

SUMMER 2024

ROBERTS

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

...for the flourishing...

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the campus of Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary! What a beautiful place to enjoy the changing seasons. Every day, we learn more great things about the students, staff, faculty and our North Chili neighbors. What a blessing!

Western New York is a beautiful environment for growth. Thanks to rich soil, relatively temperate climate and plenty of rainfall, this area of the planet is agriculturally rich and produces more than we need to survive. Many local crops are exported around the world.

I love that the same is true for our “product” of higher education! Roberts alumni leave this campus and go out to work and serve fruitful lives in areas around the world. Our alumni are making an impact on their neighbors and places of work, and are changing the world.

I’m reminded of the imagery in Ezekiel 47: the river of fresh water flowing out of the temple to bring increased health, fruitfulness and flourishing to places that were dry, stagnant or even dead. The Bible has much to say about the water of life—as both a literal and metaphorical truth, and it is exciting to hear of our alumni, like James Harrington, who are living out that imagery in very real ways. What a great motivation to press forward in our mission!

Our strategic plan, Vision 2030, provides a framework for prioritizing our work, organizing our programs and making decisions about stewarding our resources. I am grateful for the many thoughtful and creative individuals who have contributed to its formation and who work daily to ensure the expressed outcomes become a sustainable reality for the future. We are moving ahead on all phase one initiatives, and we have added additional revenue initiatives related to our new program plan. This is how we are cultivating growth. These are the seedlings of renewed hope.



The hard work of organizational leadership is ensuring we have the organizational alignment along with a financial plan to support our campus and our strategic goals: A Flourishing Campus Culture, Organizational Alignment and Financial Sustainability. With Christ at the center of our work and our leadership, when that calling involves making changes, we can do that with hope and confidence. I am more optimistic than ever about the future of Roberts and Northeastern, because this community, this family, is brimming with talented believers, with creative ideas, and Christ IS our foundation. We eagerly look ahead to this next season of growth and graduating women and men of character who will carry the living water of Christ’s life and hope to whatever arena of work or profession they are called to serve.

Sincerely,
Rupert A. Hayles Jr., Ph.D.
President

NEW & RETURNING TRUSTEES

October 2023-2027



Justin J. Niebel '06



Dwight M. (Kip) Palmer '23

ROBERTS MAGAZINE

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GROWING TO LEAD

It was a remarkably different kind of morning on my usual drive down the 490 East/West corridor. I was struck by the digital billboard lit with the words: "Dear Valentine, Put Down Your Phone!"

I couldn't help but wonder: Is this the new proverbial manner of facilitating "self-awareness"? It doesn't have to be Valentine's Day to know that putting one's phone down while driving is a good and wise thing to do. The truth is, however we choose to view it, we are better people to practice "self-awareness." Could it be that how we get there (or not) is what really matters?

When considering that "self-awareness" involves our full engagement (spirit, soul and body), we can tap into the knowing that our emotional lives (emotional intelligence) can be impacted by our spiritual lives and vice versa. It rests that our God-given emotions are indeed a significant component in living an abundant life and we have been given everything we need to live a life pleasing to the author of those emotions. We are more effective in our call to servant-leadership in all sectors of society. Our community at Roberts Wesleyan University is enriched by our individual and corporate growth in emotional intelligence skills.

Mayer and Salovey, two psychologists who first defined emotional intelligence in 1990, stated that "emotional intelligence is the ability to monitor one's own and other's feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them, and to use this information to guide one's thinking and action." When coupled with the application of Holy Scripture 2 Peter 1:3-11, wherein we are invited as human beings into the very life and eternal promises of God, through our new identity in Jesus Christ, we can be graciously confident in the growth we engage with. We are being empowered, moment by moment, by the Spirit of God!

"Growing to lead from who we are wherever we are" is both a challenge and a charge to all of us. It's a challenge because growth involves recognizable



**First Lady
Maryann Hayles**

standards. As Christ's followers, and as a part of Education for Character, we may need to pause and ask ourselves if our behavior aligns with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)? It's a charge because we are influencers in our communities at large and the vessels God can use to bring about the transformation and change that the world so desperately needs.

Leadership grounded in self-awareness begins with me. It begins with you. It begins with us. In the words of John Wesley, the great theologian and founder of the Methodist movement: "Employ whatever God has entrusted you with, in doing good, all possible good, in every possible kind and degree...".

Towards this end and in coming alongside my husband, Dr. Rupert A. Hayles Jr., it is my honor and joy to engage our community and students from all walks of life in the transformational power of integrating emotional intelligence with our spiritual (the Holy Bible as our only reference) life practices, through small group dialogue and prayer.

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

The Rochester Business Journal's 2024 Women of Excellence awards recognize high-achieving women for their career accomplishments including professional experience, community involvement, leadership and sustained commitment to mentoring.

The honorees were selected by a panel of judges comprised of previous years' Circle of Excellence and Women of Excellence honorees and the Rochester Business Journal's editorial team.

Congratulations to the following alumni for being recognized as one of Rochester Business Journal's 2024 Women of Excellence honorees on May 14, 2024.



Cheryl Repass '85
Elementary Education
Roberts Wesleyan
University



Lucia Colindres-Vasquez '17
Health Administration, M.S.
Ibero-American Action League



Danielle Lyman-Torres '06, '07
Organizational Management
Strategic Leadership, M.S.
Bivona Child Advocacy Center



Sharon Marble '04
Management, M.S.
iCircle Services of the
Finger Lakes Inc.



Miriam Moore '11, '14
Organizational Management
Strategic Leadership, M.S.
Town of Brighton

SCHOOL OF NURSING TURNS 70

Seventy years ago, Roberts Wesleyan College founded its School of Nursing with a pioneering class of five students. Since 1954, hundreds of dedicated faculty members have educated over 3,245 nurses across traditional undergraduate, RN-BS, and graduate programs. This May, the university proudly graduated 24 exceptional Nursing students in the Traditional Undergraduate Nursing Program, 13 RN-BS students, and 10 Masters and Post-Masters students, continuing the school's legacy of excellence.

"This milestone is a time to reflect on the profound impact the School of Nursing has had on the healthcare profession over the past seven decades," said Dean of the School of Nursing Annemarie Dowling-Castonovo. "A Roberts' nurse embodies the values of compassionate care, clinical expertise, and a commitment to their patients in the community.

Many leaders have shaped this program over the years with their steadfast dedication and tireless efforts. A few notable leaders are:



Cheryl Crotser held many positions in the School of Nursing since joining Roberts in 2007 and was the Dean and Graduate Program Director of the School of Nursing from 2015 to 2023. Cheryl was part of the Crothers Science and Nursing Center's new building planning and launch in 2015. She said, "Our simulation labs are equipped with lifelike patient simulators, as well as hospital and office equipment, to give students real-life experiences in a safe learning environment." She was also instrumental in launching the Family Nurse Practitioner M.S. program in 2022. This program has helped address the growing demand for nurse practitioners and to meet the healthcare needs of our community and beyond. In 2019 she received the Barbara S. Muller Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.



Margaret Rambo served as a professor and then the Dean of Nursing from 1945 to 1955. She was instrumental in preparing the program for registration with New York State in the mid-1950s.



Dorothy McEwen Whittingham '44, chaired the Division of Nursing for more than 32 years. She was a dedicated leader who encouraged and inspired countless students to pursue careers in nursing and nursing education. She was recognized in 1986 as the Alumna of the Year.



Susanne Mohnkern '77 (Nursing) held several leadership positions from 1982 to 2024, including Director of Traditional Undergraduate Nursing, Chairperson of the Division of Nursing during which time the graduate programs were started, and most recently, Interim Dean of the School of Nursing. She received the Barbara S. Muller Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence in 1986 and 1992.

Current Nursing Students Reflect on Their Experiences



"My Roberts education has done so much for me through learning beyond just academics. I have learned about a servant's heart and my academic and personal experiences at Roberts have expanded my concept of empathy."

