

MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

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State of the College: How Are We Doing?

Engaged • Evangelical • Anabaptist

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Taking stock after sixty years

By Dan Ziegler, RBC President

As we get older, periodic checkups become increasingly important. We want to know how we're doing at age 40 or 50 or 60. Are we healthy? What physical issues do we need to address to ensure a vigorous future?

Recurring checkups are a good idea not just for aging individuals, but also for institutions. Since this coming winter will mark the 60th anniversary of RBC's inaugural term of study in Berlin, Ohio, it seems like a good time to take a look at how the college is doing. Here are five important categories to consider:

Faith — Over the past 60 years this is perhaps the area that has changed the least. Our college continues to be solidly committed to its mission of “preparing men and women for service in the church and in society,” and its vision of “being a center for an engaged and evangelical Anabaptist faith.” The Rosedale campus remains a Christ-centered community of prayer, service, and Bible-based discovery, with the college's focus on active discipleship and the authority of scripture remaining as resolute as ever.

Academics — In the mid-90s Rosedale began its transition from a Bible institute to an accredited Bible college. When full accreditation was achieved through the Association for Biblical Higher Education in 2001, the institute changed its name to Rosedale Bible College and began granting associate degrees in biblical studies. Accreditation has validated the college's high academic standards and ensured that government financial aid is available to students. It has also paved the way for the transfer of more RBC credits to other colleges and universities.

While most of RBC's classes are still related to the scriptures or ministry, the school has greatly expanded general education offerings. These additional courses in business, education, history, the humanities, math, science, languages and social studies provide RBC students with a broader educational foundation, all taught from a Christian worldview.

The college has further enlarged its educational offerings in the past decade with the addition of international terms in Europe and Africa and, most recently, through online courses in Bible and ministry leadership. Educationally, RBC has more to offer its students than ever before.

Enrollment — Since accreditation ten years ago, the average full-time equivalent enrollment has increased about 10%, halting a 20-year slide in enrollment that began in the 70s. RBC currently serves 100-125 students annually. Interestingly, the college is actually serving fewer students than it did a decade ago, yet the total number of class hours taken has grown, because students are now staying longer at RBC. Until the mid-90s, only 10-15% of students spent the entire school year at Rosedale. This number has increased steadily, and 67% of our students were with us all of last year. In addition, this coming spring the college is on track to graduate the largest group of associate degree recipients in its history.

While current enrollment is enough to support the college, RBC leadership would like to see the school grow. A larger student body would let the college impact the lives of more students, and current dorm and



classroom facilities are able to comfortably accommodate a 50% increase in residential students.

Student Life — About five years ago Rosedale made the shift from “a disciplined campus environment” to a “nurturing campus environment.” This subtle philosophical change has moved the school from the more regimented schedules and structure of the “Bible institute model” to a less rigid “college model” that nurtures adult responsibility and greater partnership between students and college.

This shift has resulted in a number of student-life changes over the years, including a later curfew, less-formal dress standards, personal choice on wearing the head covering, no “lights out” rule, fewer musical style restrictions, and a less punitive approach to campus life.

What remains unchanged is the college’s commitment to maintaining a Christ-centered campus atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth and maturity. Student life standards still clearly address modesty, interpersonal relationships, media, and other aspects of Christ-like behavior. The result is a positive, relational and spiritually nurturing atmosphere. The “Rosedale experience” is alive and well.

Finances — As institutions of higher learning go, RBC has never been among the wealthy. Its small size and relatively limited base of support has ensured rather humble institutional circumstances, and through the years Rosedale has often had to make the most of these limited resources. Nonetheless, through prudent management, sacrificial service and faithful support, there are plenty of reasons to be thankful about RBC’s current fiscal situation:

- RBC has no debt and has money in the bank (about \$500,000) set aside for future expenses.
- The school has a community of churches, alumni and friends behind it that gives generously toward its support (averaging \$400,000 per year over the past five years).
- The college has a \$500,000 endowment that pays interest for scholarships and other ongoing expenses.
- The institution is able to provide a living wage and competitive benefits package to its current staff and faculty.
- The college’s buildings and equipment are in good repair, and we have been able to purchase significant surrounding acreage to ensure the land potential for future development.
- Donors have given or pledged more than \$1 million toward the construction of a new student center.

