



Rosthern Junior College

CONNECT

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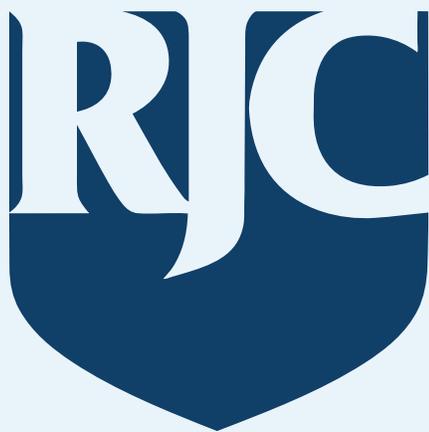
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RJC Connect is published as a joint effort between Rosthern Junior College students, staff and alumni. This semi-annual publication celebrates our past, our present and our future, as together we shape the ongoing RJC story.

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We invite alumni to submit items of interest: births, deaths, marriages and other exciting events and transitions. Pictures will also be considered.

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PRICIPAL'S MESSAGE: NURTURING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Building community and nurturing healthy relationships is a responsibility we all share, and it's core to what we do at RJC. This is why we seek continued dialogue with students, parents, alumni, supporters, churches and other partner organizations. Just as a cord of many strands is not easily broken, a vibrant community network makes us all stronger.

I was excited to partner with Mennonite Central Committee at our Global Songs and Sweets event in February. The fundraiser featured some great singing, stories and Syrian sweets; but, more importantly the event was an expression of a valuable partnership between two organizations. It was a way to express how much we mean to one another, affirming our mutual appreciation and shared mission. It was about celebrating, and continuing to work on, a healthy relationship.

I had a similar feeling at our Choirs and Cakes event in March where we honoured the legacy of Russ Regier and his A Buncha Guys choir. The guys were a regular fixture at our annual Guys and Pies fundraising event for many years. The guys' relationship with Russ, with one another, and with RJC prompted them to give back to the school community where many of them developed their musical talents as young men. Their songs (and substantial bids on our cakes!) over the years helped support the school's music program for others. Now their legacy lives on in a new event, Choirs and Cakes.

RJC also recently opened its doors to the greater community as we hosted the Rosthern Ministerial's Ash Wednesday

service. Students and guests gathered to observe the beginning of Lent together. Different faith traditions were respected, and all were invited to share in the rituals together. Respecting one another, and our differences, is part of building healthy relationships. And focusing on what we can do together helps us build bridges in our community.

We are also challenged to look beyond the boundaries of our own communities. To this end, students are busy raising money for partner organizations as they prepare for their upcoming Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities (ALSO) week in May. It is an honour to work alongside organizations like The Gleaners in BC, ANADESA in Guatemala, MCC Ontario in Toronto, The Mustard Seed in Calgary, and closer to home Shekinah & Youth Farm Bible Camp. Working with partners gives our students a global perspective and shows them that we can work together with others for the greater good. It is in this spirit that our alumni featured in this issue, Garry Koop and Krista Dueck, have ventured into the world. I trust that you will be uplifted by their stories.

It is encouraging to know that we are not alone. RJC is fortunate to have many people, communities, organizations, alumni and friends who support our school in a variety of ways. Nurturing these healthy relationships is core to our strength as a school. Thank you for partnering with us. I hope this issue of the CONNECT strengthens your desire to connect, or reconnect, with the school as we continue to develop our relationship even further.

- Ryan Wood

SCHOOL NEWS

STAFF TRANSITIONS



Due to some visa challenges, RJC's admissions officer Crystal Lau was unable to continue her work in Canada and returned home to Hong Kong in the new year. RJC is pleased to announce Alex Tiessen as our new director of admissions and communications. Alex previously lived in Winnipeg and worked at CMU in recruitment and admissions. We are excited to welcome Alex to the RJC team and we wish Crystal all the best as she pursues new opportunities in Hong Kong.



Karalee Kuny, teacher and vice-principal of academics, began a maternity leave in March. To fill this void RJC hired alumnus Hillary Fast in a temporary full-time teaching position. Hillary is a recent grad of the University of Saskatchewan; we are looking forward to the youthful energy she will bring to our teaching staff. We hope and pray for a wonderful maternity leave for Karalee, Andrew and their new baby.

