

RISING TOGETHER

A PUBLICATION OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY'S ADVANCEMENT DIVISION

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Rowan rising to the challenge with campaign launch

Rowan pride radiated throughout campus on April 5 as the University publicly launched its first-ever comprehensive campaign, Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University, celebrating how far the institution has come—and how far it plans to go.

Faculty, staff and students came together to learn more about the campaign, which has been in a “quiet” phase since 2014. To date, more than \$96 million has been raised toward the \$120 million goal, a goal President Ali A. Houshmand plans to not only reach, but surpass.

“This campaign is an opportunity for everyone—no matter how much they contribute—to impact the lives of people for years to come,” said Houshmand.

The campaign is chaired by four notable leaders with strong connections to the University—Virginia Rowan Smith, Lawrence J. Salva ’77, Jean Edelman ’81 and Linda Rohrer. All four are members of the University’s Board of Trustees whose generous philanthropic support has made a tremendous impact on the University and its students.

Giving during the course of the campaign will make a direct impact in critical areas that are propelling the institution farther than ever before. The future success of the University relies on a Rowan community that is united and engaged in efforts to advance Rowan’s legacy and deliver long-lasting results.

“In the next 10 years, this University can become a national leading research university,” said Campaign Co-chair Salva. “But it needs the resources to do it.”

Under President Houshmand’s leadership, Rowan has remained bold and unwavering on its course to change the face of public higher education. Affordable, accessible and quality education embodies the University’s mission to change lives regionally, nationally and globally.

Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University will fuel the institution’s continued rise and focus on three key areas—changing student’s lives, supporting

new discoveries and providing learning and living environments that inspire.

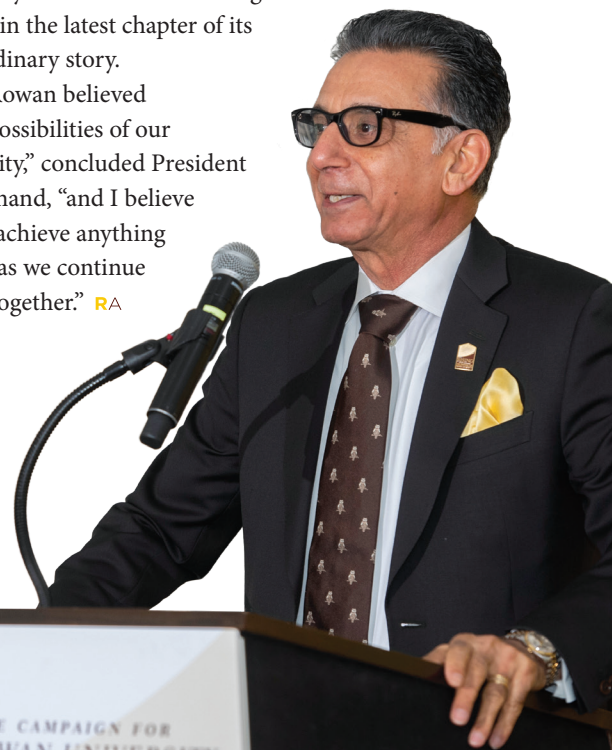
Rowan’s rising trajectory has been grounded in its focus on providing opportunities and advantages to enhance the college experience for all students.

“When I meet with student leaders from other universities, they’re shocked to hear how deeply President Houshmand and the Rowan leadership truly value our student voice,” Student Government Association President Rbrey Singleton ’19 said.

To continue challenging students like Rbrey, the University understands it must invest in rising faculty and strive to meet the needs of 21st century learners. This campaign will ensure the University can attract the best minds in all fields to guide and inspire students while also maintaining a thriving environment for quality teaching and experiential learning.

Henry and Betty Rowan’s unprecedented \$100 million gift put Rowan University on an amazing path. Now, the University looks to achieve even greater heights in the latest chapter of its extraordinary story.

“Mr. Rowan believed in the possibilities of our University,” concluded President Houshmand, “and I believe we can achieve anything as long as we continue to rise together.” **RA**



Join us as we rise to new heights of excellence! Visit rowan.edu/rising to learn more about the Campaign and to make a gift.



