

# FAMILY Connections

## A MESSAGE FROM KISHMA DECASTRO-SALLIS | DIRECTOR OF THE CAREER CENTER



One of the buzzwords on college campuses today is “engagement.” No, not the “will-you-marry-me?” kind of engagement, but the getting-involved-on-campus kind of engagement. Engaged students are actively involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, going beyond the textbooks and classroom lectures.

It’s a known fact that students who participate in leadership activities outside the classroom and interact more with faculty and staff have a higher retention rate, are more satisfied with their education and are highly sought after by employers upon graduation.

Students must start developing themselves professionally early in their academic careers to stand out. Employers tell us that they want the best and the brightest. This doesn’t always equate to the GPA, but often to the student’s overall performance in college.

Employers want the student who lives to learn, rather than learns to live. They want the student who volunteered in clothing drives to aid survivors of natural disasters. They want the student who interned for a local, regional or national organization and assisted in a measurable project that assessed his or her

abilities. Basically, employers want the student who plans, organizes, manages, volunteers, studies abroad and maintains good grades.

At RMU, the engagement buzz is strong, and the Career Center is the place to find many pieces of the puzzle. We offer great opportunities to help your student develop personally and professionally.

Centrally located next to the Nicholson Center, the Career Center offers a variety of services to assist your student with career development, including:

- Career counseling
- Résumé and cover letter writing
- Interview skills and techniques
- Career planning books and resource guides
- Interest inventories
- Networking and job searching strategies

Engage your student in a healthy conversation about the future and becoming engaged at RMU. Students have nothing to lose and everything to gain when they invest a little bit extra in their career development.



FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

*Family Connections* is a publication designed for the parents and families of Robert Morris University students. It is compiled by the Office of Student Life and printed in cooperation with the Office of Public Relations and Marketing. Editions are printed in the fall, winter and spring of each academic year. We are interested in your feedback about this publication. E-mail your comments and suggestions to [studentlife@rmu.edu](mailto:studentlife@rmu.edu).



## NURSING IN NICARAGUA

It is estimated that by the year 2010, U.S. nurses will be caring for clients from almost all cultures of the world. Thus, it is imperative that nursing schools prepare graduates who are ready to provide care to a diverse patient population.

The Robert Morris University School of Nursing and Health Sciences is meeting this challenge by integrating international experiences into its curricula. Since fall 2005, RMU nursing faculty and students have traveled to Mexico and Nicaragua to provide health care to the poor of these countries.

As an outgrowth of these activities, RMU recently signed a sister school partnership with the School of Nursing at Universidad Politecnica de Nicaragua (UPOLI). As a result, all undergraduate and graduate nursing students have the opportunity to participate in an international health experience in Nicaragua. RMU also has formed partnerships with the communities of Anexo Villa Libertad and Villa El Carmen as sites for clinical experiences, working in partnership with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health.

Nursing students prepare for international experiences by participating in a variety of team-building activities, including basic language preparation, an interview with a member of the culture and a culture-specific dinner. Students also review the culture of the host country utilizing Leininger's Culture Care Theory. In the Introduction to Professional Nursing course, students engage in activities such as cultural rooting, cultural reflection and interviewing an individual from a different culture, which encourage them to look at health care from a worldview perspective and make them aware of ethnocentrism.

The typical international experience begins with two days of sightseeing and cultural events with

faculty and students from UPOLI. This allows the RMU students to develop relationships with the sister school partners and helps them to view the country as a whole, not solely by the economic condition of its residents.

After the first two days, the clinical experience begins. Students are assigned a family from the poor community, or barrio, for the week. They work with the families each morning, conducting environmental, safety, health and developmental assessments. In the afternoon, students work alongside RMU's faculty nurse practitioner in a local health clinic, triaging patients, performing physical exams, providing medication teaching and developing treatment plans. At the end of each day, students return to the hotel for a post-conference with the faculty, a cultural dinner and some relaxation time, before working with translators to prepare teaching plans for their families.

The week ends with a health fair at the clinic, where students present their teaching plans to the families and say an emotional goodbye. The group then spends the last day at a beautiful Nicaraguan beach. Once back at RMU, a post-trip dinner allows students to share pictures, ask final questions and deal with reverse culture shock.

