Meet six Regent graduates who live to inspire, influence and serve others in every sphere of life.
Kimberly Holland

Kimberly Holland ’02 (Law) may be living a life Behind the Gold, the title of her YouTube video, but her personal race has just begun. Holland is a one-of-a-kind sports agent in the business of representing and promoting elite-class track and field stars. As the sole female in a career flush with men, she was a standout as her world-class athletes competed in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. Beyond the business aspects of her job, this unique and impressive agent stood trackside, available, and cheering her Olympic stars on to victory.

“IT’S BIGGER THAN KIMBERLY. I TRUST THAT WHATEVER GOD HAS FOR THE FUTURE WILL BE THE BEST THING.”

Coinciding with her graduation from Regent University School of Law, Holland faced a decision she had never before contemplated, a potential career in sports management. An Olympic medalist, Terrence Trammell, had come to her, asking her to consider managing his career. Holland had decided to work in the field of entertainment law with visions of working with the legal affairs of a record label. With encouragement from sport and entertainment law professor Martin Filfen, Holland researched the possibilities. With previous experience in entertainment promotions, a juris doctorate in hand and an Olympic medalist asking for her help, Holland saw her destiny suddenly change.

As the CEO and president of Icon Management, Holland is becoming somewhat of an icon herself. In a male-dominated field, her track record has surprised skeptics. When athletes come to Holland wanting representation, it’s because word has gotten around that she knows what she is doing. Once an agreement has been reached, the athlete and Holland craft a specific career plan together. If endorsements are to be had, Holland tries to procure a four- to six-year sponsorship, allowing the athletes time to focus on their competitions. She negotiates their appearances, competitions, prizes and bonus structures. “In a nutshell, I set up marketing opportunities,” she says.

Holland has a long record of being a trendsetter, a pioneer. Reflecting on her youth, she comments, “I was always very focused, always wanted to surround myself with successful people. I was never a follower.” With strong family support, even as a teenager, Holland excelled. She was a student leader, a cheerleader, a model and a conscientious student. After graduating from Norfolk State University, Holland worked at the Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., and then landed a job as a legislative foreign policy aide on Capitol Hill on the staff of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

In 1994, Holland moved to Atlanta for a career in concert promotions and then worked as a paralegal for LaFace Records. Having always wanted to become a lawyer, she knew that it was time to tackle law school. Looking for a Christian law school, Holland, in true form, researched the possibilities. The more she read about Regent’s history, the more she felt it was the place she needed to be.

Holland’s educational experience at Regent was both wonderful and perplexing. Since her youth, she had been interested in law, seeing it as a means to achieve justice. The more she studied, the more she came to terms with her personal disillusionment with the court system. A paradigm shift occurred when Holland realized that presenting the best argument in court would not satisfy her. Winning cases primarily on the basis of her expertise would compromise her beliefs. In time, she began questioning what she could do with her law degree. Regent Law Dean Jeffrey Brauch and other law professors were accessible and open to talk to Holland about her dilemma. The guidance Regent provided at the crossroads of her future was just what she needed. She obviously found her direction.

Holland continues to challenge herself, opening new doors of opportunity by studying for a license to become an agent for the NFL, in addition to her USA Track & Field Association license. Holland knows that sports entertainment is a very influential industry. She believes she is involved for a reason—to inspire, to live as an example. “IT’S GOING TO BE AMAZING AS THINGS UNFOLD … IT’S BIGGER THAN KIMBERLY. I TRUST THAT WHATEVER GOD HAS FOR THE FUTURE WILL BE THE BEST THING.”
William Condon

William Condon ’04 (Government and Law) has always had a thirst for learning. At a time in his life when others were establishing their professional careers, Condon felt compelled to return to graduate and law school. In his forties, he achieved these self-determined goals with impressive honors: West Outstanding Scholarship Achievement Award, Outstanding Scholarship Award from the Robertson School of Government (RSG) and Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities.

“Success is not measured by material things ... How useful I am to God and other people is what is important.”

However, awards, honors and a distinguished career are simply not enough to satisfy Condon. “What I have come to realize in the past few years is that success is not measured by material things or professional accomplishments. How useful I am to God and other people is what is important,” he says. With a desire to help others, Condon may have found his niche as a public servant. Currently an assistant attorney general for the state of South Carolina, Condon aspires to someday ply his knowledge in the political arena in order to make a difference.

Condon selected Regent for his postgraduate education because he wanted to understand the moral principles upon which the law is based. Desiring to serve in public life through government or politics, Condon recognized how Regent’s objective to prepare Christian leaders coincided with his own purpose. Thinking back on his coursework, Condon recalls three significant foundational classes that helped prepare him to understand and interpret the law today. In RSG he took a memorable course based on 10 to 12 biblical principles upon which separate teaching modules were developed. He recalls another class that traced the development of religious and philosophical thought in Western civilization and its laws, and a political philosophy course that introduced the thinking of philosophers through the world’s development.

