

Building Futures

Spring 2008

Issue No. 119

Army Hero Kevin Mowl Touched Many at RSD

During his two-week furlough from active duty in Iraq in March 2007, then Army Spc. Kevin Mowl, son of Dr. Harold Mowl, Jr. and his wife Mary, and brother to their daughter Carlene, visited RSD. Kevin spent time with his father, several high school students and their teachers. Senior Derrick Behm remembered Kevin's visit to RSD.

"He explained about his tours of duty and his sense of purpose in Iraq," Derrick says. "He was only home for two weeks and he made time to come to our school to meet with us."

Since Kevin knew sign language he brought his experiences in Iraq directly to RSD students and their teachers.

"We don't know a lot of soldiers, and because we're all deaf, we can't be soldiers," Derrick added. "We don't get to meet people like that very often."

"He was a very nice person," recalls Rebecca Sterling, a junior at RSD.

The RSD community supported Kevin by writing letters to him and to soldiers in his company. Students also collected books and sent them to Kevin and his fellow troops in Iraq.

"We did that because it's hard for U.S. soldiers in Iraq to get the latest books," said RSD junior Richard Spiecker.

Less than six months after his visit to RSD, Kevin Mowl was seriously injured when a roadside bomb exploded under his military vehicle in Baghdad. From there he was brought to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

RSD summer school students responded quickly. They made many get well cards for Kevin and sent them to him.

At the start of the new school year students had ringed trees on the RSD campus with yellow ribbons. Students and staff also held a rally for Kevin and his family in the school auditorium.

continued on page 2



Kevin Mowl in March 2007 with RSD high school students.



Kevin Mowl encountering Iraqi children while on patrol.

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.

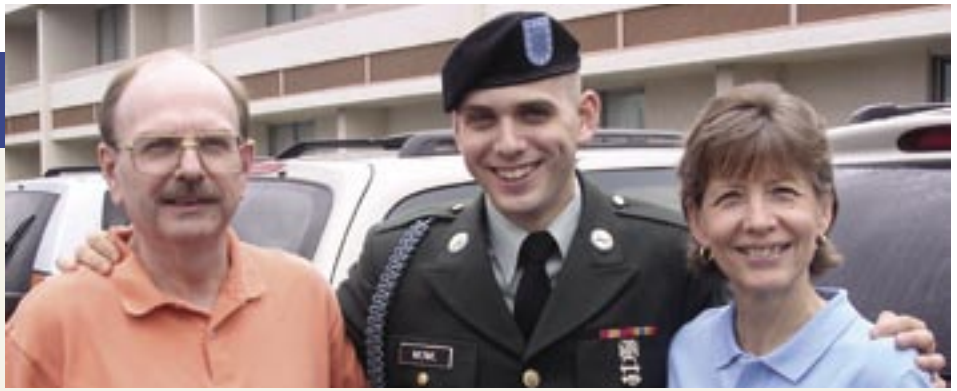
To learn more, please contact us today. Call 585-544-1240 (Voice/TTY) or visit www.RSDeaf.org.

From Our Family to Yours with Heartfelt Gratitude

by Dr. Harold Mowl, Jr.

Since Kevin's initial injury in Iraq in early August 2007 until his passing in February 2008, the tremendous outpouring of support and compassion for Mary and me, our daughter Carlene and my mother Betty, kept us ever hopeful that Kevin would, in time, fully recover. We are so very grateful to everyone in the RSD community who expressed to us their good wishes for Kevin in so many different ways. On behalf of my family and all of our relatives, I thank you.

If you followed Kevin's progress in the media and on the CaringBridge website, we believed that being publicly open about Kevin might help other families cope as we did and channel positive thoughts towards Kevin and other injured soldiers to aid in their recovery. The media exposure also shed a positive light on RSD, by showing how our students and their families, our school staff, alumni and



Kevin Mowl (center) with his parents Dr. Harold Mowl, Jr. and Mrs. Mary Mowl.

friends, were responding to the tragedy in our family with deep compassion and special caring for one of our own in the RSD community.

Kevin loved RSD, which was his first home in Rochester after we moved here from Pittsburgh. Since they shared a common language – ASL, Kevin interacted with RSD students and staff when we lived on campus for a few months. One of Kevin's first friends in Rochester was Donald Grann, an especially large built, jolly RSD alumnus who had worked for many years as a dormitory and recreational counselor here. Kevin was always proud of a gift Don gave to him – a miniature top hat that looked really small on Don.

Even after we moved to our home in Pittsford, Kevin stayed close to RSD. He attended sports and alumni events, Spring

Festivals, and Adventures in Education programs, to interact with RSD students and staff as much as he could.

