

# Building Futures

Fall 2007

Issue No.117

## Storm Chaser Brings ‘Wow Factor’ to Adventures in Education

RSD was well-prepared at all grade levels for his arrival. Colorfully interactive displays outside of each classroom proudly showed students’ keen knowledge of severe storms, extreme weather conditions, and natural disasters around the world. Staff and students carefully reviewed the appropriate ASL signs for: Weather; Tornado; Hurricane; Volcano; Flood; Lightning, and other vocabulary to be used extensively during the next two days.

Then, just as the finishing touches were being made to the auditorium scenery for his two major stage presentations, George Kourounis arrived at RSD from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on Tuesday, October 16th, in his specially-equipped storm chase vehicle. One look at the dozens of dents from large hail stones on his black Honda SUV and it was obvious to every one that another multi-faceted adventure was underway at RSD.

Now celebrating its 15th year, RSD Adventures in Education is first and foremost an engaging and informative series of educational

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Professional storm chaser and global adventurer George Kourounis.



RSD Elementary School students impress George Kourounis with an erupting volcano.

Rochester School for the Deaf 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY 14621

*With Regents-level educational programs, outreach services, and cultural support, RSD is one of America's premier schools specializing in the education of children with hearing loss. Since 1876, RSD has built successful futures for deaf and hard of hearing children and their families in Western and Central New York State.*

To learn more, please contact us today. Call 585-544-1240 (Voice/TTY) or visit [www.RSDeaf.org](http://www.RSDeaf.org).

# Storm Chaser

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programs for students at Rochester School for the Deaf. It's also a series of fundraising opportunities for the school's valued supporters to provide commitments to RSD ensuring that educational experiences are enriched for students now and well into the future. And for Mr. Kourounis, and for each of the invited presenters before him, Adventures in Education is a total immersion experience into the RSD community, American Sign Language, and classrooms full of students whose hearing loss never hold them back from their own adventures focused toward knowledge, understanding and success.



George Kourounis delivering the Thursday evening Adventures in Education community presentation.



RSD Board of Directors member Mrs. Carolie Simone chats with George Kourounis.

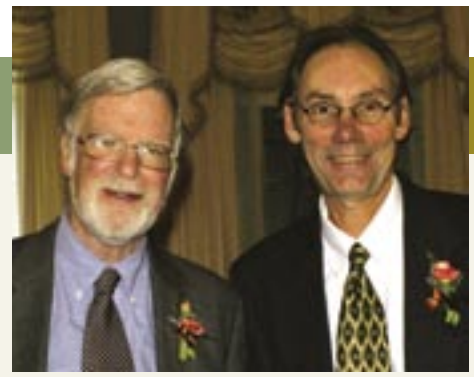


George Kourounis poses with RSD ECC children.



George Kourounis told RSD Middle School students: "You can have great adventures in your own life. It's all about going outside of your personal boundaries. You can do anything if you put your mind to it."

This year, RSD is especially grateful to Cobblestone Capital Advisors who provided a key leadership role as a major underwriter for Adventures in Education. Standing proudly with Cobblestone Capital Advisors, all Adventures in Education underwriters and everyone who attended Mr. Kourounis's community presentation on Thursday night, October 18th, contributed in many meaningful ways towards the success of RSD's signature program this year. Thank you one and all!



Stewart Davis and Rick Simpson

## Prestigious Founder's Awards Honor Two

RSD honored Mr. Stewart Davis with its 2007 Perkins Founder's Award and Mr. Rick Simpson with its 2007 Lyon Founder's Award.

The Perkins Founder's Award honors individuals, like Mr. Davis, who have provided outstanding service to RSD as a benefactor, volunteer, Board member, or community leader.

Mr. Davis, whose father is an alumnus of the school, has served on the RSD Board of Directors since 1978. He was the Board President from 1982-1984. Mr. Davis is an attorney with the Harris Beach law firm.