- **Chloe Shaffer '25 (Nursing)**



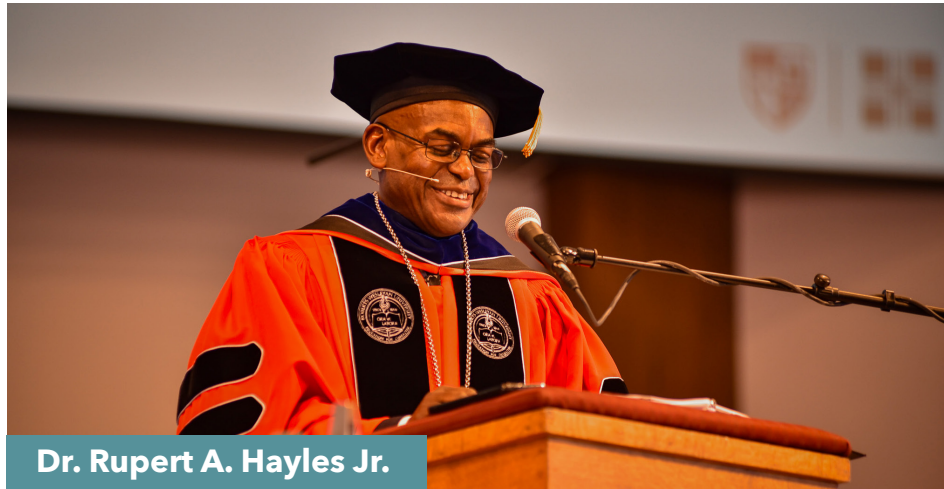
"My favorite part of studying Nursing at Roberts is the community and family you make within your class."

"My advice to a high school student considering Roberts is to look at Roberts for all that it is. It's a small college with tons of personality!"

- **Emily Mergler '25 (Nursing)**

WELCOMING A NEW ERA OF LEADERSHIP THROUGH INTEGRITY AND CONSISTENCY

By Courtney O’Gorman



Dr. Rupert A. Hayles Jr.

On Friday, September 22, Dr. Rupert A. Hayles, Jr. stood before students, faculty, family members and many distinguished guests from around the country as the title of President of Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary was bestowed upon him. While addressing the congregation and community members gathered at Pearce Memorial Church to commemorate the historic occasion, Dr. Hayles summarized his outlook and vision for upholding the important history, missions and future legacy of the institutions with two words: integrity and consistency.

No two words are more fitting for an institution devoted to education for character and a new leader committed to furthering its mission, vision and promise, with the courage to meet the demands of an ever-evolving academic landscape.

“Our founders, B.T. and Ellen Roberts were consistent in action and demonstrated integrity of heart,” Dr. Hayles said in his inaugural address. “Our values of developing students built on a solid spiritual foundation will be at the core of our work. We will remain steadfast in our belief that education for character impacts the world and with all the changes, one certainty is that God is with us.”

A Proven Track Record of Success

Dr. Hayles’ commitment to the principles of integrity and consistency can be traced back to his unique experiences in the business and corporate worlds. Before transitioning to the private sector, he served as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force for six years, a role which he explains taught him discipline through his responsibilities in load planning and in-flight training.

After fostering his interest in emotional intelligence and earning master’s and doctorate degrees in business administration and organizational leadership from prominent universities, Dr. Hayles spent nearly three decades supporting organizations in the private and nonprofit sectors in the areas of strategic management, organizational development and advancement, and executive coaching. During that time, he worked with organizations such as Cytec Industries, Prudential Financial and Merck Pharmaceutical, among others, and authored two books: *Practical Strategy: Aligning Business and Information Technology* (2005) and *Emotional Intelligence and The Church*, (2010).

He earned his PhD in organizational leadership from Regent University in Virginia, specializing in leadership,

change management and emotional intelligence. He also holds an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science in management information systems and accounting from Seton Hall University.

Dr. Hayles fostered his calling to Christianity through community and engagement as chief operating officer of Christ Church in New Jersey, while co-founding a nonprofit called Organization and People Dynamics Inc., an organizational consultancy that focuses on emotional and leadership development with his wife, Maryann.

No stranger to higher education, Dr. Hayles spent the past five years at Pillar College, a private evangelical Christian institution in New Jersey, where he served in various roles, including chief operating officer, executive vice president and, most recently, president, before answering the call to become the 12th president of Roberts Wesleyan University and the 4th president of Northeastern Seminary, following a competitive nationwide search that concluded in June of 2023.

Board of Trustees Chair Terry Taber praised Dr. Hayles’ significant experiences in corporate roles, finance and higher education as well as his track record for driving academic, leadership and spiritual development for students through a faith-based education.

While introducing Dr. Hayles at the inauguration, Taber noted that all who served on the search committee were humbled and relieved to recognize the qualities they knew would serve him well as the next leader of the storied institutions.

“He quickly impressed the search committee with his broad range of experiences, capabilities, results and commitment to Christian higher education,” Taber said. “Dr. Hayles is a courageous leader who will advance

the missions of both Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary ... we look forward to working with him to strengthen and grow these thriving learning institutions for many years to come.”

Getting to Work

Since taking office in mid-July, Dr. Hayles has prioritized establishing connections and community among core constituencies, drawing on his expertise in leadership development and relationship building to engage in thoughtful conversations with students and faculty, local dignitaries, business partners, religious leaders and many others. He’s also been acquainting himself with the Greater Rochester community and all it has to offer, including its many sports teams—Dr. Hayles was invited to throw the first pitch at a Rochester Red Wings baseball game in August.

Dr. Hayles’ conversations with constituencies were critical to understanding each sector’s needs and realizing how the university can support those needs through intentional growth, strategic partnerships, practical course offerings and enhanced experiential opportunities, among other key areas.

During his inaugural address, Dr. Hayles thanked his predecessors in attendance—Dr. Deana L. Porterfield, Dr. John A. Martin and Dr. William C. Crothers—for paving the way and setting a strategic

foundation during their respective time at the helm, while pledging to lead with equal integrity and consistency to usher in a new era of continued success at the institution.

As president, Dr. Hayles will focus his tenure on carrying out the institutions’ Vision 2030 strategic plan, which honors the university’s deep roots in Christian faith and focuses on intellectual and spiritual maturity to position Roberts as New York’s leading university for character education. The strategic framework and positioning build on the university’s 158-year history and motto of Education for Character, and are representative of the university’s new strategic pillars: embracing its commitment to being anchored in Christian faith, offering customized educational pathways, commitment to the flourishing of people and communities, and graduating students who are ready to lead and influence the most profound issues of today.

“We will engage these challenges with a renewed focus on the capacity of God,” Dr. Hayles said. “I believe He will be with us throughout whatever challenges the education industry will present to us and with an engaged board and community as we have, supporting and coming alongside us, we are sure to overcome these challenges.”

In media interviews and conversations with the community, Dr. Hayles has said that “everything’s on the table” when it comes to fulfilling this vision

and proving the value of investing in a Roberts education. That encompasses building on the so-called “product line” by exploring new majors and programs like cybersecurity, data and analytics, and other concentrations that address enrollment trends and interests among prospective students. Other key focus areas include expanding the pipeline of career-enhancing internship opportunities to help match students with viable career paths and growing the school’s global reach through new international learning partnerships, among other considerations.

However, at the core of these endeavors, students remain the central and constant focus. “Without the students, there’d be no need for us to exist,” said Dr. Hayles. Nearing the end of his remarks, Dr. Hayles looked toward the future with a hopeful message and spirit of what’s to come, humbly accepting his role as president with optimism.

“When we decide to demonstrate consistency and integrity, we don’t know what the effect is going to be,” Dr. Hayles said. “But if we stand true on our values, if we stand true on what God has called us to do, I’m convinced that God will use everything together for good. God will use our demonstrated action to impact the future.”

To watch Dr. Hayles deliver his inaugural speech, visit www.roberts.edu/inauguration.



Savannah, Maryann, and Stephen Hayles



President Hayles & Board Chair, Terry Taber

“MEET THE PRESIDENT” Q&A WITH DR. HAYLES

By Courtney O’Gorman

Q: What is your vision for the university?