Armed with political insights and the expertise of a lawyer, Condon is well equipped to make a difference in his chosen field. As a lawyer in Washington, D.C., Condon volunteered for the Washington Legal Clinic for the homeless. Each month he made himself and his legal expertise available to anyone with a need at a homeless shelter.

As Condon found ways to help the people, he discovered the principle of reciprocity, finding personal satisfaction in giving his time and energy to others. “It’s taken me 45 years to come to that conclusion, as old ways of thinking take a long time to correct,” he says. The more he serves, the more Condon finds his purpose in life.

Seeking ways to give back to others, Condon has majored in volunteerism. He worked with the East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO), a local nonprofit agency in the Charleston, S.C., area, formed after Hurricane Hugo hit in 1989. He began serving on the ECCO board of directors in 1992, continuing for the next eight years. Using his administrative, accounting and budgeting skills, Condon helped the agency provide varieties of practical assistance to many people. He has served as well on the leadership team for his church’s singles’ ministry, and today he volunteers as a member of Regent University’s Executive Alumni Board. Condon affirms his life philosophy by saying, “I believe that any success I have experienced, or will experience, will materialize only if I am willing to stop thinking about myself and start thinking about others.”

The future holds many exciting possibilities for Condon. He attributes reading a book by Billy Graham for turning his thoughts to the political scene. As one who holds moral principles as his compass and is a leader in his own right, Condon is preparing to run for political office someday. He has been researching some of the important issues in government policy today with plans to write his conclusions for decision makers to read. Explaining his motivation to step into the political arena, Condon says simply, “I want to be useful.” His mission and purpose are worthy.
Cedric Rucker '08 (Psychology & Counseling) has an eye for unreached human potential. He knows life can be hopeless without a vision of one’s unique purpose, and he has chosen to do something to help change that for as many people as possible. For this reason, Rucker has dedicated his time and abilities to coaching at-risk boys, finding ways to help them develop their uncultivated talents.

Rucker arrived in Norfolk, Va., for his service to the military. While stationed at Norfolk Naval Base from 1997–2000, he became familiar with the area, establishing himself in a church home and developing local friendships. After his discharge from the military, Rucker chose to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

While taking a class called “African-American Psychology” as a sophomore, Rucker experienced his moment of truth, a powerful turning point from which his life purpose would develop. He came face to face with the problems many at-risk African-American students experience while trying to acquire an education. “Seeing the statistics that pointed to the problems at-risk students were having broke my heart,” Rucker recalls. He knew he had to work with these kids. He wanted to help the ones who lacked the success-shaping support he experienced as a child.

After graduation, as a budding life-changer, Rucker chose to further refine his knowledge. Learning about Regent from a friend, he chose the university to pursue a Master of Arts in Counseling. Rucker wanted to be ably equipped for his role as a counselor and mentor. He recognized the advantages of Regent’s integration of academic curriculum with the spiritual dimension of life.

Rucker identifies with kids who struggle to achieve academically. Though he completed his undergraduate work summa cum laude, Rucker had no interest in school as a boy growing up in Cleveland, Ohio. He didn’t apply himself. He didn’t see the relevance of school. His educational performance suffered. However, for young Rucker, there was hope. With continued reinforcement from his father—who was a pastor—and his mother, a teacher, Rucker eventually succeeded in school. He received positive affirmation from people who believed in his potential, who wouldn’t give up on him. Rucker had the voices of family and teachers cheering him on, providing vision when he had none.

As an undergraduate student, Rucker began to focus on those less fortunate than he had been. “I took a small step. I volunteered to read and tutor elementary-aged inner-city children,” he explains. Those disadvantaged children were the seeds that grew into his life’s passion to counsel and pastor, to change lives from the inside out.

As he honed his counseling skills, Rucker also worked part-time at a local residential treatment facility for at-risk children and adolescents with emotional issues.

Rucker also discovered the impact he could make when able to focus on one child’s unique situation at a time. While working for Compass Youth Services, Rucker did in-home counseling with the children and their families, often with life-changing results.

Rucker began his latest challenge at Harvard Divinity School in September 2008. His own rise from prosaic educational beginnings to admission to Harvard’s Divinity School could well provide encouragement to those to whom he will minister. “I understand what it is to have potential and not fully reach it,” he says. “I believe my call is to pastor.” Yet Rucker affirms that his destiny will always include working with young people as a mentor and life-shaping encourager.
Rachel Sherburne

Cheerleading. Leadership classes. A video camera. Iraq. These unlikely elements became the synergy behind Rachel Sherburne’s outstanding School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE) 2008 project award. While on active duty in Iraq, Sherburne determinedly pursued her studies toward a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership (MOL) from Regent University, resulting in an award-winning video called Light of the World.