In addition to his commitment to RSD, Mr.

Davis has volunteered his time and expertise to support: the Rochester General Hospital (RGH) Foundation; the Norman Howard School for Learning Disabled Children; the Community Child Care Center of the Third Ward; RGH School-to-Work Program for high school students; and, the Rochester Contemporary Art Center.

The Lyon Founder's Award honors individuals like Mr. Simpson for their professional contributions to the education of students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

As video production/animation teacher at RSD, Mr. Simpson earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education at SUNY Geneseo in 1978. He completed the Joint Educational Specialist program at the University of Rochester in 1985, earning a master's degree in Education and teaching certification in New York State.

Mr. Simpson joined RSD in 1988. As a teacher in Horizons, a school-to-work program for RSD high school seniors, he helped to establish PRIDE, the supported employment program at RSD for deaf adults.

In 1994 Mr. Simpson transferred to the High School Department at RSD where he taught English for six years. In 2000 he joined the Technology Department at RSD and developed a television studio and curriculum including video production, animation, and drama workshop classes.

## Support RSD Rising Stars!

Donor gifts to RSD ensure that the school and its important programs provide exceptional educational opportunities for deaf children, their families, and individuals across Western and Central New York. We hope that you will continue with your loyal support. Please use this form with your own envelope when sending your gifts to RSD.

**YES!** I am delighted to support Rochester School for the Deaf. Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

### GIVING LEVELS:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend..... \$1-\$99  | <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Level..... \$500-\$999  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner ..... \$100-\$249   | <input type="checkbox"/> President's Level ..... \$1,000-\$1,875  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor ..... \$250-\$499   | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder's Level ..... \$1,876 and up<br>(1876 was the year the school was established) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Gift (In memory of) _____  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Gift (In honor of) _____   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My employer (or spouse's employer) will match my contribution. (Enclosed is my matching gift form.) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rochester School for the Deaf is named in my will.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to include Rochester School for the Deaf in my will. Please send me information.             |   |

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## RSD Students Diggin' Big Sky Country

An educational field trip to Montana, June 11-19, 2007, reunited a group of RSD middle school students and their teachers with renowned paleontologist Dr. Jack Horner (back row, center and insert), the 2006 RSD Adventures in Education guest speaker.

Dr. Horner's invitation last year to travel to Montana and dig for dinosaur fossils turned into the field trip of a lifetime for RSD students.

They camped out, explored the fossil rich lands in North Central Montana (near the Canadian border), and participated in outdoor classroom activities guided by RSD teachers.

In addition to digging for fossils, RSD students explored Glacier National Park, visited the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and met students at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, in Great Falls, before returning to Rochester.



Klima Klimentyeva and Cooper Norris hunt for dinosaur fossils

### *A special note of thanks...*

Student field trips to Montana and Space Camp are enriching educational experiences made possible through the generous gifts RSD receives from its many supportive friends, organizations, and partners in the business community. Thank you for helping to make these experiences possible for RSD students.

## 3-2-1...RSD Students Have a Blast at Space Camp



Students and staff from other schools standing under a replica of the Space Shuttle with the RSD Space Camp Class of 2007 in Huntsville, Ala.

Following the interview process and completion of after school classes, RSD students Paul Gentzke, Klima Klimentyeva, Emily Murphy, Cooper Norris, and Jaron Rekhop were well prepared for the adventures that awaited them at Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., April 29 - May 4, 2007.

When asked about their favorite Space Camp experience, most of the RSD Space Campers said that they liked the simulators, because they are just like the machines astronauts use to train for space exploration. Students also used the multi-axis trainer, the 5-degrees of freedom chair, and the 1/6th gravity chair which gave them an idea of what gravity on the moon feels like. RSD students increased their understanding of math, science and technology, as they experienced teamwork, meant to build their self-confidence and improved their communication skills.

