

# Life

When The Rock was started in 2000, there were four staff. As of the fall semester 2009, The Rock has nine staff with one on the way. The larger staff team led to the creation of the *rock office*.

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■ **MU reported a first-day enrollment of 30,831, including 23,659 undergraduates. At 5,620, the freshman class is the second-largest in school history.**

■ **New dorms continue to open on campus. Baker-Park and Gardner-Hyde have been torn down and replaced with Hawthorne, Dogwood and Galena.**

■ **Become a friend of The Rock at [facebook.com/columbiarock](https://www.facebook.com/columbiarock)**

Big changes are afoot at The Rock. We are entering what I like to call "The Office Era." In August, The Rock started renting the apartment above the Drages' house on Anthony Street to use as office space. We've been thinking about it for a while, but it quickly became a necessity with the growth of our staff team. In August 2008, we had four people on staff with several raising support to join us. Now in November 2009, we have nine people on staff with one more raising support.

Transitioning into a GCM staff role on campus is difficult, and we think the office will help fight off two difficulties that we see new staff face: lack of structure and isolation.

After three months in the office, we're seeing a lot of positives come from it. It's one thing we can do to help our staff be more effective in bringing the gospel to Mizzou.

*Ed Courtney*

## A look inside

Before it was The Rock's office, apartment B at 1317 Anthony St. housed various college students. Bill Lautenschlager was one of those people. Now in what was once his bedroom, there is a large conference table and a dozen green chairs. "Sometimes it's strange walking up the steps," Bill said.

The transformation of the apartment above pastor John Drage's house into an office is something he said is "overwhelmingly beautiful." Three different colors of paint were applied to the walls, new furniture was added. There is a common area, a conference room and an office for pastor Ed Courtney. Finding such an office space was a big dream of The Rock's for the past three years. "At this point, I can't imagine not having it," John said.

The Rock's staff have appreciated the new space. Mazvita Matsiga said, "It's a place for me to go where I can be focused and it helps build structure into my week."

John adds that with more staff, it has helped foster better staff management. "We are informal in our DNA, but we needed this thing to help create formality."

Also, before the office existed, Peggy Meyers said the staff really only interacted with each other during the staff meeting, "It's good to be with the other staff because it makes me feel a part of a team more."



## staff over the years



## why are you on staff?



### The early years. (1992-1999)

This was the era of UBS and TCL, leading up to the planting of The Rock. It was a period in which a dying student group was resurrected and grew into a healthy group of around 100 students. It was a season that was known for being a little more intimate; it was common for everyone to know one another. The staff during this period included John Drage, Wayne Stombaugh, Cannon Ingalls, Ed Courtney, Todd Hessel.

### Something new. (2000-2006)

In 2000, The Rock was planted at Mizzou, ushering in an era in which we learn what it means to be a church and not just a campus group. Essentially, it's a time to grow up and become stabilized. Key moments include moving The Rock to Saturday nights and starting Canvas Groups. The staff include John, Ed, Barb Browne, Brian Gamel, Andy Bleyer, Carrie Flener, Garrett Naufel.

### The impact grows. (2007-present)

With the presence of more staff, The Rock is able to foster more impact on campus. The added staff also leads to more specific, gift-oriented roles. John no longer does 90 percent of the teaching. Ed is ordained as a pastor. Other staff include Garrett, Brandon Hoops, Peggy Meyers, Chad and Cassie Clooten, Mazvita Matsiga, Chris Swift, Bill Lautenschlager.

### Where are they now?

Wayne lives and works in St. Louis. Todd pastors a church in Algona, Iowa. Brian is pursuing his doctorate at Baylor University. Carrie is raising two little girls in Austin, Texas. Barb works at the GCM office in Orlando. Andy pastors Kairos West LA in Santa Monica, Calif. Cannon lives in Columbia and will soon finish with paramedic training.

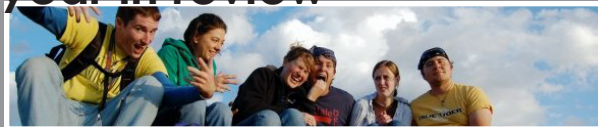
"I believe God's heart breaks for the thousands of young men and women at Mizzou who don't know Jesus. He's asked me to play a part in helping students understand both the gospel and its implications on their lives. I believe it's a critical work because today's college students are tomorrow's moms, dads, teachers, lawyers and presidents. Whether or not they come to know and follow Christ will affect multitudes of other people we will never know." (Bill Lautenschlager)

"While I was in college, God put on my heart the urgency and importance of bringing the gospel to college students. I realized that from this square mile of campus, a few thousand students a year go out to impact the world for Christ or for something else. There are hundreds of kids on campus who are distracted and beat up by the world and someone has to take the charge to bring the gospel into their lives. I want to be a part of seeing that happen." (Chris Swift)

"I wanted to give back to others, the same way those before me poured their lives into me to help grow me up into the woman I am today." (Cassie Clooten)

"I'm passionate about recovery ministry. One of the biggest reasons I'm on staff is my desire to help others remove the emotional barriers that hinder them from fully relating to God and fully relating to other people." (Mazvita Matsiga)

## year in review



### **Colorado LT. Steps of faith.**

Twenty-five students from The Rock ventured to the YMCA of the Rockies this past summer. Michelle Dow said, "I learned I can do some scary stuff with God! I don't think I have experienced as many scary and difficult situations in such a short amount of time as I did this summer. From walking the streets of Boulder to tell people about Jesus, to sharing at an open mike night, to opening up to my friends, it was terrifying. But God helped me through all of it."



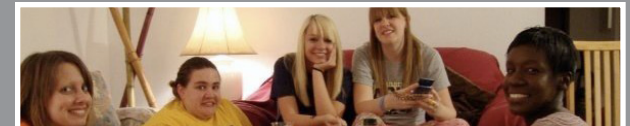
### **STORY. Using our imagination.**

The Rock opened the semester with a seven-week series called STORY. The goal was to help people see that there is more to this business of being human than we have yet explored; that when we enter into God's story, our stories begin to make sense. We covered many of the key parts of stories like imagination, love and death. It was also a series that incorporated many creative and personal elements. Go online to listen to the series.



### **Fall Retreat. Fun-filled weekend.**

On Oct. 2-3, The Rock hosted its annual 22-hour escape to Camp Cedarcrest in Mexico, MO. This year's attendance reached 130, which is a record number. Matt Rogers, a pastor at Virginia Tech, was the speaker. Highlights included feasting on a huge thanksgiving dinner and laughing late into the night as small groups performed skits Friday evening. The weekend was capped with baptisms at the lake. Five people were baptized.



### **Canvas Groups. Communities of faith.**

One of The Rock's most pivotal ministries continues to be its small groups, known as Canvas Groups. There are six Canvas Groups that met across campus this past year. There are more than 100 students plugged into these groups, including more than 30 students who help in various leadership capacities. These groups are known across campus as loving communities where lots of life transformation takes place.