

Attention Loyal Supporters!

In the past, we have received many gifts using the donor envelopes that have been included in our newsletters. With our new newsletter format, these envelopes will not be included. However, we hope you will use the form below when sending in a gift. Your continuing generosity will ensure we are able to provide exceptional educational opportunities for deaf children.

Yes!

I am delighted to support the Rochester School for the Deaf.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

GIVING LEVELS:

- Friend \$1-\$99
- Partner \$100-\$249
- Sponsor \$250-\$499
- Director's Level \$500-\$999
- President's Level \$1000-\$1,875
- Founder's Level \$1,876 and up (1876 was the year the school was established)
- Memorial Gift (In memory of _____)
- 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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

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

Card # _____

Name on card _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____



Inside This Issue...

- Commencement 2006 — The Next Big Step
- Italy Adventure Spurs Learning
- Renowned Communications Professor Visits RSD
- RSD Newsbriefs

Building Futures is designed to keep staff, families, and friends of Rochester School for the Deaf informed about the school's programs. Communication with the school is encouraged. To learn more, please contact us today at 585-544-1240 (Voice/TTY) or visit our website at www.RSDeaf.org.

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



Building Futures

Summer 2006

Issue No.112

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE ROCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Commencement 2006 — The Next Big Step

On June 23rd, thirteen RSD graduates took their next big step into the world. Families, friends, staff and board members gathered at 7:00 p.m. in the RSD auditorium for the momentous occasion.

Mrs. Vicki Hurwitz, Director of the RSD Outreach Center, delivered the commencement address. As RSD's liaison to the community, her words to the students revolved around community and encouraging involvement in all forms. She stated, "Throughout their tenure here, students are well supported. But my role is to look beyond these walls, and I'm hoping our newest graduates realize the importance of doing so, too."

It is appropriate that Mrs. Hurwitz was the commencement speaker as she will undertake her own sort of commencement—her retirement. "It's an exciting time for all...including myself," says Mrs. Hurwitz. "I'll be stepping off the stage alongside the students with a similar sort of thrill about the future's possibilities."



RSD Class of 2006: (1 to r standing) George LaVare, Jacob O'Neill, Johnny Troche, Dr. Harold Mowl, Justin DiBiase, Jamie DiLella, Jamil Haque. (1 to r seated) Ashley Owens, Scott Keller, Kristin Power, Eric Smith, Maria Palmer, Faiz Aliuddin, Keila Heredia.

Here are brief highlights for each of our 2006 RSD graduates:

Faiz Mohammed Aliuddin

A Fairport resident, Faiz plans to major in metal die technology at Northwest Connecticut Community College. While at RSD, he was active in drama, participated in campus weekends, and helped with the RSD yearbook. He was also a key member of the soccer and basketball teams. One of his favorite memories was helping to earn the ESDAA and WNYCAA championships for the Wildcats.

Justin Antonio DiBiase

Justin graduates and plans to continue

his education at Gallaudet University, and eventually earn a Master's degree. He was involved in a host of activities at RSD including: the Academic Bowl, the Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr.NAD), the foreign exchange program, drama, leadership retreats and campus weekends. He also played basketball and softball and was the leading scorer on the soccer team, helping the Wildcats win the WNYCAA and ESDAA championship titles.

Jaime LaGrou DiLella

A native of Holley, Jaime is excited to finish at RSD, but is still undecided about post-high school plans. She is an

avid school supporter as demonstrated by her favorite saying, "RSD is #1." Among her favorite memories are Miss Nesbit's stories about 1960s and 1970s fingerspelling at RSD. When asked where you will find her in five years, Jaime plans to stay close to her family, "living in Holley," she says.

Iftekhhar "Jamil" Haque

Jamil came to the U.S. from Bangladesh several years ago. His family resides in New York City, while Jamil resided on campus during the school year. He is interested in Social Work, and hopes to pursue a degree from Gallaudet University. He also would like to travel

Continued on inside

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

A Preeminent Provider of Educational, Developmental and Evaluation Services to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children and Their Families in the Nation

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



Italy Adventure Spurs Learning

Eighteen RSD juniors and seniors, along with four faculty chaperones, embarked on a 10-day Italian tour during Spring Break, April 10-20, 2006. Highlights of the tour included the canals of Venice, the ruins of Pompeii, the riches of Rome and many places in between. Students immersed themselves in the country famous for its delicious cuisine, impressive architectural treasures, and beautiful countryside. Just as important, though, were the myriad preparations the students dove into: fundraising, additional "Italy-focused" coursework, and the countless details of planning an international trip.

