

Transformative gift shapes future for Honors students



Rowan University renames Honors College the John H. Martinson Honors College after transformative \$5 million gift.

John H. Martinson's business is to finance and invest in innovative entrepreneurs.

The epitome of a role model in that realm? Henry M. Rowan.

Martinson, who met Mr. Rowan several times, has been "following" and generously supporting Rowan University for almost two decades. Now, with his transformational gift of \$5 million in support of the Honors College, the college has been renamed in his honor, greatly expanding opportunities for Rowan Honors students, according to Honors Dean Lee Talley. Among them: more paid research opportunities, spring break service trips at no cost to students, and funding for study abroad.

"These are things that our students often can't even consider because of financial constraints," Talley says. "Mr. Martinson's gift is going to broaden and deepen absolutely everything we do."

"I'm certainly impressed with the leadership, faculty and students of the Honors College," says Martinson, a venture capitalist and chairman of Martinson Ventures, based in Newtown, Pa. "And I'm eager to accelerate that progress."

Martinson, who has led 80 companies to phenomenal success in the software industry, founded Edison Partners in 1986, a company that has raised 10 partnerships in the financial technology, healthcare IT and interactive marketing sectors.

He earned his B.S. in aeronautical

engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, his M.S. in astronautics from Purdue University, an M.B.A. from Southern Illinois University and an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Rowan in 2011.

Before making his gift, Martinson visited campus and later met virtually with Honors students and faculty members,

including Class of 2022 graduates Kathryn Driscoll, a 2020 Goldwater Scholar, and Matthew Beck, former SGA president.

"This gift is a vote of confidence for the future of Rowan and the Honors College," said Driscoll. "My time in Honors allowed me to access courses and resources I otherwise wouldn't have been able to, and connected me with a group of students and professors who shared my values and motivations. I am so grateful to Mr. Martinson and so excited to witness the continued growth and success of the College."

"Mr. Martinson's generosity is much appreciated," added Beck. "As a recent graduate, I can say firsthand that this program helped shape my college experience, including providing mentors to jumpstart my ambitions and a group of like-minded peers with whom to collaborate. This gift will help to offer more courses that promote critical thinking skills, expand the mentoring program and recruit more diverse students."

With an enrollment of 555 students, the Honors College is open to academically-motivated students of every major and academic discipline.

Similar to honors colleges at other institutions, the college

offers unique and interdisciplinary course offerings, enhanced discipline-specific class offerings, priority registration, and Honors housing.

But the college stands out in that it fosters a diverse community of "citizen scholars" by developing a learning community dedicated to developing socially and civic-minded leaders engaged in extracurricular activities and service.

Martinson expects his gift to attract

"very top students in the area and across the country."

"I'm certainly encouraged by their achievements and potential," Martinson says of Rowan Honors students. "Honors students obviously are intelligent, accomplished, and motivated to be successful in complex fields and majors and

will benefit from enrichment programs and experiential learning from my endowment."

"Mr. Martinson's gift is one of the best endorsements our Honors program can receive," says Vice President for University Advancement Jesse Shafer, executive director of the Rowan University Foundation. "He is not an alumnus and has no family tie to Rowan. His gift is simply a sublime affirmation of our institution and where it's heading." **RA**

"These are things that our students often can't even consider because of financial constraints. Mr. Martinson's gift is going to broaden and deepen absolutely everything we do."



New gift will greatly expand opportunities for John H. Martinson Honors College students.



Beginning a movement to drive their alma mater forward

South Jersey natives and high school and Prof sweethearts, Charles and Gina Pusloski return to campus as often as they can—supporting their alma mater as alumni advocates, student mentors and donors.

A New Jersey state investigator and president of the Alumni Board of Directors, Gina has served on the board for the last six years and hosts the ever-popular alumni yoga event, Poses with Profs. Charles, a cybercrime detective, looks forward to participating in University career fairs with his agency as well as returning for alumni- and CHSS-hosted events that offer opportunities to network and engage with current students.

