

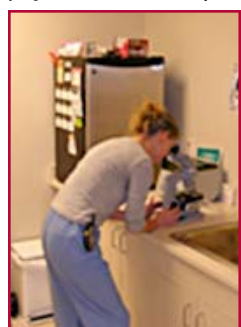
## AHECs Help RVU in Meeting its Mission



From July 1, 2007 through end of May, 2008, Western Colorado AHEC placed 192 students in housing across the Western Slope. Photo courtesy of Colorado AHEC System.

The national Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The AHECs were created to link the resources of universities and health science centers with local agencies planning for the educational and clinical resources required to meet the health care needs of their communities.

AHECs, together with health professions schools, departments and programs, provide community education opportunities for practicing professionals as well as health profession students and residents. They assist with service learning opportunities and clinical experiences for medical, dental, physician assistant, nursing, pharmacy and



Student doctor in a clinic. Photo courtesy of Colorado AHEC System.

allied health students in rural and urban underserved communities and through this experience, promote placement of future professionals in areas of need for the communities they serve. AHEC assistance provides students the opportunity to experience health care in a real-world setting

removed from the health science centers where they spend the majority of their time.

AHECs provide continuing education for professionals in the field, as well as opportunities for expansion of knowledge and skills through sponsorship of CME and professional advancement courses at the same time that they promote primary and secondary education for students in the public schools and colleges across the regions they serve.

The Colorado AHECs currently serve to inform and motivate the public on multiple health-related issues from obesity and diabetes to the prevention of lung and colon cancer. They provide programs to teach students about opportunities for careers in health care fields and educate all members of our state on the causes and effects of the traumatic brain injury that frequently occur in soldiers, athletes, victims of car and industrial accidents.

RVU is proud to be a supporter, partner and collaborator with the statewide AHEC system and congratulates them on the many contributions they make annually to the citizens of our state and region. This partnership provides opportunities for the College to participate in outreach events such as the planned Cinco de Mayo Celebration health screening for obesity, diabetes and heart disease this coming May. The occurrence and detrimental

health consequences of these conditions are increasing in Hispanic communities across our state.

Statewide AHECs are collaborating with RVU in meeting its mission of promoting primary care in underserved communities by assisting the College in obtaining clinical opportunities and securing housing for students during their required two-month community medicine rotations during their OMS-3 clinical year, and identifying service learning opportunities for the students and faculty of the College.

AHEC Executive Directors	Counties Served
Colorado AHEC System Jack Westfall Executive Director	The primary function of the Colorado AHEC System Office is to enhance coordination of UCDHSC resources in order to improve responsiveness of the University and to better link resources with the regional AHECs and the communities they serve.
Centennial AHEC Sally Henry Executive Director	Centennial AHEC serves the following 10 counties: Kit Carson, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld and Yuma.
Central Colorado AHEC Kristina Wenzel Executive Director	Central Colorado AHEC serves the following 11 north central counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Gilpin and Jefferson.
San Luis Valley AHEC Freddie Jaquez Executive Director	San Luis Valley AHEC serves the following six counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache.
Southeastern Colorado AHEC Randy Evetts Executive Director	Southeastern Colorado AHEC serves the following 16 counties: Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Lake, Las Animas, Otero, Park, Prowers, Pueblo and Teller.
Western Colorado AHEC Carol Giffin-Jeansonne Executive Director	Western Colorado AHEC serves the following 21 counties: Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Jackson, La Plata, Mesa, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Juan, San Miguel and Summit.

## From the Dean

It is my honor to bring you greetings in the first edition of Vista View. I hope that each of you had a wonderful Holiday Season and are looking forward to a New Year full of potential, hope and promise.



The beauty of the vistas that we enjoy on our daily commutes, looking south at Pikes Peak or west to the Front Range is awesome, beautiful, inspiring and overwhelming all at the same time, similar to how all of us feel when we examine the evolution of Rocky Vista University.

Words cannot express how excited and optimistic we are at the College. We have finished our first semester. It was not without challenges for administration, faculty, staff or students. As is said, "That which does not kill you only makes you stronger". By facing and overcoming our challenges together, we are an institution that is on a path toward excellence and a community of individuals that has grown closer together.

It has been my pleasure to watch our students grow in knowledge, professionalism, confidence and spirit. I am very appreciative for the cooperation, maturity and effort that they have consistently displayed, and for their leadership.

