

A Legacy of Friendship: The Anne-Marie Bottazzi Scholarship



Anne-Marie Bottazzi '80, Joe Bottazzi '80, Jean Edelman '81 and Ric Edelman '80 with the Bottazzi daughters, Courtney Stokhamer and her husband Brad, and Lauren Raisch and her husband Matt, at a holiday dinner

This summer, three best friends returned to Glassboro—laughing and reminiscing about their enduring friendship that began more than four decades ago.

Joe Bottazzi '80, Ric Edelman '80 and Jean Edelman '81 were college students once again as they remembered Joe's late wife, Anne-Marie Bottazzi '80, and the all-encompassing light that shone around her.

Less than a year after Anne-Marie's passing in 2021, rising seniors in the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts were able to apply for the Anne-Marie Bottazzi Scholarship for Excellence in Academics and Leadership established in her memory.

"Ric and Jean are family," said Joe. "But when I found out they had established a scholarship for Anne-Marie, I was completely in awe."

"The decision was one of the easiest ones we've ever made," Ric added. "It was natural. She was like my sister."

"We were all like siblings," Jean confirmed.

Glassboro State College Days

The Bottazzi-Edelman quartet's stomping grounds covered the entire Glassboro State College (GSC) campus during their time as students, including Triad, Mullica Hall, Laurel Hall, Evergreen, the Owl's Nest, the "Rat" and even Esby gym—when musical artists like Billy Joel, George Thorogood and The Kinks came to perform, and all four friends had front-row seats.

As passionate campus leaders, they came together often through the Student Government Association (SGA), as they all held formal student government positions, with their graduating titles being SGA president (Joe), executive vice president (Ric), senior class president (Anne-Marie) and junior class president (Jean, who would become the first-ever female SGA president

the following year).

"Every Friday morning there was an SGA executive board meeting," said Ric.

"Thursday night was the party night, so we'd all come in dragging, but we always came in."

"When you truly care, you get involved," said Joe.

The foursome was instrumental in the infamous radio-marathon event Project Santa as well as utilizing their student government influence to approve funding for a new track, a bus for the football

team, a campus ambulance and an African American-run newspaper on campus, to name a few.

"We were the children of the Vietnam era," said Ric. "We grew up in a time of assassinations and social unrest, so we were very much



Anne-Marie Bottazzi '80 delivering the Commencement speech as class president, 1980.

activists, and Anne-Marie was the greatest of us all. She would champion key causes

by getting everyone excited."

"She was just a natural-born leader," said Joe. "She led and organized all kinds of events like campus cleanups, and she even led a full-blown protest in Washington D.C."

"She made you want to participate," added Jean. "She made you want to just be wherever she was."

From friendship to family

The four friends were close during their time on campus and remained that way.

"Our friendship just continued to grow and deepen," said Joe.

The Bottazzis and Edelmanns traveled all over the world together, from Montana, Rhode Island and Disney World to Italy, France, Greece, Peru, Costa Rica and more.

Their adventurous college days weren't lost in their adult travels as they have memories of Halloween parks, going out for a leisurely hike and unknowingly climbing Mont Blanc in the French Alps, late-night arrivals

in Sicily and midnight golf cart rides that almost ended with the four of them at the bottom of a ravine.

"Our last trip together was to St. Thomas in 2019," said Ric. "Every trip has a crazy story we will never forget."

The four talked almost every day.

"Yes, there's a group text," Joe laughed. "We talk on the phone quite a bit too."

At the center of all their shared memories, however, is Anne-Marie's spirit.

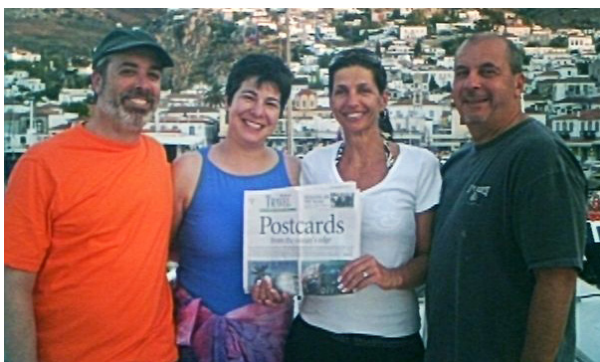
"She was just so happy and loved life," said Jean. "She brightened every room she walked into."