RMU student nurses gain a great deal from these international experiences. The trip allows students to:

- Experience diversity and health care in other cultures
- Improve cultural awareness and communications skills
- Develop independence and maturity
- Improve flexibility, adaptability and resilience
- Gain an appreciation of our own culture and health care
- Enhance their résumé or graduate school application



## DEPARTMENT PROFILE | INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

RMU has active study abroad partnerships with:

### AUSTRALIA

Deakin University Chile  
Universidad De Valparaiso

### ENGLAND

City University  
Schiller International University

### FRANCE

IGS University  
Schiller International University

### GERMANY

Fachhochschule Dortmund–  
University of Applied Sciences  
Schiller International University

### INDIA

Stella Maris College Ireland  
University of Limerick

### ITALY

American University of Rome

### JAPAN

Kansai Gaidai University

### MEXICO

ITESM (Tec de Monterrey)

### NICARAGUA

Polytechnic University  
of Nicaragua

### SPAIN

Schiller International University

### SWITZERLAND

FHS University of Applied  
Sciences St. Gallen  
Schiller International University

### THAILAND

Asian Institute of Technology

### TURKEY

Bahcesehir University  
Beykent University  
Istanbul Technical University

**The Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS) is committed to advancing the academic vision of the University through the development of programs and services that promote international education and cross-cultural exchange opportunities.**

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

OIPS recruits and admits international students, provides support with pre-arrival information and orientation, and offers counseling on immigration rules and regulations on a continual basis. RMU is home to a large number of foreign students who add an international dimension to our campus. The goal is to make RMU “a home away from home” for international students.

Currently, more than 40 countries are represented by RMU’s international students, including Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom and Vietnam, among others.

### STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

In addition to welcoming students, faculty and staff from other countries, RMU strongly encourages U.S. students to engage in study abroad experiences. In fact, study abroad and cross-cultural educational experiences are fast becoming integral parts of an RMU education. And, in today’s global society, international experiences are increasingly being sought by employers. OIPS works with students and parents to prepare them for these experiences.

Study abroad opportunities also include short-term, faculty-led programs. Faculty members have taken RMU students to Ireland, Germany, France, Mexico, Switzerland and Turkey in the past. These

programs are short (2–3 weeks) and usually over the summer, at the end of which students earn credits for a completed course. In summer 2007, RMU offered five faculty-led programs with 54 student participants. The following courses will be offered abroad in spring and summer 2008:

*Communications and Society in The Gambia*  
March 6–22 and May 14–29 • The Gambia,  
West Africa

*Geography and World Tourism*  
July 19–Aug. 3 • France, Switzerland  
and Germany

*Reading Literature: Myths*  
June 28–July 13 • Dublin, Ireland

*Special Seminar in Literature*  
June 28–July 13 • Dublin, Ireland

*Fraud Examination for Managers*  
July 19–Aug. 3 • Winchester, England

*Critical Thinking and Cultural Beliefs*  
July 19– Aug. 3 • Berlin, Germany

### STAFF

**TITILOLA ADEWALE**, Director  
**CARLY SHANE**, International Enrollment Manager  
**DIANNE JACKSON**, Coordinator, International  
Documentation and Study Abroad

### LOCATION AND HOURS OF OPERATION

Nicholson Center 259  
Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
412-262-8651 phone  
412-397-2510 fax  
internationaloffice@rmu.edu



## MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS | NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS APPOINTED



The Office of Student Life is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Spradley as the assistant director of student life for multicultural affairs. In this new position, Spradley will help the RMU community work towards fostering a diverse and inclusive living and learning environment.

Spradley will focus on developing leadership and mentoring programs as well as educational, social and cultural events. He will advise and counsel students, addressing their personal, academic and cultural needs. Working closely with the Center for Student Success, he will help improve retention and graduation rates by monitoring students' progress and providing intervention and academic support services.

Spradley's experience and enthusiasm make him a valuable leader for the University's

multicultural initiatives. Last June, he successfully launched a student mentoring and educational program called the Multicultural Affairs Consortium (see below). His professional background includes serving as an area coordinator in RMU's Residence Life Office, a youth director for the Hillcrest Seventh Day Adventist Church, a community liaison with Adventist Community Services, and a TV news reporter for WTOV News 9 in Steubenville, Ohio. Spradley holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in instructional leadership from RMU.