“‘We live in a world that tells us that if we serve ourselves, we’ll be happy ... it’s when we serve others that we find joy and peace.’”

Sherburne has been drawn to leadership roles all of her life. “I always enjoyed inspiring people, cheering them on. When you ignite people’s passions, there is nothing better,” she reflects. Sherburne’s experiences in leading and encouraging others range from cheerleading, student government, ROTC and finally, her U.S. Air Force career. As a public affairs officer, Sherburne has traveled the world to air shows with the Air Force F-15 demonstration team, speaking to millions.

Sherburne has seen how these previous experiences have prepared her for a greater challenge, providing new insights into this calling to lead. However, it wasn’t until recently that she began to comprehend leadership on a deeper level. Sherburne believes she is a woman with a story to tell. After undergraduate school, Sherburne joined the Air Force, becoming a public affairs officer at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. Encouraged by a college professor to consider leadership courses, Sherburne thought Regent’s School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship would be a perfect fit. Then she was deployed to Iraq. Without an inkling of what was before her, she placed her belongings in storage and departed with a brand-new video camera in hand.

Sherburne had the unique opportunity of being assigned to Iraq at a pivotal time in history. General David Petraeus was about to orchestrate the troop surge, Saddam Hussein had just been executed, and the media were waiting to report any and all changes.

As a liaison between worldwide media associations and the Joint Operations Center in Baghdad, Sherburne reported day-to-day military events to the media and provided analyses of the media responses to General Raymond Odierno on a regular basis. Such a position of responsibility was satisfying. Yet, deep inside, Sherburne believed she had been sent to Iraq for another reason. She refers to this pivotal time as both life-changing and a dose of reality.

“Servant leadership” was a charge Sherburne had been carefully taught while studying at Regent. Once in Iraq, she felt a gnawing inside to do something more, something beyond her job description to meet the citizens’ needs. She first began volunteering at the Civil Military Operations Center, where Iraqi people were given free medical and dental care, food and clothing.

“I found such fulfillment,” she says. Realizing how all people need a message of hope, Sherburne firmly embraced the principle of serving others. Recording seemingly miles of tape on the video camera, she thought she had a historic record of her deployment, nothing more. However, after returning to Regent, Dr. Kathleen Patterson, GLE professor, encouraged Sherburne to share her experience as a final project for the MOL. Due to the flexibility of Sherburne’s advisor at Regent, she has discovered her passion, a climactic turning point in her life.

Since discovering a technology partner, Brad Vaughan of Virginia Beach, Va., Sherburne now has a sense of direction for her future. With Vaughan’s expertise behind the camera to complement Sherburne’s knack for speaking and acting, they share a vision for making a positive impact on their culture. Sherburne’s zeal for producing messages of faith and hope is evident. “People are looking for something bigger than themselves,” she proclaims. “We live in a world that tells us that if we serve ourselves, we’ll be happy. I learned that it’s when we serve others that we find peace and joy.” Sherburne’s greatest desire is to inspire others to be servant leaders. You can access her Light of the World project on www.youtube.com.
Antoinette Alvarado

“The more I learn, the more I discover I don’t know,” says Antoinette Alvarado, D.Min. ’08 (Divinity), co-pastor of Total Grace Christian Center in Atlanta, Ga. Better known as Pastor Toni, she is accomplished in many areas. An author, minister, public speaker and teacher, Alvarado is inspired to help others achieve their dreams. As a recent recipient of the Leadership and Renewal Award for the Doctor of Ministry from Regent’s School of Divinity, this energetic and capable young woman likewise earned a Who’s Who Award and an Award for Excellence as an outstanding graduate.

An avid achiever, Alvarado is passionate about helping other women get in touch with their identities, gifts and skills. She recently launched a women’s organization called My Sister’s Keeper Foundation – Moving Women from Average to Excellence, as a result of her doctoral dissertation project. While completing her studies at Regent, Alvarado worked with a group of women in her home church, creating the forerunner of her foundation.

Her life work as a preacher had been established and confirmed in her master’s program, but it was at Regent that Alvarado discovered her passion for leadership development and life coaching. As the oldest of four children, she had plenty of opportunities to learn responsibility and leadership growing up. However, Alvarado realizes that through it all, she missed a key element: understanding who she was and what her personal talents were.

She explains that her experience at Regent was much more than an education. “Regent was very formational for me … renewing. The program gave me an opportunity to dream and stretch myself.” Reflecting on early educational experiences, Alvarado explains that in not genuinely knowing herself, she first selected a program of nursing—as her mother had done. It was not a positive experience. By the time she was ready for the doctorate program at Regent, her confidence had grown, because she knew she was finally zeroing in on her life work, her legacy.