A: About 41% of American students who graduate high school have said college isn’t important for them; it used to be 71%. Roberts has to distinguish itself to be able to deliver for our constituents by offering majors and programs that are practical in nature. The liberal arts and more theoretical courses are extremely important, but for a parent or an individual who is investing in a Roberts education, we want them to understand the return on their investment. In my vision and thinking, it’s growth with a focus on practical opportunities that are going to enhance the capabilities of students when they leave—to not only leave with solid character education and development but also to be able to go out into the world with something that can make a difference in their lives the moment they leave. To accomplish this, we’re exploring and developing different majors to expand our product line, so to speak, and we’re looking at programs in cybersecurity, data and analytics, supply chain management and other areas. By next fall, we hope to have around seven or eight new majors, including the ones mentioned previously. We’re expanding opportunities for students while also being conscious about what’s going on in the industry so people realize they don’t have to go far for these programs; they can get that practical education right here at Roberts and become a difference-maker.

Q: Describe your leadership style.

A: There’re a lot of leadership theories out there, but I use one called “authentic leadership” created by Bill George, who is the former head of Medtronic. It focuses on a few things, number one being emotional self-awareness; any leader needs to be emotionally self-aware. Number two is balance processing, which means you need to have a balance in terms of how you process information and you can’t be inconsistent with that balance. Third is internal moral perspective, which means you have to have a moral center from which you operate,, and the fourth is relational transparency, meaning the relationship you have must be transparent and open. I really believe that embodying those things as a leader is what draws people to you.

Q: Were you always interested in pursuing a career in higher education?

A: Not initially, no. Sometimes, I refer to my path in higher ed as “strategy by accident.” After I graduated from The Wharton School, my intent was to head to Wall Street to do what I needed to do to join corporate America. But then God had other plans, and so I ended up in the nonprofit world. When I left my job as an executive pastor of Life Christian Church, the intent then was that my wife, Maryann, and I were going to work on our nonprofit, The Center for Spiritual

and Emotional Development—that’s what we planned to do. I wanted to make sure I was teaching, too, and so I sent my resume straight to the president’s desk at Pillar College, who I knew from the board of Christ Church when I was chief operating officer there. Pillar needed some support on the financial side of operations, so he called me up and I came in and shared some thoughts for them to consider. After the initial consultation, they called me back up and asked me to come on and serve as chief operating officer for the college. Then, when the president of Pillar left, the board approached me and asked if I’d be interested in stepping into the role of president of the college, which I accepted. I’m of the mindset that if God opens a door, and you discern that it’s him opening the door, then run through the door. My path at Pillar exemplified this, and coming to Roberts is another example. A door opened and I ran right through it.

Q: How have you adjusted to the campus community?

A: I’m still adjusting, and when I say “adjusting,” it’s with the sense that there’s so much to learn within the academic sphere. It’s not so much about the processes, which are certainly important, but more importantly, it’s about the people. Every single person and student has a history and a story to tell; it’s about engaging them. One of the things we sometimes struggle with is identity; we know what we have here is special, but how do we define it? Recently, several student-athletes shared their experiences with me and the board of trustees, and as they were speaking, I was blown away by how authentic they were in terms of how they presented themselves and how they articulated the integration of their faith with what they’re learning and hoping to pursue beyond Roberts. When I heard from those students, and heard how the Lord has impacted and changed them, that completely defined it for me. That’s the differentiator.

Q: What were your first impressions of Rochester?

A: Rochester is beautiful. It’s somehow rural but also still within a city. I lived in Arizona at one point in time and there was never any grass, it was just dirt. Here, you have beautiful grass and landscapes, but you still get a city feel—it’s the best of both worlds.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your family.

A: I have a wonderful wife, Maryann, who I’ve been married to for 22 years. I also have two kids, Stephen and Savannah, who are 13 year-old twins.

Q: If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

A: I would say, “Don’t try to control everything.” There’s somebody else in control of everything; you just have to chill out and lighten up because God has got you. He has a plan for what he’s going to do for you.

Q: Name one thing people would be surprised to know about you that they may not already know.

A: I love flying and have my pilot’s license. Also, every Saturday morning, I’m on my spinning bike and then I go to Voller Athletic Center. Some students give me that look like they know who I am but aren’t sure. I think they’re surprised to see me there!

Q: What excites you most about the future of the university?

A: The possibilities, expectations and opportunities. In terms of possibilities, we have to think about what is possible without any limitations. The expectation is to expect God to do something and then to show up to look at the possibilities you have; he will show up if you can expand your mind to see what he’s capable of doing. Then, out of those things will come opportunities, and it’s for us to take advantage of them. It’s asking “Why not us?”

PRESIDENT “QUICK FACTS”

Birthplace

Kingston, Jamaica

Education

Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Regent University in Virginia, specializing in leadership, change management and emotional intelligence; MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; Bachelor of Science in management information systems and accounting from Seton Hall University.

Years in higher education

It depends on how you define it. I’ve been in higher ed all my life and entered the nonprofit world in 2000. In terms of working in the industry, I joined Pillar College in New Jersey in 2018 as chief operating officer and then became president of the college a few years later, so around five years.

Favorite verse

It’s more than one. My favorite verses are Romans 8:28, Genesis 50:20 and James 1:2. Verse James 1:2 - “Count it all joy when you go through diverse situations and trials.” Romans 8:28 says “God works everything together for good for those who love him and are called upon to his purpose.” And Genesis 50:20 says “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”. All three encompass the statement I’ve heard that “God allows things to happen, to the extent he can work it for good” so every single thing that might happen to you, he can work it for good.

The last great book you read

“Altogether You” by Jenna Riemersma; it’s about internal family systems and the different parts that make us who we are.

Favorite food

I have a banana with a granola bar every single day.

Most-loved hobbies

I have two and they’re equal. I love watching soccer with my kids on Saturday mornings. The Premier League starts at 7 a.m., and sometimes we’ll watch soccer from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. My favorite team right now is Chelsea, in England’s Premier League. I still have my FAA (pilot’s) license, so flying is something I also enjoy, but haven’t done in a while.

Favorite place on campus

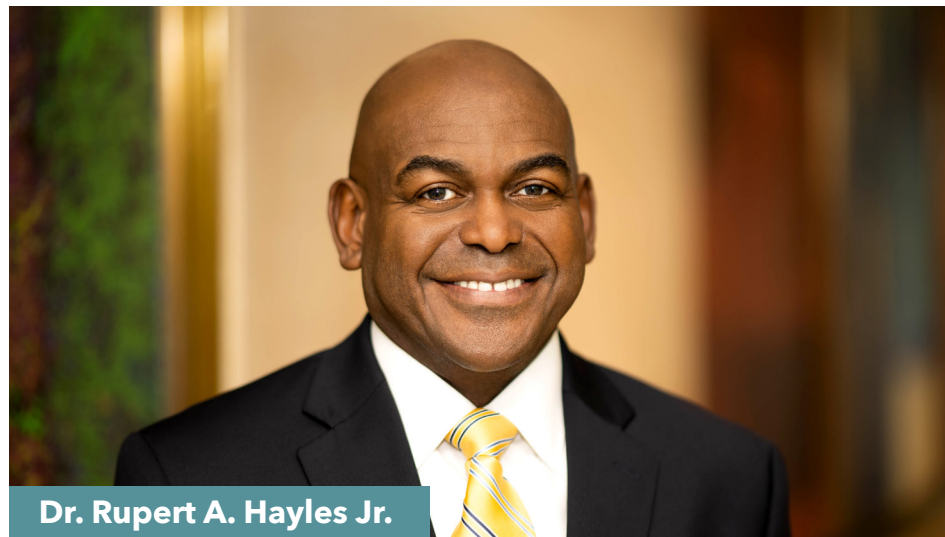
When I have an opportunity, I love to drive out to the athletic training fields and watch our teams train. It’s a great mental break, and I love supporting our athletic teams.

A quote you live by

“Guidelines within a framework that is nebulous is neither a guideline nor a framework; it’s discrimination.” A nebulous framework where people can’t tell “what is what” leads to inconsistency and misinterpretation. As leaders, if you set guidelines that are unclear, some people will benefit from it and others will be disadvantaged by it. You have to make sure there’s clarity in every single thing you do.

One word you’d use to describe Roberts

It may sound cliché, but it’s “welcoming.” This community has been extremely welcoming.



Dr. Rupert A. Hayles Jr.

REFLECTIONS ON BEING RELEVANT AND RESPECTFUL OF BELIEFS

By Dr. David Basinger

The mission of Roberts Wesleyan University is to prepare thoughtful (academically prepared), spiritually mature, service-oriented people who will help transform society.

