

MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

- 60 Years for RBC
- College Timeline
- Artist Alumnus

Winter 2012 Vol. 39 No. 1



Lake Como by Mark Gingerich

Engaged • Evangelical • Anabaptist

rosedale.edu

Happy 60th! RBC Plans April Celebration

When the Conservative Amish Mennonite Bible School was founded in 1952 in Berlin, Ohio, the organizers weren't sure it would take off. Since then, thousands of students have attended classes at the institution as it moved to Rosedale, became Rosedale Bible Institute, and then Rosedale Bible College. "The 'Rosedale experience' has represented an important and formative time in the lives of...people over the years with friendships made, truths learned, and faith developed," RBC President Dan Ziegler said.

The college will celebrate those years on April 27-29, 2012 with special alumni events and programs on the campus.

The time for looking back will include a meditation by former faculty member Willard Mayer, who taught in the school's first year in 1952 and went on to teach a generation of students—and their children. His reflections will be followed by a retrospective slideshow.

Special events will include several performances of the musical "Godspell." This musical was first performed in 1970, and explores the story of Jesus and his disciples through the parables and stories in the Book of Matthew. Director Christa Wolf (96) plans to set the story in an abandoned warehouse, representing the decay of the modern world. Jesus comes and restores meaning and purpose to the scene, as people from all walks of life are drawn to him.

Other events will include a disc golf tournament, a cookout on Saturday evening with live music, and a campus-wide historical scavenger hunt.

Alumni will be able to connect with former classmates on Saturday as groups from all six decades meet around campus for food and fellowship. A host couple from each decade will lead the activities for each group. In addition to informal group activities, there will be sharing, catching up, and a look at photos, yearbooks, and other memories. RBC students will lead children's activities during these times so parents can take part freely.

Academic Dean Phil Weber said he enjoyed times like these during the 50th anniversary celebration. "I remember reconnecting with people...we remembered and laughed; we saw some people there that we hadn't seen in decades," he said.

Music is a key part of Rosedale memories for many, and it will play an important role in the celebration. Former chorale director Lloyd Kauffman is returning to lead an alumni chorale. "It will be great to have him back on campus directing," chorale director Ken Miller said. Miller will direct the current Rosedale Chorale at a Sunday service that will include the alumni chorale, the Salt and Light Company, a singing group called the Ambassadors Quartet, a men's ensemble called "Pure Nard," and, of course, congregational singing.

Miller said he always enjoys the musical part of these celebrations, as so many people who love to sing get back together. "I remember that often...before the prayer [at meals] people would just sit there and sing," he said. "Or before chapel services people would lead out. No one would get up front and direct, people would just lead songs."

In addition to reliving memories and renewing relationships, Ziegler said, "It also is an opportunity to

come back to this place of spiritual growth and celebrate the ways God has worked in so many lives...I'm hoping that the events like the chapel program, the musical, and the Sunday worship service will be a real inspiration for folks, reminding them of what happens spiritually here on campus.

"I look forward to a weekend full of music and laughter!"



April 27–29, 2012

Musical – Godspell

Chapel Meditation by Willard Mayer

Student Center Update

Decade Reunions (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 00s)

Disc Golf Tournament

Alumni Chorale with Lloyd Kauffman

Children's Activities

Family Cookout with Live Music

Musical Worship Service



An open air artist discusses his work

Mark Gingerich (82, 86), of West Jefferson, Ohio, was born to missionary parents in Germany. His family moved back to the U.S. when his father accepted a position as pastor of Johnsville Mennonite Church in Morrow County, Ohio. After his time at Rosedale, Mark worked in the construction business before deciding to become a full-time artist. We interviewed Mark about his career and why he paints.



Mark Gingerich

on your eyes and your perception of color and value, and setting up and painting quickly—say, a 9 by 12 painting within an hour. So I look for an inspiration to start with, something that draws my eye, and I try to capture the essence of what drew me. That may mean downplaying other elements to heighten the effect. That would be a fairly typical *plein air* (open air) painting, but then I will take those ideas and develop a large painting in the studio.

Is that how you do all your paintings?

It all depends. Sometimes I'll just have some small *plein air* paintings in the gallery, but other times I will do both small and large. Sometimes I will base a large painting on only a photograph, but I'm able to do that fairly well by the experience of doing a lot of small *plein air* paintings. (See *En plein air*, p. 6)

Below, *Buck Creek Summer* by Mark Gingerich.

When did you start painting?

