, to Jacque and DOUGLAS G. YAKICH ’88. Douglas is employed by ING Direct, Los Angeles, Calif. The family resides in Glendale, Calif.

Justin Thomas was born June 20, 2005, to AMY KRAMER ’00 and her husband, Jim. Amy is a supervisor at Mellon Financial Corp. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

Lydia Grace was born Nov. 13, 2005, to Sarah and PHILLIP MILLER ’00. Phil is a network analyst for RMU. The family resides in Cranberry Township, Pa.

Tyler Warren was born March 20, 2005, to LISA FOX ’01 and her husband, Erik. The family resides in Arnold, Pa.

Mary Rosella was born Aug. 27, 2005, to JENNIFER BURY LILLARD ’01 and her husband, Sam. Jennifer completed her master’s degree in bilingual and multicultural education at George Mason University. The family resides in Mililani, Hawaii.

Colin Matthew was born on Sept. 1, 2005, to AMANDA FUNKHOUSER ’04 and her husband, Craig. The family resides in Imperial, Pa.

Liliana Marie was born on Oct. 12, 2005, to Jacqueline Hedegore and MARSHALL SCOTT ’05. Marshall is a financial analyst with ITT Industries, Alexandria, Va. The family resides in Ashburn, Va.

**Deaths**

GERTRUDE MATRAZZO ’44, of North Braddock, Pa., died March 16, 2006. She was a retired secretary for Pennsylvania Municipal Service.

MIRIAM GOOD KERR ’55, of Scott Township, Pa., died Feb. 3, 2006.

RALPH O. WILSON JR. ’57, of Hinton, W.Va., died Nov. 16, 2005. He was retired from Dravo Corp.

JEANNE DENTICE (NEDWIDEK) ’82, of Pittsburgh, died March 7, 2006.

**Retirements**

DONNA LUND, PH.D., professor of English studies, retired in December 2005 after 23 years at RMU.

PAUL MAJORSKY, assistant professor of accounting, retired in December 2005 after 29 years at RMU.

DAN ROTA, PH.D., associate professor of computer and information systems, retired in December 2005 after 27 years at RMU.

JERRY SHUSTER, PH.D., associate professor of communications, retired in December 2005 after 20 years at RMU.
Upcoming Events

> AUGUST 06
19 Women’s Alumnae Soccer Game, 1 p.m., North Athletic Complex

> SEPTEMBER 06
16 RMU Night at PNC Park, Pittsburgh Pirates vs. New York Mets, 7:05 p.m., PNC Park
21 Women of RMU Luncheon and Program
27 Pittsburgh Speakers Series: Nora Ephron, 8 p.m., Heinz Hall

> OCTOBER 06
1 Blue-White Men’s Intra-Squad Ice Hockey Game, 4 p.m., RMU Island Sports Center
10 Speaking of Business Luncheon, featuring Ronald Points ’64, hosted by the School of Business and the RMU Alumni Association
11-15 Colonial Theatre Production: Neil Simon’s “Brighton Beach Memoirs”
14 HOMECOMING 2006 Alumni Flag Football Game, 9 a.m., Joe Walton Stadium
18 RMU Career Expo
21 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction, Joe Walton Stadium
28 30-Year Anniversary Celebration, RMU Sport Management Program
29 Inaugural Susan K. Hofacre Memorial Fun Run

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these and other upcoming events, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 412-262-8481 or rmualum@rmu.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

NAME ____________________________ YEAR OF GRADUATION ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP ____________________________________________
HOME PHONE __________________ WORK PHONE __________________
E-MAIL ADDRESS ____________________________________________
PROFESSION/POSITION __________________
EMPLOYER NAME ____________________________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP ____________________________________________
SPOUSE’S NAME __________________
CHILDREN’S NAMES AND AGES __________________
NEWS ITEM ____________________________________________

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO: Office of Institutional Advancement, Robert Morris University, 6001 University Boulevard, Moon Township, PA 15108-1189. Or, send your news via e-mail rmualum@rmu.edu or fax 412-262-8642.
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Sept. 27, 2006
Nora Ephron
Acclaimed Screenwriter, Playwright and Director
Widely acclaimed and Academy Award nominated screenwriter, playwright and director, with credits such as Sleepless in Seattle; Michael; You’ve Got Mail; When Harry Met Sally; and Silkwood.

Nov. 8, 2006
James Lovell
Astronaut and Commander of Apollo 13
Time Man of the Year & Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, and genuine hero. As Cmdr. of the ill-fated Apollo 13 mission, he spoke the famous words, “Houston, we have a problem.” His story was told in Apollo 13 starring Tom Hanks as Lovell.

Dec. 6, 2006
Colin Powell
Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs & Secretary of State
After culminating his 35 year career in the U.S. Army as President Reagan’s National Security Advisor and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, this revered Four-Star General became our 65th Secretary of State.

Jan. 31, 2007
Christiane Amanpour
CNN’s Chief International Correspondent
Since joining CNN in ’83, she has risen to chief international correspondent. She has covered every major story from Iran; Afghanistan; Iraq; Israel; Pakistan; Somalia to the Balkans... and interviewed most of the world’s leaders in those countries.

Feb. 28, 2007
Michael Medved
Nationaly Syndicated Radio Host & Film Critic
His nationally syndicated radio talk show reaches 2 million listeners daily. He was the 12 year co-host of PBS’s Sneak Preview, and film critic for CNN and the New York Post and authored Hollywood vs. America.

Mar. 21, 2007
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Environmental Attorney & Advocate
A resolute defender of and advocate for the environment, he is “committed to having a positive impact on the quality of life for future American generations.” He has prosecuted governments and corporations alike for polluting the environment.

Apr. 25, 2007
Ari Fleischer
Former White House Press Secretary
As former White House Press Secretary, he was the primary spokesman for President Bush after serving on the Bush-Cheney campaign. His book Taking Heat, details his years in the White House, and reached #7 on the NY Times best-seller list.

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RMU ALUMNUS KEVIN COLBERT ’79, DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS FOR THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS, HOLDS THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY WITH HIS SON, DAN, FOLLOWING THE STEELERS’ SUPER BOWL XL VICTORY IN FEBRUARY 2006.