The Future

Rosedale Bible College is committed to providing a grounding that will benefit our students as they serve Christ and his church. As we consider how we might best meet the spiritual and educational goals of future students, the college is already planning for development of campus facilities, expansion of educational offerings, increased help with credit transfer, additional financial aid, and continued broadening of the student life experience. With the blessing of God and the support of friends and alumni, we believe this college will boldly prepare coming generations to give their lives fully to Christ and his church. 🌿

Introducing Matt Showalter: RBC's Newest Full-Time Faculty



Matt Showalter joined RBC's faculty full-time in the fall of 2011 after previously teaching as adjunct faculty. Matt and his wife Colleen recently moved their family of four children to Ohio from Sarasota, Florida. In addition to teaching, Matt will work with students on transferring credits to other schools.

What was your first connection to RBC?

My dad was the president at RBC (then RBI) for about five or six years, and I went to high school about half a mile down the road. The first two years after I graduated [from high school] I took classes at Rosedale and graduated in '95.

What do you remember most about your time at Rosedale?

It was a really formative time in my own spiritual walk. A number of the professors were very influential in forming the way I think about things. I think of Jon Showalter, Alvin Yoder, Willard Mayer—all of them played a very significant role in my way of approaching life and scripture.

What was your path after college?

I went into REACH and was on a team to the Middle East and led a team too. I ended up going back to the Middle East on a one-year assignment with RMM. I grew up there; my folks were missionaries there for a number of years while I was growing up, so I still had the language. After that I came back and got married, and about a week or two later we both started at EMU

and graduated together two years later. Then we moved back to Sarasota, Colleen's home area, but we both felt called to the mission field. We left for the Middle East and served there for five years [with RMM].

We felt the Lord was leading back to Bethel Mennonite Church [in Sarasota] for a while so we moved back and served there for about five years. I also was the high school Bible teacher at Sarasota Christian School, and I just graduated this last May from Asbury Theological Seminary with an M.A. in theological studies.

What brought you back to RBC?

Since RBC was a place that had such a strong role in my own spiritual formation, the opportunity to come back and contribute again to the school was something that I found really exciting. I enjoy the classroom and teaching. Like I said, I have been teaching high school Bible for the last five years and found that I was enjoying my students more and more the older they got. So the opportunity to teach at a higher level was something that I really got excited about.

What are you looking forward to as you start teaching at RBC?

I'm really looking forward to building relationships with students. One of the things I love about teaching is the relationship that forms between teachers and students. [I love] the discussions and the opportunity to challenge people in their own spiritual walk and spiritual development, and just seeing the way that God can and will change people's lives through his word. That's what I find really exciting about teaching in a place like RBC, that . . . places a high premium on that. It's not just an academic institution; they also place a high emphasis on spiritual growth and spiritual development.

What are your goals as a teacher?

I feel like I've begun to accomplish my task as a teacher when I can see that the students are being challenged to think about the issues. If I feel like they're just memorizing a bunch of facts that they're dumping back onto a paper for me, that isn't what excites me as much as seeing them begin to grow and develop spiritually and grow in their walks with Jesus. If I can see that happening through whatever subject I'm teaching, that's what makes it worthwhile. ☺

Student Satisfaction? Check ✓

They look happy touring with Chorale and The Salt & Light Co., but what do RBC students really think about the school? If you sat them down and peppered them with questions, what would they say? The results are in. For several years, students at RBC have given their feedback through the Noel-Levitz student satisfaction survey, which is used by thousands of educational institutions around the country. The topics range from the very specific (are billing policies reasonable?) to the more general (are students made to feel welcome?).

Our students have taken the survey every other year since 2007, consistently giving the college high marks in a variety of areas. When asked to rate "overall



satisfaction," RBC students ranked their experience 20% higher than the average satisfaction score of 46,000 students from four-year private colleges across America. And in response to the question "Would you do it again?", RBC students said yes at a rate that was 25% higher than their peers at other private colleges.

