

104th ANNUAL RMC CANDLELIGHT HONORS TRADITION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS - The 104th Annual Rocky Mountain College Candlelight Dinner will be held Thursday, February 7, 2013, in the Great Room of Prescott Hall.

Robert Wilmouth, M.D., who is RMC interim president, will deliver a "state of college" message. The RMC Board of Trustees is conducting a nationwide search to replace Michael Mace, who retired from the presidency in December. Dr. Wilmouth announced he hopes to be considered for the permanent position.

Two RMC students, Caroline Jones and Jase Oriet, will also speak.

Josiah Hamilton and Tiffany Personett will provide musical entertainment.

The annual Candlelight Dinner commemorates the first meal of students, faculty, and staff on "a cloudy, dreary day" in 1910 when Eaton Hall on the present campus was first occupied, according to Dr. Lawrence Small's account in *Courageous Journey: The Road to Rocky Mountain College*. But the dark, cold day did not dampen the spirits of faculty and students who pitched in to load and unload wagons full of college and personal belongings. When they finished their labors, the reward was a quickly-compiled meal of sandwiches, warmed-over potatoes, beans and cocoa in tin cups, served by candlelight because the electricity had not been hooked up. According to Lewis Eaton, one of the founding brothers of Billings Polytechnic Institute (which became Rocky Mountain College in 1947) early in the day as wagons sank into gumbo mud, "t can't be done," was often heard. Later, it became "It must be done. By day's end, it was done," according to the account.

The Candlelight Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Please RSVP to the RMC Alumni Office, 406-657-1007 by Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

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