Rising gala

More than 325 of Rowan University's friends gathered at the Union League in Philadelphia on April 5th to celebrate the launch of Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University. The event celebrated the institution's exceptional progress under the visionary leadership of President Ali A. Houshmand. As the University transforms higher education and creates more opportunities and advantages for students and faculty, the partnership of generous alumni and friends will help Rowan build on its momentum and continue rising to even greater heights of excellence.



1. Farah Houshmand, President Houshmand, Patti Piccone and Dr. James Piccone

2. Rowan Foundation Board Chair Jack Hafner '93

3. Campaign Co-chair Virginia Rowan Smith

4. SGA President Rbrey Singleton '19

5. Trudy Spence-Parker '79 and Steven Parker

6. Campaign Co-chair Jean Edelman '81, Ric Edelman '80, Campaign Co-chair Linda Rohrer and Ed Warner

7. Student Alumni Association Members: Kaitlee Francisco '19, Justin Fandino '19, Lauren Bitzer '19, Annie Busarello '19, Mike Viola '19, Marissa Ciocco '19 and Devon Dyer '19

8. President Houshmand and Farah Houshmand

9. Campaign Co-chair Lawrence Salva '77 and Rita Salva

10. Michael Coletta '12, M.D.'16 and Lindsay Camerieri '15

11. James Gruccio, Marie Elena Gruccio, Sheela Bagaria and Surendra Bagaria, M.D.

12. William Moen '09 and Nicole Sutterley

Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver '62

Changing the world one idea at a time

A journalist at heart with a desire to bring new ideas to life, Dr. Lillian Kopenhaver '62 has pledged \$300,000 to establish the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Career Resource Library within Rowan's Office of Career Advancement.

"I'm still doing what I love 50 years later," said Kopenhaver. "Helping young people has always been my primary focus. They need to know what's out there for them—the many possibilities and opportunities awaiting their expertise."

Kopenhaver's hardworking spirit was evident at a young age when she was writing columns for her local paper while still in high school. She loved journalism, English and history and knew her passions for each would translate well through teaching.

A graduate of the Class of 1962, she registered for journalism classes right away and spent all four years working for the student newspaper, *The Whit*, and served as president of the student publications club.

"Glassboro State College was the foundation of my career," said Kopenhaver. "I gravitated to journalism and communications my first year as a teacher and it went from there. Everything I'm doing today was laid in those years as an undergrad."

Kopenhaver was hired to teach journalism at Brick Township High School right out of college and was the first to start a student newspaper and serve as the advisor.

"That was the beginning of my love for starting new things," she added. "I still have relationships with my students from that first newspaper staff. Those relationships are what makes a difference in what we do as teachers and that's why I've stayed in it my entire life."

Kopenhaver also started Ocean County College's first student newspaper in addition to Florida International University's (FIU) first student newspaper and first yearbook.

Kopenhaver is executive director of the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for Advancement of Women in Communication at FIU where she has worked for 46 years. She is also Dean Emeritus and Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication where she is known as one of the School's founders as well as the University itself. When she stepped down as Dean, she founded the Center in 2013 to help women become leaders and visionaries in the communications field.

The Center recently hosted its fourth annual national conference, "Women in Communication Shattering the Ceiling," where speakers came from D.C. and New York, including a former student of Kopenhaver's, to share their journeys to success with over 300 aspiring communication professionals.

"The Center at FIU was another idea, another program, I was just ready to breathe life into," said Kopenhaver. "Starting from



scratch, creating and innovating has always been something I've loved to do. The Center is very special to me and the Resource Library at Rowan seemed to really correlate with the work I'm doing there."

The Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Career Resource Library will be housed in Savitz Hall and will enhance the Office of Career's Advancement's ability to help students and alumni develop skills for lifelong professional development, job satisfaction and job readiness as they build connections, find opportunities and become future leaders.

"It is our job as teachers, educators and mentors to build that next generation," she said. "We have to empower them to want more, to serve as visionaries in their field."

In addition to the Career Resource Library, Kopenhaver also established the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for Alumni Engagement in Rowan University's Office of Alumni Engagement.