I am equally proud of our faculty and staff, who have worked diligently to develop programs, services and a curriculum that will advance our students success in their education and their practice of medicine. They have gone beyond any expectation in supporting, mentoring and advocating for our student education, health and happiness. I would never miss an opportunity to publicly praise and thank them.

Our campus has come alive with the presence of our students and our faculty. As we prepare for the second semester, the second class, the coming years, it is thrilling to realize that we still have just begun and that we can look forward to a bright future.

Enjoy the winter with its beauty and majesty. Work hard, love deeply, laugh often, and care for yourself and each other.

Ronnie B. Martin, D.O., FACOFP-dist  
V.P. Academic Affairs RVU  
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine

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## Student GOVERNMENT

By Cecily, OMS-I  
RVUCOM SGA President

**The Student Government** Association (SGA) of Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine is the governing body for the students of the school. The SGA works toward advocacy for the student body, to promote school spirit and school unity, to provide various activities for the students, and to promote RVUCOM and its mission. SGA officers include the positions of President, Vice President of Operations, Vice President of Student Welfare, Treasurer, Secretary, Honor Code President, Class Curriculum Representative and Alternate, and Class Historian.

During the past semester, the SGA has worked very hard to achieve several goals including writing and ratifying an entirely new constitution, bylaws, and honor code specifically for RVUCOM that will provide a framework on which the SGA, class, and student clubs leadership can act.

Leaders of the SGA have had the opportunity to network with various local and national organizations, such as the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine, the Colorado Medical Society, and the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents. We have been instrumental in establishing relationships with these organizations that will benefit RVUCOM and its students now and in the future.

The SGA, with input from the student body, decided on the use of student funds to purchase couches, equipment and entertainment for the student lounge.

Activities include creating RVUCOM

t-shirts for students, faculty, and staff to wear and show their school pride, sponsoring two School Spirit Dress-Down Days that provided an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to show their RVU unity. An art show and competition showcased the talents of the RVU community and provided décor for the wall outside of the library and within the student lounge and cafeteria.

Finally, The SGA sponsored the end-of-semester talent show and dinner which was our biggest activity for the students this semester and was a great success and fantastic way to celebrate the end of our first semester of medical school.

SGA has also included philanthropic fund-raising activities. *The Face Off! beard competition 2008* raised \$200 for prostate cancer research on behalf of the RVUCOM student body.

The SGA has several upcoming events for the next semester including health fairs for the city of Parker; collaborative health fair events with the University of Colorado School of Medicine during the Cinco de Mayo festival and the Western Stock Show; a "Mini Medical School" for children from underserved areas in Colorado; a panel discussion of third- and fourth-year medical students; and several school-spirit-related activities, including an end-of-year formal dinner.

The SGA looks forward to continuing to work on behalf of the students to make RVUCOM the best it can be.

## Financial AID

By Kathy Leary  
Director of Financial Aid

### How the Credit Crisis Impacts Financial Aid or What the Heck Happened to Student Loans?

The world wide credit crisis not only affects mortgages and car loans but also student loans. In the past, lenders made loans to students and kept those loans until they were paid off. Today few lenders do that. Instead they borrow money to make loans and then sell packages of those loans to investors. The amount of money available to buy and sell loans has decreased dramatically over the past six months.

The good news is that the government recently announced plans to put money into private student lending so that funds will start flowing through the loan cycle again. In addition, Sallie Mae is

revamping its credit review process to look more closely at the potential of students to borrow and repay their loans based upon their academic program and the type of school they are attending. Because medical school students have historically low default rates, low drop out rates, and excellent employment and income potential, this should be good news for RVU students. We hope to have more specific information about loans for 2009/2010 by the end of January.

We strongly recommend that all students review their credit report and clean up any errors. RVU will be hosting a free seminar on *Maintaining a Favorable Credit Report* on January 28 and we encourage all students to attend.

Feature Story

# Memorial Health System Leading the Way to a Healthier Community



**M**emorial Health System is an award-winning provider of comprehensive health care services in Southern Colorado. From their modest beginning in 1904 as a small hospital of only 16 beds, Memorial has grown to a 700+ bed health system serving Colorado Springs and Southern Colorado communities.

