

# MIRROR

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE

- Honoring our brothers  
Elmer Jantzi and Willard Mayer
- How can we follow Christ?  
Our third symposium!

Summer 2008 Vol. 35 No. 1

## *Following Christ at Rosedale*



[www.rosedale.edu](http://www.rosedale.edu)

Small College  
**Big Impact**

Engaged • Evangelical • Anabaptist

# Fighting on 'the most dangerous sector of the front' Why the new endowed chairs at Rosedale

*It is in the educational field that the struggle for or against God is being decided today. Teachers fight on the most dangerous sector of the front.*

—Cornelius Van Til

By now, we hope you have received a brochure announcing the creation of two endowed chairs at Rosedale Bible College: the *Elmer Jantzi Chair of Theology* and the *Willard Mayer Chair of Bible*.

If you did, you read the explanation: "The purpose of these chairs is to honor the life and ministry of these two brothers, and to help Rosedale Bible College remain faithful to the best attributes of its history as embodied by their lives."

But what does that mean? And why does it matter?

## What are these chairs about?

By endowing two chairs and appointing faculty members to them, RBC hopes to accomplish several things. We want to encourage faculty to emulate Elmer and Willard's spirit of service, commitment to the Word, and interest in students' spiritual and intellectual development; we also hope to provide time and funding for scholarship, writing and professional development for the faculty members who hold these chairs.

## Why are these chairs important?

Asked to discuss the purpose of the chairs, faculty member Ken Miller said, "When someone fills the chair, they are in some sense carrying on the tradition set by the people for whom it's named." It's our way, he explained, of carrying on the spirit of the instructor.

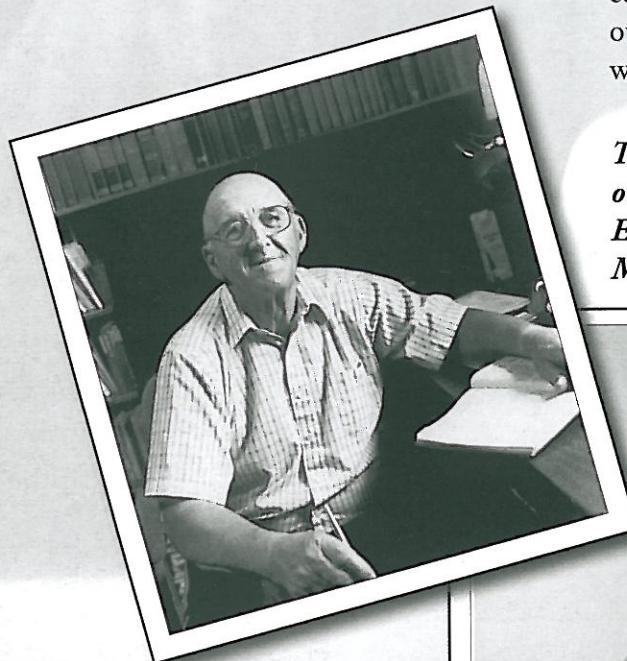
Another faculty member, Reuben Sairs, said, "This is not about seating!" The chairs are a way of honoring Willard and Elmer, he explained, "by making sure their approach is in some way preserved."

Sairs said that establishing the chairs looks backward and forward, honoring what has been and making sure it continues.

## Why does this matter to our students?

Acknowledging that the level of academic sophistication is going up all over the Mennonite world, Sairs said the faculty at RBC has to keep up. "In order to equip our students we need to equip ourselves...to be the kind of resource we need to be for our students."

*Two who sought knowledge "in order to serve and edify others": Elmer Jantzi, left, and Willard Mayer, below.*



**A "great passion to see the truth"**

# ector of the front: dale matter

Faculty members can't just rely on what they learned in grad school, he said. "We have to keep current in our fields and know not just what's happening now but also what's happening next."

Ken Miller thinks it's also a matter of taking seriously the responsibilities and opportunities that come with being a Bible college. "With postmodernism, people are realizing again that there's more than just the material world," he said. "And we [at RBC] deal with more than just the material world."

Sairs stressed that our students are not living in isolation from the rest of the world. The need for RBC students "to be able to articulate their faith is critical to their Christian witness," he said. "They can't stand there dumbfounded the first time they're confronted with disbelief."

Part of equipping students is helping them to develop into the kind of person God wants them to be, Sairs said. Bible colleges have resisted the idea that education has to be utilitarian. "It's about being a better human being," he said. "It's about developing a full human being, in the way God wants someone to flourish."

Utilitarians equip for a job, he said. "We're equipping people."

If you go to "Big State U," said Sairs, "if you don't fit their niche or their track, they don't know how to respond." At RBC, we're not just trying to race students through a program.