GRADE 10 IMAGINE PROGRAM



"I don't think that I had ever considered what life looked like from their point of view." This comment was shared in a reflective conversation

following a human library activity in Saskatoon. It highlighted the paradigm-shifting potential of RJC's grade 10 IMAGINE program.

During the human library students were invited to participate in conversations with people from a variety of perspectives on the theme of justice and injustice. They talked with a member of the Saskatoon Police, prison support workers, restorative justice coordinators and a currently incarcerated individual. After several hours of sharing, students gathered to identify themes of learning from the day.

The depth of student insight was overwhelming. It was clear that each member of the class was able to critically engage with complex stories. Further, students repeatedly affirmed the dignity and worth of those around them. They recognized the fundamental value of their neighbour.

Is there a more essential act of peacebuilding than to identify others as being the children of God? These experiences help students see the world anew and respond to it with empathy and compassion; this is the practice of peace in action.

GRADE 11 THRIVE PROGRAM



A central focus of RJC's grade 11 THRIVE program is helping students develop healthy relationships with themselves, others, God and all creation. In February students spent time considering the importance of public spaces as they explored the Remai Modern art gallery, the Meewasin Skating Rink and the farmers' market. Students contemplated the idea of the public good and how we share resources, land and space with others.

Grade 11 THRIVE students also recently visited the Youth Farm Bible Camp and participated in the equine assisted learning program. In this program the horses are the teachers, helping participants to develop and improve important life skills including leadership and initiative, teamwork, communication and working relationships.



GRADE 12 EXPLORE PROGRAM



This year our Grade 12 EXPLORE program brought guests to our campus and took students to Big River for our class retreat. Combining Christian ethics with English language arts and history, we examined some of our Canadian leaders past and

present. We also looked at the history of important natural and constructed landscapes from Shekinah to Saskatoon.

Students began to consider what their futures hold and how their unique gifts can be used for service in God's kingdom. Representatives from several universities had the opportunity to talk to students about post-secondary options and their many possible paths to success.

MUSIC PROGRAM



This year's Christmas concert at Knox United Church featured the RJC Singers, RJC Women's Choir, Concert Choir and special guests Sonrisa. Then the Christmas concert hosted at the school rounded out a busy 2018 for the choir program.

In the new year, the RJC Ensemble touring choir was formed and has performed at many events and churches. Man Choir also began, performed at Choirs and Cakes and was featured during our spring concert. The RJC Ensemble completed its Alberta tour with stops in Pincher Creek, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. We value the connections to our churches and supporters we make during these visits.

Concert Choir has just finished their performances at the Sask Valley Music Festival, where they performed well and received positive feedback and results.

GLOBAL SONGS AND SWEETS

RJC partnered with Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan for a community concert accompanied by Syrian sweets at Grace Westminster Church in Saskatoon. A large community choir sang together with our RJC choir, but the highlight of the afternoon for many was the Alsheikh siblings (Zina, Janna and Abdul) singing a few Syrian songs. We hope to make this an annual event!

CHOIRS AND CAKES

From its humble beginning in the rehearsal hall to last year's full gym, the A Buncha Guys choir made Guys and Pies a success for our ears, stomachs and for RJC. With the end of A Buncha Guys a void was created at the event. Lyn Driedger-Enns filled that void and our gym with a choir featuring 60 singers of all ages. Many delicious sweets were eaten and stunningly beautiful cakes were auctioned off. There were both tears and applause for A Buncha Guys members, Val Regier and the tribute to Russ Regier's legacy.

ATHLETICS

HOCKEY



RJC students joined the Rosthern midget hockey team and played in the Sask Valley Minor Hockey League. We had five students from RJC play important roles on the team. Overall the midgets had a very enjoyable year, we scored a bunch

of goals and won some games. Many RJC students also enjoyed watching the games! By the end of the year we were a very tough team to play against and every game was evenly matched. We played a tightly contested first round of playoffs but unfortunately were unable to advance. Overall the boys enjoyed themselves, improved tremendously and had a great season.

