I didn’t grow up in the Mennonite culture, so before I came to Rosedale I didn’t know much about Anabaptism. And I’ve really come to appreciate and respect the sincerity I see at RBC: the way people strive to make their lives match what they believe . . .

Sarah Staley, RBC student, on thinking about Anabaptism
Unveiling the Vision

By Vicki Sairs

“We must all answer the question ‘What is it that we are called to do at this moment in history for the cause of Christ?’ At Rosedale Bible College we have spent the past year wrestling with this very question.”

With these words, President Dan Ziegler introduced RBC’s Vision Plan to an audience of 1100 at the Friday evening session of Conservative Mennonite Conference’s 96th Annual Conference, held in Plain City, Ohio, from July 27–30.

Speaking for the Rosedale Bible College community, President Ziegler said, “We are pleased to present to you, the gathered church, a strong declaration of what we believe to be God’s calling upon this small college: Our vision as Rosedale Bible College is to be a center for the advancement of an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith.”

We want to engage the culture, he said, because we are called to be salt and light, and “to reach outside of our comfort zone.” We are evangelical because we uphold the authority of scripture and stress the need for “a personal faith relationship with Jesus Christ.” In addition, we are committed to sharing “the good news of salvation and reconciliation with God.”

And we are Anabaptist, said Ziegler, because of our “understanding that the New Testament and its revelation of the teachings and acts of Jesus Christ represent “the fulfillment of the written revelation of God’s word to humankind.” We believe that “knowing Christ means actively following Him in a simple life of service and generosity that is not conformed to the values and influence of this world.”

Knowing Christ also means “we are called to promote the welfare of others, even our enemies, in nonresistant love that bears witness to the values of the Kingdom of God.”

Ziegler listed a five-point plan for becoming a center for the advancement of such a faith:

Become an intellectual and spiritual gathering place for the evangelical Anabaptist faith community

“Our hope,” said Ziegler, “is that this little college can be a witness to an Anabaptist faith grounded in Scripture.” Rosedale faculty met this summer to define what RBC means by the term ‘evangelical Anabaptist’ (see p.4). They plan to present the resulting statement as “a working document” when RBC hosts a three-day symposium on evangelical Anabaptism this November.

“It’s about vision, it’s about faith, it’s about doing God’s work, and it’s about a little college in Rosedale, Ohio, that has something to share with the world — a world that sorely needs to hear what it has to say.”
The symposium is part of Rosedale’s effort to identify and connect with the wider evangelical Anabaptist community. It will take place on campus each fall for at least the next three years, with speakers from across the evangelical/Anabaptist spectrum. This year’s slate includes Dr. Ron Sider, president and founder of Evangelicals for Social Action, Dr. James Rhodes, EMU & RBC professor and former pastor of Dayton (Va.) Mennonite Church, and RBC professor Eric Kouns, former general secretary of the Evangelical Anabaptist Fellowship.

Foster academic excellence

“Our goal is to do our best for the students at Rosedale,” said Ziegler. This means helping them ensure transfer success, because “college is expensive.” The college already has accreditation with the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), and in the last five years RBC students have successfully transferred credits to over 50 colleges and universities, both public and private. RBC’s plan to pursue regional accreditation will open even more doors for our students.

The college will also switch to a semester system in the fall of 2007 (preserving a six-week winter term between semesters), initiate an online distance education program in 2008, and invest in faculty enrichment and continuing education.

Develop ministry training experiences

Ziegler reported that when he spoke with CMC pastors in the past year, he heard this question over and over: “Can you teach our young people how to do ministry?”

In response, RBC plans to develop the Christian service component of student life into a ministry learning/mentorship opportunity. The college will also develop new academic concentrations, starting with business, education and youth ministries in the fall of 2007.

We will strengthen the international component of a Rosedale education, said Ziegler, by developing a cross-cultural experience in Costa Rica, maintaining overseas educational trips such as the European/Anabaptist History Tour and the Celtic/C.S. Lewis Tour, and continuing support for the Kenyan extension program. We will also increase the academic interface between an RBC education and Rosedale Mennonite Missions’ short-term programs.