"She certainly was the life of the party," added Ric. "A saying that reminds me of her is ... how does it go? 'Sometimes I'm so damn happy I have to pinch myself!'"

Joe nodded in agreement, "Her energy was special."

"When you truly care, you get involved."

—Joe Bottazzi '80



The Edelmans and Bottazzis on vacation in Greece, 2007.

A legacy in the making

Anne-Marie was an extraordinarily talented writer, passionate about her communications career that blossomed after earning her degree from Glassboro State College.

She spent decades connecting brands with consumers, serving as the vice president of public relations at Prentice Hall Books and working with a boutique firm, Brushfire Public Relations, as a public relations executive and consultant. With her philanthropic spirit, she also supported her community in many ways, including training the family pup to serve as a therapy dog that visited local senior citizen homes, and volunteering for the Crisis Text Line to support those in need.

"Anything she did was effortless and elegant," said Ric. "She accomplished so much and was so active, not only in college but in the years after. She was also very fortunate not to have the financial struggles that many students now face. So, a huge part of our motivation to create this scholarship was the desire to honor Anne-Marie while offering support to students who share her outstanding ability but who just might not have as much opportunity as she did."

Ric and Jean's gift to establish the Anne-Marie Bottazzi Scholarship for Excellence in Academics and Leadership provides two \$5,000 scholarships per year to seniors in public relations, journalism or writing arts. Applicants also need to demonstrate leadership in clubs or organizations such as the Public Relations Student Society of America and/or the Student Government Association—organizations in which Anne-Marie was active as an undergraduate.

"She was such a gifted student," said Jean. "Just a remarkable leader, and we hope this scholarship will carry on her legacy of vivaciousness and passion for making a difference."

The first recipients are chosen

Joe, Ric and Jean met the first two scholarship recipients on campus before the start of the fall semester, and it's safe to say these students will carry on her legacy with pride.

"It means a lot to be chosen to have a part in Anne-Marie's legacy," said communications studies and public relations major Rachel Rumsby '23. "I found out that Anne-Marie and I had a lot in common

aside from Rowan and public relations, such as living in the same town, going to the same church, and taking part in community service. This scholarship will not only help me finish my bachelor's degree but also start my master's. I don't think I could complete a master's program if it wasn't for this award."

"I would like to thank Ric and Jean Edelman, as well as Joe Bottazzi, for giving me this opportunity," said Rumsby. "It was fantastic to meet all three of them, and they all had wonderful advice that I will carry into my career in strategic communication."

"To be selected for this scholarship was an absolute honor," said public relations major Madison Langanella '23. "Anne-Marie Bottazzi made such an impact on her family, friends and people around her. This scholarship will provide much-needed help for so many students like me. After I graduate, I will be pursuing my master's. This support will help me pursue a higher degree and gives me the space to focus on academics and extracurricular activities without the stress of having to pay for school."

"From my conversation with Mr. Bottazzi and the Edelmans, I learned that Anne-Marie put a lot of importance on her faith, family and friends," concluded Langanella. "I admire her focus on people and her desire to do the most to have a positive impact on them."

Dr. Sanford Tweedie, dean of the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts, said the Edelmans' gift further cements a deep commitment to their alma mater and its students.

"Ric and Jean Edelman have been amazingly generous to our college and the University, and their kindness continues with this latest scholarship, which will forever immortalize Anne-Marie," Tweedie said.

"Anne-Marie was so proud of what our

sleepy little college has become," said Joe, as Ric and Jean joked that none of them would be accepted if they applied today. "Anne-Marie will live on through the students who receive her scholarship, and all that they'll accomplish." **RA**

In Memory of Mr. Robert D. Kern

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of longtime Rowan University donor and friend, Mr. Robert D. Kern. Together with his wife, Patricia, Mr. Kern cultivated a legacy through the Kern Family Foundation, an organization with a mission to empower the rising generation of Americans to build flourishing lives anchored in strong character, inspired by quality education, driven by entrepreneurial mindset and guided by a desire to create value for others.

The Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network (KEEN) is a partnership of undergraduate engineering programs across the nation that focuses on one mission: to graduate engineers with an entrepreneurial mindset so they can create personal, economic and societal value through a lifetime of meaningful work.