CURLING

As always, our curling team saw some experienced curlers hone their skills alongside many new curlers learning to keep their feet under them. We brought four teams to districts in Dalmeny – the strongest representation from any school! At the end of the day, we were able to send our senior mixed team to regionals where they showcased their tenacity by playing 25 ends in one day. Congratulations to all of our curlers for a fun season, and special thanks to David VanLeeuwen for coaching.



BOYS BASKETBALL

The RJC boys basketball team had a successful season this year. The mostly veteran group of players was shorter in stature than almost all of the teams we faced, but was large in terms of energy, skill and teamwork. The team tested its metal against a wide variety of opponents and ended with a winning record for the season. Highlights included winning the Rosthern High School tournament, a second place finish in St. Mary's tournament and winning our conference tournament. The dream of provincial Hoopla playoffs did end at regionals with a loss to a very strong Birch Hills team, but the boys won their final game of the season and

finished in the top 10 in the province in our category. Well done guys!

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The RJC girls basketball team had a very successful season this year. We competed in six tournaments and had an impressive win-loss record. We hosted conference playoffs at RJC and finished first. The following weekend we played in the regional playoffs; we won our first game to secure a spot in the finals. The girls played tough against the home team and finished second at the tournament. The team learned a lot and improved on their individual and team skills throughout the season.

With the winter sports season behind us we are now focusing on badminton along with track and field.



SPRING MUSICAL: JOSEPH AND THE TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Parts have been assigned, rehearsals have started and excitement is growing for the year end musical. This is one of RJC's biggest events and the entire school is involved in many ways. More than 30 students have committed to being on stage, and there will be opportunity for more to join later as they see the momentum building. Students are also involved in stage building, painting, makeup, tech crew, stage crew, costumes and much more. There truly is enough to do for all students to

contribute in some way.

There will be three showings; Thursday, June 20 (youth night), Friday June 21 and Saturday June 22. Tickets are on sale now!

FAITH AND LIFE

The RJC Faith and Life committee works to practice hospitality and gratitude. This is guided by a desire to put faith into action and consider the needs of others.

We recently hosted an ecumenical Ash Wednesday service in partnership with the Rosthern Ministerial. Local congregations in the Rosthern area were invited and 140 people attended. This event, with participation from students, faith-leaders and choirs, created space for different Christian expressions and encouraged dialogue and reflection. Given RJC's diverse student body, this event affirmed the value of the faith traditions and communities of all students.

RJC students are also participating in the annual faith and life fundraiser. This year, the committee organized Lentopoly, a game that promotes giving and gratitude. Money raised must be tied to an action, such as selling baked goods or shovelling driveways, and is given to Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities partners in Canada and Guatemala. This fundraiser is part of a decade-long tradition that has raised over \$50,000.

COMMUNITY AND DORM LIFE

SADIE HAWKINS 2019

Oh Canada! The annual Sam and Sadie Hawkins event is part of our BELONG community program. This March our girls' student community council put together a Canadian themed evening of fun. We started off with the national anthem then enjoyed a delicious gourmet poutine bar dinner complete with pulled pork, chili and mini perogies. After dinner the students headed out for an evening of tubing at Optimist Hill

in Saskatoon. It was a warm and clear evening filled with many laughs and lots of tube races. The night was topped off with Tim Hortons' hot chocolate.



DORM COMMUNITY

The RJC dorm has been filled with cabin fever in this cold weather. But as the winter breaks a renewed sense of joy has filled in the air. Winter sports seasons have wrapped up and new ones are starting, the year-end musical has begun and ALSO trips are on the horizon. With only two months left the students are making the best of what time they have left of this year. Night-lunch has been busy with students, and after school and in the evening there is a buzz in the dorms. We are very much looking forward to riding through the rest of the year on our renewed springtime energy!

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES WEEK (ALSO WEEK)

RJC's mission to prepare leaders in faith, service and peacemaking is grounded in the belief that God is active in the world. We see God's dynamic intervention through the valued partners across Canada and the world, working to be Christ's hands and feet in their local contexts. Our Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities (ALSO) program provides students a chance to meet God

in action through these partners.

