



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN

ALUMNI NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Reflecting on Achievement

As we review the past year and the 20 year history of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, we give thanks to all those who have enabled us to achieve our goals. The work of the many alumni, friends, volunteers, contributors, the Board Members of the Foundation, and the presidents (past and present) have provided the support and structure for us to grow and become a vital part of the continued enrichment in the educational lives of our students and community. The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has grown from almost no assets in 1986 to where it now works with assets of over \$575,000.00.

In the beginning we were happy to be able to provide a few teacher education grants. This past year the Foundation sponsored 51 Teachers Education grants to enhance the educational experiences of the students in the District. The Foundation did not have scholarships in its' plans at the beginning, however, this last year we gave out ten scholarships totaling almost \$14,000.00. The Foundation now

sponsors the annual "State of the Schools" program to help inform the community of what is going on within our schools. The Foundation annually selects and presents the Distinguished Alumni and Faculty awards. For the first time the Foundation honored each senior class National Honor Society student with a \$50.00 gift. The Foundation also now publishes the annual Alumni Newsletter, with the annual Alumni Class reunions and news of what is going on in our schools. None of these activities or programs would be possible without the help and support of the afore mentioned people.

The Foundation is dreaming lofty dreams and has visions of helping to improve the education of every student in the Rock Island-Milan School District. Our donors leave a lasting legacy to our schools. Please help us as we move forward to make our schools the best in the nation.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists



For the second year in a row, Rock Island High School has had four students qualify as semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship.

Congratulations to (seated left to right):
Alexandra Fields,
Samantha Garrison,
Joseph Newcomb
and Anita Ahuja.

Special Thanks

We sincerely express our gratitude to all of you who have helped us meet our goals. The past year has been very rewarding and none of this would have been possible without your support and contributions. We look forward to your continued support and financial gifts.

Remember your contributions to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation is fully tax deductible and that it is an investment in the success and future of the students within the Rock Island-Milan Schools.



In this issue . . .

- Excellence Every Day - Page 2
- Distinguished Alumni - Page 2
- 2006 Scholarships - Page 2
- Distinguished Alumni/Faculty Nomination Form - Page 3
- Reunion Information - Page 4

Excellence Every Day

This is the goal of the Rock Island-Milan School District and is reflected in the newly adopted Strategic Plan. This plan is the result of ten focus groups that met to discuss and evaluate what the schools in our district were doing well and what they needed to do to improve. The reports of these focus groups helped make significant changes in the Strategic Plan by identifying needed changes in the District's priorities.

Public attitude about our public schools is the highest ever recorded, in the past 38 years, according to a survey completed by Phi Delta Kappa this past year. A recent survey of the Rock Island-Milan school district found that 73% of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of the education their child was receiving, and 88% of the parents felt quality work was expected.

There are many challenges facing the public schools today. Most of

these are due to the rapid changes in our society. The top four challenges according to a recent study were: A. Family Structure- B. Growing Diversity - C. Mobility and D. Increase in low income families. The Rock Island-Milan Schools will act on each of these challenges in their newly adopted Strategic Plan. With nearly 1 in 4 high school students dropping out nationally, it is important to develop a new approach to how we structure our high school. Therefore, District # 41 is planning to work with the incoming freshman class, with new programs, to increase their abilities and stimulate their interest in staying in school. The top priority of the newly adopted Strategic plan is to show student improvement in reading, writing, and math in all subject areas. Please see the School District web-site to view the rest of the priorities and plans of the District # 41 Strategic Plan.



The Rock Island-Milan Schools are to be congratulated in marked improvement on their State and National Test scores, this past year. However, they are not satisfied with these improvements and have set goals for the next few years that will reflect significant growth overall in student learning. These goals will help our dedicated teachers and administrators bring our students into the new century with skills to address the rapid changes in technology, job market, and global competition.

The Rock Island-Milan Schools had solid success in their quest to provide a top education to the students. This past year the High School had four students achieve the distinction of being named National Merit Semifinalists. This is one of the top academic achievements awarded nationally each year to the top students in the nation. This year's winners were Alexandra Fields, Samantha Garrison, Joseph Newcomb and Anita Ahuja. The Foundation joins the community in congratulating these individuals and the schools for their outstanding achievement.

Distinguished Alumni

Please consider nominating someone you know, that has contributed to the well being of the community, or has been outstanding in their achievements since graduating from Rock Island High School. We appreciate your help in recognizing Rocky graduates who have become distinguished because of their contributions or achievements. We also would like for you to think about, and nominate a teacher, counselor, coach or administrator who has had an influence on your life and/or the life of those he/she touched. Please nominate these individuals by April 1st.