On top of giving their time and talents, the Pusloskis are also generous donors.

After financially supporting the institution through a multitude of programs and initiatives over the years, the couple decided they were ready to “give back in a more meaningful way.”

The couple has established The Gina Lemanowicz Pusloski '03 and Charles Pusloski '07 Annual Scholarship in Law and Justice Studies to support a first-generation student majoring in law and justice with demonstrated financial need.

“Our involvement in the law and justice program really had a great impact on the trajectory of our careers,” said Gina. “I was also a journalism major, which has helped immensely in certain aspects of my job, but I really wanted to support the area that helped get me where I am today, including my mentors like Dr. Stanley Yeldell and Wanda Foglia.”

The Pusloskis’ scholarship is only the second at the University supporting law and justice students in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

“We were really shocked to find that out,” said Charles. “But at the same time, it’s not surprising when you think about it because of the perception many have about working in the public sector. And that’s exactly what solidified this decision for us. I’m also a first-generation student, so we felt strongly that offering scholarship support across

these underserved areas could have a positive impact on the number of students who choose to pursue a career in this field.”

When asked how they make the time to commit to the Rowan community through event attendance, volunteerism, board membership, and now, an annual scholarship, Charles remarked, “We just do.”

“I was so welcomed by everyone at Rowan when I was feeling very uncertain in my life,” said Gina. “I have always felt indebted to Rowan and strived to give back in every way that I could to do a little extra for the community that was there for me when I needed it.”

“I had the benefit of a lot of great mentors,” said Charles. “I wanted to make sure that I did my part to give back and pay it forward for all the mentorship opportunities that I had. This was another surprise to us, but you can really do a lot of good with a small amount of money, and we hope to inspire others to do the same.”

In their free time, the Pusloskis like to travel in their new RV and unplug in

remote areas across the country. Gina enjoys yoga while Charles dabbles in tinkering and amateur radio operating. They have also established their own nonprofit organization, the Courageous Warrior Coalition project, supporting the mental health needs of first

responders.

“We have a lot of passions and interests, but Rowan will always be the standout,” said Gina. “As a member and current president of the Alumni Board, I’ve had the opportunity to network with Dr. Houshmand and other leaders of the University. I can tell that they’re truly invested in the students. They have a vision that will take Rowan to the next level in the next decade, so we’re very excited to play a small part in that.”

“I can’t wait to meet the first recipient, honestly,” concluded Charles. “That will help set the tone for how this scholarship will move forward. I hope that it can really gain traction to start a movement to educate the alumni community that helping current students in this magnitude isn’t out of reach.” **RA**



Honoring the legacy of Henry M. Rowan

The University celebrated the 25th anniversary of Rowan Engineering on June 16.

Members of the University community gathered in Rowan and Engineering Halls in honor of the College’s milestone and the legacy created by the transformational \$100 million gift made by Henry M. Rowan and his wife, Betty Rowan.

Virginia Rowan Smith joined President Ali Houshmand, Dr. Giuseppie Palmese (Engineering Dean) and Jeffrey Miles '02 (Delmarva Power) at the podium to highlight 25 years’ impact on engineering students.

Rowan Engineering has taken undergraduate engineering education to new heights, developed a signature experiential education program, and established a flourishing research program, all while never wavering from a commitment to creating “great engineers” through continuous improvement.

The Rowans’ landmark gift was the catalyst that inspired the University’s transformation to excellence and has positioned the institution for even more greatness.

The evening concluded with a special drone presentation by Philadelphia-based company and America’s Got Talent Golden-Buzzer winners, Verge Aero, a startup company flying complex aerial light shows for audiences around the world run by engineering alumni Tony Samaritano '12, M'18, Anthony Merlino '14, and Chris Franzwa '13, and collaborator, Nils Thorjussen. **RA**

In honor of generations that came before, in support of generations to come after

Dr. Kathryn Lambert and her husband, John, established the Matthew and Patricia Campanella Endowed Scholarship at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM) to honor the memory of Lambert's father as well as the combined legacy of both her parents and their belief in education.