I was very interested in art as a young boy growing up and got serious about it when I was 28 years old. I had my own masonry business and decided that wasn't the kind of work I wanted to do all my life. I enjoyed it, but it was very hard work physically, so I decided to either pursue music or art, both of which I was very passionate about. I decided on art and built myself a small outdoor studio and taught myself to paint. I had done a lot of drawing prior to that and entered some competitions. I did well in those and was encouraged, so I pursued it. I took a correspondence course and some workshops with several artists.

How would you describe your style?

I would describe it as realist/impressionist, maybe leaning a little more toward impressionism, influenced by the French and American impressionists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. I like the spontaneity of capturing the essence of a subject quickly, not being afraid to let your brush strokes show, and letting the paint be paint on the canvas and not trying to make it look like a photograph—letting the essence of the brush strokes coalesce into an image from a distance.

What is it that draws you to a particular subject?

I will be out and about with my portable paint box—a *pochade* box is the term for it—painting on small panels. That's how I really learned to paint, painting from life. Not relying on photography but



Six decades at Rosedale Bible College:



1952: Conservative Amish Mennonite Bible School begins in Berlin, Ohio.

1952: First romance!

1954: Conference and school drop "Amish" from name.

1957: Rosedale population skyrockets when Mark and Fannie Peachy become first Mennonites to move there.



1961: First student council.

1952

1962



1963: Move to Rosedale.



1965: Addition to gym/cafeteria.

1966: First women's dorm built.

1968: First year with multiple terms (3).

1969: First librarian; number of volumes grows from 500 to 1,300.



1970: Men's dorm built.

1971: Name changes to Rosedale Bible Institute.

1962

1972



1976: Library and chapel building opens.

1972: First school day out.

1974: *Rosedale Newsletter* debuts. Later becomes *The Mirror*.

1976: Residents of one men's dorm room pop 25 lbs. of popcorn in 3 weeks.



1976: 5th term added.



1978: Ibrahim Omondi becomes the first Kenyan student at RBC.

1972

1982

1952–2012, From Bible School to College



1984: First faculty to teach in Kenya.

1985: Shop building constructed.

1986: First all-school play, *A Man Called Peter*, produced.



1990: 1-year certificate introduced.

1982

1992



1992: Staff apartments built.



1994: First retirement duplex built.

1999: Website launched.

1999: Choral Camp begins.



2000: Associate of Arts program begins.

2001: 140-acre adjacent farm purchased.

2001: School name changed to Rosedale Bible College.

1992

2002



2002: RBC accredited.

2004: First Europe Study Tour

2008: First international study term in Spain.

2011: First international study term in Kenya.

2011: First online class (Principles of Biblical Interpretation).



2002

2012

En plein air with Mark Gingerich

(Continued from page 3)

What is a typical day like for you?

I have pretty normal hours. A typical day would be spent here at home in the studio. My work starts at 9 and ends at 6 with about an hour break in between. I don't always just paint; I'm online working with galleries, or framing, or researching. Even just reading an art book is an important part of continuing to be an artist.

Why do you paint? What is it about painting and art that draws you?

Doing something that I've really enjoyed and making a living with that brings great fulfillment. I get to work at home. My wife homeschools the children, so they grew up being with their dad, and I thought that was a great thing. Also traveling and being my own boss, and spending time with other artists and sharing my faith with them, as well as my

talent. And having students in the studio. I enjoy teaching workshops.

What was it like going into an occupation that's outside the norm in the Mennonite heritage?

I wasn't discouraged by my parents and it wasn't discouraged by anyone from my church. In fact, it was encouraged by my friends and people from my church, to do it for

We need beauty in our lives.

the glory of God. I make a note of that on the back of my paintings. I either say "To the Glory of God" or "Soli Deo gloria" in Latin. I've read a lot of Francis Schaeffer's work on art and the Christian and have been really encouraged by his writings.

Where do you see the place of the arts in faith and life?

Art is a part of life. When God created the world, he created beauty, and he did it to show his glory. As

an artist, I can use his creation or the beauty that he has made and also be creative. Humans are creative, and we can take that and give it back to him. Art is enriching for the soul. It's not practical like food is—food we have to eat because our bodies need energy. But God also gave us taste buds. We wouldn't need them, but they are so we can enjoy the food. Our senses are gifts from God and that includes seeing beauty, like having something on your wall that reminds you of how great God is. In a sense you could almost say it is a necessity; we need beauty in our lives. It's the same way with the fine arts, poetry, literature, and writing. There's a place for everything.

