Rosedale goes global!

Rosedale students in the village of Trub, in the Swiss canton of Berne.
Going global with Rosedale!

European Tour 2007

Tourists feed pigeons in St. Mark’s Square in Venice.

A late-night stop on the Paris Metro.

Walking along the Appian Way...

Strolling around the streets of Paris, near the Sorbonne.

Quintessential Holland!

Notre Dame

Jon and Dawn Showalter in Venice.

Photos this page & cover: Jon Showalter
Rosedale Bible College hopes to offer students and others who might be interested a 16–day pilgrimage to Ireland, Scotland, and England at the end of the 2007–2008 academic year. An optional extension of the Spiritual Formation course, the tour focuses on the contributions of early Celtic believers to the larger faith community and includes visits to Celtic Christian sites, such as the islands of Iona and Lindisfarne. Students will see Dublin, Edinburgh, and London, visit with believers who carry on a tradition of worship and service in the present-day communities of Iona and Northumbria, and follow the footsteps of C. S. Lewis, Christian apologist and author of The Chronicles of Narnia, in Oxford and Cambridge. (Tentative dates: May 26–June 11, 2008)

Cross-cultural term in Spain

Six Rosedale students who are interested in understanding the modern Western world in which they live and minister will take part in the European Cross-Cultural Study Term this winter. They’ll spend almost six weeks in residence in Southern Spain studying conversational Spanish, exploring the historical and cultural heritage of the region, and reflecting on the forces shaping Western society. They’ll also travel to the World Heritage Site of Alhambra in Granada, traverse the pillars of Hercules to Morocco, visit the room in which the exploration of the Americas was conceptualized, and above all, consider how to reach modern secular society for Christ. Participants will receive six hours of academic credit through Rosedale Bible College for the completion of two courses: Current Issues in Missions and Spanish Language and Culture. (Dates: January 7–February 15, 2008)
“All in all, if you had to do it over, would you enroll here again?”

In response to this question on a nationally administered survey, 95% of Rosedale Bible College students indicated they “definitely” or “probably” would.

This compares positively to 57% for students reporting from four-year private colleges, and 77% for students from member schools of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), the agency which accredits RBC.

As a part of its ongoing assessment of institutional effectiveness, RBC administered the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory to students in May of 2007. RBC student responses were compared with responses from 322,000 students enrolled in 4-year private colleges and nearly 5,000 students enrolled in ABHE member schools.

“The instrument included 45 specific satisfaction measures,” said Phil Weber, RBC’s director of institutional research. The report indicates a statistically significant higher ranking from RBC students in 22 measures compared with other ABHE schools and in 29 compared with four-year private colleges.

“The results were extremely positive,” said President Dan Ziegler. “Compared to other colleges, RBC was rated exceptionally strong in student life measures.”

No students reported an experience less than they expected, and 90% found the RBC experience to be better than they thought it would be, with fully 25% reporting RBC was “much better” than they had anticipated.

“These are great numbers, but they may be indicative of a need for the college to do a better job of raising the expectations of prospective students,” said Weber.

When items were grouped into related scales, RBC did very well in the areas

Rosedale students give school high marks on survey

The Rosedale Chorale presented programs of sacred music this spring in Ohio, Michigan, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. To purchase a CD, contact Rhelda at rsommers@rosedale.edu or visit www.rosedale.edu to print out an order form.

The Rosedale Bible College community gathered in the RBC chapel on May 19 to celebrate Rosedale’s 56th commencement. Dr. Roman J. Miller of Eastern Mennonite University spoke to the graduates, encouraging them to cultivate humility. Sixteen students received an associate of arts degree and 17 received a one-year certificate in biblical studies. Above, Jenny Miller and RBC faculty member Ken Miller congratulate Brittany Tull.
that were ranked of greatest importance by the students, including student-centeredness, campus climate, instructional effectiveness, and campus life.