"Extending resources to alumni has always been big for me," concluded Kopenhaver. "Supporting students as they achieve their dreams is what I've spent the last 50 years working to do, and that support shouldn't just stop after graduation. It should last a lifetime." **RA**

OceanFirst Foundation scholarships support student success



Trevor Watson, Ocean First VP/Branch Manager; John J. Zabinski, Senior Vice President for University Advancement, Rowan University; Jeff Ropiecki, Ocean First VP/Commercial Lending; Cliff Livingston, Ocean First VP/Commercial Lending

Building on its long-standing tradition of supporting higher education, OceanFirst Foundation recently awarded \$50,000 to fund scholarships for undergraduate Rowan students. This is the second year that OceanFirst has provided funding to the University, and, to date, 40 students have each received \$2,500.

Scholarship awards like those from OceanFirst make a big difference for student

recipients, who share the impact in thank-you letters. As one student said, "The OceanFirst scholarship is a great building block toward less debt as I exit college in the spring of 2012 and I am truly blessed to have received it." **RA**

To learn more about the impact of scholarships or how to create your own, contact John Zabinski at 856-256-4148 or zabinski@rowan.edu.

Scholarship fund supports Camden County youth

Brothers Andy and Brett Levin, owners of MHS Lift in Pennsauken, NJ, have pledged over \$200,000 to establish the MHS Lift Scholarship at Rowan University. The scholarship will provide full academic support for undergraduate students at Rowan who are also active members of the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County.

Material Handling Supply, Inc. opened in 1970 and has been providing forklift trucks and other warehouse products for almost five decades. The Levin brothers purchased MHS Lift from their father in 2012, transforming it into the modern and innovative business it is today.

The Boys & Girls Club of Camden County

has as its mission to “enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.” With their scholarship, MHS Lift recognizes the organization and its impact on community students.

“My brother Andy and I believe that the Boys & Girls Club of Camden is a tremendous organization,” said Brett. “They provide the support and safety necessary to children and teenagers as they learn and grow into strong adults.”

Rowan University’s Senior Vice President for University Advancement John Zabinski said, “MHS Lift felt that it was really important to give back to students in need,

and I’m happy that Andy and Brett chose to partner with us to make a difference.”

The staggered scholarship will accept one new student per year and will include a full academic scholarship and full coverage of room, board and book costs. In addition to being an active member of the Boys & Girls Club of Camden County, recipients must be full time residents of the state with demonstrated financial need.

“We want to invest in these kids,” Brett concluded. “This scholarship will give them the opportunity to get an education so that, one day, they can give back to their families and their communities. We feel that Rowan is the place that will give them that chance.” **RA**

Well suited for success: Career Closet benefits students in need

When Rowan University President Ali Houshmand launched the Suit Our Students 100-day challenge in December 2018, the goal was to receive 300 suit donations in three months. Since then, the closet has been stocked by over 1,500 generous donations—a major success for the initiative and for students in need of professional attire.

The Career Closet, located in Savitz Hall, was established in fall 2017. Students gearing up for interviews regularly visit the closet to obtain dry-cleaned donated professional ensembles including suits, dresses, blouses, shirts, blazers, shoes, belts and ties.

“We do as much as we can to prepare our students for life after graduation,” said Bob Bullard, Director of Career Advancement. “Our staff will even offer students on-the-spot tie-tying tutorials if they need them.”

The Office of Career Advancement helps students develop and achieve educational and career goals. They provide one-on-one career counseling, workshops, recruitment programs, career fairs and job posting databases to assist students as they progress in their studies, apply for internships and strive to land their first jobs.

“The challenge was met thanks to the overwhelming support from our donors, alumni and the Glassboro community,” said Bullard.

“No student should have to worry about the cost of an expensive outfit for a job interview,” said President Ali Houshmand. “The Career Closet is a remarkable initiative. I challenged our community in the hopes that they would deliver for the sake of our students—and that’s exactly what they did.” **RA**



Area residents wishing to make donations to the closet can arrange for items to be picked up by calling 856-256-4040 or emailing studentaffairs@rowan.edu. Donated items should be dry-cleaned with sizes clearly identified. Donations are tax deductible. Upon request, University Advancement will provide documentation of donations.

Supporting the future of osteopathic medicine

Dr. Kathy Lambert, RowanSOM’s Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, established The Matthew and Patricia Campanella Endowed Scholarship in honor of her parents. Beloved by his family and community, Matthew, who passed away in 2018, was a devoted husband, father, decorated war veteran, and philanthropist

who actively volunteered in local communities for many years.