This year, RJC students will participate in ALSO experiences with long-time partners in Calgary, Saskatoon, the Okanagan and Guatemala. Students will engage with chronic homelessness,

food insecurity, Indigenous rights and the pursuit of reconciliation and justice. We are also excited about the inaugural ALSO Toronto trip. Students will stay downtown and, guided by MCC Ontario, learn about the urban challenges in Canada's largest city.

In each of these experiences, students will be invited to participate in God's ongoing work of redemption and transformation around the world. This is the start of claiming a discipleship identity with a commitment to faith, service and peacemaking.

ALUMNI & DONOR REPORT



By Karl Martens

It has been just over a year since I took the position of director of donor development and alumni relations. If you ask me what I think about RJC now, two thoughts come to mind immediately:

1. RJC's friends, supporters and alumni are incredibly supportive of the school. People are so willing to volunteer, sing in choirs, attend events, and yes, provide financially. Our events for the wider community are always a highlight.
2. RJC's history is a significant and living part of our school. At the decade grad reunions and every time I'm on the road with RJC I meet proud graduates of every age. Their stories and experiences fuel our future. This year's incoming class will be our 115th class. We are starting to get our plans together to celebrate RJC's 115th year and will have lots to share over the coming months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Springtime is a very busy time for this office and for RJC. We're on the road with the RJC Ensemble and for recruitment and alumni events. I love visiting our partner churches and wish we could get to more of them in a year. Our golf

tournament is around the corner and all the events of the musical and grad weekend are rapidly approaching.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising for RJC is my priority at all times of the year. When I share with other development officers at other organizations, everyone is blown away that we have a huge network of small and medium donors without a single anchor donor that many other organizations would rely on. That speaks to our huge strength in a large community of supporters, but also shows that we may need to explore the idea of working with large donors and naming rights in the future.

Please consider supporting RJC through a gift made in a will. Often there can be considerable tax savings to an estate. Please talk to me if you have questions.

115 CAMPAIGN

We are beginning to roll out our RJC 115 campaign to celebrate our 115th year. We continue to look forward into the future by looking at our past. As part of the campaign we want to hear your stories of RJC and share them with the community. We are also encouraging donors to commit to ongoing monthly giving as both a show of support as well as a

way for us to receive financial support throughout the whole year.

DO MORE BE MORE

As you likely know, our Do More Be More capital campaign has been underway for a few years. We have completed phase one of the project and are proud of the new classrooms and the other upgrades. Likely classmates of yours have called you to join in on the peer-to-peer monthly giving plan to fund the next phases of this capital campaign.

BURSARY

In spring we put a major focus on refilling our bursary funds so that we can continue to offer the RJC experience to as many students as possible. A bursary for a Saskatchewan student is a chance to multiply your giving because your gift can be matched with government funding.

I love that I've gotten to know so many of you over the past year. I love hearing stories of your time at RJC, with our RJC 115 Campaign I would love for you to send me a (short) story, anecdote or highlight that you would allow me to share with the community. I'm always available for a coffee, a phone call or a visit.

DO MORE. BE MORE. DONOR RECOGNITION

Thank you so much to our Do More Be More supporters! Our thank you wall, reflecting these names, will be revealed shortly on campus. It is designed so that it can be updated on a periodic basis. If you wish to see your name on this list, or in a higher category, there is still time. Please contact Karl Martens to learn more. alumni@rosthernjuniorcollege.ca.

TREE DONORS \$50,000 OR MORE

Gerry & Linda Swab
1972 Provincial Champions Football
Team: Don Enns, Elmer Enns, Gerhard
Luitjens, Ron Regehr, Russ Regier, Brian
Roth, and Doyle Wiebe

TREE ROOT DONORS \$10,000 TO \$49,999

Estate of Bernice Regier
Diane & Peter Hooge
Jonathan & Ruth Friesen
Tammy & Cam Forrester
Don & Elviera Enns
Brian & Delilah Roth
Sam & Martha Wendland
Ryan & Dana Wood
Jim Flath & Annette Epp
Frank & Irma Gerbrandt
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency
(in memory of Lindsay Enns)
Lois & Paul Tiessen
Alma Ruth Enns