Students felt significantly freer to express their own ideas on campus than did students in the comparison groups. They also reported an overall satisfaction level with their experience at RBC of 6.49 on a 7-point scale, a ranking 12% higher than that reported for ABHE schools and 25% higher than for four-year private colleges.

The Strategic Planning Overview provided by Noel-Levitz identified the following as particular strengths of RBC, as perceived by the students: they are made to feel welcome; the quality of instruction is excellent; and tuition paid is a worthwhile investment.

They also reported very positive feelings about their interactions with school personnel, experienced the campus staff as caring and helpful, believed the residence hall staff were concerned about them as individuals, and found the administration and faculty available to them.

Challenges identified by the report included providing sufficient courses available in each six-week term for a given program of study. Weber said that the new semester schedule introduced in September is a major step toward alleviating this concern.

The clearest mandate for improvement emerging from the report, and the single category in which RBC was rated significantly lower than the comparison groupings, related to the adequacy and accessibility of computer labs.

RBC has responded by upgrading both the quality and quantity of computer lab equipment. The college installed 10 new computers in the library and lab and expanded internet bandwidth this fall. Wireless capacity will be expanded this winter.

To see an item report on the survey results, go to www.rosedale.edu/about/satisfied.html.

David Swartz gets ready to speak on “True Evangelical Faith” at Rosedale Bible College’s second Evangelical Anabaptist Symposium, while Eileen and Elmer Lehman look on.

Rosedale Bible College welcomed over 70 members of the evangelical and Anabaptist communities to its campus November 15-17 to think and pray about building up a church that knows and follows Christ. “Knowing Christ: Renewing an Evangelical Foundation” was the second in a series of three symposia sponsored by the college, whose vision is to be a center for the advancement of an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith. For more on this, visit www.rosedale.edu.

Rosedale Bible College’s 2007 graduating class gave an October Glory maple tree to the school as a class gift at RBC’s graduation, May 19. This year’s graduating class of 35 is the second largest in Rosedale history, surpassed only by 1997’s total of 38 graduates.
Deaths

Elmer Jantzi, much loved RBC teacher

Elmer Jantzi (82) formerly of Rosedale, Ohio, died September 2, 2007, at Richland Manor Nursing Home, Bluffton, Ohio. He was born July 20, 1925, in Arenac County, Michigan, to John and Fannie (Troyer) Jantzi. On August 18, 1950, he married Miriam Bender of Greenwood, Delaware, who survives. He and his wife had recently moved to the Lima, Ohio, area.

Elmer was a pastor, teacher, and lifelong farmer. He and his wife were known for their strawberry farm, Jantzi Strawberries. His influence as a teacher of theology at Rosedale Bible College spanned four decades (he taught most years from 1957–1996) and left an impact on thousands of students. His was a winsome and memorable combination of warm faith in Christ, a keen and active mind, and an engaging personality. He will be remembered for his love of the land, his love of family and his love of God.

Survivors include five children: John (Bonita) Jantzi of Harrisonburg, Virginia, Joyce (Gene) Zehler of West Chester, Ohio, Janet (Steven) Yoder of Bluffton, Ohio, Karen (Phil Hugo) Jantzi of Lima, Ohio, and Philip (Julia) Kauffman-Jantzi of Strasburg, Pennsylvania; twelve grandchildren, a sister Matilda Kipfer; and a brother John Jantzi.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Twila Joy, five sisters, and six brothers. Funeral services were held on September 5, 2007 at Shiloh Mennonite Church, London, Ohio with Pablo Kauffman and Willard Mayer officiating. Elmer and Miriam’s son John gave the meditation. Burial was in the Shiloh Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Rosedale Bible College.