Betty "Lavendar" Lewis
Class of 1938

William T. Green
Class of 1949

Peg "Margaret Kurtz" Nothdorf
Class of 1951

Gary A. Moran
Class of 1961

Marilyn Fields
Faculty Member
(Elementary Teacher for 26 years)

2006 Scholarships

Sara Maletta - Nellie D. Anthony
Amanda Thomas - Amy Helpenstell
Michael Deckert - Decker Magee
Jenna Engstrom - Hass Family
Laura Greenwood - Stanley H. Coin
Geoffrey Schoon - Stanley H. Coin
Tim Beckhart - Rick Gilliland Teacher
Alexandra Teager - Class of "65"
Alexandra Teager - Thoms Family
John Wagle - Charles O. Austin

These scholarships were made possible by persons or families who contributed money to the Foundation for use in awarding scholarships. The Foundation invests the gifts and awards the scholarships annually. Anyone wishing to contribute to any of the scholarships or start a new scholarship should contact the Foundation at: Box 3700 - Rock Island, Illinois 61201

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OR OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER NOMINATION FORM for the year 2007

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL: _____ Alumni Faculty
(check one)

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME/ ADDRESS OF PERSON
NOMINATING THIS INDIVIDUAL: _____

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF INDIVIDUAL BEING NOMINATED:

YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION/OR YEARS OF TEACHING: _____

POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION: _____

CAREER INFORMATION: _____

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY: _____

RECOGNITIONS: _____

ON SEPARATE SHEET, GIVE BRIEF OVERVIEW OF WHY THIS PERSON SHOULD BE HONORED.

Submit form to: RIHS Alumni Association
c/o Jody Leiby
2915 - 21st Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

Submit form no later than April 20, 2007

*(Remember, this newsletter is only received by
classes celebrating a reunion in 2006)*

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!!!!

____ YES! I would like to support the Alumni Association Newsletter and other RIMEF projects with a Voluntary Sponsorship.

Enclosed is my check for \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$ _____

Payable to: Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation

Name: _____ (_____)
First M. Initial Last Maiden

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ (Home) _____ (Work) Graduation Class of _____

PLEASE ATTACH ANY NEWS ABOUT YOURSELF, CAREER, HOBBIES, AND FAMILY THAT WE CAN USE IN FUTURE CLASS NOTES. WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO HEAR ANY NEWS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SHARE.

RETURN TO:
Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation (RIMEF)
P.O. Box 3700
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-3700



2007 Reunions

There is no better way to become reacquainted with former classmates than to attend a class reunion. Our high school years were a special time in our lives and it's great to have the opportunity to revisit those times with our friends at the class reunion. Please check our website for any updates on your reunion: www.risd41.org/rimef.

1937 – 70th. Reunion – Saturday, June 16th at O'Melia's. Contact Pat Flater at Lpflater2@aol.com.

1942 – 65th. Reunion – Plans are being made. Contact Dr. Theodore Grevas at 309-786-7647 for further information after April 15th.

1947 – 60th. Reunion – Dinner at the Rock Island Arsenal Country Club, on September 8th. Contact Barbara Witt at 309-786-5662.

1952 – 55th. Reunion – Plans are being made. Contact Dick Peterson at 309-764-8447.

1957 – 50th. Reunion – Friday, September 21st - Rocky Football Game with Mixer after the game at Martinis on the Rock; Saturday, September 22nd at Oakwood Country Club, Coal Valley.

1962 – 45th. Reunion – September 21st. at Rock Island Conservation Club; Dinner and dance on September 22nd at the Blackhawk Park Watchtower Lodge. Contact: Sharon Inch Kerofsky at 309-797-2302. Class website rihs62.com.

1967 – 40th Reunion – August 24th. at Town-n-Country Bowling Alley, Rock Island; Dinner and dance on August 25th at Pinnacle Country Club. Contact Stewart Adams at 309-793-4382 or adams.stewart@mchsi.com.

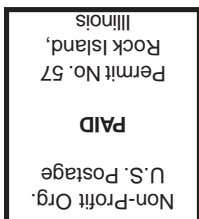
1972 – 35th. Reunion – Not scheduled at this time; however, it will probably be in the fall. Contact Jody Leiby at 309-788-4840 for further information.

1977 – 30th. Reunion – No information at this time. Contact Lisa Moberg at 309-796-0758.

1982 – 25th. Reunion – July 27th Golf at Noon at Saukie; Social in evening at the Blue Cat Brew Pub; July 28th Dinner/Dance at South Fargo Lounge. Contact: Angie Dasso Williams at 309-788-6355.

1987 – 20th. Reunion – Tentative dates – June 29th & 30th or September 21st & 22nd. Contact Rachel Thomas at 323-935-8021 or e-mail rachthomas@aol.com.

1992 – 15th. Reunion – Dates being set. Contact J.T. Friel at 309-737-2815.



Rock Island-Milian Education Foundation
2101 Sixth Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
<http://homepage/risd41.org/rimef/>