Roberts students are prepared to make a transformational impact on our world in many ways. The content knowledge students acquire in our virtual or in-person classrooms in dialog and collaboration with faculty is essential. For our traditional undergraduate students, internships help this learning become relevant to the real world, and study-abroad experiences help students better understand the world they are to impact. For all students, interaction with staff and administrators, who are co-educators with faculty outside of the classroom, helps students learn more about themselves and how to function in the community.

I want to focus, though, on one transformational aspect of a Roberts education that I believe to be of increasing importance in our world today: our effort to help students move from “bestowed beliefs” to “owned beliefs” that are held in an intellectually and spiritually humble manner.

All of us start out with bestowed beliefs that form how we understand and relate to our world. Some of these beliefs are formed unconsciously by our culture, for example, basic beliefs about gender, ethnicity, and how we ought to behave. Other, more specific beliefs about religion, politics, and social issues are formed in us by authority figures such as our parents, friends, teachers, and pastors. What we are taught is absorbed in this manner, seems normal and right, and is, therefore, often not questioned.

However, what we find, especially when we start to interact with large numbers of people who didn't grow up in our culture, is that seemingly sincere and knowledgeable people, even those with the same view of God and scriptural authority, differ on



Dr. David Basinger

important issues for instance, on political issues (the “best” political party), social issues (the role of women, sexuality, end-of-life options), and religious issues (God's power, God's knowledge and how God would have us live).

We know from experience, and recent studies continue to confirm, that our brains are not wired to consider openly differing perspectives, especially when our perspectives are firmly held and have a strong affective (emotional) attachment. That is, when someone challenges a firmly held belief to which we have an affective attachment, we're not wired to listen to other points of view and discuss them openly. We are wired to “flee” to avoid thinking about or discussing alternate perspectives or to “fight” and defend our beliefs. Furthermore, the defense of our beliefs is most frequently not a rational defense but an attack on the knowledge or character of our opponent. This is one reason why during political

campaigns, for instance, opponents are seldom labeled as simply holding different beliefs but rather as lacking in knowledge (being dumb) or having bad motives (being evil).

We also know from experience and studies confirm, that we can overcome this default defensive mode. If we, by an act of will, work to listen to others, understand differing views, and reconsider our own, it is possible to engage in constructive dialog with others with whom we disagree, even strongly.

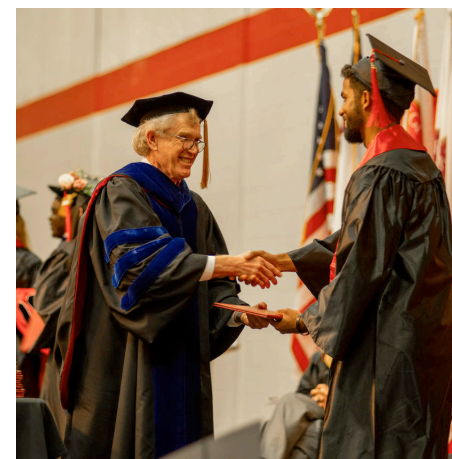
This is where a Roberts education plays a vital role. While we now label this approach to differing beliefs as intellectual and spiritual humility, when I first started teaching 45 years ago, I was encouraging students to acknowledge that sincere, equally knowledgeable individuals can differ and that we can all be wrong. This is what is modeled, and students are encouraged to believe both in and outside the classroom and,



therefore, carry with them into the world they are to impact. As a result, while Roberts students hold their beliefs firmly, they engage in respectful, constructive dialog with those with differing views. I can think of a few transformational activities of greater importance in society today.

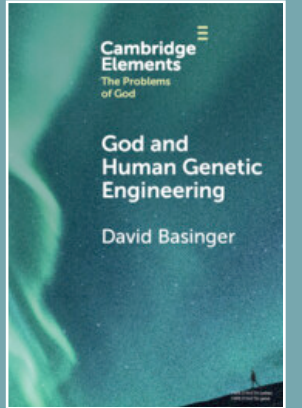
On a personal note, past students frequently state how learning to approach issues in this way has benefited their personal and professional lives, giving me my greatest sense of satisfaction as I conclude my time at Roberts.

I also plan to continue my writing, focusing on how intellectual and spiritual humility can help us grapple with the complex issues we face today. I'm sharing here an excerpt from my recent book on human genetic engineering as an example of how I believe this approach to controversial issues can be of practical value.



Excerpt from 'God and Human Genetic Engineering' (Cambridge Press, 2023)

Where does all this leave us? The question before us, remember, is how we can best assess the strength or weakness of the various lines of reasoning related to human genetic engineering . . . What we've found, I believe, is that it will be very difficult to demonstrate that any of the lines of reasoning we've considered cannot be justifiably maintained or that any of the lines of reasoning must be affirmed. . .



I do not find this troubling. The two standard assumptions in most definitions of intellectual humility are that equally sincere, knowledgeable individuals can differ on issues and that any of us can be wrong. Given this reading, the situation we should acknowledge we find ourselves in when assessing the strength and weakness of the lines of reasoning related to genetic engineering is one of intellectual humility. Equally knowledgeable and sincere individuals can justifiably differ on the perceived strength or weakness of the various components in a given line of reasoning, can differ on the perceived overall strength or weakness in this line of reasoning, and can differ on the final response to the issues in question, given all relevant lines of reasoning under consideration. Moreover, each of us can be wrong.

I don't think this need give us pause. Being intellectually humble doesn't (in fact, can't) restrict us from making decisions and taking action. William James defined “genuine” choices as those that are “live” (that which is being considered is an actual possibility), “forced” (making a choice that cannot be avoided), and “momentous” (the choice will make a real difference in the world).

I believe that the decisions we make around genetic engineering are genuine in this sense. We are making decisions about activity that really can occur. We either choose to think about these issues or “have chosen” not to do so, choose to hold a position on these issues or “have chosen” not to do so, and then choose to act upon these decisions or “have chosen” not to do so. And our choices will have a real impact in our world.

Furthermore, approaching these choices with the assumption that equally sincere, knowledgeable individuals can differ and we can be wrong will minimize conscious or unconscious proof-texting. If we believe others can justifiably differ from us and we can be wrong, we are more likely to consider all relevant lines of reasoning comprehensively and openly before making our decisions than to settle on a stance before considering the relevant data and lines of reasoning and then simply selectively using such data and lines of reasoning to support this a priori position.

Approaching genetic engineering in an intellectually humble manner will also affect the way we dialog with others around various issues.

When we enter a discussion assuming that we already know the one right answer, it follows that those holding differing perspectives either don't have all the relevant information (aren't aware of the data and lines of reasoning that led us to the “truth”) or are consciously or unconsciously unwilling to acknowledge what they actually know to be true. However, if we assume, as I believe has been shown, that attempts to offer lines of reasoning for or against the various aspects of genetic engineering that all rational individuals must accept are not successful – that is, if we assume that sincere, knowledgeable individuals can differ with us on these issues – then we are more likely to focus our discussion on the differing interpretations of the data or differing assumptions we bring to the discussion than to focus on the motives or “agenda” of the person with whom we disagree. . . This in turn can open the door to respectful dialog, which can, it's been shown, lead to the modification of even firmly held positions.

SERVICE AS A WAY OF LIFE: A JOURNEY OF ENDURING IMPACT

By Donna McLaren

David Basinger, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer 45 Years of Service

Students Taught

Over 10,000 students at the traditional undergraduate, adult, and graduate levels.

Research

Centered on issues in the philosophy of religion and bioethics. Current focus on religious diversity and genetic engineering.

New Programs Instrumental in Launching

- Bridge to Earning, Learning, and Living (BELL) program in 2010. BELL is a federally-approved program that allows students with intellectual disabilities to engage in the types of academic, social, and vocational activities that will enhance their personal lives and better prepare them to be engaged community members with gainful employment. The program has had over 60 graduates.
- The Pathway to Teaching (PTT) in 2010. PTT is a program allowing employees of urban Rochester schools to earn their teaching certificates while continuing to work full-time. The program has had 274 graduates.
- The move from ten Academic Divisions to two and then six Academic Schools in 2012-15.
- The move from an organizational structure with all faculty meeting to make decisions; to the current Faculty Senate model in 2005.

Books/Articles Published

- Authored, co-authored, edited, or co-edited 14 books.
- Latest book: God and Human Genetic Engineering (Cambridge, 2023).
- Authored or co-authored 100 journal articles/book chapters.