Create a nurturing campus environment

Rosedale Bible College will hire a woman to serve as a spiritual mentor, providing teaching and nurture for the women on campus and assisting our women’s Resident Director and Assistants.

The school will also secure professional Christian counseling support for those whose needs go beyond our expertise, he explained.

Develop quality facilities and support services

Ziegler cited the higher expectations of “a Christian college in the higher education community,” and introduced a series of planned improvements:

• Upgrade the cafeteria and food service by increasing the food budget, moving to buffet-style service, and renovating the cafeteria.
• Enhance the campus exterior through new landscaping and lighting, the creation of a campus focal point, and the purchase of a gazebo as an outdoor gathering place for small groups.
• Provide filtered wireless internet access to portions of the campus.
• Upgrade the gym and recreation equipment.
• Purchase a grand piano for the chapel.
• Address safety and maintenance issues on campus (fire alarm systems, roofing, apartment and dorm décor upgrades, infrastructure needs, etc.).
President Ziegler concluded his presentation noting the $850,000 needed by December 2008 to achieve this vision, and inviting his audience “to share in this vision with us … so that RBC can grow in its effectiveness and in its impact for Christ.”

He also asked those present to “help us connect with alumni and friends…in your community” when he launches a Vision Tour, an effort to “spread the word on what God is doing at RBC.”

Ultimately, it’s not about raising funds, he said. “It’s about vision, it’s about faith, it’s about doing God’s work, and it’s about a little college in Rosedale, Ohio that has something to share with the world – a world that sorely needs to hear what it has to say.”

Our vision as Rosedale Bible College is to be a center for the advancement of an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith. Realization of this vision means, among other things, that we will become an intellectual and spiritual gathering place for the evangelical Anabaptist faith community and, in the process, facilitate the formulation, articulation, and propagation of a vital biblical Anabaptism.

By “vital biblical Anabaptism” we mean an expression of Christian faith which seeks, as its highest goal, to know Christ. True knowledge of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, begins with personal faith, and issues in a life of faithful discipleship. As Christians committed to “vital biblical Anabaptism”…

1. We uphold the full inspiration and authority of Scripture and the importance of historical Christian orthodoxy.

2. We believe in the finality of the New Testament. It is the completion of the written revelation of God’s Word to all people.

3. We believe that every individual’s priority response to the love of God, which is revealed in the Scriptures and evidenced in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is personal faith leading to the experience of New Birth by the Spirit of God.

4. We are called and commissioned by Christ to share the good news of salvation and reconciliation with God and to invite others to enter into the same relationship.

5. We believe that knowing Christ means following Him in every area of life.

6. We affirm that, as citizens of Christ’s kingdom, believers are called to promote the welfare of others, including their enemies, in nonresistant love.

Visit www.rosedale.edu for complete statement.
Chorale knows God is good!
Rosedale Bible College’s 2006 Rosedale Chorale toured 20 churches and schools in eight states from March 15 to April 9. RBC faculty member Kenneth Miller, the group’s director, said his goal was “to present an uplifting program of worship” that was “aesthetically pleasing and technically well done.”

This year’s program covered the time periods from the Renaissance to the present, and included an original composition by RBC alumnus Laban D. Miller, an arrangement by Chorale member Chris Yoder, and RBC alum Jared Stutzman’s doo-wop arrangement of “God Is Good.”

Cross Reference breaks the age barrier
Rosedale Bible College’s male ensemble Cross Reference performed for audiences in five states this fall. Ken Miller, who teaches music at RBC, said he was “particularly excited about this group of guys because of the blend of talent and dedication that they brought together.”

RBC President Dan Ziegler traveled with the group on the last leg of the tour. “The response has been outstanding,” said Ziegler. He added that “as a group, they seem to be crossing age boundaries,” with high school students and their parents able to enjoy the program. After one performance, an elderly woman approached Ziegler and said, “I’m old, but I like the fast stuff!”

Rosedale teams worship the Lord of all with music, drama
Two Rosedale Bible College ministry teams went on tour this winter: Salt & Light Co. performed in nine states, combining music and drama to highlight the theme “Worship the Lord of All.” RBC’s Drama Team took its brand of minimalist theater to 14 venues in five states.