Prior to the trip, students conducted a fundraising program to help defray costs. There were cash raffles, car washes, a can and bottle collection, a flower sale, pizza card sales, spaghetti dinners, and the sale of a student-made shed. Furthermore, money was raised through donations, and through a benefit dinner at a local pizza restaurant. A "Student for Hire" program also brought in additional funds with chores such as leaf raking, lawn mowing and pet sitting. The fundraising itself was a rewarding learning experience for students as they planned, set goals, shared responsibilities and implemented their programs. Students exhibited a high level of commitment and teamwork to raise thousands of dollars.

Students also took night classes in Italian geography, history, culture, Deaf Studies, language and more. Social Studies Specialist Barbara Di Giovanni and Social Studies Teacher Gene DiVincenzo led the classes.

By trip time, students were ready to reap the rewards of their hard preparatory work. Italy is well endowed with historic and cultural riches, so there was no shortage of learning opportunities. Communications between RSD's chaperones, the tour manager, and tour guides at various Italian locations were very smooth; the sites and culture of Italy that students studied prior to the trip came alive before their eyes!

Their time in Rome was highlighted by a dinner and social gathering with CGSI, a Rome deaf youth association. Interacting with their deaf Italian peers was a memorable cultural experience for the students. Our students also met with a successful deaf entrepreneur, Mr. Roberto Wirth, who owns Rome's five-star Hotel Hassler. They were impressed with Mr. Wirth, whose advice to the students was "follow your heart and passion."

During the 10-day adventure, students kept travel journals, took many photos, and even captured video, which they used to develop presentations and a video essay upon their return.

One parent summed it up perfectly. "Travel does change lives...I think my son grew up a whole year in those 10 days."



RSD students enjoy Venice.

These are the sort of opportunities that have a powerful impact on students, how they experience the world, and how they learn from it. Rochester School for the Deaf thanks all who helped make it possible, especially the students themselves who worked tirelessly to bring the trip to life.

Commencement 2006

Continued from front page

the world. His school activities at RSD included the Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr.NAD) Conference, the yearbook staff, leadership retreats, campus weekends, winning the Mr. RSD '04 Pageant, outdoor education, and was manager for the soccer team. He also took part in the 2006 trip to Italy.

Keila Marie Heredia

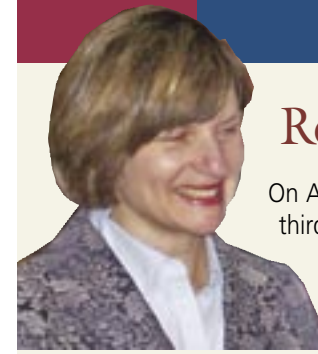
Keila is a Rochesterian who loves restaurants and would like to work in the restaurant business in the future. She was involved in drama productions at RSD, and has fond memories of field trips, particularly those with Mrs. Umof. Five years into the future, Keila sees herself married with two children.

Scott Joseph Keller

A resident of Webster, Scotty, as he is known at school, is still undecided about his education or career plans, but does have a "driving" ambition in the automotive world. "I want to own a ridiculous amount of cars," he states. Scotty has been active in his years at RSD. He has played soccer, basketball and softball, has participated in Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr.NAD) Conferences, has helped out on the yearbook staff, and has participated in leadership retreats and campus weekends.

George Raymond LaVare

George, also known as "Manny," lives in Palmyra and is an avid race car fan; he hopes one day to be racing cars. For now, his plans include finding a good job after graduation. While at RSD, He played soccer and basketball, and has many great memories that include dorm life, friends, teachers and fun. George's well known saying, "cool," still seems to echo in the halls.



Dr. Carol Padden

young deaf children and the culture and community of Deaf people in the United States.

For her presentation to the school entitled "Literacy as a Critical Requirement for Deaf and Hearing Worlds," Dr. Padden's talk continues the discussion on RSD's literacy focus for deaf and hard of hearing students. She touched upon a

Jacob Tyler O' Neill

Jacob lives in Rochester and plans to remain in the area to attend courses at BOCES. His extracurricular activities included softball, and manager for the soccer and basketball teams. His true passion is theater. He was involved in drama at RSD, will continue to participate in it, and hopes one day to work in theater production. His favorite memories of RSD revolve around the successful sports teams he was so much a part of.