"My mom and dad always emphasized the importance of higher education and its power to enhance one's life in a multitude of ways," said Lambert. "When I told my mother about establishing this scholarship for them, she said, 'Your dad would be so proud.'"

Both college graduates, Lambert's father held a doctoral degree in electrical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and her mother holds a master's degree in social work from Bryn Mawr College. Inspired by learning for the sake of learning, they often took courses together in areas like religion, history and architecture to expand their knowledge on a variety of subjects throughout the years.

"They believed you should never stop learning," said Lambert. "They led lives and careers that were greatly impacted by their education and wanted me, my siblings, and as many people as possible to benefit from it as well."

Patricia spent her career in social work, impacting her community by helping patients navigate the healthcare system and state services while offering support to their families. Matthew began his career as a member of the United States Army Air Corps in World War II and had "so

many stories to tell" according to Lambert. One of them included being ordered to jump out of a plane going down over the Himalayas and spending 23 days lost in the jungles of Burma.

"You did what you needed to do to survive and kept believing that you could get yourself somewhere better," said Lambert. "My dad utilized that sentiment often in all aspects of his life. And back then it was a true testament to his character and that generation of men and women who did what they had to do for the betterment of their families."

Lambert has been a physician and faculty for the last 31 years and is currently the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and a Professor of Family Medicine at RowanSOM. She, like her parents, placed great value in her education, earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, master's degree from Villanova University and medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"My parents always appreciated the work that doctors do in the community, especially at Rowan Medicine," said Lambert. "They also appreciated the importance of how expensive medical education was and is, so helping to fund the education of future doctors is something I knew they'd both be proud of."

The first recipient of the Matthew

and Patricia Campanella Endowed Scholarship was selected for the 2022-2023 academic year: Melvin Ways '23.

"The philanthropy of scholarships goes beyond the individual bond between the donor and student recipient," said Ways. "This scholarship honors the memory and legacy of community leaders from southern New Jersey whose values embody the mission of RowanSOM. The long and difficult path to becoming a physician is illuminated by the support of those around us. Scholarships make a positive impact for every student and reinforce altruistic virtues in future leaders. It is an outstanding honor to be the first recipient of this award."

The scholarship will continue to support a medical student at RowanSOM with demonstrated financial need who resides in southern New Jersey.

"There is such a need for doctors in southern New Jersey and RowanSOM is really working hard to meet that need," concluded Lambert. "I wanted to honor my parents, but I also wanted to support the next generation of doctors right here at home. My dad would be ecstatic to know a scholarship of this magnitude will exist in perpetuity in his and my mom's names." RA



Welcome to the Rowan alumni family

More than 5,500 degrees were earned by the Class of 2022 during Rowan University's weeklong Commencement celebration in May.

This year's ceremonies included keynote speaker Dennis W. Pullin, president and CEO of Virtua Health, (shown at right, center, with Provost Tony Lowman and President Ali Houshmand) addressing graduates of the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, recognition of Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Joseph Cosgrove '00, and Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee, president of the American Osteopathic Foundation, accepting an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Winners were chosen on social media for the annual #Rowan2022 Commencement Contest and our newest alumni were gifted free copies of alumnus and longtime major Rowan University donor Ric Edelman's just-released book, "The Truth About Crypto." RA



#Rowan2022



Day of Giving shatters previous records with Foundation Board at the helm

A sweeping 24-hour giving event in March raised over \$270,000 for Rowan University students.

Formerly RowanGIVES Day, this year's eighth annual event was rebranded as Rowan University Day of Giving—with a new look, new challenges and a new record set.

The 2021 event generated a then-record-breaking \$133,000 and, in 2022, the Rowan community rallied behind this effort as never before. Members of the Rowan University Foundation Board and other supporters contributed more than \$100,000 in generous matches and challenge funds, setting the tone for the day's success.