Core Beliefs

- "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou
- Equally sincere, knowledgeable people differ on most controversial issues, and we can all be wrong.
- "You gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, know when to run." - Kenny Rogers
- It's always best to be honest and transparent when sharing bad news.
- Take what you do very seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously.
- Chocolate always helps.

Hobbies

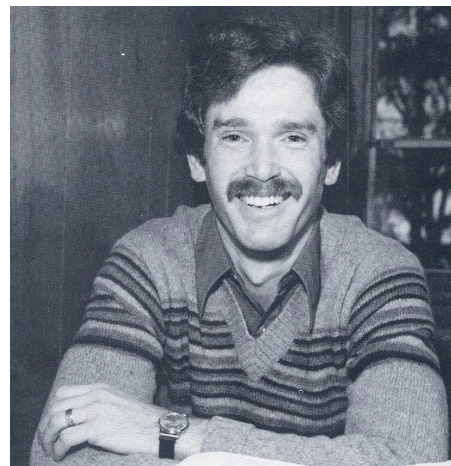
- Spending time with his family.
- Traveling with his wife, Linda, to immerse themselves in the culture of wherever they go.
- Reading murder mysteries.
- Remodeling/refurbishing his home.



CIRCA 2023



CIRCA 1998



CIRCA 1985

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 23-29, 2024

Homecoming Festival - September 28, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Scan to
learn more!

Feeling nostalgic about your college years?

Relive the good old days with your former classmates and professors.

This is your chance to spend time with the people who made your time at Roberts special. Support our student clubs and alumni-owned small businesses at the Homecoming Festival, cheer for Redhawk alumni and students during one of many Homecoming games, jam out to alumni bands and listen to the Roberts Symphony Orchestra, and vote for your favorite car in our Homecoming MVP Car Show.



FESTIVAL FOOD

Garlock Dining Commons
BBQ, Tex-Mex, Grill & Sweets



SHOPPING

Alumni Vendors & Student
Group Fundraisers



REUNION EVENT

Reunion Years
Ending in '9' & '4'



LIVE MUSIC STAGE

Alumni Bands
Every Hour



CIRCLE MEMBER LOUNGE

Exclusive Lounge
with Refreshments



CAR SHOW



SCHOOL OF NURSING CELEBRATING 70 YEARS



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

THANK YOU FOR GOING ALL IN – MAKING ROBERTS DAY OF GIVING A SUCCESS!

Roberts Day of Giving serves as a collective rallying point for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and donors who share a common commitment to providing character education to shape our society's next generation of leaders. *It's never too late to give!*
 Visit www.roberts.edu/giving

Over \$520,000
in 24 Hours

\$401k
for Roberts Wesleyan University

\$75k
for Northeastern Seminary

\$44k
for Redhawks Athletics

BY THE NUMBERS

Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of the transformative initiatives and milestones achieved at Roberts Wesleyan University & Northeastern Seminary throughout 2023. As we bring in the year, it's with immense gratitude that we reflect on the incredible impact your generosity has made on our community.

Advancement



\$4,385,320
Total Raised

\$33,941,628 – Total Endowment
\$356,831 – New Endowment
\$843,215 – Capital

\$3,185,274 – Annual Giving
1,396 – Total Donors
499 – New Donors

458 – Total Circle Households
41 – New Members
From 41 States – Roberts Donors
From 26 States – NES Donors

Enrollment & Academics



1,847
students enrolled



90+
majors & programs

1633 Roberts Students
 Traditional Undergraduate:
3 in 10 students – underrepresented minority students
18 states | 9 countries | 71% female | 29% male



19
Division II Sports Teams



100%
full-time undergrad students receive financial aid

214 NES Students
4 in 10 students – underrepresented minority students
27 states | 6 countries | 61% female | 39% male

Your contributions have empowered us to reach new heights, allowing us to embark on innovative ventures and further our commitment to excellence in character education.



INVEST IN THE LEGACY, SHAPE THE FUTURE!

Your alma mater's legacy is a testament to the transformative power of education. Now, it's your chance to play a pivotal role in shaping the future for generations to come.

Join the Heritage Society

Consider including Roberts Wesleyan University in your estate plans through planned giving. Your commitment will:

Empower the Next Generation

Provide opportunities for students to thrive and excel in their academic journey.

Enhance Campus Facilities

Contribute to the growth and development of our vibrant campus, ensuring a top-notch learning environment.

Create Lasting Impact

Leave a legacy that echoes your passion for education and community.

Exclusive Benefits for Heritage Society Members

Pins, invitations to special events, and opportunities to connect with the President, faculty, staff, and students.

For more information on how you can make a lasting impact through planned giving, contact Alexander Jones at 585-594-6202 or plannedgiving@roberts.edu.

ROBERTS ROOTS CREATE TIDES OF CHANGE FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER IN UGANDA

A conversation with alumnus James Harrington '97, CEO & Founder of the Ugandan Water Project

By Courtney O'Gorman

In 2008, as James Harrington '97 (Religion & Philosophy) ran production up and down the East Coast for Isaiah Six Ministries, little did he know that a chance encounter at a summer barbecue would suddenly alter the course of his personal and professional life. During his season with the worship ministry, Harrington struck up a conversation with George, a visiting pastor from Uganda. During their chat, George not only shared his love and optimism for his community back home, but also a first-hand account of the everyday challenges Ugandan citizens face with lack of access to one of life's most common necessities: clean drinking water.

While access to clean and safe water is deemed a basic human right and a need for overall health and well-being, the United Nations estimates that nearly 2.2 billion people worldwide lack access to safely managed drinking water services and sanitation.

In Uganda, nearly two in five people face severe water shortages, walking more than 30 minutes to reach a protected water source—a facet of everyday life for many communities that, if improved, could transform quality of life, preventive health outcomes and myriad socio-economic factors, including reinvestment of time spent walking to clean water sources into education and income-driven vocational activities, among other aspects of daily life.

When Harrington heard these statistics, he was captivated by the idea that something as basic and essential as water was such a dominant challenge in so many people's lives.

"It was just eye opening," he said. "It was so detached from my experience, I didn't realize how many things in people's lives would change when you help facilitate that one catalyst resource."

From that initial conversation with George, an idea transformed into action and served as the spark for Harrington's next venture. Just one year later, he was on the ground in Uganda installing the first two rainwater systems at rural churches.

Harrington, who describes himself as inherently curious and someone who's always been drawn to adventure, can see the threads of believing he could make an impact stemming all the way back to his formative experiences learning and growing in community at Roberts Wesleyan. Studying religion and philosophy, with minors in ministry and psychology, he vividly recalls his days sitting in class while being faced with



tough philosophical and ethical questions posed by Dr. David Basinger—now Chief Academic Officer—that challenged his worldview and way of thinking.

"One of the things I remember learning at Roberts was that we're many things by training, but we're philosophers by birth," Harrington said. "Dr. Basinger had really laid the foundation, teaching us not what to think, but to think itself ... the moral imperative that if we can, shouldn't we? If I could, must I? ... that while not every problem is mine to solve, something is, and if this problem is what's in front of me, what am I going to do with it?"

That foundational understanding and lens in philosophical ethics not only fostered critical thinking abilities that would come into play while tackling the water crisis in Uganda, but also inspired his curiosity to engage in international work.

"I love the contrast in the commonality of human experience, whether it's in our own country, in our neighborhoods ... whether it's the edges of our own ability, our own understanding or our own life experience ... and certainly working internationally is an intense environment that's full of that," Harrington said.

During his time at Roberts, Harrington spent a summer in Portugal and Morocco, building relationships and community with Portuguese missionaries and indigenous church leaders. He credits that opportunity as an invaluable and empowering experience that challenged his internalized capacity to make an impact and engage in the world with an open heart, open hands and an open mind—an experience that would later shape the ethos of the work the team at the Ugandan Water Project is spearheading today under a tiered approach that "provides immediate water access today, develops sustainable enterprises that keep water flowing tomorrow and supports national systems that ensure safe water flows forever."