If you have thoughts and ideas about multiculturalism at RMU or are willing to serve as a resource to our students, please contact Paul Spradley at **412-397-3811** or [spradley@rmu.edu](mailto:spradley@rmu.edu).

## THE MAC | A NEW LOOK AT LEADERSHIP

In our ever-changing professional world, the new definition of leadership is as diverse as the individual it describes. While diversity doesn't traditionally conjure up thoughts of leadership, at RMU, we think it should. That's why the Office of Student Life has introduced a new organization designed to foster an inclusive mentality in our future leaders.

Through a series of experiences and open discussions, the Multicultural Affairs Consortium (MAC) looks to generate an environment at RMU that breaks down racial or cultural barriers. To date, the program has experienced tremendous success, as students are gaining a new perspective on the world in which they live.

Within the MAC program is a mentor/protégé partnership, where students have the opportunity to be mentored by a respected RMU faculty or staff member.

What does the MAC program mean to you as a family member of an RMU student? It assures you that we're actively working to develop your student into a leader by providing a global perspective and teaching that individuals matter. Encourage your student to check out the MAC program, come to a meeting or take part in one of our social events – it will change his or her perspective!

For more information on the MAC, contact Paul Spradley at **412-397-3811** or [spradley@rmu.edu](mailto:spradley@rmu.edu).



## CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

### **K. LEROY IRVIS STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Staff members from the Center for Student Success accompanied eight students to the K. Leroy Irvis Student Leadership Conference in Gettysburg, Pa., in November 2007. At the conference, students learned life skills that will enable them to build self-esteem, decision-making skills and conflict management skills. In addition, they were able to network with more than 300 students and staff from schools across Pennsylvania.

The two-day event featured workshops, a dance and the opportunity to hear from Abraham Lincoln himself (through a re-enactment of Lincoln's time in Gettysburg). In addition, the students and staff left RMU a day early to learn about the history of Gettysburg by touring the area and visiting local attractions, including the Boyds Bear factory and the Civil War Visitors Center.

### **RMU SEEKS FIRST-YEAR STUDENT MENTORS**

RMU students have many opportunities to become student leaders on campus. One such opportunity is to become a first-year mentor. First-year mentors help freshmen students adjust to college life by being a "go-to" person for questions and answers. The mentors attend and team-teach the FYSP1000 (First-Year Studies Seminar) with an instructor. This course helps students to become familiar with RMU and the services and activities available on campus. In addition, mentors encourage students to become involved in campus life through social organizations, activities and volunteer opportunities.

To become a first-year mentor, a student must have an overall 3.0 or higher GPA and be a sophomore, junior or senior with a positive attitude and desire to help new students adjust to college life. Interested students should apply in the Center for Student Success. The interview and selection process, as well as an initial training session, take place in the spring semester.

### **TUTORING SERVICES**

Did you know that tutoring services are FREE to all RMU students? Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Center for Student Success, located in Nicholson Center. Tutors work with traditional and non-traditional students at both the Moon and Pittsburgh campuses. A tutor can provide assistance with study skills, time management and note-taking strategies. Students are encouraged to bring their course syllabi, assignment sheets, class notes and textbook to each tutoring session.

Students may e-mail tutoring questions or suggestions to [rmututor@rmu.edu](mailto:rmututor@rmu.edu), and a response will be provided within 24 hours after the e-mail has been opened. Students with high-speed Internet service, a microphone and a web camera can receive online tutoring using the Blackboard system's Live Classroom technology. Online tutors are available outside of the weekly hours of operation.

Parents and students should contact Tutor Coordinator Nicole Hammond at **412-262-8600** or [hammond@rmu.edu](mailto:hammond@rmu.edu) to discuss tutoring services and resources.



## EXPERIENCE | THE KEY TO SUCCESS

BY CORINA CAMPBELL '08, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, CAREER CENTER

Student engagement can take on many forms, from athletics to student organizations to career development opportunities. Each of these activities contributes to the student's personal and professional development.

The Career Center focuses on three areas of student engagement: internships, cooperative education experiences (co-ops) and work-study positions. All three provide an excellent opportunity to gain relevant experience and develop skills such as communication, time management and problem-solving.