As a part of her doctoral training, Alvarado first received life coaching—in preparation for coaching others. “Sometimes we don’t stop to evaluate and reflect; I do life and ministry differently as a result of coaching.”

Alvarado’s new women’s foundation was recently launched at a church celebration in honor of her graduation from Regent last May. My Sister’s Keeper Foundation began with a focus group in August 2008. Elements included goal-setting sessions, peer-support partnerships and one-on-one coaching for nine months with Alvarado. A culminating retreat this spring will guide the participants in developing life purpose statements, sealing the work they have undergone during the preceding months.

Two other programs will coincide with the foundation. Once in the program, women can apply for the Second Chance Award. Offering $2,500–$5,000 academic scholarships for women who want to return to school, Alvarado hopes to open doors to women who want to break free of inhibiting circumstances.

A lifelong learner herself, Alvarado firmly believes in the power of education. She teaches others not to focus on the deterrents of the past, insisting that they are not the sum of those circumstances. “You are not what happened to you!” is her battle cry.

Alongside this effort, Alvarado has a very practical plan called the Single Mother’s Assistance Program. This program helps provide extracurricular activities for single mothers’ children—activities that allow the children to grow too. Through participation in the arts, sports and camps, these children will have a chance to explore their talents and gifts, which otherwise could lie dormant for lack of opportunity.

Yes, Alvarado has achieved much. yet she eagerly looks forward to watching her dreams grow in the future. “As long as I’m living, there will always be something to learn,” she says. From a childhood of hardships, “Pastor Toni” is a witness to all who want to change their destiny.
“Keep it real,” says Bob Zentmeyer ’91 (Education) when asked about his successes as a supervisor of alternative education in Egg Harbor, N.J. With a leadership style that is creative and inspiring, he has discovered unique, collaborative ways to reach students who have previously met with failure. To see kids come to school and achieve success, perhaps for the first time, is reward enough for Zentmeyer, “I can’t imagine anything I’d rather be doing,” he says.

As the administrator of Eagle Academy, which he founded in 1999, Zentmeyer undertook the challenge of starting a vibrant alternative school from scratch. An old 1914 building was dedicated for the use of Eagle Academy, but Zentmeyer saw opportunities for student involvement, even in the refurbishing process. The students were actively involved with many projects to restore the building they would eventually call their home school. Active involvement, student ownership, learning and career development were all underway … and the school hadn’t even officially opened.

To build the skills that would help build his dream of helping students, Zentmeyer knew early on that he needed to find a strong master’s program. With his wife and three children, Zentmeyer took a sabbatical from his early teaching career in 1990 and headed for Virginia Beach, Va. He says Regent became a source of renewal and learning … a rich experience for the whole family. Zentmeyer’s graduate program provided a strong pedagogical foundation and trained him in the educational research process. In reflecting on his education, he says, “There is nothing that can substitute the holistic approach to education at Regent. You can live the truths that make a difference, and exercise the principles and values that contribute to the success of a program.”

Zentmeyer’s educational vision has benefitted Eagle Academy students since the school’s inception. He thinks out of the box and sees opportunities that others may have missed in order to spur his students to success. He has created a place where the teachers like what they do each day, and they know what they bring to the table truly makes a difference. The students may have had a long list of failures in the past, but when they come to Eagle Academy, they become involved in determining short-range ways to achieve success and setting some long-range goals.

His team’s commitment to success was rewarded in 2002, when Zentmeyer and his staff received the I.D.E.A.S. Award from the New Jersey Department of Education. “It’s always been fun to find good people with great ideas and find the resources to unleash those ideas to serve others,” says Zentmeyer.

“When everyone is working together for a common goal, discipline problems are minimized and success is possible.”

The simply stated goal of Eagle Academy is to spark interest and thus fully engage at-risk secondary students. That is easier said than done, as anyone who has worked with at-risk teenagers knows; yet through a project called “No Child Left Inside,” Eagle Academy students have increased their attendance and gained valuable high school credits, leading them to the ultimate goal of a diploma.

Through one unique school and community collaboration, students became involved in transforming a former landfill into a community arboretum. The kids learned skills and prepared for future jobs, while ultimately meeting the community’s need for a park. Zentmeyer remarks, “Most people want to be a part of a ‘noble cause.’ Business people in the community understand if the youth’s needs are not met, then the society will suffer.”

Certainly, Zentmeyer is not a leader who presents himself as one with all the answers. He knows the importance of having excellent curriculum, specific objectives and structured follow through. However, he believes that educators must have a listening ear to understand the needs of the stakeholders: parents, children and the community. Without that, at-risk students may not transition into becoming the productive citizens everyone desires. Regarding the responsibility of optimizing that transition, Zentmeyer reflects, “I don’t have to do it all. I don’t have to do most of it … if we all work together.”

Bob Zentmeyer

“When everyone is working together for a common goal, discipline problems are minimized and success is possible.”