"This year was the first year we did a challenge as an entire board," said Foundation Board Chair, April Carty-Sipp '93. "I believe we can use this as a model and open the door to unlimited possibilities by working with various boards, alumni and departments within the University to share in the success of the day."

Carty-Sipp, a member of the Foundation Board for just under a decade, was appointed chair in September 2020. She recalled paying her way through college with the help of grants, scholarships, part-time jobs and loans, crediting that support for affording her the opportunity to earn her degree.

"My story is just one of many and our board is full of generous people that have the ability and desire to help others," she added.

The Rowan University Foundation supports the University by developing meaningful and synergistic relationships between the organization and the larger community as it advocates for quality and diverse scholarly experiences for students, alumni, faculty and staff. The Foundation is also responsible for the management, investment and distribution of all charitable contributions to benefit the University.

"We can't thank the members of our Foundation Board—who, collectively, made a challenge grant of more than \$41,000—enough for leading the way and inspiring so many in the Rowan community to join arms in support of our students," remarked Jesse Shafer, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the Rowan University Foundation.

The purpose of Rowan's Day of Giving has always been to enrich the University's culture of philanthropy. This year, as always, donors were encouraged to support the areas that mean the most to them – and nearly every department and program throughout the University received support, as did a host of scholarship funds.

"The extraordinary support from our donors on our Day of Giving is a testament to the genuine pride our entire Rowan community has in the University," said Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand. "Every gift is an investment in our mission and our students." **RA**

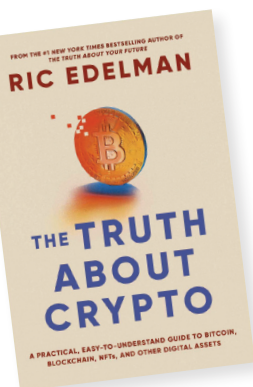
Corporations and Foundations Supporting Student Success

Through new and continued partnerships, the Division of University Advancement's Office of Corporate & Foundation Relations works closely with various corporations and foundations across the region in support of Rowan students.

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., established in 1946, aims to advance chemistry, chemical engineering, and related sciences as a means of improving human relations and circumstances throughout the world. Rowan University was awarded funding through the Jean Dreyfus Lectureship for Undergraduate Institutions award program to bring a leading researcher to campus in addition to offering valuable summer research opportunities to undergraduate students. Dr. Thomas Keck and support staff from the College of Science & Mathematics were able to host Dr. Christopher McCurdy of the University of Florida, a highly regarded medicinal chemist, pharmacologist and pharmacist, to meet with students and present a lecture titled, "A Natural Product as a Potential Treatment to Aid in the Opioid Epidemic," with another public lecture planned for the fall. Dr. McCurdy also hosted a successful online career-focused event with Rowan students.

In addition to the general program support funding that Rowan receives from the **New Jersey State Council on the Arts** (The Arts Council), the University was awarded additional funding for the implementation of the Diversity in Arts Leadership (DIAL) program as well as Project REACH. DIAL NJ, a co-sponsored project of The Arts Council, Rowan University, and Rowan Arts Engine, is generously supported by the Grunin Foundation and implemented in conjunction with Americans for the Arts. Five students were selected to participate in a 10-week paid internship where they are matched with mentors and different non-profit arts organizations and have the opportunity to network among current/previous DIAL interns and industry leaders. Project REACH, supported through The Art Council's Arts Education Special Initiative Grant program, provides the opportunity for students from underserved areas to receive free music lessons, encouraging students' love for music and the arts. This year, Rowan partnered with Bridgeton School District to provide free lessons to students in their community.

Atlantic City Electric is generously supporting the museum at the Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University. Its sponsorship will be reflected on signage at a bank of electric vehicle chargers in the museum parking lot as well as on the Electronic Activation kiosks to be housed in the "Hall of Extinction and Hope." The University looks forward to welcoming guests at the museum's grand opening next spring. **RA**



President Ali Houshmand with Jean and Ric Edelman at the Fossil Park groundbreaking (left) and \$10M Endowment announcement (right).