If someone comes to Rosedale and says, "I want to learn to be the person God wants me to be," we can say, "We know what you're talking about," said Sairs.

*To learn more about the endowed chairs, visit [www.rosedale.edu](http://www.rosedale.edu). To contribute, please see p. 6 of this issue.*

Some seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge:  
That is curiosity;

Others seek knowledge so that they themselves  
may be known:

That is vanity;

But there are still others who seek knowledge in  
order to serve and edify others:

And that is charity.

— Bernard of Clairveaux

The task of the modern educator is not to cut  
down jungles but to irrigate deserts. The right  
defense against false sentiments is to inculcate  
just sentiments. By starving the sensibility of  
our pupils we only make them easier prey to  
the propagandist when he comes. For fam-  
ished nature will be avenged and a hard heart  
is no infallible protection against a soft head.

— C. S. Lewis

Faith is destroyed when little academic  
minds and little hearts for God niggle away  
at magnificent and precious realities with  
no remorse...when there is no great love for  
God and his Word and no great passion  
to see the truth of God magnified and  
defended with profound credibility and  
authenticity...when faculty demonstrate their  
academic standing not in the really great and  
difficult task of constructive explication and  
justification of truth, but in the simple and  
adolescent task of deconstruction and cyni-  
cism. — John Piper

We let our young men and women go out  
unarmed in a day when armor was never so  
necessary....They do not know what the words  
mean; they do not know how to ward them off  
or blunt their edge or fling them back; they  
are a prey to words in their emotions instead  
of being the masters of them in their intel-  
lects... We have lost the tools of learning, and  
in their absence can only make a botched and  
piecemeal job of it. — Dorothy L. Sayers

## *f God magnified and defended..."*



Seventeen students received an associate of arts degree in biblical studies at Rosedale's 57th commencement May 24, 2008; eighteen received a one-year certificate in biblical studies, and three received certificates in the Institute of Pastoral Studies. This year's graduating class matched 1997's, the largest graduating class in the college's history.



Rosedale Bible College recognized the outstanding contributions of departing faculty members Jonathan Showalter and Eric Kouns. Here, President Dan Ziegler, left, presents a commemorative plaque to Eric Kouns, who taught at the college from 1995 through 2008. Commencement speaker Adin Miller, far left, looks on. Jonathan Showalter, second from right, also received a plaque. He taught at RBC since 1991 and served as academic dean from 1996-2008.



Rosedale graduates Katie Burkholder, left, and Julie Burkholder, right, with their sister, Anita Burkholder Zeiset. Anita graduated from RBC in 2004, and is holding the newest Zeiset (and future alum?), Ariana.

### New academic dean at RBC

ROSEDALE, Ohio -- The Rosedale Bible College Board of Trustees and the Conservative Mennonite Conference (CMC) Executive Board have appointed Philip Weber as the next academic dean of Rosedale Bible College. Weber's appointment was ratified by the CMC ministerial body at its February 20 meeting.

Departing dean Jon Showalter ends his term of service on June 30, 2008, and the "official passing of the baton" took place at the CMC conference this summer, said RBC President Dan Ziegler.

Ziegler said the choice was made "after a search process that looked both inside and outside of the college." It became clear he said, that Phil Weber was "ideally positioned in both experience and gifting" to assume the post of academic dean.

Listing Weber's strong academic credentials, proven leadership experience, first-hand appreciation for the mission of RBC, and lifetime of service for the church, Ziegler expressed "high confidence" in his ability to guide Rosedale Bible College's academic department.

Weber brings six years of RBC faculty experience and considerable administrative expertise to the position. Before joining the faculty in January 2002, he served for 13 years as president of the We Care Program, a prison ministry in Atmore, Ala.

He also brings a clear sense of mission to the task, and says one of his highest priorities will be "to work with the faculty to tune our curriculum to best serve the needs of current students and the goals of the college."

The new dean hopes to expand the

breadth and depth of the college's interaction with the leaders of CMC: "What I would like to see is a more dynamic sense of partnership between the ministers and the college in working out what it means to follow Jesus faithfully in this time and in this culture."

As webmaster for the school, Weber is in touch with the potential of technology for education. He wants to develop a distance education program that will expand RBC's student body "beyond the core of college-age young people who are able to relocate to our campus and devote full time to study."

Citing a "significant interest in online study" among the college's constituency, he says that "the available technology creates a great opportunity for us and for a new contingent of adult students who want to keep a growing edge."

Weber says that at times he has struggled to know whether he should understand himself as a teacher who can administer, or as an administrator who can teach. "The role of academic dean feels like a good fit to me, because it brings together those two long-term passions."