Kevin is a special person. He passionately pursued his interests and desire for military service, just as his deaf peers at RSD pursued their dreams for productive careers in school and college and in the world of employment.

To ensure that the true spirit of Kevin's love of history, politics, and world travel endures at RSD, Mary, Carlene and I welcome your donations in Kevin's name to the RSD Travel Abroad Program. To contribute, please send your donation to: Rochester School for the Deaf, 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY 14621. I want to take this opportunity to thank every one who contributed so far to this special program in Kevin's memory.

Kevin Mowl

continued from page 1

Even though progress was slow, Kevin was showing signs of improvement overall. Kevin's mother, Mrs. Mary Mowl, stayed near her son at the hospital, and Dr. Mowl returned to Maryland every weekend. During his recovery the family was communicating Kevin's progress on a website they set up, as many TV and newspaper outlets relayed stories about Kevin's recovery as well.

In December 2007 President Bush visited Kevin, awarded him the Purple Heart medal, the Presidential Medallion and spent time with the Mowl family.

Shortly after the first of the year, and because he was continuing to show signs of improvement, Kevin was moved to a rehabilitation hospital in Richmond, Va. Due to complications however he returned to Bethesda after a short while. During

the last week of February Kevin developed a fatal infection, and he died peacefully with his family at his side on the morning of February 25, 2008.

During a full military funeral Kevin was posthumously promoted to the rank of Corporal and awarded the Bronze Star.

Many in the RSD community will always remember Cpl. Kevin Scott Mowl as an American hero and a true friend.



RSD Earns Accolades in Academic Bowl Competition

Rochester School for the Deaf placed 4th in the Northeast Region Gallaudet University Academic Bowl Competition, held March 27-30, 2008, at Austine School for the Deaf, in Brattleboro, Vt.

Representing RSD were high school senior Derrick Behm and juniors Danica Metlay and Richard Spiecker.

RSD was the only school out of 16 competing to field a team with just three players—the minimum number required to form an Academic Bowl team. Teams were grouped into two divisions, Buff and Blue, consisting of eight teams each.

At the conclusion of the competition, Derrick Behm was named Outstanding Player in the Blue division.

The coach of the RSD Academic Bowl team was Art Teacher Scott Gentzke. The Assistant Coach for RSD was Director of High School Programs Nancy Heaney.

"This marks the 4th year in a row that the RSD Academic Bowl team brought home a medal," said Coach Gentzke. "We surprised

many of the other teams this year who thought it would be easy to beat RSD, the only team with just three players.

"Mrs. Heaney and I congratulate Derrick, Richard, and Danica on an excellent job! Not only did they play well, they represented RSD well also. They displayed good character, leadership, teamwork, cooperation, respect and friendliness towards the other schools. They received several compliments from the other coaches, teams, and Gallaudet University staff," Mr. Gentzke added.



(l-r) Mr. Scott Gentzke, Danica Metlay, Derrick Behm, Richard Spiecker, and Mrs. Nancy Heaney

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

\$ _____

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250-\$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder's Level \$1,876 and up
(1876 was the year the school was established) |
- Memorial Gift (In memory of) _____
- RSD Travel Abroad Program in memory of U.S. Army Cpl. Kevin Mowl
- Honorary Gift (In honor of) _____
- My employer (or spouse's employer) will match my contribution. (Enclosed is my matching gift form.)
- Rochester School for the Deaf is named in my will.
- I want to include Rochester School for the Deaf in my will. Please send me information.

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Address _____

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VISA and Mastercard are also accepted. (Please circle one.)

Card # _____ Name on card _____

Expiration date _____ Signature _____

THANK YOU!

MAIL THIS FORM TO: Rochester School for the Deaf • 1545 St. Paul Street • Rochester, NY 14621



Guy Wonder, 2008 RSD Artist-in-Residence

RSD Welcomes Deaf Artist Guy Wonder

Renowned Deaf artist Guy Wonder came to a wintry Western New York from sunny Southern California to be the Artist-in-Residence at Rochester School for the Deaf for 2008.

From February 28-March 13, Guy shared his artistic talent and skills and Deaf culture knowledge with RSD students in their art, wood shop, and special topics classes. He worked with most of the RSD preschool through 12th grade students and led them to create a Deaf View/Image Art, or De'VIA, project. The original artwork titled "RSD, from A to Z" is now on permanent display at RSD on the first floor of Westervelt Hall near the main office.

