The Rochester Academy of Science and Nazareth College present the

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Larry King Memorial Lecture
November 9, 2013
Imaging Technologies and the Impending New "Golden Age" in Manuscript Studies
Roger Easton, Jr. Ph.D.

The lecture will be at 1:30 pm following the lunch. The buffet lunch will be served in the Reading Room of the Shults Center and there will be tables and chairs in the Forum, adjacent to the Reading Room where you can sit and eat. The lecture will be in the Forum.

The subject matter of the lecture:

Advances in imaging and computing technologies are being applied to recover writings from erased or otherwise damaged manuscripts that may have been thought lost or even whose existence was unsuspected. The proliferation of imaging systems and processing methods aimed at this goal has begun and promises a deluge of new imagery to be interpreted. In this lecture, examples will be drawn from a range of projects including studies of the Archimedes palimpsest, a Syriac palimpsest with a medical undertext, the David Livingstone 1871 African field diaries, a manuscript of a French poem that was damaged in the Dresden bombings, and the collection of palimpsests at St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai.

Dr. Roger Easton, Jr. has been on the faculty of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science at the Rochester Institute of Technology since 1986. His interests in the fields of digital and optical holography and image and signal processing led to the imaging of ancient documents, a growing field in which he has worked in collaboration with others since the 1990s. Dr. Easton's contributions in the use of multispectral image processing of original artifacts or photographs of ancient texts, has enabled scholars to read damaged writing that over millennia has degraded, or been erased and overwritten. Among these are the texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Archimedes Palimpsest. Currently Dr. Easton is working with a team to recover hidden texts from the palimpsests among the "New Finds" in the library at St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai desert.

Dr. Easton is the author of the book "Fourier Methods in Imaging" (2010) and the co-author of the chapter on image processing in "The Archimedes Palimpsest" (2011). He has been honored with receipt of the Professor Raymond C. Bowman Award from the Society for Imaging Science and Technology and shared the Archie Mahan Prize from the Optical Society of America with two others.