One of the things he most looks forward to is leading the faculty team. "Being a member of a great team is one of the joys of working at RBC," he says.

Weber is an elder at Shiloh Mennonite Church in Resaca, Ohio, and lives in Rosedale with Twila, his wife of 29 years. They are the parents of Jonathan, Amanda, and Andrew. Weber received a diploma from Rosedale in 1979, a B.A. from Cedarville University in 1982, and an M.A. in Bible and Theology from the University of Mobile in 2003.



**Front row:** Stephanie Harnish, Carla Yoder, Justin Mark Yoder, Risa Heatwole, Darin Beachy, Dawn Swartzentruber, Ben Byler, Stefanie Yoder, Jesse Mast. **Second row:** Annette Nisly, Amber Moser, Rachel Sommers, Rebekah Cloud, Tabitha Driver, Rachel Stahl, Bennett Wenger, Director Kenneth Miller. **Third row:** Renee Zeiset, Alicia Slaubaugh, Jana Bender, Brittany Tull, Daniel Ziegler, Travis Helmuth, Bethany Miller, Tristan Gehman. **Back row:** Naomi Raber, Jeffrey Huber, Jeremy Yoder, Anthony Miller, Justin Beitzel, LaBreeska Sensenig, and Strickland Warfel.

The Rosedale Chorale finished up its 2008 spring tour with a concert on April 27 in the Rosedale Bible College Chapel in Rosedale, Ohio. The group performed for churches in Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Quebec, Ontario and Ohio April 13-20. To purchase a CD, contact Rhelda at [rsommers@rosedale.edu](mailto:rsommers@rosedale.edu) or visit [www.rosedale.edu](http://www.rosedale.edu) to print out an order form.



**Above:** The Salt & Light Co., a small, mixed ensemble, presented a musical program with a worship focus, "Sweet Surrender," in 17 venues in five states, February 16-24. Members of the team are (l. to r.): Liz Diller, Salt & Light coordinator, Ryan Gruber, Travis Helmuth, Naomi Raber, Justin Beitzel, Amber Moser, Anthony Miller and Stephanie Harnish.

**Above, left:** RBC's Drama Team presented two one-act plays for church audiences in seven states February 16-24. Team members are (clockwise from upper left): LaMar Yoder, Tabitha Driver, Darin Beachy, Kimberly Miller, LaBreeska Sensenig, Jeffrey Huber, Amanda Weber, and Risa Heatwole. Director Christa Keim not pictured.

### Random Snapshots



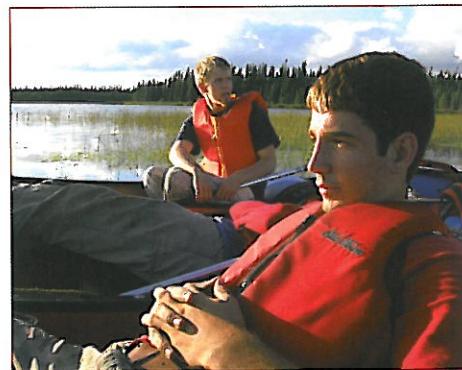
**Above:** LaMar Yoder and Risa Heatwole in Earl Reimer's *The Light Is Too Dark*; **below, center:** Chorale strikes a pose; **bottom left:** Bennett Wenger gets a hug from his grandmother, Rhoda Wenger.



**Above:** Five RBC students helped Wilkens Avenue Mennonite Church in Baltimore, Md., create space for an after-school program for neighborhood kids. They were (l. to r.): Amber Moser, Jeffrey Huber, Lydia Roggie, Andy Sommers, and Sara Miller.



**Above:** (l. to r.) Stephanie Harnish, Brittany Tull, Karen Eash and Kimberly Miller with the baby hats students made for at-risk newborns; **bottom right:** Ben Byler, l., and Brian Miller in Akwachink mode.



(Please detach and mail in)

### 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, 2008  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2009  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2010

The Willard Mayer Chair of Bible:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2008  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2009  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2010

Either chair as needed:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2008  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2009  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ by December 31, 2010

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

Thank you for partnering with us!

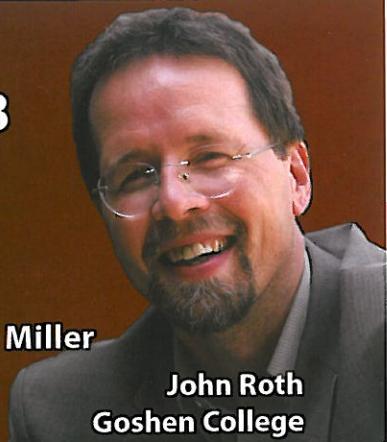
## ROSEDALE BIBLE COLLEGE PRESENTS Evangelical Anabaptist Symposium 2008

*Following Christ: Discovering a Vital Biblical Anabaptism*

November 13-15

2008 speakers: John Roth, Jonathan Sauder, Phil Weber, Jeremy Miller

To register, visit [www.rosedale.edu](http://www.rosedale.edu) or call 740-857-1311.