From humble beginnings on one of their first project sites in the city of Jinja, the Ugandan Water Project has grown into a rather sophisticated operation over the past 16 years, amassing an international team of roughly 50 individuals spread across its US headquarters in Lima, NY, and onsite in Uganda. Dedicated team members who share a commitment to creating a framework that supports safe water for communities across Uganda have a hand in nearly every aspect of the operations' success, tackling roles focused on fundraising, partnership development, program design and now government relations, concentrating on long-term advocacy, policy change and maintenance.

Harrington and his team are currently working with the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda to establish a live data platform that, once active, will manage all the water assets in the country, as well as helping draft policy that will ensure the country's legal framework supports and sustains safe water well into the future. But even with overarching advocacy and policy strategies thrown into the mix, Harrington notes that the more tactile and hands-on aspects of the operation are never far out of sight.

"We are still rolling trucks and throwing pipe and drilling and on working hardware," he said.

Among its many projects seeking to end Uganda's water crisis one community at a time, Ugandan Water Project's primary solutions include establishing rainwater collection systems, engaging in borehole well rehabilitation work, and distributing hollow fiber membrane water filters and hygiene stations across the country at more than 1,600 locations to date. And according to estimates from Ugandan Water Project's repository of data, more than 1 million fewer miles will be walked annually to fetch water because of projects installed at facilities in 2023, redeeming thousands of hours for learning, play and other day-to-day activities.

"There's over half a million people who wake up today with safe water that we have directly provided ... and that's a great feeling," Harrington said. "When we provide safe water, we're making time. And that's enough time to change a nation."



Also now contributing to that collective impact are Roberts Wesleyan student-athletes. As part of Redhawks Reachout, the university Athletics Department's strategic community service initiative, the Redhawks selected the Ugandan Water Project after learning about the need for clean water in the country and the global water crisis.

Through the power of Roberts' alumni network, a connection was made between the Redhawks and the Ugandan Water Project team. The challenge, as Harrington notes, was to help students understand that they could have an effective local answer to this worldwide need through collective teamwork and education.

Throughout 2023, student-athletes from multiple athletics programs joined together and engaged in several community service opportunities to raise awareness and support the organization's financial goals. Efforts included building nearly 300 kits to upgrade hand pumps in Uganda, participating and volunteering in the nonprofit's annual 5k, hosting a weeklong educational water challenge and championing WaterNOW, a social media fundraising event, which surpassed the students' initial fundraising goal. When all was said and done, the students had collected more than \$13,000 to build three water systems that now provide fresh water to Ugandan communities in need.

Earlier this year, the university was bestowed the coveted NCAA Division II Award of Excellence in recognition of the students' impactful community service efforts for the Ugandan Water Project, becoming the first two-time winner in the award program's 11-year history.

"That opportunity was so exhilarating for us because we know that impacts how they [the students] view themselves, and as much as I love the impact in Uganda, I'm so thrilled that we could change the way those students can view their own capacity," Harrington said.

"Whatever they put their hands to will be different and better because of that," he added. "Even if they never do anything else with the Ugandan Water Project, that was worth it."

Roberts Wesleyan University Wins 2024 NCAA DII Award of Excellence

Roberts Wesleyan University Athletics was awarded the first-place grand prize for the NCAA Division II Award of Excellence at the NCAA Convention on January 13 in Phoenix. University student-athletes were recognized for their yearlong fundraising initiative for the Ugandan Water Project, which raised over \$13,000 to build three water wells in Uganda and provide fresh water to communities in need.

Harrington further complimented the student-athletes for their integrity and compassion to give back, noting that it was especially prescient to him that—as burgeoning adults in a season of life where they're still figuring out their relationship to one another, themselves and the world—they were willing to take a risk and mobilize one another to rise to the challenge.

"They were willing to step into something of real weight and significance ... they chose to carry something heavy for a season, and that impressed me," he said.

But the transformative impact doesn't stop there. As for what's next for Harrington and the Ugandan Water Project, he's continually looking forward, not backward, with full efforts ahead on new developments, including a project with Uganda's Luwero Referral Hospital.

"Can you imagine going through surgery to deliver a child into this world and you don't have safe water in the room?" Harrington said. "There are 350 maternity deliveries a month and about 15,000 to 20,000 patients a month who go through that hospital, and they don't have reliable water. Right now, we're beginning the provision for that hospital to make sure those deliveries happen with safe water."

As they look to the future, the Ugandan Water Project team is expanding their approach to "working in the time machine," as Harrington says, exploring the collision of new technology with an antiquated problem and system by equipping water hand pumps with remote sensors and installing smart water kiosks where possible. But ultimately, he hopes their successes can serve as a foundation or model to inevitably bridge the divide to accessing safe water on a more global scale.

"I'm most excited about what comes next, which is the opportunity to build piped water systems that orient around stable, strong communities and really building up the capacity over the next few years for the government to be able to serve the people effectively," he said. "We're not orienting around the message of charity and weakness. We're looking at empowerment and equipping as we help people build and understand who they were created to be."

That possibility and opportunity to continue writing a new chapter beyond his Roberts' experience excites him, but he never discounts the relationships he's made and can reconnect to along the way as the impact of the Ugandan Water Project continues to permeate across new communities in Uganda.

"There's so much that changes when we solve this problem," he said. "I don't believe I'm the best at it. I don't believe I'm the smartest guy in the room ... but what we're seeing is we do have a unique role to play. If I can wake up each day and try to advance this mission and see the transformation that happens by inviting people to be a part of it, that really does change the day-to-day life for families in Uganda ... I don't have to wonder whether it was worth it."

STUDENTS UNITE TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER TO COMMUNITIES

Q&A with Morgan Sproull '24 (Business Administration): Track & Field Captain, Student Body Vice President and Refresh Worship Director

Roberts Wesleyan students recently engaged in WaterNOW, a weeklong water challenge to heighten their awareness of daily water consumption and raise money for the Ugandan Water Project.

"The fundraising initiative for Ugandan Water Project provided an excellent platform for students to unite to impact a broader cause," said Morgan Sproull '24, who participated in the fundraiser.

By helping provide clean water to communities in Uganda, Redhawks are living up to our motto of "Education for Character" and making meaningful contributions to the global community. With a \$10,000 fundraising goal, the students went all in for global impact—exceeding expectations and raising \$12,283!



James and Morgan

How did you get involved with this initiative and what made you excited to be a part of it?

My involvement with the Ugandan Water Project began at the age of 13 when my school, Clarence Middle School, organized a Walk for Water fundraiser in partnership with them. Carrying water gallons outdoors provided a tangible connection to the daily struggles faced by Ugandans. With that, we raised funds to support the construction of water tanks in Uganda. Then, in 2022, I was given the opportunity to travel to Uganda and participate in a vision trip with the Ugandan Water Project. During this trip, I had the privilege of visiting the school and water tank I had helped fundraise for years earlier! Uganda holds a special place in my heart, which made collaborating with the Ugandan Water Project to bring this fundraiser to Roberts an exciting experience!

Can you describe what the yearlong experience with the Ugandan Water Project was like?

The Ugandan Water Project has brought individuals such as James Harrington '97 (Religion & Philosophy) and Cara Reindl '11 (Humanities) to Roberts to discuss their vision and how we could contribute. We had the opportunity to ask questions and learn how to further assist. At the start of September 2023, the track and field team got boxes of filtration systems from them to assemble. Building these filters requires time and dedication, and our team spent part of our weekend assembling them.

Were there any "WOW" moments that stand out for making a difference for others in the world?

This project's "WOW" moment was reaching the \$10,000 goal within one hour! Initially, this figure appeared daunting and almost unattainable. However, as everyone rallied together, the goal became more achievable. When we reached the target, I was astonished by how quickly we raised such a significant sum and the profound impact it would have in Uganda. It was an emotional experience for me because the funds we raised would directly benefit people who I had formed connections with during my time in Uganda.

What would you like to share with the Roberts Community and others not involved in this initiative?

I would like to share and inspire individuals within the Roberts community, as well as beyond, to embrace challenges and set ambitious goals. Often, raising funds or effecting change may seem impossible, but you'll never know what you can do without trying. Organizations like the Ugandan Water Project present opportunities for individual growth and self-discovery throughout the project. As a participant, I learned from the experience in ways I never thought possible.

Together, we have the power to enrich the lives of others!

INTERVIEW WITH CARA REINDL '11 (HUMANITIES)

Describe your path to the Ugandan Water Project (UWP) and what compelled you to get involved with the company.