As a KEEN partner since 2016, Rowan University has greatly benefitted from the generosity of the Kerns and the Foundation through a multitude of grant awards supporting students and faculty in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering. Faculty within the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering have shared that support from KEEN has enabled them to expand their research capabilities and network. They also describe how faculty development opportunities they have received have enabled them to shift their teaching and learning approaches. Specifically, the First-Year and Sophomore Engineering Clinics have seen the inclusion of new design projects that help students identify opportunities and connect their coursework and personal experiences to design products and services that create value for beneficiaries.

The Kern Family Foundation's legacy at Rowan University in support of entrepreneurial engineering education will continue to impact Rowan students and faculty for years to come, in memory of the Foundation's beloved benefactor.

RA



Pictured from top to bottom:

1. President Ali Houshmand with Tiara Farmer. 2. Larry and Rita Salva with students Niko Ioannou and Sydney Coldren. 3. Edward Krause, Brunhild Seeger-diNovi, Chrysti Lopes and John Lopes with student recipients Jakob Oltman and Amanda Baliban (Dr. Kristen diNovi Memorial Scholarship) joining Kathy O'Donoghue, Fintan O'Donoghue and Jonathan Pierro with student recipient Naomi Amadoro (Ryan O'Donoghue Memorial Scholarship). 4. Raymond Geraci and student Marybeth Baisden. 5. Sandra Mozee-Smith with student Kristina Li.

Scholarship recipient captivates crowd at annual Scholarship Reception

After two years of virtual meetings, Rowan University scholarship donors and students were once again able to gather in person at the Division of University Advancement's annual Scholarship Reception—an event that celebrates philanthropy and the impact it has on students' academic success.

"The generous support of our donors allowed the Rowan University Foundation to award nearly \$3 million in scholarship support last year," said President Dr. Ali Houshmand. "Since 2008, the Foundation has transferred over \$31 million in scholarship support, powering student success!"

The night welcomed over 200 attendees, offering an opportunity for scholarship donors to meet their student recipients over dinner. Event speakers included Rowan University President Dr. Ali Houshmand, Vice President for University Advancement Jesse Shafer, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and longtime donor Larry Salva and Tiara Farmer '20—graduate student, scholarship recipient and gun violence survivor.

Farmer's impassioned speech shared the harrowing experience of being a victim of gun violence and her long but undaunted journey to recovery. After grieving the loss of her friend and three months in critical care, she was inspired to make a difference.

"Spending such a long time in the hospital gave me first-hand experience of what nurses actually do and the influence they have in the rehabilitation of their patients," said Farmer. "I interacted with so many compassionate and inspiring staff who solidified my dream to be a nurse. Even when I was unable to move my legs, I knew I had to get better so I could get back to school and start my career."

Farmer was told she would likely never walk again, but in six months she progressed from a wheelchair to a walker to a student back on campus using a cane.

During her senior year, Farmer was chosen as the second recipient of the Theresa M. Dillenschneider '76 Memorial Scholarship in Nursing. The scholarship was established in 2019 in memory of Dillenschneider, an accomplished registered nurse, by her daughter Karen Cutler and is awarded to students pursuing their Bachelor of Science in Nursing with demonstrated financial need. Farmer is now continuing her education in the Masters of Science in Nursing program to pursue a career as a family nurse practitioner.

"Having the opportunity to apply for a scholarship at Rowan was so beneficial to offset the cost of continuing my education," said Farmer. "Donors who establish scholarships make such a positive difference for students like me. After graduating with my master's, I plan to work with and support the medical needs of underserved populations. I also hope that one day I can be blessed enough to help a student in the form of a scholarship the way Ms. Cutler did for me." **RA**

"Donors who establish scholarships make such a positive difference for students like me."

-Tiara Farmer '20

You can help!

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Scan below to make a gift to support scholarships or any area of your choice.



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Rob and Angela Sontz with their five children on a family outing.

Accounting for those in need by paying it forward

Rob Sontz '98 and his wife, Angela, generously gave \$30,000 to establish the Rob and Angela Sontz Endowed Scholarship in Accounting at Rowan University to help pave the way for business students pursuing accounting careers.

Currently a tax partner at Deloitte, Sontz joined the company straight out of school and works in the tax investment management advisory and compliance group. What prepared him to begin a decades-long career as a

new graduate? His one-of-a-kind education at Rowan University.

"Rowan was incredibly instrumental in my life," said Sontz. "It was the biggest building block to my success, especially thanks to the supportive faculty who helped solidify my plans for the future."