An open letter from RBC President Dan Ziegler, September 2007:

Dear Jantzi family and all those touched by the life and ministry of our brother Elmer,

On behalf of the board, faculty and staff of Rosedale Bible College, I wish to share with you how grateful we are that the life’s work of our beloved teacher, friend and mentor, Elmer Jantzi, has been so inextricably intertwined with the history of this institution. For nearly four decades, Elmer’s keen intellect, inquisitive spirit, and deep love for the Lord inspired the hearts and minds of literally thousands of Rosedale students, many of whom are actively involved in the work of the Church to this day. Whether in the classroom teaching ethics or theology, or around the campus engaging students with his good-natured wit and challenging questions, Elmer’s goal remained steadfast: to bear witness to the centrality of Jesus Christ.

As I have traveled across the country to represent RBC these past two years, I have heard again and again testimonies from alumni who credit Elmer’s teaching and heart-felt encouragement as having been pivotal in their spiritual and intellectual development. In many ways, this college, its students, and our broader family of faith owe a deep debt of gratitude to Elmer and his wife Miriam for their years of selfless effort at RBC for the cause of Christ.

Today we join with you in celebrating the life of this servant of the church, and wish each of you God’s peace.

Thank You for Remembering Us

Rosedale Bible College has received bequests from the estates of Ivan and Della Miller, and Joe and Wilda Drawbond. The college has also received gifts in memory of Elmer Jantzi (see this page), and Paul and Helen Hersheberger. These gifts are greatly appreciated and help make it possible for Rosedale to fulfill its calling as the educational arm of the Conservative Mennonite Conference. Thank you to all who have chosen to give in this way!

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can include RBC in your estate planning, please contact President Dan Ziegler at 740-857-1311 or email him at dziegler@rosedale.edu.

Marriages

Crystal Dornburg (01, 02) married Daniel DiGiacomo on October 20th, 2007. They are now residing in Towson, Maryland, and welcome visitors.

Stephanie Nisly (97, 985, 00) of Living Word Christian Outreach, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Jonathan Compton of Valley Gospel Tabernacle, Albuquerque, New Mexico, were united in marriage on March 3, 2007, at Christian Life Fellowship, Santa Fe, New Mexico, by Pastor Marcus McClain.

Rhoda Sommers-Johnson (78-80, 88-89) married David Johnson on August 11, 2007. They are living in Canton, OH. Rhoda also began a new position as Associate Professor of Education at Malone College, Canton, OH, and David is self-employed as a certified financial planner.

Vernon D. Stoltzfus (82) of Honey Brook PA died Feb. 17, 2007 after a seven-month battle with colon cancer. He leaves behind his wife Sharon (Gingerich) (88, 90) and four children ages 4 - 11.

Sadie Rose Harlow was born on June 20, 2007, to Regina (Cyzick) Harlow (97, 98) and Lee Harlow of Grottoes, Virginia. Sadie passed away 17 hours later. Regina writes: She had a rare skeletal condition; her chest was too small to support her lungs so she died from lack of oxygen. Obviously, this has been an incredibly hard experience, but God remains faithful. I have been writing through this experience and you can find poetry and journal entries about it on my website at www.reginarosecyzick.com. I would love to hear from any of you who attended Rosedale when I did. God bless you. Peace, Regina Cyzick Harlow.

Births and Adoptions

Edwin & Melissa (Slagell) Detweiler (90, 91) of Taylors, South Carolina, welcomed Jacob Michael Detweiler on June 22, 2006.

Jeff & Ruth (Yoder) Ebersole (96, 97) of Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, welcomed a baby girl, Christiana Sue, on March 7, 2007.

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Let the little children come...

Greg (01, 02) and Karen (Kramer) Helmuth (01, 02) of Sullivan, Illinois welcomed their first child, Brock Ethan Helmuth, on September 18, 2006.

Chris (92) and Faith (Miller) Knepp (92) of Wellman, Iowa, are very happy to announce the birth of their first daughter, Casey Jo, on February 2, 2006.

Jeff (99, 00, 04) and Angela (Zehr) Heatwole (98, 99S) of Plain City, Ohio, announce the birth of Elise Kay Heatwole on May 12, 2006.

