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105th Candlelight Dinner a sparkling success

BILLINGS, Feb. 11, 2014 - Every winter since 1910, Rocky Mountain College students have gathered to commemorate the first meal on campus, with the annual Candlelight Dinner. This year was no exception, and the 105th Candlelight Dinner went off without a hitch last Thursday evening, Feb. 6.

More than a century ago, RMC students made their way onto campus for their first meal, only to discover the building was still without electricity. Tired and hungry, the students dined by candlelight, and a tradition was born.

Although electricity is no longer an issue, the long-standing tradition of gathering by candlelight lives on. The 105th annual candlelight dinner was a tribute to the students, donors, faculty, staff, and alumni of Rocky Mountain College, and although steeped in tradition, this year’s event was also a celebration of all the new opportunities across campus. The walls were draped with linens, tables featured white tulip centerpieces, and there were hundreds of candles throughout the Bair Family Student Center.

The event was well attended with around 300 people in attendance, with a Board of Trustees social hour followed by a new donor appreciation cocktail hour that kicked off the celebration in Fraley Lounge.

“It was so refreshing so see a room filled with so much history and representing so many different generations of RMC. From alumni to faculty to board members to staff to current students, everyone was represented and had a way to connect to one another while celebrating the history and growth of the institution. I feel like we created a strong foundation to build upon for next year,” event coordinator Kelsey Daer reflected.

Echoing a similar statement, Director of Alumni Relations, Cody Rose said, "I loved how Rocky Mountain College brought everyone together seamlessly. It was especially nice to watch current students interact with the alumni."

The cocktail hour featured student musicians and artists providing entertainment, while all in attendance had a chance to catch up on old times and make new acquaintances. But mostly, it was an evening to share in the camaraderie of those who are part of the RMC family.

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