TREE TRUNK DONORS \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Nicole Tiessen
Vic & Lee Krahn (donation of trees)
Aaron & Kara Krahn (donation of trees)
Kevin & Melanie Boldt
Ralph & Rita Dahl
Gordon Peters & Geraldine Balzer
Robert & Marion Regier
Edward & Judi Bergen
Edmund Enns & Mary Dyck
Darryl & Val Epp
John & Katie Penner
Victor & Mary Reimer
Barb (Funk) Stefaniuk (Memorial
Donations)
Eldrid & Phyllis Roth
SRC of 2014-2015

BRANCH DONORS \$1,000 TO \$4,999

Roger Epp & Rhonda Harder Epp
Charles & Leila Olfert
David & Lori Weiler-Thiessen

Donna Baergen
Trevor Wiens & Brenda Tiessen-Wiens
Ed & Mary Ellen Brockman
Gary & Anne Friesen
Keith & Michelle Hunsberger
Melana Janzen
Ben & Marlie Leis
Eric & Bonnie Paetkau
Neil Regier & Pauline Steinmann
Menno & Melita Penner
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Sterling Rempel
Dave & Marlene Froese
Jake & Verdell Andres
Elaine Janzen
Ted & Bev Janzen
Jenny Kerber
Aldred & Erna Neufeldt
Ray & Helen Fast
Emily Hooge
Lauren Hooge
Grant & Angela Martens
Sharon (Martens) Trautman
Robyn Skinner (in memory of Ernie
Baergen)
John & Kathy Ayres
Gerald & Lorraine Enns
Larry & Denise Epp
Michael & Wendy Epp
Hertha Friesen (in memory of A.
Erwin Friesen)
Brian & Dianne Hildebrandt
William & Helen Kruger
Lyle Dueck - Westwerk Interiors
Darren & Krista Martens
Gaylord & Lois Mierau
Verner & Elvira Unrau
Laurie & Rod Wiens
Hague Agencies Ltd.
Joan Schapansky

LEAF DONORS \$100 TO \$999

Leslie & Lillian Regier
Ruth Heinrichs
Archie & Helen Epp
Jim & Eileen Ewert
Penny Isaak
Harold & Tobi Thiessen

Ronald Unger
Lee & Sarah Warkentin
Grads of 1966
Roy Eichendorf
Gerald Fast
Brad & Jana Lepp
John & Catherine McPhail
Nathan Enns-Kavanaugh
Ron & Denise Dick
Daniel & Alina Balzerson
Jake & Louise Buhler
Jean Enns
Ron & Lavonne Derksen
Rosalind Epp
Colleen Hebert
Gabrielle Lizotte
Eric & Doris Quiring
Kathy Ring
Bernie & Marie Wiebe
Doreen Janzen
Ingrid Thiessen
Henry Fast
Nic & Breanne Fast
Mabel Blocka (in memory of Taras Blocka)
Wilma Dyck
Ken & Carol Isaak
Ed Kauffman
Helen Letkeman
Cornelius & Marlene Martens
Karen Mierau
Angela (Roth) Neal
Shelby Neal
Logan Neal
Shyloh Neal
Glenn Patkau
Daniel Roth
Tyler Roth
Adam Roth
Bennett Roth
Gavin Roth
Ryker Roth
Ernie Toews
Ivan & Margaret Unger
Vern Warkentin
James & Sharon Brown

*Donations current as of April 1, 2019
Thank you to our many anonymous
donors!*

ALUMNI NEWS



TOURNAMENT OF MEMORIES A FAVOURITE EVENT

By Kyle Fraser

This year I played in my 14th Tournament of Memories, the annual Rosthern Junior College alumni basketball tournament. My team, which now includes alumni from 2004-2009, has had a lot of success over the past few years. First there were the 60's Celtics, then the 80's Lakers, and no one can forget the 90's Bulls—think of the 2004-2009 RJC alumni team as the next great team in this lineage. But of course this tournament isn't about buzzer-beating threes, incredible highlights or sustained dominance. This tournament is about... kudos to whoever named this thing... the memories.

My first year playing was in 2004 as a student. The tournament meant little more to me than an extra set of games to help our team develop during the basketball season. Over a decade later it means a lot more to me now. I had my first child in May, between members of our team we now have seven little ones (with an eighth on the way). Coming to the tournament is great chance to see familiar faces. It's a great venue for catching up, seeing how much the kids have grown and asking about family over a bowl of borscht in the mess hall.

