A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
Three years ago, Rosedale Bible College and Rosedale Mennonite Mission teamed up to purchase a 140-acre farm adjoining the campus currently shared by RBC, RMH and Conservative Mennonite Conference. Administrators from these institutions have been busy in that time determining the best use and layout of the additional land in the interest of all three parties.

Working together with the assistance of an architect from Keim & Associates, a firm in Defiance, Ohio, they have, after many drafts, designed a campus master plan that meets the needs of RBC, RMH and CMC. This map, finalized in February of this year, represents their work.

**Points of Note:**

- The campus plan has been divided into short-range and long-range sections. The shaded area on the map represents the long-range portion of the campus plan.
- The campus plan was designed to accommodate four possible stages of future growth for Rosedale Bible College, the larger player in the land purchase.
  - Stage 1 was called the “no growth” stage; the design of this stage was based on RBC’s campus needs at the time of the student body remains at its current level of 65 full-time students.
  - Stage 2 would accommodate 150 full-time students.
  - Stage 3 would accommodate 200 full-time students.
  - Stage 4 would accommodate 400 full-time students.
- The plan is designed to guide RBC in its potential future growth. Great care was taken to design the campus in such a way that new facilities can be built when—and if—an increased enrollment requires them.
- The student center, located just north and west of the existing chapel, is the first facility RBC hopes to erect. Additional student housing would likely be next on the list.
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  1. Stage 1 was called the “no growth” stage, the design of this stage was based on RBC’s campus needs if the size of the student body remains at its current level of 60 full-time students.
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A Coffeeshop on Campus!

The insatiable desire of the college student to “hang out” is a near universal phenomenon. Students’ penchant for fellowship or casual study in a relaxed environment often leads them to congregate at a spot conducive to such activity—more recent RBC alums may remember fondness “the red chair” in the lobby of the chapel. Ambitious students may even go so far as to create a social haven/study hall combination replete with coffee, snacks, live entertainment, and eclectic decorations, as students at RBC have done several times in recent years—recent alums may remember “The Crew,” “The Den,” and “The Cave.”

The popularity of those temporary, student-led endeavors caused the administrators at RBC to approve the conversion of the old bookstore in the classroom building into a permanent coffeeshop. The bookstore was moved to a room at the rear of the chapel in mid-January, clearing the way for part-time staff member Jessica King, with the aid of student council and many student volunteers, to start painting and decorating. The grand opening occurred February 12, though work continued on the shop several weeks thereafter.

The tasteful décor and lighting of the room combine with the wafting aroma of coffee for a spectacular sensory experience. The antique wood and glass counter from the bookstore now serves as the coffee counter, old wooden chairs used long ago in RBC classrooms provide seating, and the hardwood floor adds to the ambiance. Hanging lamps situated over new round tables create a soft glow perfect for study or conversation, and the surround-sound speaker system adds to the mood with soft instrumental music.

Bookstore manager Jared Stutzman calls the transformation of the room “miraculous.”
Christian Illusionist Entertains at RBC

Toby Travis, an internationally known entertainer and illusionist, presented a program entitled Illusion and Beyond on the campus of Rosedale Bible College on Saturday, January 24. In the program, which was open to the public, Toby used sleight-of-hand and other optical illusions in an engaging presentation of the Gospel message.

Revival Meetings and Missions Conference

The campus was up to its usual mid-year hustle and bustle during third and fourth term. Loren Miller of Canon City, Colorado, was the speaker at RBC’s third term revival meetings in January. The annual missions conference took place in March, with Amos Stoltzfus of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as the featured speaker. In addition to those events, there was a talent show, a concert featuring a band of RBC students called Four and 1/2 Men, and a student vs. faculty basketball game. Some students even found time to rig up a temporary ice skating rink on the back lawn during a January cold spell.

Camel on the Web Scoring Big

Apparently some of you alumni (or future alumni) out there are getting interested in RBC’s student newspaper, The Camel. In the month of January, The Camel’s web page (www.roosedale.edu/students/camel.html) scored nearly 1,000 hits, and interest continued to rise in February and March as the hits climbed above 1,000 per month. The Camel now has an email address for reader response and welcomes your input. Send it to camel@roosedale.edu.