Christa Keim, RBC faculty and director of Children’s Ministries at Mechanicsburg Christian Fellowship (Mechanicsburg, Ohio), led both teams.
that “after many years of study” she has completed
Roselynn Miller (95)
1990s News

Leon (78, 79, 80, 84, 87, RBC president 194-05) and Naomi (Ranck) (82, 89, 92-94, 04, cho- rake and staff) Zimmerman are serving in Albania for three years, working in leadership training. They have four children.

1990s News

Roselynn Miller (95) of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, reports that “after many years of study” she has completed her doctorate in clinical psychology at Wheaton College Graduate School.

Weddings


Christina Kramer (02) of Arvada, Colorado married Steven Menna of Lake Forest, California on September 17, 2005.

Justin Plank (01, 02) of Wellman, Iowa, married Brenda Wellley of Greenwood, Delaware, on May 14, 2005.

Rachel Bender (01) of Grantsville, Maryland, married Sherwin Yoder of Hyndman, Pennsylvania on May 14, 2005. (Visit our online alumni reunion at www.rosedale.edu for news of more weddings!)

Graduation

J.D. Landis, a pastor and bishop in Good News Fellowship of Anabaptist/ Mennonite Churches, delivered the commencement address at Rosedale’s 55th commencement. Drawing on over 38 years’ experience in church planting and pastoral ministry in south Alabama, Landis encouraged his listeners to “stay on the mission.” There is, he said, only one mission: “That is to bring others back into a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Celtic Tour

RBC professor Eric Kouns and director of enrollment services Kevin Mayer led 30 people on a 16-day tour of Celtic Christian sites in Ireland, Scotland and England. Participants prayed together in ancient ruins, connected with believers in Scotland who carry on a tradition of worship and service begun centuries ago, and visited C. S. Lewis sites in Oxford and Cambridge.

Uganda’s Invisible Children

In Columbus, Ohio, 33 Rosedale students participated in the Global Night Commute, an international event coordinated by the non-profit group Invisible Children. By spending the night sleeping out in a public place on April 29th, Night Commuters focused attention on one of the longest running wars in Africa and the effect it is having on Uganda’s children.

“Missions is still before us”

“Missions is still before us; effective evangelism is still before us.” With these words, church planter Conrad Esh (Urbana, Ohio) encouraged students to be open to the idea that God might be calling them to the mission field. Esh was the featured speaker at RBC’s 55th annual Missions Conference, held February 29 – March 2.

Leadership Seminar

Sixty-one people from 14 states attended Leadership Seminar at RBC, Nov. 17-19. Rosedale hosts this program every fall; the goal is to help church leaders become more effective in Christian ministry. Jon Byler and Toby Travis spoke, and Phil Barr, Stan Grizzle, Alvin Yoder, and Dan Ziegler led workshops.

Spiritual Formation Meetings

Brian Hershberger, pastor of Trinity Chapel in Tavares, Florida, led students in meetings January 12-15, encouraging them to evaluate their ideas about who God is and what that means for them.

Leaders learn from a distance

Eleven pastors and lay leaders took part in RBC’s Institute for Pastoral Studies (IPS) this fall: Yasir Makki, Myron Roggie, Duane Detweiler, Ryan Freed, Tim Kennell, Roger Hazen, David Schrader, Bill DiGennaro, John Swartzentruber, Harry Lehman, and Dale Lehman.

Pastors & Leaders — Study with Us!

Institute of Pastoral Studies Classes to Be Held October 2-6

Rosedale Bible College’s Institute of Pastoral Studies offers a way for busy church leaders and lay persons to further their knowledge of the Bible and pastoral ministries. Students attend one week of intensive classes on campus per year and complete the rest of their coursework by correspondence. In three years, students can complete requirements for a certificate in Pastoral Studies. Courses offered this year are: Introduction to Theology, taught by Eric Kouns; Introduction to the Old Testament, taught by Phil Barr; and Pastoral Care and Counseling, taught by Steve Swartz. Registration information is available at www.rosedale.edu.
Let the little children come...