It's also the only time of the year I physically visit the school. Walking the

hallways stirs up many great memories from years back and it's also quite exciting to see what changes are on the horizon. This year, there were pictures of the new dorm rooms on display outside of the gymnasium and they looked fantastic! It's great to maintain that connection with the past, I had a lot of amazing times when I was a student, while also seeing the school evolve for future generations.

Fret not, our 2004-2009 RJC juggernaut will be back next year to dazzle the dozens of fans on the way to another championship run. But we'd like everyone to know that during timeouts we aren't discussing the merits of playing zone vs. man defence, or making complex in game adjustments... we are watching our kids in the bleachers



and joking about old times! For this is indeed the Tournament of Memories. Thank you to everyone who organizes and participates in one of my favourite events of the year!

ALUMNI REUNIONS

If your grad year ends in a nine, you've got a reunion this summer. This year's grad reps are already hard at work planning the weekends festivities. To find out what your class is up to or to get involved you can contact your class rep.

10 year: Cara (Warkentin) Epp—cara.m.epp@gmail.com

20 year: Marla (Balzer) Janzen —marlajanzen81@gmail.com

30 year: Charlene Krahn — ckrahn@sasktel.net

40 year: Denelda (Penner) Fast — deneldafast@hotmail.com, Grant Unrau, Don Epp, Debbie Regehr

50 year: Carrie McDonald — carrie.mcdonald@sasktel.net, Glenis Koop—gleniskoop@hotmail.ca, Harry Harder, MaryJean Nicholson, Roy Eichendorf, Greg Ewert, Ronn Janzen, Eldrid Roth

60 year: Margaret (Epp) Balzer — m.balzer@explornet.com

65 year: Elmer Janzen - elmerjanzen@gmail.com

CONNECT INTERVIEWS



A PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO SHINE



Krista Dueck (2009) always knew she was going to RJC. Her parents met there, and someone from every generation of her family has attended all the way back to founder David Toews. She remembers when Chorale came to her congregation, Trinity Mennonite Church in Calgary. They asked people to stand if they had attended or were going to attend RJC, and at around eight years old she stood. All her life “It sounded like an incredible place where great memories were made and I wanted to be a part of that,” she says.

Of course once she arrived and her parents were about to leave, the reality of studying away from home became a lot scarier. Krista remembers someone telling her if students could make it to Thanksgiving they would be okay: she stuck it out and found RJC a

transformative place.

Krista enjoyed the small, connected community at RJC. The high school she left behind in Calgary had more students than the entire population of Rosthern. She says, “You’re just kind of lost in the crowd of people, quite literally, and you’re a number and you don’t have the one on one relationship with really any staff member and even sometimes your co-students.” But at RJC she quickly got to know everyone and found the teachers and staff were invested in her success. She played soccer and did track (teams she never would have made in the bigger school) and participated in the musicals and choirs.

She also found the school nurtured passions she didn’t know she had. In both grade 11 and 12 the Alternative Learning and Service Opportunities week introduced her to service work. In grade 11 she travelled to Mississippi to work with MDS. The next year she went to Guatemala working with and visiting Mennonite Central Committee projects, the first step in her journey with MCC where she works today.

Those experiences and Krista’s time at RJC made her into the person she is today. Giving her confidence and providing the opportunity to cultivate an interest in international work. “I do know that at RJC is really when I developed into who I am,” she says. “I can fully attribute that to the community and allowing each individual to shine.” After graduation

she went on to an honours degree in international studies at the University of Saskatchewan. She also participated in another learning and service trip with MCC to Kenya, visiting local programs and helping to build a sand dam.

Until recently Krista’s main work was competitive horse show jumping. But last May she sold her horse, shifted gears and found herself working at MCC as the office and program administrator. She provides support for the whole office including the local programs of Indigenous neighbours, migration and resettlement and community engagement. “I just believe so much in MCC and since I’ve been able to see their projects abroad and locally I have a lot of faith in them and what they do and the fact that they’re this Christ centred organization,” she says. “This is what I wanted to be a part of, this community and this work.”