One of the basic measures of a good college experience is whether students consider tuition a worthwhile investment; according to survey results, that was the case with RBC students. They also reported they were satisfied with their experience and that it met their expectations.

These results aren't surprising when compared to other areas the school did well in. One was the quality of instruction in the classes, which was rated very highly. "I learned a lot in my classes and the instructors were always willing to answer questions and talk before and after classes," 2011 student Jenny Beiler, from Mobile, Alabama, said. "They were always really helpful." Tara Yoder, from Apple Creek, Ohio, a returning student from

last year, agreed. "It wasn't just sitting there and listening to someone talk...you could apply it to your life."

Another contributor to a good experience is a welcoming campus environment, and students commended that aspect of RBC in the survey as well, saying they were free to express their ideas on campus, and that they were made to feel welcome. "The teachers and faculty here, and staff, they connect with you," Yoder said. "You feel like they want you to be here, they're not just here to get your money, they're here for you."

"It's a very welcoming and accepting atmosphere," Beiler said. "I don't think the students have to be afraid of being judged or put down for who we are...it's just a really good environment for growth and for learning."

Andrew Sauder, a student last year and men's resident director in 2011, said "There is a good freedom to express opinions and to engage in conversation with professors... they may or may not agree with your argument or your question, but they do hear it out."

Following the trend, the survey also indicated that most students would enroll again if they had it to do over.

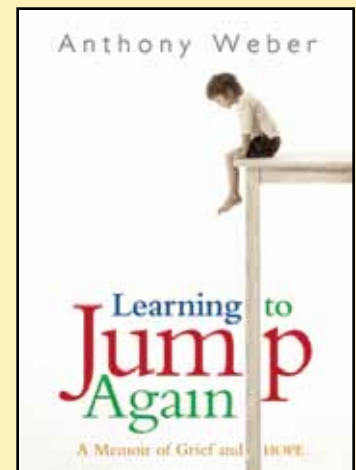
"I definitely would do it again," Beiler said.

"No question about it," Yoder said. "You definitely grow and it stretches you. I feel like I know more about what I believe. I feel like everyone says that but it's really true." 🌟

RBC alum writes memoir of grief and hope

Leon Weber, former RBC faculty, died of pancreatic cancer in 2003. His son Anthony (88-90), of Traverse City, Michigan, recently published a book about grief and loss based on that experience. *Learning to Jump Again: A Memoir of Grief and Hope* is available at amazon.com.

Anthony hopes that *Learning to Jump Again* will become a tool that the Christian community can use to "grieve with each other at the ripple effect of death, grief and loss—but not without hope." For more information, visit learningtojumpagain.com.



Students urged to speak the truth in love



Rosedale Bible College Class of 2011

Rosedale Bible College held commencement for the sixtieth time on May 21, 2011. There were 33 graduates—18 with an associate degree in biblical studies, 13 with a one-year certificate, and two graduates of the Institute of Pastoral Studies. Retired faculty member Elmer Lehman gave the commencement address, and Jason Rueger spoke as valedictorian.

Elmer and his wife Eileen worked in Costa Rica for more than 20 years planting churches with Rosedale Mennonite Missions. After returning to the U.S., Elmer taught at RBC for 18 years, from 1985-2002.

He spoke to the graduates about their calling to speak the truth in love. “At a secular commencement, a speaker is usually expected to motivate the graduates to get out there and seek the American dream, to use your potential and be all you can be,” Elmer said. “We have a higher and a holier calling.” We are called, he said, to speak the truth while avoiding the pitfalls of doing that without love, or of sacrific-

ing truth to show love. “It must be centered upon Jesus,” he said. “Life without Jesus is like an unsharpened pencil—it has no point. People need Jesus. He is the way, the truth, the life.”

Jason Rueger, the class valedictorian, spoke about change being an integral part of human life. God had changed the students, he said, through campus life, studies, and challenges. “My challenge to you today is not to fear change, but rather to cultivate an attitude that welcomes it, knowing God uses change to accomplish his purposes.”

“At the conclusion of this ceremony, we will walk out, say our goodbyes, and go our separate ways. This is change. Yet, my hope and prayer is that we embrace this change and see what exciting new things God has in store.”