### INTERNSHIPS

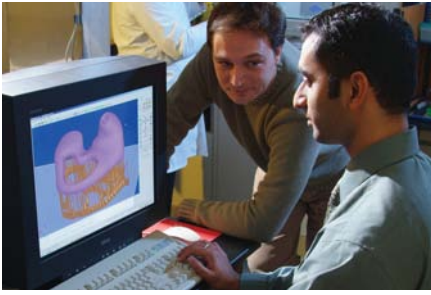
An internship is essentially a partnership between a student and an organization that allows the student to gain practical work experience to complement academic course work. Internships can be full- or part-time, with or without pay and for academic credit or noncredit. The Career Center posts a wide variety of internships on MonsterTRAK each year. During the 2006-07 academic year, the Career Center posted 598 internships.

Internships offer several benefits to the employer. Interns provide a steady flow of new talent and ideas into an organization, are ideal employees for short-term or temporary projects, and can increase an organization's visibility on campus when an intern tells other students about a positive experience. Interns also prove to be a cost-effective recruiting tool by providing employers the opportunity to observe their performance and evaluate their potential as full-time hires.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) offers advice to companies on how to incorporate internship and co-op programs. NACE states, "Our goal when hiring an intern is that he or she will eventually be converted to a full-time hire." NACE further suggests that companies should make it a goal to convert at least 50 percent of interns to new hires and to have at least 25 percent of new hires come from the internship program.

The student benefits of participating in an internship are also plentiful. Students may test out career options, learn about their field/industry, make valuable networking contacts and gain relevant work experience. The work experience translates into developing a strong résumé and increasing marketability.

The RMU Academic Internship Program (AIP) allows students to combine academic study with a relevant career learning experience for credit. The AIP is coordinated by the Career Center in conjunction with various academic departments. During the 2006-07 year, 295 RMU students participated in academic internships. Students have the opportunity to apply up to 12 credits of internships toward graduation, provided they have adequate space on their check sheet. To receive academic credit for an internship, students must first apply and be accepted into the AIP by their academic department. Although criteria vary by department, most require a minimum number of total credits, the completion of certain prerequisite courses and a minimum grade point average. The internship site must also be approved by the academic department.



### **Student Reflections • Internships**

*"Throughout my internship, I didn't simply learn the ins and outs of the company. I developed confidence in myself and the work I do. By developing a relationship with the people I work with, my coworkers began to depend on me for the execution of meaningful assignments. I am proud of how much I have developed during the internship experience."*

*– Kristie Tamski, Senior Marketing Major Intern, Blattner Brunner*

*"As a graduating senior, my participation in human resources internships has been extremely valuable to me. With the working knowledge I obtained from my internships comes an increase in my marketability, which sets me ahead of many recent graduates. Participating in an internship during your junior and senior years is the best way to gain real-world experience in your major. It's an opportunity to network and see what corporations have to offer."*

*– Stacey Kinsel, Senior Human Resource Management Major Intern, The Neighborhood Academy and Ohio Valley General Hospital*

*"There is only so much that one can learn in the classroom. Having the internship experience in my chosen field has been a great way to see what goes on behind the books and how the job is actually handled on a day-to-day basis. The connections that I have made in the past eight months at the YMCA and Bethel Park will help me considerably in my quest for a career."*

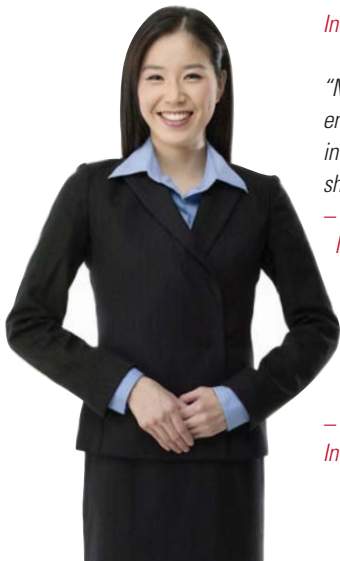
*– Dan Sloan, Senior Sport Management Major Intern, Bethel Park High School and South Hills YMCA*

*"My internship experience was incredibly beneficial. The View enabled me to get a lot of hands-on experience from professionals in my field. It was amazing to be involved in a network television show and learn what goes on behind the scenes."*

*– Melissa Moretti, Junior Media Arts Major Intern, The View*

*"My internship at Boeing was my capstone experience at RMU. It supplemented my education by giving me real-world experience. I wouldn't trade my Boeing experience for anything."*

*– Ryan Hendrickson, Senior Engineering Major Intern, The Boeing Company*



### **COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Program is a highly selective program that allows students to gain full-time, on-the-job work experience while pursuing their degree. Students must gain acceptance to the Co-Op Program from the Office of Admissions prior to their first year at RMU. To be considered for the program, students should have a minimum high school GPA of 3.5 and an SAT score of 1150.

