

## Caring Maroon learned to lead at Roanoke



As a campus leader, **Andrew J. Sturfels '05** spoke publicly for the College a lot, but he says it wasn't until he addressed some new students at an open house that it all hit him.

"I got choked up and had to stop halfway through it," he says. "I didn't realize until that moment how much Roanoke College had meant to me. I'm going to miss the place terribly."

The feeling, no doubt, is mutual. Sturfels, an energetic political science major from Woodbury, N.J., helped lead and shape the campus from practically his first day here. He was vice president of his freshman class and president the following year. He also was president of the Student Government Association, a resident advisor, a Pi Kappa Alpha and served on the College's Strategic Planning Committee and the Presidential Search Committee. Since his second semester, Sturfels says he also always held an outside job, working 30 to 40 hours a week at a local restaurant while managing to hold a 3.0 grade point average.

On top of all that, Sturfels, a cancer survivor, is known throughout the country for his role with the American Cancer Society's signature fundraising event, "Relay for Life." As a freshman, Sturfels, who survived leukemia as a child, got Roanoke College to be one of the first colleges in the country to host a Relay for Life event. Now there are over 300 such college events nationwide, and the money raised goes directly to research, patient services, cancer advocacy and

other cancer-fighting initiatives. Roanoke College has raised about \$120,000 in the campus event's four-year history.

Sturfels battled leukemia from age 4 to 7 and nearly died twice. Later, he didn't like people knowing about that experience so he didn't talk about it. But when he got to college, he says he realized it was a big part of who he is.

He thought by sharing his experience and becoming active as a volunteer, he could help make things better.

"I've always been a real believer that you can do anything you want to do," he says. "It just takes effort and hard work, and sometimes it's hard for people to see that. The great thing about Roanoke is you can succeed if you want to. Here, there are leadership opportunities. You've just got to step up and do it."

Sturfels has considered a career in politics or with a nonprofit and is working now in hospitality, where he says he also is able "to make a positive change." He has moved to San Francisco, where he works in food and beverage management for the downtown Marriott and is volunteering with the American Cancer Society and local pediatric oncology clinics.

"Many people told me it took a lot of guts to make such a big move . . . but from the life lessons and skills that I got from my time at Roanoke, I've been able to choose my path and make things happen."

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## Mathematician adds to his accomplishments



As a math major, **Richard J. Goeres** knows about balancing equations both in the classroom and in his own life.

The rising senior attends Roanoke College on a Beard Scholarship, which was named for William Beard, Roanoke's first valedictorian. The scholarship is awarded to no more than three students per year and covers full tuition, room and board.

Goeres credits much of his success with the relationships he has developed with his peers. "Those connections have allowed me to feel like Roanoke College was a second home, and, in turn, I felt comfortable enough to relax and do my best," he says.

The Strasburg, Va., native, who says he averages at least a 3.5 grade point average, has been inducted into Alpha Chi, a national college scholarship society; Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, and Phi Mu Epsilon, a national honor fraternity for excellence in mathematics. He is included in the 2004 *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* and received the Mathematical Association of America Membership Award. In 2005, Roanoke College named him a Junior Scholar.

Goeres also is very involved in the campus community. He is the head Resident Advisor, trainer for the TIPS Alcohol Education/Awareness Program, president of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity chapter and serves on the Student Conduct Council, the Academic Integrity Board and the Lutheran Student Movement.

## Granddad would be proud



One of the earliest memories **Lois R. Lee '05** has is declaring to her mother, "I'm going to Roanoke College when I grow up." Fulfilling that dream took quite a while — but delighted the Roanoke College family as well as her own.

After this year's commencement, Lee rang