Ashley Ann Owens

Known as "Ash" to her schoolmates, she lives in Webster with her family. Ash has been an active student at RSD, taking part in the Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr.NAD) Conferences, Student Body Government, drama, leadership retreats and campus weekends. She also played soccer, basketball and volleyball for the Wildcats. She plans to continue her education at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Maria Angela Palmer

Maria is also known as "Baby," "Angel," and "Honey" to her friends, which tells you a bit about her caring personality. It's no wonder that she's interested in the field of nursing. She plans to continue her education at Monroe Community College and eventually land a job in health care. While at RSD, Maria was involved in the Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr.NAD), the yearbook, Outward Bound and a student exchange trip to Italy. She also played basketball and volleyball for the school. She has many fond memories of RSD including her trips and her first prom, and looks forward to many big changes in the next few years.

Kristin Noel Power

Though Kristin is unsure of post-secondary education plans, she is sure about one thing: she would like to help either children or

Renowned Communications Professor Visits RSD

On April 6, 2006, RSD held its third Parent/Faculty/Board Dinner featuring Dr. Carol Padden, Professor of Communication, University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Dr. Padden has authored or co-authored over 50 research articles on topics ranging from sign language structure to reading in

number of topics related to her experiences growing up in a bilingual/bicultural environment, sign language research, reading, classroom strategies, and more.

It was an enlightening evening, and gave parents, faculty and board members the opportunity to explore issues and ask questions of a leading authority on contemporary issues facing deaf people. Following the presentation, Dr. Padden was available for a book-signing session of her newest release, *Inside Deaf Culture*, again co-authored with her husband, Tom Humphries. The book discusses current concerns facing Deaf people including genetic testing and cochlear implants.

Thanks to the RSD Board of Directors and the Parent Staff Association for bringing this nationally recognized expert to our school.

animals. Her ambitions are to work at the Red Cross, at Strong Memorial Hospital, the zoo or an animal shelter. In addition to extracurricular activities at school, she also enjoys time with family, playing with animals, scrapbooking and photography. Her favorite memories from RSD include the 2004 and 2005 proms, and "last but not least, boys!"

Eric William Smith

Eric plans on pursuing a college degree in computer robotics at Rochester Institute of Technology. He would eventually like to secure a job in the field and begin a family. Eric hails from Webster and is known as "Hunnie Bear" to his close friends. While at RSD, Eric played soccer, softball and basketball for the Wildcats, participated in the Junior National Association of the Deaf (Jr.NAD), the yearbook, Outward Bound and a student trip to Italy. He was also involved in school plays and the Academic Bowl.

Johnny Ulysses Troche

Better known as J.T. or José, he is interested in auto mechanics, and hopes to set up his own business someday. Though J.T. currently resides in Albion, he says in five years that you will find him "living in Puerto Rico with a family of six children." J.T. enjoys listening to rap music and writing poetry, and has many fond memories of RSD, where he had fun using his sense of humor to liven things up. His final words as he departs RSD: "Peace out, and stay out of trouble. Thanks to my sister-in-law and teachers for preparing me."

Congratulations to all of our graduates for a job well done. And to all those who helped in their success – family, faculty and staff, friends, and community supporters – thank you for your commitment to Rochester School for the Deaf. Your support has made it possible for the students of RSD to reach new heights and explore new horizons.

RSD Newsbriefs

IN MEMORIAM

RSD and the community at large is saddened by the passing of two former Board members:

Nancy Smith Bates joined the RSD Board of Directors in 1973. She was an active supporter of RSD and involved with the school for over 33 years. She died May 4, 2006.

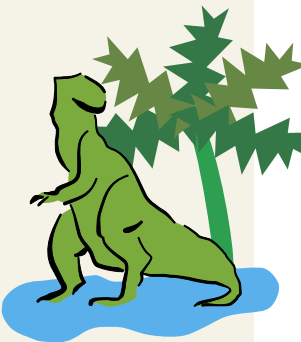
Bill Hall became a member of the RSD Board of Directors in 1972, and was named to the Advisory Board in 1990. For 34 years, he was a steadfast supporter of the school. He passed away on March 12, 2006.

Both Mrs. Bates and Mr. Hall made a tremendous impact on the well being of the school and our community, and will be sorely missed.

SAVE THE DATE

For the 14th Annual
Adventures in Education
Thursday, October 12, 2006

"Cool New Stuff
About Old Dead
Dinosaurs"



Featuring Dr. Jack Horner,
world renowned paleontologist

Join "Doctor Dinosaur" as he shares stories from his many dinosaur digs around the globe, and the discoveries he has made that have shaped our knowledge of dinosaurs and their habitats.

For more information on tickets and underwriting opportunities, contact the school at (585) 544-1240 (v/tty) or Nisha Cerame at ncerame@rsdeaf.org.