Edelman legacy continues to build momentum at Rowan University

They may have graduated in 1980 and 1981, but Ric and Jean Edelman will forever be part of Rowan University—clearing the path for its future as a leader in public higher education.

The University's largest alumni donors, the Edelmanns have donated nearly \$40 million to Rowan, including \$25 million to the renamed Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park and Museum of Rowan University in Mantua Township, \$10 million to create an endowed scholarship fund to support students in the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts (Edelman CCCA) and \$1 million for Rowan's planetarium in Science Hall, which was also renamed in their honor.

This past academic year, Rowan broke ground on the region's newest museum, a world-class destination that will explore the richness of South Jersey's ancient past around themes of a more sustainable future as part of the Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University.

Ric Edelman said the museum and park will produce life-changing educational experiences.

"The look back into the distant past is not merely for intellectual curiosity; it's to remind us of who we are, where we have the potential to go and who we have the potential to become," he said.

Another venture broke ground this year as funding from the Edelmanns' \$10 million gift in 2019 was awarded to the inaugural class of 14 students – incoming freshmen and transfer students from across 10 different CCCA programs who received \$2,500 each toward tuition.

In January, admitted Edelman CCCA students who met the eligibility requirements were invited to apply for the scholarship, and Dean Sanford Tweedie said there could be as many as

40 new recipients in 2022-23.

"Being part of the inaugural class of Edelman Scholars was an honor and privilege," said Carmen Galindo '22. "I felt a sense of pride and responsibility to excel academically and exude student leadership qualities exemplary of an Edelman Scholar. In addition, the program allowed me to continue my education, become the first graduate of the Health and Science Communication program and prepare myself to enter the workforce."

In addition to tuition support, funds are set aside to enable students to pursue professional development opportunities like internships and conferences, invaluable educational experiences preparing them for communication- and creative-based careers.

Rowan University President Ali Houshmand said Ric Edelman, now a Distinguished Lecturer at Rowan, and Jean, a trustee of the University, have built a legacy that will impact students for generations.

"We are so grateful to Ric and Jean for their continued generosity to their alma mater," Houshmand said. "They show by example that the best investments create not only personal wealth but opportunities to help others too."

At this year's Commencement ceremonies, Ric Edelman gifted Rowan graduates his new #1 Amazon bestselling book, "The Truth About Crypto." The book offers sound, easily accessible advice about blockchain and digital assets, and explains the difference between digital currencies and digital assets. Readers will learn about NFTs, CBDCs, stablecoins, the Metaverse and much more.

Most importantly, Edelman shows readers how to avoid scams when

investing in digital assets.

"Education is the basis for every smart investment strategy," Edelman said. "By reading "The Truth About Crypto," investors will gain the knowledge they need to benefit from the greatest investment opportunity since the invention of the internet."

In addition to gifting over 4,000 copies of his book to graduates during Commencement week, Edelman will provide copies of his book to thousands more Rowan students this fall. **RA**

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Landmark \$85M investment will develop the next generation of health care professionals

Virtua Health and Rowan University announced earlier this year the signing of an affiliation agreement to create a new academic health system and to further distinguish South Jersey as a regional hub for innovation, research and clinical discovery.

This partnership will create the Virtua Health College of Medicine & Health Sciences of Rowan University. The new college will encompass the state's only osteopathic medical school; an expanded nursing and allied health professions school; a new school of translational biomedical engineering and sciences; multiple new research institutes; and aligned clinical practices to improve patient care.

Virtua Health is making a philanthropic investment of \$85 million to Rowan University to create an endowment that will help support the partnership—fueling investments in faculty, educational programs, and the construction of a state-of-the-art research facility.

Stay tuned for more information on this transformational partnership and its impact on the health and economy of South Jersey. **RA**