Anthony (02, 03) and Fianna Martin of Richland, Pennsylvania welcomed their first son, Jerel Anthony, on February 1, 2007.

Phil (88) and LaRonda (88) (Halteman) Snader of Denver, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of Gwen Tillie Snader on August 10, 2007. She joins big brother Chad, and big sisters Jodi, Danae, and Amber.

Lowell (91) and Dorothy (Marner) Miller (93, 94) of Kalona, Iowa announce "the birth of our second miracle, a son, Hunter Eugene" on June 9, 2007. He joins big sister Kali, 15 months old.

Jathan (97) and Sonya Saltzman of Milford, Nebraska, and their daughter, Avery Anne, welcomed the birth of Madelyn Jo Saltzman, on May 27, 2007.

John and Amy (Rissler) Shultz (96) of Lancaster, PA, announce the birth of their third child, second son, Adam Richard, on January 2, 2007.

Gwen Tillie Snader

Jeff (88, 89) and Tammy Smoker of Cochranville, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of their fourth child, Ryan Floyd, on August 18, 2006. He is welcomed by Kayla, Terran and Deanna.

Elise Kay Heatwole

Casey Jo Knepp

Brock Ethan Helmuth

Jerel Anthony Martin

Brock Ethan Helmuth

Joshua Joseph Roth & family

Gwen Tillie Snader

Sylvia (Witmer) Rhodes (97, 98)

Fianna Martin

Jerel Anthony Martin

Elise Kay Heatwole

Karen (Kramer) Helmuth

Jathan (97)

Sonya Saltzman

Duane (86, 87)

Jathan (97) and Sylvia (Witmer) Rhodes (97, 98)

Ann Marie (Swartz) Schrader (97)

Terry and Deanna.

Cochranville, Pennsylvania welcomes their third child, Micah David, on February 17, 2007.

MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

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

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: __________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________
________________________________________________

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

May we put this in the online reunion? ________________

I am enclosing a gift to RBC in the amount of $______

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________________________________________________
________________________________________________

FALL 2007 • MIRROR
Almost two years ago, this college community declared its vision to be “a center for the advancement of an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith.” At that time, perhaps the most imaginative piece of this vision was the idea of engagement.

“It is one thing to be ideologically committed to a faith actively engaged with the world,” critics argued, “but it is entirely another thing to make it happen…especially from the cornfields of Rosedale, Ohio!”

Undaunted, and with a firm commitment to the importance of each major facet of our vision, this small college has pressed forward with a number of exciting initiatives designed to help RBC students engage their world with the good news of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Aside from the preparation of heart and mind that occurs on our campus, the following experiences are in place:

- A new college-level Spanish language course.
- A six-week cross-cultural term in southern Spain.
- A Celtic Christianity/C.S. Lewis tour of Ireland and the British Isles.
- A European Study Tour examining Anabaptist history and the development of Western art.
- An expanded ministry formation program, including a number of new service opportunities in Columbus.
- An ongoing relationship with RMM’s REACH program, which sends teams of young adults on missions throughout the world. This year over a dozen former RBC students are going abroad with this group. Many will return to RBC to complete their studies, with the aid of a Rosedale scholarship aimed at REACHers.
- A cooperative effort to support a medical eye surgery team endeavor in Nicaragua this winter.
- The continued periodic exchange of faculty with two Bible schools in Kenya.
- At least three active traveling music or drama outreach and ministry teams.
- Akwachink leadership development experience in the wilds of northwestern Ontario.

The future holds even more potential as other ideas begin to germinate: a possible study tour to Turkey and the Mediterranean, a six-week Urban Ministry term in a major city, an extended year-end Chorale tour, and a three-week summer Apologetics Institute. Keep your eyes on the cornfields of central Ohio, where “becoming engaged at Rosedale” now has new meaning!