I love helping people in practical ways, and safe water is a basic building block for life.

How has your Roberts education impacted your desire to serve others in the world and make a difference?

While I was at Roberts, I studied a very wide range of subjects that helped broaden my perspective of the world. That sense of openness has served me well, and I'm grateful for the staff and faculty who challenged my thinking.

From your experience, what was it like working with Roberts student-athletes and how have they made a difference for the Uganda Water Project as part of a yearlong initiative?

Seeing the students accomplish an unforgettable "win" at the WaterNOW event was deeply encouraging because I knew how hard they worked behind the scenes leading up to that event. They spent hours kitting parts, assembling filters, and learning about the global water crisis way before they ever picked up their phones to fundraise. I'm really proud of the student-athletes who embraced this challenge head-on and gave it their best. They changed lives for students in Uganda, and that is truly worth celebrating.

What advice would you give current students hoping to be a change maker in the world after graduating from Roberts?

Practice self-leadership. Love those around you well. Become an expert in your industry. Find ways to give back.

What would you want your fellow Alumni to know about UWP?

You don't have to care about water to engage with UWP—you just have to care about people. Learn more by visiting ugandanwaterproject.com.



SEEN AND HEARD AROUND CAMPUS

President Hayles Named to RBJ's Power 100 List 2024

Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary President Rupert A. Hayles Jr. was named to the Rochester Business Journal's (RBJ) Power 100 list for 2024.



Women's Lacrosse Captures the ECC Championship with Overtime Win



Redhawks Repeat as ECC Champions in Men's Track & Field



2024 Reggies Awards Recipients



Paul Fillion: Male Newcomer of the Year



Brynn King: Female Newcomer of the Year



Sarah McClennan: Head Coach of the Year



Brooke Tangelder, Benja Lazcano, and Morgan Sproul: John Concordia Service Award



Brynn King: Player of the Year



Maddie Robinson: Female Senior Athlete of the Year



Tamas Nagy: Male Senior Athlete of the Year

Roberts Becomes Eighth Program to Capture Men's Volleyball Invitational Title in Innagural Year



NCCAA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL CHAMPION MEN'S VOLLEYBALL 2024 INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONS

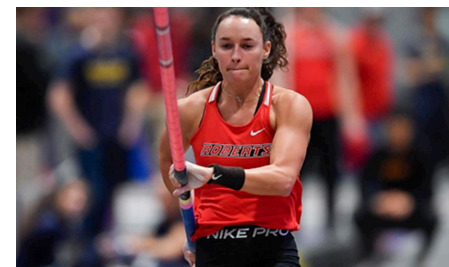
Pack the VAC Event

The Roberts community gathered to support the Men's Volleyball program as they played in their first game in program history!



Pole Vaulter Brynn King qualifies for U.S. Olympic trials

Pole vaulter, Brynn King, has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials. The Redhawks competed at the "Golden Eagle Winter Welcome Back" meet hosted by SUNY Brockport on Jan. 20. It was the first team meet since Dec. 8. The meet was highlighted by Brynn King clearing 4.60 meters (15-feet 1-inch) in the women's pole vault. King's new personal best is the top mark in the nation among all collegiate divisions and qualifies her for the United States Olympic Trials and U.S. Indoor Nationals. King secured a spot to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials in June with her 15-1 clearance.



Inaugural Season for Women's Field Hockey

Women's Field Hockey - Six members of the women's field hockey team were named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II National Academic Squad. Kamryn DeMarzio, Jessica Kowalski, Katie Krawczyk, Justine Laverty, Maddison O'Moore and Avery Richardson were the student-athletes who were recognized with the academic honor.



A Moment for Paws

The Wellness Center team welcomed Hudson, the therapy dog, and his handler, Brett, to campus today for a wellness event with students. The event, in partnership with the Wellness Center and the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, gave traditional undergraduate students and Bridge to Earning, Learning and Living (BELL) students a moment to "paws" to interact with Hudson (a sweet Bernese Mountain Dog) to relieve some stress and prioritize mental health.



Eclipse at Roberts April 8, 2024



Elveral Berry, Obafemi Alao, Maryann Hayles, Bob Segave, Jason Taylor

First Silent Disco Party

Students came together to party silently through wireless headphones and choose from three playlists. The event was held on March 15 and was sponsored by the Junior and Senior class councils.



First Ever Leadership Gala

The Ruth Logan Award recognizes students for their excellent work on campus in many capacities. The inaugural recipients were Mikhail Sokoloff and Daniel Rodriguez Bernal.



Military Friendly School

Roberts Wesleyan University earned the gold designation for the 2024-2025 Military Friendly® School official list in the private offering doctorate category.



FACULTY, ALUMNI, STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

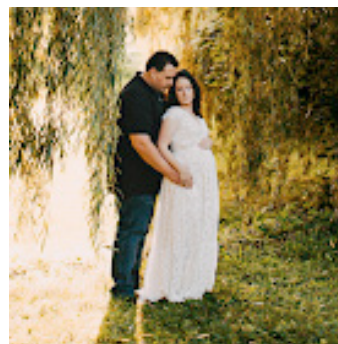
Welcome to the World, Future Redhawks!



Jared '15 (Business Administration and Management) and **Paige (Higgins) Cooper '16, '22** (Visual Art, Strategic Leadership, M.S.) welcomed a son, Cillian Grey, on April 22, 2023.



Kyle Preston '19 (Accounting Information Management) and his wife, Molly, welcomed a daughter Rory Mae, on March 11, 2024.



Kristen (Merola) Ranallo '15 (Biology) and Michael share the birth of their first child, a daughter Stella, born in Nov. 2023.



Lindsey (Groves) Mwene '11 '20 (Management Entrepreneurship, Strategic Leadership, M.S.) and her husband Jean-Paul, welcomed a daughter, Elise Jane-Lamar, on March 17, 2024.

Nina (Fedorchuk) Ursu '19 '21 (Childhood & Special Education, Master of Education) and her husband Ion, welcomed a son, Lucas, on July 6th, 2023.

Alumni Who Said I Do

Recent Alumni Marriages
Lillian (Goetzman) '21 (Music Education) & **Caleb Miller '20** (Psychology) - August 2023

Anna (Ahlquist) '21 (Mathematics & Music) & **Paul Dunbar '20** (Physical Education) - July 2023

Alexis Wilson '16 (Communication) married Zeph Beeman - November 2023

Recent Alumni Engagements
Hannah Bockrath '22 (Spanish Education 7-12) & **Paul Nichols '21** (Childhood & Special Education).

Morgan Sproull '24 (Business Administration) & **Joshua Anderson '24** (Biochemistry).

Sweethearts of Roberts

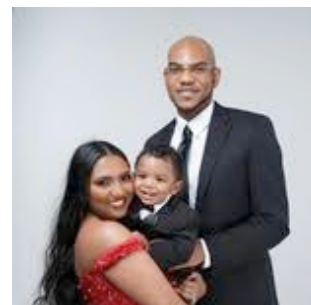
On Valentine's Day, we asked, "Did you meet your valentine at Roberts?" We were overwhelmed by your responses! Thanks for sending the "love" and sharing your sweet stories about meeting at Roberts. Here are just some of the replies we received:



Charity (Norton) Curtis '92 (Communication) and **Mark Curtis '92** (Computer Science) met in 1988.



Virginia (Ziegler) Scott '70 (English) and **Harold Scott '71** (Religion-Philosophy) met during freshman orientation games in 1967.



Dilini (Gunasinghe) Toussaint '19 (TESOL Education) and **Jean Toussaint '19** (Cross-Disciplinary Studies) met in 2017.



Joy (Johnson) Shewan '81, '03 (Music Education, Master of Education) and **Paul Shewan '82** (Music Education) met in the Music department in 1979.



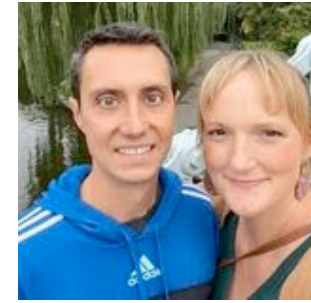
Susan (Perry) Carlson '92 (Elementary Education) and **Daniel Carlson '93** (Criminal Justice) met on the Track team and Honors Program in 1989.