Good with numbers and inspired by stories of Wall Street professionals, Sontz always wanted to be a certified public accountant (CPA). He imagined himself heading to work in a suit with a briefcase and making a difference in the industry all while supporting a family.

"Professor Marmon was actually the first person I ever met who was a CPA as well as an attorney," said Sontz. "He inspired me to graduate, go for my CPA and then head to law school."

Sontz earned his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University Law School in 2002.

"Everything Rowan offered me—the support, the education, the atmosphere—was what I needed at that moment in my life to be successful," said Sontz. "I was taught to be agile. One of my professors said that those who are most adaptable to change will be the most successful, and that's something I haven't forgotten."

As for the family he always wanted to support, Sontz has five children and says he and his wife enjoy spending time with friends and family, cheering from the sidelines at their children's sporting events and donating to great causes.

"My wife didn't go to Rowan, but she knows how impactful my time there was, and we do everything together, so naturally, we named the scholarship together," said Sontz. "We also donate to causes that empower young women, making sure they have the opportunities and resources they need to become future leaders."

Sontz says it has always been part of the couple's DNA to give back. Before, it was giving his time coaching or volunteering in his children's school district or serving on Rowan's Accounting Advisory Board.

"Now," Sontz said, "we can give more than just our time, and it's important that when you get to that place, you start to think about making a difference in someone else's life."

"We recognize that people call it giving back, but we like to call it paying it forward, so that those who we help can go on to help others and then those people can help others and it can continue on." **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.

Rowan University is pleased to share that the Enterprise Holdings Foundation recently established a scholarship to benefit first-generation, incoming students from New Jersey studying business and demonstrating financial need. For the next five years, the Foundation plans to annually support a rising freshman with a \$15,000 ROAD Forward scholarship, making great strides for first-generation students in the region pursuing

undergraduate degrees.

"We are proud to support the Rowan Foundation in its commitment to educating and developing our future leaders," said Human Resources Manager for the Enterprise Foundation Brianne MacKenzie. "As a company, Enterprise Holdings is committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in the communities where we live, work and play. The Rowan Foundation is a key player in that mission through their efforts to enhance career and college preparation, and we are proud to assist Rowan students



Enterprise Holdings Foundation presents check award to William G. Rohrer College of Business Dean Sue Lehrman and staff in support of future business leaders.

with a ROAD Forward Scholarship."

"Receiving this scholarship was truly an honor," said Morgan Douglas '26, 2022 ROAD Forward Scholarship recipient. "I hope to become a marketing analyst at a company like Google, and receiving this award has shown me that someone believes in me and wants me to succeed."

RA



The Rowan community gathered for a magical weekend in the 'Boro with character visits and tailgates and presidential barbecuing—oh my! Students competed in fairytale themed competitions, and we honored our 2022 Alumni Ambassador Award recipient Dr. La Netta Hammill '72, M'85, P/S '88, Ed.D.'01.

A fairytale come to life

Rowan University's Homecoming, built around the theme "Once Upon a Prof," was one for the storybooks.

Organized by The Chamberlain Student Center & Campus Activities and the Office of Alumni Engagement, the festivities spanned a full week, filled with events to boost school spirit and encourage alumni, students, faculty and staff to demonstrate their Rowan pride.

Saturday's celebration—our largest-attended alumni event each year—proved truly magical as thousands of attendees from near and far descended on their alma mater, drawn by the magic of friendship, the joy of returning to campus and the annual big game! This year's reimagined location included showcases from multiple colleges/departments, live entertainment, food trucks, tailgating, Profs football and more. **RA**

CMSRU students cooking up solutions for a healthier Camden community



A few students at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) uncovered a need and found a solution: Cooper Rowan Clinic Cookbooks have hit the shelves!

Originally spearheaded by then-students Dr. Margaret Gao '22 and Dr. Cindy Do '22, current students Constantine Pella '23 and Lena Chatterjee '23 published a diabetic and hypertension-friendly cookbook that provides recipes that coincide with dietary recommendations proposed by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and American Heart Association (AHA).

Serving patients of the student-run Cooper Rowan Clinic in Camden, the cookbook includes more than just recipes, meeting a growing need that CMSRU students began to notice in the community.

Project organizer Constantine Pella shared, "We have experienced many situations where our patients at the Cooper Rowan Clinic were eager to take control of their health, however, they struggle to find recipes that fit their recommended diet. In addition, many of the recipes that were available weren't tailored to the large hispanic population in Camden."