As a self-supporting city enterprise, Memorial receives no tax subsidy, yet treats everyone regardless of ability to pay. Being locally-owned means all health system revenues are reinvested in leading health care programs and facilities for the community. In addition, Memorial gives back more than \$70 million to the community each year in uncompensated care, sponsorships of local not-for-profit organizations and free health information.

Memorial Health System consists of Memorial Hospital Central, Memorial Hospital North and Memorial Hospital for Children (in partnership with The Children's Hospital). In addition, more than a dozen outpatient facilities are located throughout the Pikes Peak region. Through a dedicated team of 4,800 employees, 800 physicians and 1,000 volunteers, the system works to

provide the highest quality health care for the community. Memorial continually invests in its people, technology, facilities and practices with the ultimate goal creating a health system where patients heal and people thrive.

Some of Memorial's highlighted services include:

- The only designated children's hospital in Southern Colorado
- The only Level IIIb neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), the only pediatric intensive care unit and the only Child Life Program in Southern Colorado
- Ranked in the top 5% in the nation for open heart surgery (*HealthGrades 2009*)
- The only cancer program recognized for "outstanding achievement" by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons
- Centers of Excellence in cardiac care, cancer treatment, emergency and trauma services, women's/maternal services, infant care and rehabilitation

Memorial Health System, working in partnership with RVU, has added graduate medical education to its mission

**Memorial Health System and RVUCOM are planning for residency programs over the next several years. Memorial and RVU both believe that the hospital system will evolve into one of the largest educators of physicians in the state.**

and vision. Over the past two years, the administration, medical staff and faculty of the system have been engaged with the College of Osteopathic Medicine working toward improving the future of health care in Colorado and El Paso County. Recognizing that increasing access to quality care will benefit the community and the citizens they both serve, Memorial Health System and RVUCOM have been working together to develop clinical clerkships for medical students and are planning for residency programs over the next several years. Memorial and RVU both believe that the hospital system will evolve into one of the largest educators of physicians in the state and become a major factor in meeting the health care needs of the state and region in the years to come. Thirty-six members of RVUCOM's class of 2012 will begin clinical training at the institution in the fall of 2010.

**Student Osteopathic Medical Association**

By Andrew, OMS-I  
RVUCOM SOMA President

**Our Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA)**—a group that supports the interests and ambitions of all osteopathic medical students—has a lot going on this year. So far we have run a successful Thanksgiving food drive, led a Q&A student panel for the pre-SOMA chapter at CU Boulder, and participated in the National SOMA Fall Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Upcoming events include providing sports physicals for underserved students in the Denver Public Schools through the Denver Osteopathic Foundation; recording educational osteopathic manipulation videos with the direction of Dr. Gish; organizing get-togethers to practice medical Spanish; running health fair screenings at local schools with Channel 9 News; fund-raising for and lobbying at DO Day on the Hill, the premier



osteopathic advocacy event; running a “mini-medical school” for younger children and a number of other social events.

The SOMA officers of our new chapter are very excited to have been able to start the RVUCOM SOMA chapter and look forward to continuing a tradition of supporting osteopathic medical students and the state of Colorado.

**Osteopathic Leadership**



**Extraordinary Privilege**

I have been associated with the osteopathic profession my entire life—as a patient, teacher, friend, and administrator. Much like a parent, I have been able to watch the profession grow, from a small child (8 osteopathic colleges) to an adolescent (28 osteopathic campuses). We have had our growing pains, but the profession always seemed to work together to weather the storms. But one thing that has remained constant throughout my career is the extraordinary osteopathic physicians with whom I have had the privilege to work for, and beside.

When the opportunity to move to Colorado and manage the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine (CSOM) became a reality, I realized what an *extraordinary privilege* was being offered to me. The opportunity to utilize the skills and techniques which I had acquired in association management during my 13 years serving as Executive Director of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, could be utilized to enhance the goals of CSOM.

I will have the *extraordinary privilege* of helping CSOM become a

great, small-state osteopathic society with value for its members. I have been granted the *extraordinary privilege* of understanding and observing how the future physician landscape in Colorado will change since Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine opened and welcomed its first class of future osteopathic physicians. RVUCOM graduates will no doubt change the way the typical Colorado healthcare consumer views physicians, especially in the rural and underserved areas of our state. I have also been given the *extraordinary privilege* of serving as a bridge builder between CSOM, the Colorado Legislature, and other Colorado physician and healthcare organizations, to ensure that osteopathic medicine is sitting at the table when important medical decisions are being made that affect Colorado and its citizens.