Students in the program alternate terms of full-time study with terms of full-time work directly related to their majors. Each student is assigned a co-op faculty advisor and organization liaison. Each semester, these individuals monitor the academic progress and work performance of the student. The program is currently offered to students majoring in accounting, computer information systems and manufacturing engineering. To date, 42 students have been enrolled in the program.

### **Student Reflections • Cooperative Education**

*"I really enjoyed my co-op experience because, as an auditor, I not only learned a lot about my company, but the companies I audited as well. I worked through a busy season, and it gave me an idea on how to manage multiple tasks at once."*

*– Mark Sarver, Junior Accounting Major Staff Auditor, Schneider Downs*

*"Through the Cooperative Education Program, I was able to gain knowledge of the professional world before becoming a part of it. Working at a major accounting firm for seven months was an irreplaceable opportunity. The program and Robert Morris University did a great job of providing these opportunities for many students."*

*– Kristin Price, Junior Accounting Major Lead Tax Services Intern, Deloitte Tax LLP*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



## RESIDENCE LIFE

### ROOM SELECTION FOR 2008-09 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about next year already! Room selection for 2008-09 will be held during the spring 2008 semester. The room selection process is conducted each spring to allow students the opportunity to select their own living space for the upcoming year. Students participate in various phases of the process based on their total number of earned academic credits.

All resident students will receive information regarding the 2008-09 room selection process in their mailboxes in early February. E-mails to students and postings in the residence halls, Nicholson Center and various RMU publications will remind students of upcoming deadlines. Information will also be available online at [www.rmu.edu/residencelife](http://www.rmu.edu/residencelife) so parents and families can keep tabs on the process as well.

**All students must submit a housing contract and a \$100 deposit by March 7, 2008 in order to participate in the room selection process.** Both may be submitted online beginning in early February. Please note that submission of a contract and deposit does not guarantee a particular space on campus, it simply guarantees the opportunity to participate in the room selection process.

Please remind your student to meet all deadlines throughout the process. This gives students the best chance to get their first choice in housing! Questions regarding the room selection process can be directed to the Office of Residence Life at **412-262-8350** or [reslife@rmu.edu](mailto:reslife@rmu.edu).

# RMU ALERT

## NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

At RMU, we rely on a number of ways to communicate to the campus community in emergency situations, including e-mail, voice mail, media and the Web. The Virginia Tech tragedy, however, demonstrated that we must be able to alert students and employees instantaneously at critical times. With that in mind, the University has launched **RMU ALERT**, an emergency notification system that leverages new technology to reach people more rapidly.

### HOW IT WORKS

**RMU ALERT** allows campus leaders to simultaneously send text, e-mail and voice messages from anywhere, in a matter of minutes, to thousands of cell phones, landline phones, PDAs, pagers and e-mail accounts. The system will be used only in emergencies, such as power outages, weather-related closings and delays, and campus security situations.

### WHAT SHOULD YOUR STUDENT DO?

Students may choose up to six points of contact through a secure online form. Their RMU e-mail address has already been entered into the system. Students may use the additional options for personal or parent/family contact information. Here's what your student should do:

- Go to [www.rmu.edu/rmualert](http://www.rmu.edu/rmualert).
- Sign into Sentry Secured Services.
- Enter text messaging addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers in the available fields.
- Check the Send Word Now agreement box and the electronic signature box.
- Click "Submit."





## SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE PACK BECOME A RESIDENT ASSISTANT

Arguably the single most comprehensive leadership opportunity for a college student is becoming a resident assistant (RA). At Robert Morris University, each RA manages a floor, tower or several floors of apartment-style living quarters. The RA is responsible for building community in the assigned area, confronting student behavior that needs to be addressed, disseminating important information to the community and making sure residents are safe and happy. Sure, RAs get a generous compensation package for their work (free room and board), but that wanes in comparison to all that an RA can really acquire from this position.