Together, Pella and Chatterjee enlisted the aid of dietitians to review the recipes, adding substitutions better suited to the community while still ensuring they abide by ADA and AHA recommendations. A few favorites include Easy Chicken Tostadas, Avocado Salsa and Yuca Root with Tomatillo Sauce.

"Something else we worked on was having the recipes translated to Spanish by volunteer translators at the clinic," said Pella. "We also added some patient resources, including a map of local stores for produce and ingredients, information on how to inject insulin, information on the DASH diet (dietary approaches to stop hypertension) and more."

Cookbooks are now available (and free!) at the Cooper Rowan Clinic for all patients. **RA**

Mark your calendars

Join us for our Centennial Homecoming celebration next year on October 14. Second star to the right and straight on 'til 2023!

Henry Rowan's story continues to rally support after 30 years



Brett Gitskin meets the first recipient of his scholarship Youssef Gerges '24 at the annual Scholarship Reception in November.

Have you heard of the Leaning Tower of Pisa? Well, you may not have if 11th century architects had hired Brett Gitskin, P.E.

"I'm kidding. I'm kidding," Gitskin said. "I'm more of an extroverted engineer, you know. Have you heard that one? When you shake hands, an extroverted engineer looks at your shoes instead of his own."

A semi-retired geotechnical engineer whose career focused primarily on practicing geotechnical as well as environmental engineering and construction materials engineering and testing, Gitskin spent the last three decades serving as president and then executive vice president of ECS Limited, one of the largest consulting engineering firms in the nation.

"I was able to work my way up in the industry because I'm not shy," Gitskin added, laughing. "On a serious note, though, I love what I do and what I've done for 40 years. Now I've taken a step back. I'm ready to channel my energy into other things."

An extroverted engineer who also enjoys audiobooks, Gitskin listened to Malcolm Gladwell's *I Hate the Ivy League: Riffs and Rants on Elite Education*, and so our story begins.

"Gladwell brought up Rowan University and Henry Rowan," Gitskin explained, "and I thought it was all really fascinating; the fact that he had no connection to the University, he had all of this wealth and decided, 'We don't need to keep giving to these big schools, and we don't need any more business schools. I'm going to build an engineering school. I'm going to make

a difference where it's needed!' And that really resonated with me!"

A first-generation, two-time engineering alumnus of Northwestern University, Gitskin was already thinking like Henry Rowan when his plans to help aspiring engineers at his alma mater began to shift. Longtime donor, adjunct lecturer and member of the Civil Engineering Advisory Board at Northwestern, Gitskin wanted to do more, perhaps in a place where his generosity could really make a mark.

"I'm nowhere near as successful as Henry Rowan, but I understand the hardships of having to put myself through college," said Gitskin. "I was on financial aid, and I had a lot of part time jobs, so I've always had this desire to help on a greater scale when the time was right. I started looking into smaller schools where my interests could have a greater impact and because of Gladwell's audiobook, I became very interested in Rowan. I did my research. I sent one email, and here we are."

"I know this was not just the right choice for me, this was the best choice."

—Brett Gitskin, P.E.

Gitskin's \$25,000 gift established the Manny & Minnie Gitskin Endowed Scholarship Fund in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rowan University in honor and memory of his grandparents. He was also able to travel from Arizona and meet the first recipient of his scholarship, Youssef Gerges '24, at the University's annual Scholarship Reception in November.

"My outlook on the future is much more optimistic," said Gitskin. "At first it felt strange veering away from my alma mater and investing in a school I wasn't familiar with and had no connection with, but Rowan University checked every one of my boxes. Rowan's engineering program offers an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology accreditation, it's located close to where my grandparents lived in

retirement, has a high proportion of first-generation students and because Rowan is a state school, it has the highest chance of helping someone who needs it."

Gitskin plans to double his initial contribution in the next five years and has already set in motion plans to contribute a portion of his estate to the scholarship.

"I was fortunate enough to meet President Houshmand, and I noticed his visionary mindset is very much like Henry Rowan's," Gitskin concluded. "I think that's been interwoven into the fabric of the way things are happening at Rowan. After my visit, I know this was not just the right choice for me, this was the best choice. I don't think it could've been better." **RA**



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Rowan Radio 89.7 WGLS-FM is airing new content this season! The Beyond the Brown & Gold (BTBG) podcast is delivering a dose of nostalgia and alma mater pride by highlighting the lives and memories of Glassboro State College and Rowan University alumni.