## RSD Students Meet Pro Golfers in National TV Spotlight

On Tuesday, August 14, 2007, more than 20 RSD summer program students traveled to Irondequoit Country Club to meet PGA Nationwide Tour golfers playing in the Xerox Classic. Rob Strano, a fluent signer and former PGA pro, led the students in his Deaf Golf Camp. Assisting Mr. Strano were pro golfers Jason Allred, Chad Collins, Jeff Klauk, Rick Price, and twin golf caddies Boyd and Blaine Cornwall. A television crew documented the experience for the The Golf Channel program *Quest for the Card*.



Pro golfer Chad Collins, in Rochester for the 2007 Xerox Classic golf tournament, gave tips to RSD students at Irondequoit Country Club.



Photos courtesy: *Democrat and Chronicle*; Katharine Sidelnik photographer.

RSD student Marlena Rauber asks pro golfer Rick Price a question about golf tees. Marlena and her RSD classmates were interviewed on The Golf Channel for the program *Quest for the Card*.

## RSD Rallies for Kevin Mowl

On Thursday, September 6, 2007, RSD students and staff held a rally to support U.S. Army Specialist Kevin Mowl, the son of Dr. Harold and Mrs. Mary Mowl, who was critically wounded in a bomb blast August 2nd in Iraq.



Everyone wore t-shirts designed by ECC Assistant Mrs. Brenda Jamalkowski. She also made an inspiring slide show about Kevin set to the music *Proud To Be An American*. In the RSD auditorium students and staff gathered for a group picture, where a large flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol was displayed. RSD Teacher Mr. Gene DiVincenzo interpreted on the stage.

RSD media partners, including reporters from the *Democrat and Chronicle* and the *Messenger Post* newspapers and many Rochester TV stations came to the school to cover this special event. On October 23rd, one day before Kevin's 22nd birthday, the U.S. Army presented him with the Purple Heart, the oldest military honor in the United States.

Please support Kevin Mowl by visiting the website set up by his family [www.caringbridge.org/visit/kevinmowl](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kevinmowl).

## RSD Honors Staff for Length of Service

At the start of the 2007-2008 school year, the following staff were recognized for their years of dedication and service to Rochester School for the Deaf.

### 10 Years

Anthony Di Giovanni, *Business Operations Director*  
 Terri Harrison, *Library Aide*  
 Paul Kelly, *Career Development and Occupational Studies Teacher*  
 Susan Klein, *Elementary School Teacher*  
 Kathleen Piehler, *Speech Teacher*

### 15 Years

Barbara Di Giovanni, *ASL/English Bilingual Specialist*  
 John Krautwurst, *Maintenance, Driver*  
 Robert McGinty, *Security Guard*

### 20 Years

Chris Bradley, *Student Life Director*  
 Nancy Britt, *Administrative Support, Main School Office*

Gwen Conklin, *School Counselor*  
 George Currier, *General Mechanic*  
 Pamela Grossman, *Residential Counselor*  
 Brenda Lester, *Teaching Assistant*  
 Sharon McKenney, *Teaching Assistant*  
 Debra Metzger, *Residential Counselor*

Peggy Mudd, *Early Childhood Programs Teacher*  
 Deborah Parsons, *Elementary School Teacher*  
 Margie Sagneri, *Administrative Support, Personnel Office*

### 30 Years

Brenda Jamalkowski, *Administrative Support, ECC*  
 Joan McGrath, *Residential Counselor*

## Inside This Issue...

- 2007 Adventures in Education
- RSD Founder's Awards
- Student Field Trips to Montana and Space Camp
- ...and more



*Building Futures is designed to inform staff, families, and friends of Rochester School for the Deaf about the school's programs and services. Communication with RSD is encouraged. To learn more, please contact RSD today. Call 585-544-1240 (Voice/TTY) or visit [www.RSDeaf.org](http://www.RSDeaf.org).*

*Harold M. Mowl, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/CEO*



*Answers. Education. Support.*

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