The first real-world experience comes during the three-step interview process. Then, upon selecting 35 RAs each year, the Residence Life staff puts together an extensive, two-week training program. The training, which includes newly hired and returning RAs, is designed to be a team-building experience and covers topics such as communication, conflict management, best practices for programming and community building, basic first aid, helping skills, campus safety practices, paperwork procedures, and a host of other tools to prepare RAs to be effective leaders. Most importantly, it is the experience of learning about oneself and others, and the maturing that takes place within the individual RA over the course of the year that really develops leadership.

What really separates an RA from other students upon graduation is that many employers recognize the numerous benefits of hiring a former RA. Employers understand that being an RA has undoubtedly taught an individual how to get along with people, how to work as part of a team, how to meet deadlines and how to communicate effectively with peers and supervisors. Former RAs can walk into an interview with the confidence that their experiences will relate to almost any question the employer may ask.

If your student has expressed an interest in boosting their overall confidence or gaining leadership skills, encourage him or her to go through the RA interview process. Applications for 2008-09 will be available in Residence Life beginning Jan. 21, 2008. To apply, students must have completed at least one full semester at RMU prior to assuming the RA role and must maintain a 2.5 overall grade point average.

For more information, contact the Office of Residence Life at **412-262-8350** or **reslife@rmu.edu**.



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

*"It has been a great opportunity to be able to work 40 hours a week, building on the foundation that Robert Morris University has given me from classes, and get a real taste of what it is I thought I wanted to do for the rest of my life. It has been one of the best learning experiences during my time here and has led to many opportunities for me in the future."*

*– Gregory Difiore, Junior Information Systems Management Major  
Level 2 Engineer (Desktop Support), Questeq*

*"My co-op experience with Curtiss-Wright EMD allowed me to work in an environment overflowing with information and knowledge that simply can not be acquired in the classroom. I was able to work with numerous individuals from all divisions of the company, engineering and non-engineering. I feel that my co-op has provided me with that extra bit of knowledge and wisdom that will put me one step ahead in the game, and allow me to 'hit the ground running' once I get my first job. Plain and simple, the opportunity to be able to have real-life experience in your field of study prior to graduation is priceless."*

*– Tara Maxwell, Junior Manufacturing Engineering Major  
Industrial Engineering Department,  
Curtiss-Wright Electro-Mechanical Corporation*

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

On-campus employment positions are coordinated through the Student Employment Program (SEP). The Career Center administers the SEP in cooperation with the Student Payroll Office. The program is centralized through the SEP Online Job Source, which includes postings for all available campus jobs. Students who have been awarded funding through Federal Work-Study or University Student Payroll are eligible to apply for positions after completing an online application. Approximately 75 to 100 jobs are posted each year for 58 campus departments and offices. Currently, 300 students are employed in work-study positions through the SEP.

Most work-study positions offer students the advantage of gaining work experience without having to travel off campus. However,

community service positions allow students to be paid for working at off-campus nonprofit organizations. Generally, work-study positions have flexibility, so students can keep academics their first priority. Examples of on-campus positions include assisting the Office of Information Technology with ResNet and the Help Desk, tutoring in the Center for Student Success, or serving as a student ambassador for the Office of Admissions. The primary off-campus community service positions involve assisting with after-school programs. RMU students work at three neighboring organizations: the Mooncrest Community Center, the Sewickley Library and the YMCA at Robinson.

### **Student Reflections • Student Employment**

*"The major benefit of having an on-campus work-study position is that there is no commute. The hours are more considerate of your class schedule and the other activities you're involved in. The work-study program knows that school comes first."*

*– Cristie Feliciano, Sophomore Nursing Major  
Phonathon Assistant, Institutional Advancement*

*"I love my work-study position! The kids are great, and the nuns and other helpers I work with are awesome and inspiring individuals. It feels great to be a part of something so positive in making a difference."*

*– Samantha Bynum, Sophomore Communication Major  
Learning Assistant, Mooncrest Community Center*

*"My experience with the work-study program was a great one. Working with young kids was a pleasure."*

*– Aaron Jenkins, Senior Marketing Major  
Learning Assistant, Sewickley Library and Community Center*

For more information about internships, cooperative education, and student employment opportunities, please contact the Career Center at **412-262-8224** or **careers@rmu.edu**. You may also refer to the "Students – Gaining Experience" section of the Career Center website at **www.rmu.edu/careercenter**.