Following the success of the Division of University Advancement's Rowan Rising podcast, published in late 2019 during the University's first-ever comprehensive campaign, the BTBG podcast is a reimagined take where listeners can get to know our guests on a more intimate level.

Curated from within Rowan University's renowned WGLS radio station, alumni are invited back to campus (or interviewed virtually) to share their stories with the larger Rowan community. Join hosts Rob Lightfoot '00, M'01 and Jessica Kanady '08, M'15 as they sit down with graduates spanning the decades and learn more about their unique college experiences, career paths, life lessons and more.

Some of our featured guests have included Chris Wilczewski '15, Neel Aziz '98, Jennifer Webb-McRae '91, Ernie Holtzheimer '12, M'13, Jeff Hickman '95, Karen Maser '79, Dena Blizzard '94 and Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver '72.

Tune in to BTBG on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or SoundCloud. **RA**

You could be featured!

Want to be interviewed and featured as part of our BTBG repertoire? Contact Amanda Rennie at rennie@rowan.edu



Deep Patel and Dr. Gokhan Alkanat outside Hawthorn Hall, home to Rowan's International Center for students.

that I help however I can."

Patel's knowledge and first-time experience on campus inspired him to begin a movement by providing bicycles for international students who may also be spending hours of their day trekking through the elements to get to class.

"At first I just purchased a few bikes and located students on my own who could use them," said Patel. "But then I talked to Dr. Gokhan and realized there is a much greater need for international students to have their own transport, so I thought, 'Why not do this on a bigger scale?'"

This past fall, Patel was able to provide bikes for 12 students, with plans to grow the initiative even more, hoping to help as many as 80 students in 3-5 years.

Associate Provost for International Education Dr. Gokhan Alkanat, Associate Professor/Associate Director of Intelligent Transportation Systems of Rowan CREATES (Center for Research and Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering Systems) Dr. Mohammad Jalayer and Professor/Director of Rowan CREATES Dr. Yusuf Mehta were all instrumental in Patel's desire to establish a formalized initiative as well as in providing support in its administration.

"I give the majority of the credit to them," said Patel. "Without them and their support over the years, I wouldn't be where I am or have the knowledge to help students in the best way possible."

"We truly appreciate Deep's generosity with our international students," said Dr. Gokhan. "He understands international students' challenges and empathizes with them. His kind support has made 12 Rowan students' commute to the campus much easier. Rowan's international community is committed, connected and strong thanks to caring people like Deep."

Hopes are that the fund will be able to provide bikes for students in their first year of study until the time that they graduate or find other means of transportation. Then, the bikes will be refurbished and given out again.

In addition to his professors, Patel also credits his father and the lessons he taught him throughout his childhood for his ability to bring this initiative to life.

"Giving back has been part of my father's nature since I can remember," said Patel. "Wherever he goes, he tries to help someone. He taught me to try and give back 10 or 15 percent of what you earn to the community. And because I would always tell him about my struggles walking to class, one day he said to me, 'Others are going through this just like you, why not help?'"

And for Patel, it was then that something just clicked.

"At the end of the day, it's simple," he concluded, "Giving is a greater happiness than taking." **RA**

'Tis the season to give the gift of transportation

Deep Patel M'18 remembers hiking through knee-high snow for more than three miles in the dark to get to and from his graduate courses at Rowan University.

"Looking back I just knew I didn't want to see any other Rowan students going through what I went through."

Currently a civil engineering Ph.D. student and research fellow, Patel's studies coincidentally focus on transportation safety.

"I'm looking at transportation from all angles, and pedestrian and bike safety are a huge part of that, so it's all connected for me, which makes it even more important

"Giving is a greater happiness than taking."

-Deep Patel M'18

How furry friendship inspired first major gift to new Rowan University School of Veterinary Medicine



Corrinne and her seven-year-old rescue dog Lola.

Corrinne Hertz says it's not important that her gift is the first, but that it makes a difference for animals and those who love them.

An avid dog lover, Hertz's inspiration to give to Rowan University's new School of Veterinary Medicine came from her abundance of canine companionship over the years. At the age of 90, Hertz moved into an independent living community and shared that her dog Lola continues to give her days purpose.