To learn more about Mark's art and find galleries that carry his paintings, visit markgingerich.com. Mark is also part of a group of Christian artists raising money for victims of Hurricane Irene through an online art sale at lastingimpressionsale.com.

New Student Center Update

In 2008, Rosedale Bible College launched its five-year *Foundations for the Future* capital campaign to raise funds for a new multi-purpose student center. Gifts and commitments now total about \$1.1 million. In addition, a number of people have promised to help with the building and furnishing of the student center. The estimated value of these "in-kind" commitments is well over \$100,000.

All this support has already eclipsed any previous building project in Rosedale's history, although funds have not come in



as quickly as the college leadership had hoped. President Dan Ziegler pointed to the major economic downturn as one of the factors in the pace of the campaign.

In light of this, the board and building committee have revisited the original \$3.5 million scope of the project to evaluate how to achieve the goals for the facility with less funding. They determined that decreasing the square footage somewhat and eliminating the need for an operating endowment by using existing revenue sources would lower the needed amount to \$2 million in cash and gifts in kind. That number is now the revised
(Continued on next page)

Student Center Update

(Continued from previous page)

goal for the project. Administrators anticipate there will be about \$400,000 in donated time and material during the construction phase, so the goal for cash and pledges is now \$1.6 million. That means that there is a little over \$500,000 yet to raise to meet the goal (see pie chart).

Ziegler said they hope to begin construction within the year, but that will depend on when funds come in. The board wants to have at least 80% of the funds for the project committed before breaking ground.

If you wish to help support this initiative just send your contribution, earmarked for the Student Center, to Rosedale Bible College, 2270 Rosedale Rd., Irwin, OH 43029.



Alumni News



Amanda & Ryan Allgyer

Amanda Martin (03, 04) married Ryan Allgyer on November 27, 2010. The couple lives in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, where Ryan is a self-employed excavator and Amanda works as an LPN in an assisted living community.

(Please detach and mail in)

In 2008, RBC created endowed chairs to honor the life and ministry of Elmer Jantzi and Willard Mayer.

How to Give...

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

toward:

- The Elmer Jantzi Chair of Theology**
- The Willard Mayer Chair of Bible**
- Either chair as needed

As God provides, I promise to give the following amounts toward:

The Elmer Jantzi Chair of Theology:

\$ _____ by December 31, 2012

\$ _____ by December 31, 2013

The Willard Mayer Chair of Bible:

\$ _____ by December 31, 2012

\$ _____ by December 31, 2013

Either chair as needed:

\$ _____ by December 31, 2012

\$ _____ by December 31, 2013

If you choose to donate yearly, a reminder will be sent each November.

Thank you for partnering with us!

Thank you for remembering us

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.

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: _____

Visit the online alumni reunion at RBC's website, www.rosedale.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 \$ _____

MIRROR

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The *MIRROR* is a newsletter of Rosedale Bible College published several times 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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Relational travel



By Dan Ziegler

President Dan Ziegler

I didn't grow up Mennonite, but as I've become a part of this family of faith, I've learned to appreciate many things about our sometimes peculiar culture. One of them is the way Mennonites prioritize what I call "relational travel." We Mennos just love a get-together. . . especially if our spiritual or literal *freundschaft* are going to be there. If there is a wedding or funeral, a reunion or graduation, a conference or work project, you can be sure that we will turn out in force. And it really doesn't matter whether the event is halfway across town, or halfway across country; in fact, in some ways, the further away the better the road trip.

I've come to understand that we travel because it's one of the ways we keep the bonds of family and community strong. We understand that it is in personal, face-to-face contact that these important relationships are

maintained. Stories and songs, laughter and tears, shared experiences are the glue that holds us together. We're bound to each other, and travel is one of the ways we show it.

That's why I'm excited about Rosedale's 60th anniversary celebration the last weekend in April. In many ways, this event encapsulates all that we Mennonites (and honorary Mennonites) look for in a get-together. There will be plenty of music, fun, inspiration, entertainment and food for everyone. Most importantly, there will be time to reconnect with the lives of those dear friends who shared the 'Rosedale experience' with us. So mark your calendars now for this special event, and make plans for that Rosedale road trip. You and your friends are due for a little 'relational travel'!

Parents—if this is addressed to a son or daughter who has established a different address, please give us the new address. Call 740.857.1311 or e-mail info@rosedale.edu. Thanks!

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