Alumni news

Flashback

Larry Miller (64), of Macon, Mississippi, sent the following clipping from the *Goshen (Indiana) News* about the cramped conditions in 1965 at RBC (then Conservative Mennonite Bible School):

Little Volkswagen “Holds” 31 Youths

Some kind of record may have been set recently when 31 young men managed to get inside a Volkswagen owned by Larry Miller of Topeka. The “record” was set during the recent six-week term of the Conservative Mennonite Bible School held near Plain City, Ohio... Miller reported his VW suffered no ill from the “capacity content.”



Larry remembers staying in the upstairs dorm during the first year at Rosedale, where the floors were oiled and the hall residents would stand on newspapers after showers to erase the oil residue from their feet. Larry’s wife Maxine also attended CMBS, and he said they both appreciate their beginnings there. “Much of my Christian foundation was developed at CMBS,” he said.

Do you have a photo or good story from your time at Rosedale? Share your memories with the *Mirror*! Email contributions to info@rosedale.edu, or mail to:

Rosedale Bible College
2270 Rosedale Road
Irwin, OH 43029

We want your stories!

Larry and Maxine both taught in public schools in Mississippi and now work at Mashulaville Dormitory, a Mennonite hospitality house in Macon.

Let the little children come...

Austin and **Jana (Bender) Borkholder (08)**, of Nappanee, Indiana, announce the arrival of their daughter, Haley Joelle, born December 11, 2010.

James and **Debra (Beck) Butler (98)**, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, had a girl, Abigale Aaltje Butler, on April 8, 2011.



Abigale Butler



Tyler and Jaden Riley

Wendel and **Rebecca (Byler) Hostetler (91)**, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, welcomed their second child, Tyler Jackson, on January 26, 2011. He joined 3-year-old brother Jaden Riley.

This year's Institute of Pastoral Studies students!



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.

MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

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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(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, 2011

\$ _____ by December 31, 2012

The Willard Mayer Chair of Bible:

\$ _____ by December 31, 2011

\$ _____ by December 31, 2012

Either chair as needed:

\$ _____ by December 31, 2011

\$ _____ by December 31, 2012

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

Thank you for partnering with us!

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. And check us out on Facebook!



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

Changed lives, God's unchanging Word



Dean Phil Weber

By Phil Weber

Reminiscing with other RBI students from the 70s and earlier, I was amused to hear one of them say, "I'm sure the students at Rosedale are having their lives changed liked ours were, but I fail to see how!" Her demure disbelief that something so dynamic could still be going on after the passage of decades and the turnover in

personnel is eloquent testimony to the singular impact of her education at Rosedale. That such impact continues amazes me also, especially since I (a mere man) am now one of the faculty. But I see the evidence in the lives of current students and am reminded that the essence of the Rosedale experience is a fresh encounter with our eternal God and His unchanging Word.

Faculty at Rosedale have always been the heart of the institution. While we have increased the credential requirements for our professors in our transition from Bible school to Bible college, we have continued to seek qualified faculty whose ministries are rooted in the church. Our newest member, Matthew Showalter, illustrates that commitment, bringing his experience in overseas missions and as a youth pastor along with his training and expertise in teaching.

The importance of faculty has also been recognized in the administration of the school; faculty are now empowered to express their voice through the faculty collegium.

In addition, we've been working hard to develop academically in other ways. Achieving and maintaining nationally accredited status with the Association for Biblical Higher Education has been a major advance. In the last several years we have also added three concentrations to our degree—youth ministries, education, and business. This year for the first time, we will offer courses in literature and earth science.

Rosedale students frequently continue their education after they leave us. We are pleased that nearly 60 public and private colleges have granted our alumni requests for transfer. To help students maximize transfer potential, we now have a transfer specialist who will work with other schools to increase articulation agreements and course equivalence guides.

It matters to us that RBC credits be academically excellent and portable; it matters more that the education received here have a long-term impact on the life and faith of our students. I am confident that is the case and fully expect that decades from now, alumni will still be saying, "I'm sure the students at Rosedale are having their lives changed liked ours were, but I fail to see how!" ❁

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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