Rosedale Bible College to Select a New President

The Board of Trustees is initiating a search for the next president of RBC following President Leon Zimmerman’s announcement of his decision to leave the president’s office at the end of his term on June 30, 2006.

Levi Sommers, chair of the board of trustees, stated that the board accepted Zimmerman’s decision with reluctance and regret but also with a deep sense of gratitude for the leadership Zimmerman has provided the college during his 10 years of service.

“He will be greatly missed,” Sommers said. “We hate to see Leon go.”

Sommers announced that the board will be assembling a search committee to begin the process of finding a replacement for President Zimmerman, the sixth president of Rosedale Bible College since its founding in 1952.

President Zimmerman told faculty and staff in a March meeting that the decision not to accept another appointment as president following the 2004-05 academic year was made out of a growing sense that the time was right for him and his family to explore other ministry options.

“I believe the change will be good for both the college and for me,” Zimmerman said. “RBC is in the beginning stages of implementing a robust campus development plan, and I am confident that the Board of Trustees will successfully identify an individual to lead that phase of RBC’s development.”

Classes to Tour in Europe

The fun begins on April 29 for the students in Anabaptist History and Theology and Introduction to Humanities classes. They will fly to Amsterdam with instructors Jon Showalter and Ken Miller and spend three weeks studying their subjects firsthand in the Netherlands, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. Watch the summer edition of the MIRROR for a report on their trip.
1970s News

Linda (Fabianshade) Geisinger (72,73), writes, “My husband, Ray, and I and our son, Dan, operate a dairy farm and grain drying and storing facility in Juniata County, Pennsylvania. I am a co-manager of an MCC thrift shop. Abundant Blessings, which opened in the fall of 2000. We also have a married daughter, Judy Moomau.

1980s News

Dave (84) and Vicki (79,80,82,84) (Neher) Stoll live in Hutchinson, Kansas, where Dave works as a physician assistant for an orthopedic surgeon at the Hutchinson Clinic. Vicki is computer lab supervisor at the local public elementary school. They have two energetic boys: Travis (14) and Dustin (12).

Kevin Miller (84,85) recently received the Religious Communication Association (RCA) award for the top dissertation of the year in the field of communication and religion for a work entitled, “Religious Identity and Discourse of the Other: A Narrative Analysis of the Subordinate Role of the Jew in the Apocalyptic Texts of Two Christian Groups.” Kevin and Lydia and their two children live in Huntington, Indiana, where he serves as assistant professor of communication at Huntington College.

Randy Myers (84,85) lives in Warsaw, Indiana, where he has a small farm and raises show horses. He attended Grace College after his time at Roseadele, then taught 4th grade for eight years. He is now serving as assistant principal at a school in North Manchester, Indiana.

1990s News

Jeremy (97) and Shana (Sommers) (96) Schock live in Uniontown, Ohio. Shana writes, “The last year has been very busy, so to say the least. Jeremy and I went overseas last fall to Europe, for the wedding of a dear friend. In January we spent ten days in Laos, Peru. This was a mission trip, led by my boss (an optometrist) and sponsored by a group called “Cross-Eyed Missions”. We examined the eyes of over 1,000 people and we gave out more than 700 pairs of eyeglasses. It was such a blessing. Despite the sweltering Amazonian heat, we had a wonderful time. Now we’re planning to stay home for a while.”

Births

Sherri (94) (Stoll) and Kevin Bontrager of Spencerville, Indiana, announce the adoption of Coedmon Taat, born December 31, 2003. He is their first child.

Jennifer (96) (Peachy) and Dave Corderman of Muncy, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of Myles David on October 16, 2003. He was welcomed by his brother, Remington.

Donny (89) and Michelle Fox of Narvon, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of Haley Delight on February 28, 2004. Jaisa, Keterah, Benjamin, and Joseph are Haley’s siblings.

Darrell (81,82,86) and Rosanne (86) (Kampen) Gingerich of AuGres, Michigan, announce the birth of Christian Joseph on June 23, 2003. He was welcomed by seven older sisters: Regina, Sarah, Bethany, Anny, Elizabeth, Joelle and Helayna, and one brother: Jonathan. “We are enjoying him a lot.”