Sometimes, I can't imagine why I have been offered so many uncommon opportunities during my career with the osteopathic profession. However, throughout all those years, it has never really seemed like work—it has always been an *extraordinary privilege*.

Terry Boucher, M.P.H.  
Executive Director  
Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine



**From the Board of Trustees**

The Rocky Vista University inaugural class of 2012 is a unique and special group—each individual fulfilling his or her dream in a different way. This class has been inspirational in a leadership role as well as helping to pioneer a new and innovative medical school and curriculum. The students are all making history as the inaugural class at RVUCOM and that is both a privilege and a responsibility. Student leaders elevate the individuals around them on the way to the top.

Students—take this special opportunity to develop into the leaders of the future as well as leaders at RVUCOM. I can't thank you enough for your belief in us, and you can be assured, we believe in you as the leaders of the future in medicine.

Ian R. Levenson, D.O., FACFP  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**Update**

**Admissions**

By Julie Rosenthal  
Director of Admissions

**RVUCOM welcomed its** inaugural class on August 4, 2008. The class consists of 160 students (80 males and 80 females) originating from 37 states (nearly 40% from Colorado). The mean science and cumulative GPA is 3.4, with a 25 MCAT. The class boasts 36 students who earned a masters degree, 1 J.D. and 1 Ph.D.

Recruitment for the class matriculating in August 2009 is off to a good start. To date there are over 2500 AACOMAS designations for RVUCOM (an increase of over 73% this time last year) with nearly 200 applicants already interviewed and 127 offers of acceptance extended.

The Office of Admissions hosted an open house on November 19 that was attended by approximately 75 people. Staff members have been visiting with pre-health advisors and student organizations in Colorado and contiguous states in an effort to increase awareness of RVUCOM.

Clinical

UPDATE

By Matthew Harrison, D.O.  
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine

**Student Shadowing Program a Positive Experience for Students and Preceptors**

RVUCOM's student shadowing program was a success for the first semester. We had approximately 60 primary-care physicians participate by accepting students into their respective clinical settings and allowing them to observe their practices. In addition, the emergency departments at Skyridge, Presbyterian St. Lukes, Centennial, and Memorial Hospital System participated and sponsored students with various physicians.

Overwhelmingly, the students described their shadowing days as exciting and extremely helpful in keeping them focused as they progress through the classroom work on campus.

The preceptors have also been excited about having the students visit their offices. They feel it brings a "breath of fresh air"

to their practice. A number of the preceptors have said they want to make sure they are included next semester and want to be a part of RVU's shadowing program.

The faculty at RVU are thrilled to be working with such a diverse number of doctors and will continue to add to our program. RVU is actively looking for more willing preceptors to allow students the opportunity to shadow them and act as a mentor to our students. If you or someone you know is interested to have students shadow Friday afternoons for the first-year students, and Wednesday afternoons for our second-year students (starting Fall 2009), please email Dr. Matthew Harrison at mharrison@rockyvistauniversity.org.

RVU would like to thank all of the preceptors for a successful semester of shadowing!

LIBRARY Update

The Colorado Council of Medical Librarians convened at Rocky Vista University on November 12th for business, networking, and a tour of RVU and its health sciences library, the newest in Colorado. Members enjoyed a special presentation on forensic medicine by Dr. Stephen Puttoff, Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences, and many commented on the quality and progress of the library and institution.

Dr. Frank Ritche Ames, Director of Library Services and Professor at RVU, recently presented a paper in Boston entitled, *Forced Migration and Israelite Families: Ancient and Modern Patterns*, and attended a reception for authors and editors. He is co-editor of the new SBL/Brill publication, *Writing and Reading War: Rhetoric, Gender, and Ethics in Biblical and Modern Contexts*.

Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Loretta F. Graham-Frees, Ph.D., M.A.**, is Chair of the Department of Human Performance and Evaluation and Associate Professor of Family Medicine.



The Human Performance and Evaluation Division of RVUCOM manages the Standardized Patient and Simulation Program, the testing center, Research and Development and Faculty Development programs.