Guy Wonder wrapped up his stay in Rochester on Saturday, March 15, by leading an American Sign Language (ASL) storytelling program at Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery (MAG). His special program was based on selected artworks from the MAG collection that worked well for his ASL storytelling. More than 80 children and adults from the RSD and greater Rochester community attended this event.



RSD student Christal Mitchell working on letter "V" for the artwork "RSD, from A to Z"



Elements of "RSD, from A to Z"

RSD Varsity Girls Crowned ESDAA D-II Champs

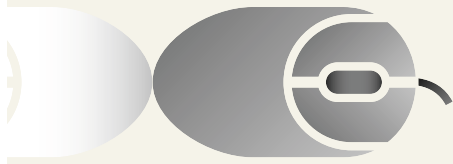
On Saturday, March 1, 2008, the Rochester School for the Deaf girls' varsity basketball team defeated Rhode Island School for the Deaf in the championship game of the 30th Annual Eastern Schools for the Deaf Athletic Association (ESDAA) Girls Division II Basketball Tournament, in Providence, R.I.

To earn their championship bid and tournament crown the RSD Lady Wildcats defeated West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and St. Mary's School for the Deaf.

RSD senior Victoria Foster was named to the tournaments' first All-Star team. Teammates Melissa Jones and Gloria Wink were named to the tournaments' second All-Star team.



RSD 2007-08 Girls Varsity Basketball Team (l-r) Back row: Patti Canne, Assistant Coach; Victoria Foster; Gloria Wink; Melissa Jones; Vicki Nordquist, Coach; Front row: Monica Wilmot; Trisha 'TJ' Sickler-Sherman; Danica Metlay.



Supporting RSD through Internet Shopping

Even if a generous donation to support RSD is out of your reach, you still can click your computer mouse to lend a helping hand. For those of you who do some of your shopping over the Internet, here are two very easy ways to support RSD.



iGive.com

This virtual mall includes arrangements with hundreds of merchants, including Staples, eBay, Home Depot, and United Airlines. Without any additional charge to you, merchants direct a percentage of your purchase price to the cause of your choice, such as RSD. Simply go to iGive.com to register. Be sure to note that you want your credits to go to Rochester School for the Deaf. Then return to iGive.com to shop online at any of your favorite retailers by clicking on the link to their website provided. It will tell you what percentage of any purchases you make will be directed automatically to RSD.



SchoolPOP.com

With this program participants go to SchoolPOP.com to shop at popular merchant websites. Participants must complete a simple registration at SchoolPOP.com first, and indicate that Rochester School for the Deaf is the intended recipient of your

‘Discovering Deaf Worlds’ Duo Coming to Adventures in Education

The Adventures in Education program will welcome Christy Smith and Dave Justice to Rochester School for the Deaf, October 22-23, 2008.

Smith, who is deaf and a former contestant on CBS-TV’s “Survivor: The Amazon” and Justice, an ASL/English interpreter and deaf community advocate, are co-founders of Discovering Deaf Worlds. Promoting deaf awareness globally, Smith and Justice are currently overseas on the organization’s first-ever international adventure.

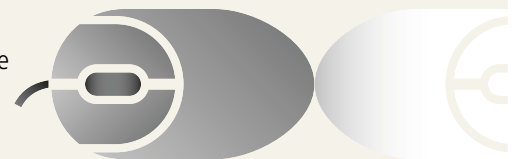
The couple has already traveled through New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China and Thailand. They plan to visit India, Nepal, and Kenya. As they travel Smith and Justice meet with deaf community leaders, government officials, educators, deaf youth and their families. They are documenting their experiences through video, photography, and blogging for their organization’s newsletter and website. To go there visit: www.RSDeaf.org/Adventures.



Dave Justice and Christy Smith in China.

shopping activity proceeds. SchoolPOP.com also offers discount coupons for many of their merchants as well as a Visa card which credits RSD with 1% of any purchase you make with it at store locations or online. RSD also receives \$20 for the first purchase you make with the card.

If you have any questions about either of these opportunities to support RSD please contact RSD Director of Fund Development, Bill Keenan, at 585-336-5884 or BKeenan@rsdeaf.org.



Inside This Issue...

- Army Hero Kevin Mowl Touched Many at RSD
- From Our Family to Yours with Heartfelt Gratitude
- RSD Varsity Girls Crowned ESDAA D-II Champs
- RSD Welcomes Deaf Artist Guy Wonder
- RSD Earns Accolades in Academic Bowl Competition
- 'Discovering Deaf Worlds' Duo Coming to Adventures in Education
- Supporting RSD through Internet Shopping



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.

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



Answers. Education. Support.

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