Both Matthew and Patricia emphasized the importance of education to their children. Born into a poor immigrant family, Matthew believed that higher education was the pathway to success. He was a great proponent of osteopathic

medicine and would be pleased this scholarship was established to help deserving medical students.

To make a gift online, visit go.rowan.edu/SupportRowanSOM. Click “Fund of Your Choice,” select “Other,” and click continue. Enter “Campanella Endowed Scholarship” in the text field. **RA**



Fifth annual celebration of philanthropy sets giving records

Five years of RowanGIVES Day—five years of extraordinary Prof pride.

The inaugural RowanGIVES Day event in 2015 consisted of 450 donors who raised \$63,629.

This year's celebration garnered more than six times the amount of donors (2,585) and more than doubled the funds raised with a grand total of \$127,653—generating the most gifts in the event's history.

RowanGIVES Day, now a well-known Prof tradition, is a 24-hour giving campaign celebrating the importance of philanthropy.

"I am overjoyed by the support that unfolds with each new year of RowanGIVES," said President Ali Houshmand. "I am proud to represent a University that is loved and supported by so many."

Students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends shatter participation goals year after year to support the areas of campus they are passionate about. Seven unique challenges encouraged an exciting and

competitive philanthropic atmosphere, including a student program challenge, athletics challenge, RowanSOM and CMSRU challenges, and a social media challenge.

In honor of the University's founding year, the donor challenge was set at 1,923 participants and additional funds of \$1,923 were awarded to the five designations that received the most donations, sponsored by Board of Trustees member Virginia Rowan Smith.

The top five designations of the day were the Women's Ice Hockey Club, the Early Childhood Demonstration Center, the James S. Huff-Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund, Rowan Unified Sports and the Marvin Harris Memorial Fund.

Volunteerism also plays a large role in the spirit of RowanGIVES Day. The Chamberlain Student Center hosted a special celebration with a live

broadcast by WGLS-FM and dozens of student volunteers representing various campus groups.

"The energy of RowanGIVES Day is incredible," said sophomore Kara Natoli, representing Rowan Unified Sports.

"Rowan Unified has already taken new steps in planning events we couldn't do before. It's really awesome witnessing the effects of what giving back to a community can do."

"It's wonderful what a community can accomplish when everyone comes together," said President Houshmand. "RowanGIVES Day has become a cherished tradition that truly embodies how much of the University's impact relies on our supporters." **RA**



Proceeds from the 4th Annual Run for Rowan 5K, hosted by the Office of Alumni Engagement and Rowan Campus Recreation Center, supported Flying First, the University's First Generation Task Force program initiative. Through the promotion of diversity, educational opportunities and intentional support, Flying First hopes to aid with the transition to college, provide resources to facilitate success in the classroom, and foster pride in and positive perceptions of first-generation students through networking and advocacy throughout the University community. Race sponsors included ACE Screen Printing, The Bruhn Family, Trifecta Therapeutics, SJ Transportation and The Running Co. **RA**

SAVE THE DATE!

Join President Ali Houshmand, University leaders, alumni and friends for a special evening to celebrate Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University.

Thursday, September 19, 2019
Princeton, NJ

Thursday, November 14, 2019
Red Bank, NJ

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Philadelphia, PA

Tuesday, March 26, 2020
New York City

Thursday, April 23, 2020
Mt. Laurel, NJ

ROWAN.EDU/RISING



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& Executive Director, Rowan University Foundation*

R.J. Tallarida, Jr., *Vice President for University Advancement
& Deputy Executive Director, Rowan University Foundation*

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Rowan pride

Run for Rowan benefits Flying
First initiative

RowanSOM scholarship honors
legacy and benefits students



COMMENCEMENT WEEK CELEBRATES 3,800 NEW GRADUATES

On May 11 the University kicked off Commencement Week as members of the Class of 2019, their families and friends packed Wackar Stadium. Rowan's own Shaun T '01, the University's 2013 distinguished alumnus, delivered a rousing keynote that was at once personal and universal, imploring new graduates to follow their passion wherever it leads. Also pictured: Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand and Rowan Provost Jim Newell.