This unit is responsible for hiring approximately fifty standardized patients whose primary objective is to provide students with "hands-on practice" in a safe environment.

They manage the manikin simulators: two adults and one infant to further students exposure to various health conditions.

The testing center is also housed in the unit and its function is to make sure exam questions are reviewed for reliability. They also manage the Educational

Management Solutions which records student performance in their clinical exams for later review.

Dr. Graham has submitted a grant to ASPE to use standardized patients to educate students and community volunteers about teen suicide prevention.

Dr. Graham has spent the last 30+ years in higher education in many different venues. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from The Ohio Northern University, her M.A. in Computer Based Education and her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and Statistics from The University of Akron in Ohio. For the past 16 years she has been in medical education working with standardized patients, faculty development and curriculum development and assessment. She has been instrumental in designing and developing clinical simulation programs at three medical institutions. Schools in which she has taught previously include The University of Akron, Northeastern



Dr. Graham with standardized patients.

Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition she was employed by the National Board of Medical Examiners in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as a Standardized Patient Trainer and Psychometric Technician. Currently Dr. Graham is serving on the Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. She is a member of the Association of Standardized Patient Educators and served a term as Member-at-Large of this organization. Her most recent accomplishment was as a co-presenter with Dean Ronnie B. Martin at the Association for Behavioral Science in Medical Education at Copper Mountain, Colorado in October of 2008.



## Events **RVU Students Do More than Just Study**

The life of a medical student is very busy, and it's easy to think that all they do is study, but extracurriculars can certainly enhance their education—especially when those activities directly relate to medical education. A large number of RVU students have taken this to heart, and have already created many valuable and fun activities for the RVU community and the outside community.

As the students get themselves settled into their roles, the upcoming semester promises to be much busier yet...not to mention all of the activities we can expect once the next class arrives! All in all, RVU has quickly become a very lively place and no doubt will continue to grow as both a community—a place where students can learn to be great physicians and great leaders.

*Zea Moullet, Director of Student Services*

Here is just a sampling of the major events from this first semester (in addition to numerous "Dress Down Days," speakers, fund-raisers, and other club business):

### August/September

- Club Fair
- Student Advocates Association Italian Dinner

### October

- Student Advocates Association Pizza & Board Game Night
- ACOP Pumpkin Patch
- RVU Halloween Potluck

### November

- Student Advocates Association Craft Fair
- CMDA Outreach to "Sox Place"

### December

- SGA/RVU Talent Show
- AMOPS Symposium on Military Medicine



The first Annual RVU Arts and Crafts Show/Fundraiser included local artisans. A percentage of proceeds benefitted RVUCOM's chapter of Student Advocates Association (SAA)—organized for the significant others and families of the students and chartered by the Advocates to the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA). SAA's primary objective is to further the goals of the College and the osteopathic profession and to promote fellowship, goodwill, and unity within the school.



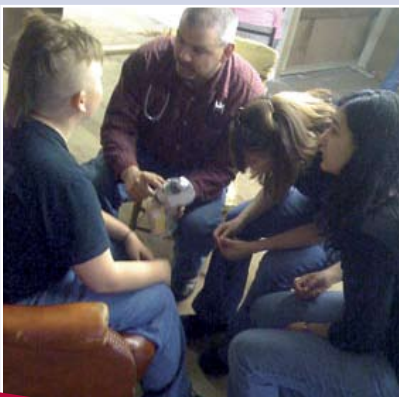
Students, faculty and staff celebrate Halloween with a costume contest and bountiful potluck.



Members of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians (ACOP) organized a holiday toy drive and delivered gifts to children at The Children's Hospital in Denver.



RVU's first Talent Show showcased incredible artistic merit and creativity by students, faculty and staff.



"Soxplace" was visited by over 100 men, women and children who received socks and other clothing, a full Thanksgiving meal, and for those who desired it, a physical from RVU student volunteers who partnered with Dr. Matthew Harrison, Dr. Kenneth Parsons and Dr. Matthew Lewis.



Spearheaded by the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, a Military Medicine Symposium highlighted technological advances, challenges and rewards facing today's military medical teams. The event was also a fundraiser on behalf of the Fisher House Foundation which helps military families. Presenters included Dr. Andy Baldwin, Lieutenant from the U.S. Navy, also known for his TV appearance on ABC's reality show *The Bachelor*.