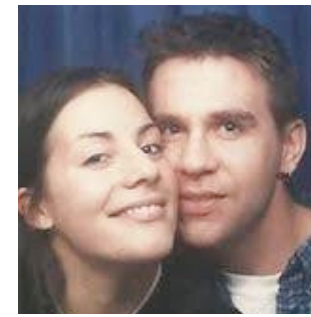
Elisabeth Bakker-Johnson '86 (Computer Science and Mathematics) and **Richard Johnson '87** (Business Administration) met in 1983. Richard was the second person Elisabeth met on campus!



Jaya (Hivale) Wilkin '94 (Elementary Education) and **James Wilkin '95** (Mathematics Education 7-12) grew close through being castmates for several theatre productions. James asked Jaya to marry him in front of Miner Hall.



Emily (Conger) Roth '06 (Art-Graphic Design) and **Jesse Roth '06** (Computer Science) met on the first day of freshman year.



Stephanie (Irene) Geary '01, '05 (Biology and Nursing) and **Paul Geary '01, '04** (Biology Education 7-12 and Master of Education) met in a physics class in 1999 and competed against each other in a Math/Science Club racquetball tournament.

Literary Hub

Martin Hochheimer '16 (Social Work, M.S.) published his dissertation research in the Journal of Social Work in the Addictions. The study evaluates the risk of patients with opioid use disorder experiencing an acute-care incident if treated with extended-release naltrexone compared to those treated with buprenorphine.



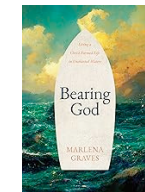
Timothy D. Bellavia '92 (Art Education) published a 25th Anniversary edition of "The Sage Doll Through the Years ... An Illustrated History, Paper Dolls and More! We Are All the Same Inside". The Sage doll has inspired children and adults alike, and this interactive book brings Sage doll-making to life!

Steve Bierly '77 (Religion-Philosophy) wrote and self-published, "Between Two Worlds and Other Spiritual Reflections on My Life," "Man and Budman: More Stories and Reflections from My Life," and "Here They Are...The What Four!"

J. Richard Middleton published a three-part article titled "Our Postmodern Movement" through the online magazine Catalyst. His work sought to understand the problems within the movement, the biblical metanarrative, and Christian discipleship in a polarized world.

Christine Lupiani's '10 (Nursing Education) dissertation was published by Columbia University Libraries: A Comparison of Standardized Patients with Role Play for Teaching Therapeutic Communication. This dissertation examines anxiety, stress, and self-efficiency in nursing clinical skills and therapeutic communication.

Dr. Nicholas DiFonzo, Associate Professor of Psychology, along with Dr. Jeffrey S. Black of Cairn University, recently published a paper in Christian Scholar's Review titled "Trustful Waiting and Enemy Loving Responses to Uncertainty and Vulnerability: Christian Psychology Soul Care in an Age of Conspiracy Rumors."



Marlena Graves published "Bearing God: Living A Christ-Formed Life in Uncharted Waters." Graves explores how our lives are vessels carrying Jesus throughout our life's journey on a mission to bring salvation to others.

Elizabeth Stevens, Kristen Driskill, Adam Huck, Diana Abbott, Emily Robinson '10 (Master of Education), **Maryanne Barrett, Denise Johnson, Amy Polissen, and Holley Gallo** co-authored "A Call for Change: Disrupting White Supremacy Culture in Dispositional Expectations of Teacher Candidates".

Elvera Berry's '63 (German) book chapter "Burke and the Undergraduate: Equipment for Thinking, Working, and Living" by Burke scholars who share their experience and pedagogical approaches, primarily at the graduate level. Berry incorporates reflections from over 20 Roberts alumni.

Matthew Moore's '94 (Humanities) original play, *Darkness Is Our Candle*, was a staged play reading with a group of Rochester-based semi-professional actors called the Ad Hoc Players.

Awards

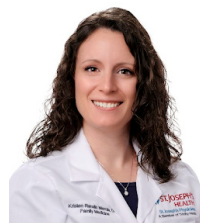
Congratulations to **Julie Chapus '01** (Social Work, M.S.W.) on receiving the Athena Award! Sponsored by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Chapus was recognized for her immense impact on women and the community. The Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, along with its Women's Council, presented the 38th annual Athena International Awards on Feb. 1. The Athena Award is presented annually to an individual who has achieved excellence in their profession, is a leader in their community, and who serves as a mentor, role model and advocate for women.

Emily Miller '20, '21 (Marketing, Strategic Marketing, M.S.) will be inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame at Christian Central Academy in Williamsville, N.Y., on March 1. Miller was in the class of 2016 at Christian Central Academy. While at Roberts, she was a forward on the women's basketball team. In 2019-2020 she started in all 28 games and averaged 14.1 points and 9.7 rebounds per game. She also achieved her 1,000 rebound on Feb. 1, 2020! Miller was an ECC Elite 19 Award recipient for three consecutive years and named to ECC First Team All-Conference, NCCAA Third-Team All-American, Academic All-American, ECC Scholar Athlete of the Year, and more!

Impact

Pleasant Foy '19 (Business Administration) is a Workforce Development Specialist at Foodlink. Foy is instrumental in Foodlink's Career Fellowship, a year-long program designed to create prosperous pathways for individuals with barriers to sustainable employment. Fellows work alongside the Foodlink Community Kitchen's staff, preparing thousands of meals daily for children in Rochester. They also develop the core competencies required to work in a fast-paced kitchen environment. To date, over 100 participants have been involved in the Career Fellowship and given this opportunity to become culinary experts.

"My passion has always been serving others, I am grateful that I can give back in this capacity with Foodlink. I find it joyful to help others achieve their goals and overcome any barriers that they may have, even if I only have a small part in it. I am grateful for the opportunity Foodlink has provided me so I can continue serving others in my community."



Dr. Kristen (Ranollo) Merola '15 (Biology) completed her residency training at St. Joseph's Health Hospital in Syracuse in June 2023 and works as an attending physician at St. Joseph's Physicians Primary Care in Liverpool. She received her medical degree from Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lynchburg, VA.

"The unwavering support, phenomenal education, and foundation of faith I received at Roberts prepared me for medical school, residency, and a career as an attending physician. Primary care allows me to speak hope into the lives of my patients, while partnering with them to live a healthy lifestyle. It is a blessing to now give back to my community in the service of medicine."

Service

Matthew Zager '08 (Music Education) serves on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester. Zager joined the Board in October 2023.

"It is an honor to help support mentoring relationships for Rochester area youth as a member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester."

Career Updates



Rev. Dr. J.R. Rushik '97 (Religion-Philosophy) was elected the Acts 12:24 Free Methodist Churches Conference Superintendent on Jan. 13.



Todd Alexander, Jr. '15 (Marketing) was recently promoted to Senior Vice President, Partner, and Development Manager at Brighton Securities.

Crouse '00 and Sisson Welcomed into the Athletics Hall of Fame



Shawna Williams Crouse '00, who starred for the women's basketball team for two seasons. Crouse averaged 13.8 points and 9.1 rebounds per game during her two seasons at Roberts. She scored more than 750 points over her two seasons and was named the American Midwest Conference Player of the Year in 2000. She also led Roberts to its first Chase Tournament championship and was named first-team All-American by the National Christian College Athletic Association and an NAIA third-team All-American.

After graduating from Roberts, Crouse earned her Master's in Literacy Education from Nazareth. Crouse has worked for the

Marcus Whitman Central School District for 16 years and is currently the Reading Intervention Specialist.

Dr. Kenneth Sisson, honored posthumously, arrived at Roberts in 1984. During his time at Roberts, Sisson left a mark on the institution. He took over a men's basketball program that had gone 5-75 the past three seasons and quickly fashioned back-to-back 20-win campaigns. He oversaw the building of the Life Fitness Center (now Voller Athletic Center). He secured Julius Erving to provide dedication remarks for the building and was instrumental in having NBA star Patrick Ewing film a public service announcement on drug-free athletics in the arena.

Sisson retired as a basketball coach in 1995 after receiving numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Award from the NCCAA in 1992 and being recognized as the Rochester Area College Athletics (RACA) Coach of the Year in 1994. Sisson passed away in 2018.

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