## JAM BLUES BAND ADDS TO STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Robert Morris Jam Blues Band takes its show on the road each fall, appearing at several area high school band festivals. This past season, the band appeared at the Carlynton, Montour, Thomas Jefferson and Baldwin High School festivals. RMU also accepted an invitation to perform at the Edison High School festival in Richmond, Ohio. These festivals provide a perfect opportunity for the group to showcase one of the great co-curricular opportunities on campus and to reach hundreds of prospective band members.

The band maintains a high profile on campus throughout the year, performing at all home football games, men's and women's basketball

games, and other select athletic competitions. Several of the Jam Blues Band members also play in the RMU Jazz Band and the West Hills Symphonic Band.

Band officers for 2007-08 are **Ryan Patterson** (president), **Andrew Schiren** (vice president), and **Jen Black, Becky Stemm** and **Ryan Wolf** (officers). The group is led by Band Director and Artist in Residence Clem Rolin and Assistant Band Director Lee Foster.

Students interested in joining the band should contact Clem Rolin at [rolin@rmu.edu](mailto:rolin@rmu.edu) or 412-397-2574.



## CLUB SPORTS PROGRAM EXPANDS

The Office of Student Life expanded its club sports program in Fall 2007 to include men's golf and women's volleyball teams. Growing interest among students created the momentum for these new offerings, which brings RMU to a total of 11 competitive club teams.

A member of the National Collegiate Club Golf Association (NCCGA), the men's golf team enjoyed great success in its first semester of competition by earning a spot in the Fall 2007 NCCGA Championship Tournament. Represented by **Justin Sell, Adam Grove,**

**Derek Mastic, Matt Garyn, John Zarenski, Tim Bickerton** and **Josh Roose**, RMU finished ninth. The team is under the direction of first-year coach **John Huber '99**.

Women's volleyball is currently participating in tournament competition with other area colleges and universities. Volleyball, along with the earlier additions of synchronized skating and winterguard teams, has helped to broaden the appeal of competitive club sports at RMU to more female students.



*Student Life*

6001 University Boulevard  
Moon Township, PA 15108

[www.rmu.edu](http://www.rmu.edu)

# FAMILY Connections

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [www.rmu.edu](http://www.rmu.edu) for the University's full calendar of events.

### JANUARY

- 14** Day/Evening Classes Begin
- 18** Friday Movie Night – 8 p.m., RoMo's Café
- 21** Martin Luther King Jr. Day – University Closed/No Classes  
*The King's Dream: A Live Concert Multimedia Presentation Dedicated to an American Legend* – 7 p.m., Massey Theater
- 22** FREE Student Bowling Night – 9:30 p.m.–Midnight, Paradise Lanes (Neville Island)
- 26** Monte Carlo Night – 8 p.m., Nicholson Center Food Court
- 29** Career Center Program: Focus on Your Future – Noon–1:30 p.m., Sewall Center
- 30** Winter Blood Drive – 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Jefferson Center TV Lounge  
Internship Workshop – TBA, Sewall Center

### FEBRUARY

- 1–29** Black History Month – Various Events Scheduled
- 9** Slice of Life Program – 9:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m., Sewall Center
- 18** Career Center Program: Focus on Your Future – 4:30–6 p.m., Sewall Center
- 23** **Parents Association Reception – 6:15–7 p.m., Sewall Center Arena**

### MARCH

- 1–31** Women's History Month – Various Events Scheduled
- 8–16** Spring Break – No Classes for 15-Week Undergraduate Courses
- 21** Good Friday Holiday – University Closed.

## YOU'RE INVITED! PARENTS ASSOCIATION RECEPTION

Join us Saturday, Feb. 23, on campus at the Sewall Center Arena and mingle with other RMU parents and families! We will gather from 6:15 to 7 p.m. with light refreshments provided.

Come and cheer on the Colonial basketball teams as they take on Northeast Conference rival Wagner. Tip-off of the women's game is 4:30 p.m., and the men's game begins at 7 p.m.

There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to the Student Life Office at [studentlife@rmu.edu](mailto:studentlife@rmu.edu) or **412-262-8352** so we can save a place for you!