Krista was familiar with MCC for her whole life, but her time at RJC helped



develop her interest in service that lead her to working with the organization. “[RJC] is where I gained the confidence to be who I am,” she says. “[I could] just really explore those things that I didn’t realize I was passionate about until I was surrounded by people and place that really cultivated that.”

IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

Garry Koop serves with MDS in Puerto Rico

Garry Koop (1968) likes to end his emails with a quote, “In the sight of God.” While that phrase can be meaningful in many situations, it also represents how Garry feels about the two trips he’s made to Puerto Rico with Mennonite Disaster Service.



After Hurricane Maria severely damaged the island in September 2017, Garry wanted to help. He’s retired so he has the time, and as a former farmer has some skills he thought could be useful. But when he was planning to go he also knew that MDS was looking for bricklayers. Wanting to be as helpful as possible, he called up a mason in Saskatoon and asked if they would be open to teaching him. “I just wanted to go to their office and learn how to lay bricks,” Garry says, “And the guy says to me well instead of doing that why don’t I just go with you.” Then a week later that mason called his brother, also a bricklayer, and the two professionals went on the trip along with Garry and two other RJC grads

Armin Krahn (1961) and Arnold Harder (1968). “God sort of had His finger in this,” Garry says of how the group came together.

That group helped lay bricks for a church that had been damaged in the storm. When he returned for his second MDS trip in March of this year, Garry was able to go back and see the finished building. In fact the church was dedicated the day before he arrived. “It was just fantastic to see a finished church compared to the cinder block walls when we left [last year],” he says.

This year’s trip was special in a different way: Garry went with his three daughters, Trisha (Koop) German (1994), Andrea Koop Rocheleau (1996) and Shelly Koop (2003). Garry had already decided he was going with MDS again and was looking for others to participate when all three women decided to come along. “I was very proud of them. For them to take time off from their busy work schedules, their families,” he says. This year the group worked to rebuild the damaged roof of the home for an elderly couple. The homeowners got to know the MDS group while they worked, and they cooked meals for the seven volunteers every day. They couple appreciated the help since they were not able to do the roof repair themselves, Garry remembers them saying, “It was through God that this was able to done.”



Volunteer work like this is important to Garry for two reasons. First is to provide hope and support to people in a difficult situation. The second is to give the volunteers the feeling that they’ve been able to contribute in some way. The benefits go both ways.

His first experience with a service trip was actually while working as a dean at RJC. Garry, his wife Glennis (1969) and several teachers went with 18 students to El Salvador to help build new homes. And Garry credits his student years at RJC for expanding his worldview and helping him think about the world more broadly. “[It was] probably the best two years of my life. RJC expanded my thinking, coming from a small, rural community, RJC lead me to become the person I am now,” he says.

Garry hopes to be able to continue giving back in the future, he plans to do another trip with MDS next year.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MUSICAL: JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

June 21 & 22 (\$20 adults, \$10 16 and under). See writeup on page 5. Youth showing June 20th. Contact RJC for more info.

ALUMNI BBQ

Saturday June 22 @ 5:30 pm
\$10 adults, \$8 ages 6-12, Free for children 5 and under
Contact Denelda Fast to reserve your seat 1-306-221-2846, deneldafast@hotmail.com

RJC GRADUATION EXERCISES

Sunday June 23, 2:30
RJC Gymnasium
Everyone welcome

2019 OPENING PROGRAM

Sunday Sept 15 at 2:30

RJC HOME SOCCER & VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

September 20-21

Rosthern Junior College performing arts presents 



lyrics by TIM RICE
music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

JOSEPH

and the amazing
TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

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ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL & SOCCER TOURNAMENT

October 4 & 5, 2019 (tentative)

HOMECOMING 2019 DINNER

Saturday October 26



HELP OUR STUDENTS DO MORE AND BE MORE

Your generous gifts are vital to the life and mission of RJC. Consider making a gift to nurture the potential of our students. Together, as a community, we can help our students do more and be more in their studies, their abilities and their future service to society. Thank you.

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CONNECT WITH US

We hope you enjoy this edition of our semi-annual newsletter that will keep you updated on student life, alumni happenings, school events and everything that makes the RJC community such a vibrant, exciting place.

If you'd like to suggest story ideas, please email us at office@rjc.sk.ca.

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