LEADING CONSERVATIONIST WILL ADDRESS RMC GRADS

LOWELL E. BAIER AND OBERT UNDEM HONORED AT 128th COMMENCEMENT

197 GRADUATES WILL RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College graduates will hear from an ardent conservationist at the 128th RMC Commencement, Saturday, May 8, 2010, in the Fortin Education Center, at 1 p.m.

Lowell E. Baier, the president of Boone and Crockett Club and the 2008 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, will deliver the commencement address, “The Geography of Hope: What Will Be Your Place in History.”

Degrees will be conferred on 197 graduates, including master of accountancy, master of physician assistant studies, master of educational leadership, bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees.

Commencement is free and open to the public.

In addition to delivering the commencement address, Mr. Baier will be awarded an honorary doctorate of law and letters. Mr. Baier devoted more than 40 years to wildlife conservation over the course of his successful and multi-faceted career. He played the lead role among 100 national conservation organizations in preserving the 23,550-acre Elkhorn Ranch in Medora, North Dakota, which expanded the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Anheuser-Busch named Mr. Baier America’s 2008 Conservationist of the Year.

Mr. Obert Undem, RMC director of major gifts, will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Mr. Undem is being honored for his long service to the College, as well as his public service to numerous organizations, including the Institute for Peace Studies and the Billings Community Foundation. He was the 2008 recipient of the Outstanding Professional Fundraisers Award from the Montana Association of Fundraising Professionals.

RMC’s Baccalaureate will be celebrated Friday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2420 13th Street West. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Randall Hyvonen, Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, Billings, Montana.
The annual RMC President’s Reception and Dinner, hosted by President Michael Mace and his wife, Karen, with Guest of Honor Russell Chatham, will be held Saturday, May 8, in the Great Hall of Prescott Commons, beginning with the reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for this event are available through the RMC Development Office by calling Vicki Davison, director of alumni relations and annual fund, 406-657-1005.

Tickets are $75 per person and attendees will be entered into a raffle for a framed, numbered and signed Chatham lithograph valued at $8,000. Proceeds from the dinner are for scholarship relief.

Mr. Chatham is one of America’s foremost contemporary American landscape artists. If there is a Western landscape artist whose work could truly be called iconic, Mr. Chatham’s work would be it. It is why his collectors include a who’s who of celebrities, such as authors Jim Harrison, Thomas McGuane, the late James Crumley, Richard Ford, Rick Bass, Tom Robbins, and Carl Hiaasen; editors and publishers, Jann Wenner, the late Seymour Lawrence, and Terry McDonell; New York restaurateur Elaine Kaufman; former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent; art critic Robert Hughes; media correspondents Tom Brokaw, Morley Safer, and the late Charles Kuralt; entrepreneurs Yvon Chouinard, Thomas Siebel, Paul Allen, and William Randolph Hearst, III; chef Mario Batali; entertainment personalities Jessica Lange, Jeff Bridges, Sean Connery, Jimmy Buffet, Jack Nicholson, Robert Redford, and Harrison Ford.

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