Kevin and Sheri (Stoll) (93, 94) Bontrager of Spencerville, Indiana, announce the birth of Kayla Elle on September 5, 2005.

Adam (98, 99) and Marcia (Bender) (98, 99) Darling of Logan, Ohio, welcomed their first son and first child, Carson Michael, on December 27, 2004.

John and Jean (Fredenburg) (80) Burkholder announce the adoption of Kenny and Berline from Haiti. The new family members arrived home in White Cloud, Michigan on January 31, 2006.

Linford (90, 91, 92) and Tina Ashmawee Herscherberger of Houston, Texas, are pleased to announce the birth of their first daughter, Daisy Nila, on June 22, 2006.

Jeff and Gwenyth (Stambaugh) (93, 94) Eyler of Hanover, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of Caleb Jeffrey on November 11, 2005. He was welcomed by sister Hannah Grace.

Obe and Jill (Hertzler) (98) Hostetter of Harrisonburg, Virginia, announce the birth of Ryan Darrel Hostetter on October 17, 2005. Ryan was welcomed by sister Karla Grace.

Jerry (87, 88, 92, 94) and Dawn (Jantzi) (87, 90) Kindy of Midland, Michigan, announce the birth of their daughter, Rachel Dawn, on October 2, 2005. She has an older brother, Caleb.

Visit the online alumni reunion at RBC’s website, and find out more about what your classmates are doing! www.rosedale.edu

Alumni News

The MIRROR is a newsletter of Rosedale Bible College published twice a year.

The mission of Rosedale Bible College is to provide an evangelical junior Bible college education in the Anabaptist/Mennonite tradition, equipping students to grow spiritually and academically and to serve effectively in the church and society.

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Vicki Sairs: Editor

Alumni News Form

Send us your news! The birth of a future alumnus, a career change, marriage, notable accomplishments or service assignments – we want to know about it.

Name: ________________________________

Year(s) attended RBC: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________

State: ______ Zip: _______ Phone: ________________

Email: _________________________________________

New Address? ______(If so, please list old address here):

News: ____________________________________________

May we put this in the online reunion? _______________

☐ I am enclosing a gift to RBC in the amount of $ ________
Reflections

Discovering Rosedale

NOTE: Rosedale Bible College inaugurated Daniel Ziegler as its seventh president on November 19 at a ceremony held in the Rosedale chapel.

This has been a year of discovery for me. I arrived at RBC last September, enthused to be a part of this institution that has faithfully taught the Word of God for 50+ years. While I had known of Rosedale for a long time, and had seen its positive influence in the lives of numerous friends, I had much to learn. Let me share with you some of my discoveries:

I have seen the life-changing significance of the “Rosedale experience”: an experience born of a commitment to God’s Word, sincere worship, a nurturing community, deep friendships, and high student life expectations.

I have developed a deep respect for Rosedale’s faculty: men and women who not only excel intellectually and in Christian character, but who also bring to the classroom their own life witness as pastors, missionaries or ministry leaders.

I am thoroughly impressed with the caliber of RBC students: bright and energetic young adults who have chosen to pursue a foundational Bible college education before embarking on a career or further study, and who almost universally exhibit a desire to grow in both spirit and truth. Many of them will serve the cause of Christ well as leaders in the church of tomorrow.

I have begun to grasp the impact of the 7000+ RBC alumni throughout the world: I know that most are actively serving the Lord as Christian workers, academicians, businesspeople, tradesmen, professionals, parents, artisans, theologians, and more, and I have already heard dozens of these people reflect that their Rosedale days were “some of the most important times” in their life.

I have experienced the power of a shared vision: as the RBC community, we have joined in recognizing our significant place as the only Mennonite Bible college in the United States, and we have resolutely committed to doing what is needed to advance “an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith.”

RBC is full of anticipation as this vision unfolds. In the next few months, I will travel across the country on a Vision Tour to share with friends and alumni just what God is doing in our midst and to invite folks to help make this vision happen. I look forward to meeting many of you in person, and to discovering together how God will use this Rosedale family for His glory.