"I've always loved my animals, and that was really the core of what inspired me to make this gift," said Hertz. "Lola has made all the difference for me emotionally and physically. As you get older, you find that you aren't needed as much, but my dogs have always needed me."

Hertz remembers her first pet Star, a German Shepherd, and a memorable escape artist, Piper, who always ran over to visit the local elementary school. After having so

many dogs, particularly rescue dogs with various health needs, Hertz recognizes the importance of veterinary medicine and now hopes to support the next generation of veterinarians.

Hertz's initial gift—and first-ever to the new school—of \$1,000 has already expanded in recent months after she met with the School of Veterinary Medicine's Dean, Dr. Matthew Edson.

Hertz has established a testamentary trust valued at over \$500,000 benefiting students at the School of Veterinary Medicine and has established two endowed scholarships at the University—one for veterinary students who work or volunteer in community outreach and one for medical students at Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine who are pursuing a career in geriatric and internal medicine.

"Mrs. Hertz's unique connection with animals is a characteristic shared by the many future veterinarians we will train here at Rowan University," said Dr. Edson. "The scholarship support this gift will provide, specifically to those students who have a record of assisting those in need through community service, will benefit our future doctors as well as pet owners they will serve. We are pleased that she is our first donor here at the School of Veterinary Medicine and truly appreciate her generosity in support of our program."

Hertz's daughter and son-in-law Janis and Dr. Gary Grover are also major donors to the University. They established their own scholarship in 2016 and have given over \$800,000 in support of medical and graduate students, including their most recent planned gift of \$600,000 to the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine.

"They are wonderful people, and I admire what they do," said Hertz. "They too have inspired me to make this gift."

Hertz hopes to be able to meet veterinary students when the school welcomes its first cohort in 2025 and see the impact of her gift. **RA**



From left to right: Dr. Gary Grover, Dr. Matthew Edson, Corrinne Hertz, Janis Grover and Dr. Lorraine Ricchezza.

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ALI HOUSHMAND

Dear Rowan University Community,

Ten years ago, I could not have imagined what we'd become: a top 100 public, R2-classified institution and the third fastest-growing, public research university in the nation. Yet, thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many, here we are.

Our accomplishments and much more are detailed in our new publication, *Rowan Revolution: A Decade of Rethinking and Reshaping the Future, 2012-2022*. Scan the QR code below to view the report.

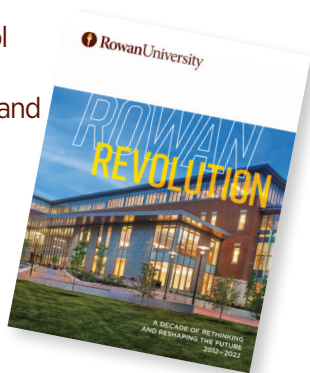
There is nothing ordinary about Rowan's transformation and it's worth taking a few moments to remember some highlights of how far we've come so quickly.

In the last decade, Rowan University:

- became home to two medical schools, making Rowan one of only four institutions in the nation to grant M.D. and D.O. degrees
- was named the nation's third fastest-growing, public research university by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*
- nearly doubled enrollment and academic programs
- earned classification as a Carnegie R2 doctoral university with high research activity
- raised \$264 million in new gifts and pledges
- began developing New Jersey's first veterinary school and achieved high national ranking for dozens of programs, including business, engineering, medicine and communication.

I am proud to share this report, both as a reminder to the Rowan community, friends and supporters of what we've accomplished together and as encouragement to keep moving confidently. As we face tomorrow, we remain nimble and fearless, ready to make big, bold decisions and continue Rowan's tradition of transformation.

Very truly yours,
Ali A. Houshmand, Ph.D.
President



SCAN HERE
TO VIEW REPORT

DAY of GIVING

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 8

Get ready for Rowan University's Day of Giving!

On March 8, Rowan University will celebrate our ninth annual 24-hour day of giving. Since its inception, **the event has raised almost \$1 million** to secure a better and brighter future for our students.

We are excited to have you join us as we work to make our 2023 Day of Giving bigger and better than ever before.

**Interested in participating
as a Day of Giving ambassador?
Contact:**

Kaylee Collins
Director of Annual Giving
dayofgiving@rowan.edu



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Rowan Advances is produced three times a year by the Division of University Advancement to highlight the involvement and generosity of Rowan's alumni, friends and corporate partners.

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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



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TO MAKE A GIFT
TO SUPPORT ROWAN STUDENTS!