Joanne (96) (Martin) and Randy Hostetler of Reinholds, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of Joshua Carl on November 12, 2003. Joshua is their first child.

Craig (96,97) and Tania Jones of Middlebury, Indiana, announce the birth of Michael Alan on June 14, 2004.

Norm (84,85) (Miller) and Steve Miller of Wellman, Iowa, announce the birth of Tanner Drew on December 1, 2003. His proud sisters are Marla (10) and Racine (7).

Novalee (93) (Bange) and Darin Shank of Onstedown, Pennsylvania, announce the birth of Abigail Nicole on September 17, 2003. She was welcomed by siblings Kallin (5) and Brady (3)."
Are You Diversified?

Most people who achieve notable things have sufficiently focused their efforts in order to excel. Focus means blocking out things peripheral to their goals. Focus means prioritizing, which in turn means saying no to many other possibilities.

However, an excessively rigid focus can rob us of richness and breadth. Staring ahead with tunnel-like vision when I’m driving down the road means I can’t see the majestic views or the car hurtling toward me from a side road.

In the financial world, to diversify means to spread or lessen the risk of loss. Having all of our proverbial “eggs in one basket” invites trouble when the inevitable downturn comes. But diversifying can be difficult because it forces us out of our comfortable zones.

And so it is in our lives as well. People who only work, who only complain, or who only go through their routines miss so much. The most interesting people I know can talk about a variety of subjects. The teacher who enjoys woodworking or gardening, or the carpenter who learns to play a musical instrument or who reads history—these people enrich their own lives and the lives of people around them.

So if you or a loved one has been enriched through the RBC experience, I invite you to consider how you might diversify your response of gratitude. Perhaps God is stringing your heart to diversify your giving to include opportunities at RBC, such as student scholarships and building projects. Give me a call, and I’d love to talk about the range of opportunities awaiting you. Or you may send an email to nmiller@roosedale.edu.

Want to read more news of your classmates?
Visit the online alumni reunion at the RBC website.
www.roosedale.edu

MIRROR

The Alumni Newsletter of Rosedale Bible College

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

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

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Out of the Archives...

Even the professors need their snacks! Elmar Jantzi enjoyed a sucker during this class session.

Alumni News Form

Send us your news—the birth of a future alumnus, a career change, marriage, notable accomplishments or service assignments.

Name ____________________ Year(s) attended RBC __________________

Address ____________________ Phone # __________________
City ____________________ State _______ Zip _______

e-mail ____________________

New Address? (if so, please list old address here) ____________________

News ____________________

☐ I am enclosing a contribution to RBC in the amount of $_______
Reflections

Seeking The Lord
by Leon Zimmerman

This issue of the MIRROR announces a decision on my part to not seek another four-year term in the office as president. I will reflect just a bit on my years at RBC and what has led me to this decision.

The past ten years have been rich in multiple ways. When I was being interviewed by the search committee I distinctly recall telling them that I had minimal experience in the area of administration. I had pastored an emerging church in an urban setting. This setting was a context for spiritual growth and leadership development but was not necessarily a context that provided experience in the area of administration.

I had only been in the president’s office a few months when I came to realize that I enjoyed taking care of the many large matters and small details related to administration. My first years were filled with learning the ropes related to the accreditation process. While attending to the normal duties of administration, I led two cycles of self study, hosted two team visits and met twice before the commission on accreditation. I am grateful for the assistance from fellow administrators, faculty and staff members throughout the accreditation process.

Along with administrative responsibilities I have had the privilege of teaching an array of classes. I recall the first week in the classroom after I returned from sabbatical leave a few months ago. It felt so good to be back in that setting.

During the last year, as Naomi and I have attempted to mind the Lord, we have sensed that we should not accept another four-year assignment. We felt that the role we were to fulfill was coming to a conclusion. The goals of leading the school through the accreditation and authorization process have been accomplished. As is clear in this publication, the next stages of development will take RBC into an ambitious plan of campus expansion. While I see the need and importance of this direction I do not see myself as the one to provide presidential leadership during this phase.

I have had a growing sense that the time is right for me, along with Naomi and our children, to explore other ministry options. And what does that mean and where will it be? We continue to seek the Lord for answers to those questions.