Ron Sider, speaking at RBC's Evangelical Anabaptist Symposium 2006: "I really endorse and embrace the vision of evangelical Anabaptism that you're working on. I hope it will flourish and become the theme of the whole Mennonite church."

## Marriages

**Hannah Mast (5, 06)** of Milford, Delaware and **Steven Goss (04, 05, 06)** of Sullivan, Illinois, were united in marriage on September 29, 2007 at Cannon Mennonite Church in Bridgeville, Delaware. They now reside in Greenwood, Delaware.



Hannah and Steven Goss

**Anna Fath (01, 02)** married **Deryck Mullady** on August 15, 2008, on the campus of Rosedale Bible College. They will be living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Kaylene Scholl (83, 93, 94)** of Lancaster, Pennsylvania and **Chris Henderson** of Ellijay, Georgia, were wed on October 6, 2007. They now live in Ellijay.

**Jewel Swantz (04)** of Kalona, Iowa, married **A. J. Miller** of Berlin, Ohio on September 8th, 2007. They are now living in Kalona.

**Emily Weaver (04)** of Fort Vermilion, Alberta, married **Kevin Aron Wiebe** of La Crete, Alberta, on August 2, 2008. They will both be working at CIAM Radio, a Christian community radio station in Fort Vermilion.

## 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](mailto:dziegler@rosedale.edu).

# 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

## News



Paul and June Kropf

**Paul (83, 84) and June (Stoner) Kropf (78S, 79, 83, 84)** have been serving with Eastern Mennonite Missions in Albania since 1993. They are church planters and country representatives. Paul graduated from Eastern Mennonite University in 1988 and got a master's degree from Ball State University in 1993. Their home congregation is Buffalo Mennonite Church in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

## Births

**Jeremy and Sabrina (Funk) Lehman (96-98, 99S)** of Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, welcomed their second son (second child), Nathan Gabriel, on August 16, 2007.

**Verlin (88, 89) and Lisa (Smoker) Martin (88)** welcomed Kyle David on August 18, 2007.



Justin Luke Powell

**Andy (01) and Amanda (Fretz) Powell (01, 04)** of Farmville, Virginia, announce the birth of their first child, Justin Luke, born October 19th, 2007.

## Births

**Jim (98, 00-02) and Emily (Wickey) Slabaugh (01)** of Angola, Indiana, announce the birth of their second child, James Lynn Slabaugh III, on June 9, 2007. Sister Halle Joy was happy to meet him.



James Lynn Slabaugh



Alaina Lynn Stauffer

**Glenn and Julie (Weaver) Stauffer (97, 99)** of Spring Mills, Pennsylvania, would like to announce the arrival of their daughter, Melanie Dawn, on February 1, 2008. Melanie is their first child.



Melanie Stauffer

## Let the little children come...

## 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](http://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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Remembering Why We're Here



By Dan Ziegler

Willard Mayer recently gave me a box of newsletters spanning a half century of this college's history. As I rifled through the documents, one magazine caught my eye: the January 1977 issue of *Guidelines for Today*, which featured a special report on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosedale Bible Institute. It was fascinating to look back at the perspectives of the faculty who were here at that time. Of particular interest were the thoughts of brothers Willard and Elmer regarding what justified Rosedale's reason for existence:

Elmer Jantzi: "Well, I really think that the uniqueness of RBI lies in her Bible-centered program. As a matter of fact, I feel her right to exist lies there. My own feeling is that the more we can keep it Bible-centered and stay away from what I call the higher administrative approach to

things, the more effective we are going to be in reaching more people."

Willard Mayer: "I hope that we can always keep in close proximity with the church; that we feel the pulse of the church and that the pulse of the church directs the school. If we move away from the church we will lose the real purpose for which the school is intended."

What is obvious from these quotes has also been confirmed in the lives of our brothers, and that is their unwavering commitment to the centrality of the Word of God and to the church. One of the main reasons we have established the Willard Mayer Chair of Bible and the Elmer Jantzi Chair of Theology is to perpetuate the spirit of faithfulness these brothers represented during their time of service at Rosedale. As this college moves forward, may our commitment to Jesus continue to be borne out by a willingness to teach a faith grounded on His Word and true to His church.

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](mailto:info@rosedale.edu). Thanks!

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