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Fall 2012/Winter 2013

# Rowan Advances

Rowan Advances is a publication of Rowan University's Advancement Division

## 1962 GRADUATE'S DONATION FUNDS CENTER FOR ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

*President Ali Houshmand unveils a plaque to commemorate the generosity of Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver '62.*



Dr. Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver '62 loves to be involved in start-ups.

When Ocean County College (NJ) first opened, Dr. Kopenhaver was there as the journalism advisor and started the student newspaper. Currently Dean Emeritus, she was a founding member of the staff when Florida International University opened and got its school of journalism and mass communication off the ground in the early 1970s and later spent nine years as the journalism school's dean.

And now, thanks to her pledge of \$150,000, Dr. Kopenhaver has helped establish the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for Alumni Engagement located in

the R. Grace Bagg Alumni Center on the first floor of Shpeen Hall on Academy Street in Glassboro.

It is her hope that the Kopenhaver Center for Alumni Engagement, which officially opened during a Friday night ceremony during homecoming weekend in late October, will help connect graduates back to their alma mater.

"That's what I hope it will do. When we first started talking about this, that was one of the things I thought. To have a dedicated place like this for the alums where they can have activities and plan things, I thought it would be sort of a neat thing for them to be able to have their own homecoming

*continued on page 2*

## ANONYMOUS DONOR EARMARKS \$200,000 FOR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Teachers are always making personal sacrifices for the good of their students. Whether spending their evenings grading papers or preparing an attention-grabbing lesson, running to the supermarket to pick up one last item for the classroom holiday party, or simply staying after hours to provide a student with extra help or meet with parents, it seems as if their work is never done.

So too, aspiring teachers at Rowan University who are in the process of receiving their degrees must also make sacrifices.

"All of our teacher candidates complete requirements for two bachelor's degrees—one in education and another in a related major in another college," Rowan University College of Education Dean Carol Sharp explains. "Additionally, many of them give up outside employment when they begin their student teaching so that they can devote their time and energies to their classroom training."

This is just one reason why a recently received \$200,000 gift to the Rowan University Foundation to fund two full scholarships for aspiring teachers is so special.

"This gift will give two of our most talented future teachers the financial support they need to thrive and grow in our intellectually challenging teacher education programs," Sharp added.

Given by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, the gift will provide tuition, fees and books to two education majors in their junior or senior years. Junior level students who receive the scholarship can apply for a second year of funding when they are seniors, according to R.J. Tallarida, Jr., associate vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Rowan University Foundation.

"This gift is one of the most generous and significant gifts to the College of Education since its founding," notes Tallarida. "The gift will provide opportunities to reward some of our most qualified education students with full-tuition scholarships and will pay for their fees and books. A scholarship fund that pays all of these expenses for a student is rare.

"We are grateful that this fund will alleviate the debt load for deserving education students and in turn, will allow them to focus their best efforts on their academic pursuits."

Scholarship support is critical as Rowan seeks to attract and retain the best and brightest students. Added Tallarida, "This gift is important as it meets the institutional priority set forth by Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand to raise scholarship funds."



*A recent, anonymous gift to establish scholarships in the College of Education will help educate future generations of student scholars and will also benefit countless students whom the award recipients will encounter during their careers as educators.*

*continued from page 1*

celebrations or whatever they'd want to do. But to be able to have a specific dedicated site for them, I hope that will encourage more folks to come back to their alma mater the way it did me."

"The Director of Alumni Relations, Kathy Rozanski, got me involved and got me



Above: Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver is joined by (l to r) Class of 1962 classmates and friends Barbara (Sherlock) O'Breza, Jayne (Cubberley) Kinsell, George Renwick and Ellie (Aardal) Musgrave.

At right: Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver with Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand and Farah Houshmand

**"I am so excited  
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I really  
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**Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver '62**

coming back. I had not been back until my 40th reunion, and she was who got me there. Her love and excitement for the University, her job and alumni affairs is infectious. She made me realize that I needed to come back and so I did and that's how this all came about. I was able to get back involved and it went from there. And I'm very, very glad I did."

### **A Dedicated Alumni Center**

"When I got there and I saw first of all my name on the door, and then walked inside and saw everything else inside, it was just awesome. I was extremely excited," said Dr. Kopenhaver, who lives in Miramar, Fla. a northern suburb of Miami. "The unveiling of the bronze plaque with President Ali Houshmand, that was breathtaking really. It was such a great honor."

"It's wonderful to have such a permanent space dedicated to alumni," said Rozanski.

"Lillian's gift helped us transform an area. Her class has been engaged and Lillian has been a leader. She may live in Florida, but she's been very helpful in planning reunions and returning for special events on campus. The Center is a fitting tribute to the kind of person she is."

"They did a terrific job. The place is just beautiful and offers so many opportunities for alumni meetings, receptions and other gatherings," said Kopenhaver, who earned an M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and an Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. "This Center will benefit alumni in all fields, past, present and future," said President Ali A. Houshmand, who noted the Kopenhaver gift was the largest given to the Alumni Association for a capital project.



### **Leaving a Legacy**

"I am so excited about leaving some kind of legacy at Glassboro and I really enjoyed my days there," said Kopenhaver, who in the spring will be the Director of the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication which she founded at Florida International.

Homecoming weekend 2012 also featured the Class of 1962's 50th Reunion, so the opening of the Center was one of many exciting events for Dr. Kopenhaver and her classmates.

"The friendships I made were very strong

and we can see each other 50 years from when we graduated at our class reunion, and it was just sort of like we had all seen each other and picked up wherever we left off. We were a very close class and did a lot of things at the school. We were extremely active in all sorts of activities and that bonded us together even though we may have been different majors. It was a really memorable experience for me."

Another memory she holds close was from her sophomore year in Glassboro. Kopenhaver and her roommate, Mary Hutchinson McDonald, spent the entire year living in Hollybush with then-GSC president Dr. Thomas Robinson and his wife, Margaret, after their dorm room in Linden Hall was utilized to expand the switchboard office.

"We had to find other accommodations and they didn't have any empty dorm rooms so they put us up in Hollybush. They allowed a few students every year to live there. It was a special experience being in Hollybush and getting to know the Robinsons, they were just really wonderful people. Mrs. Robinson used to bake cookies and she'd leave a plate on our dresser every once in a while. That was very special."

Kopenhaver, who is a graduate of Point Pleasant Beach (NJ) High School, is impressed with the growth of the University. She has only been back to the campus a couple of times but so much has changed over the past 50 years.

"I got a chance to see the new campus and it's amazing. The growth is just fantastic. To see what is happening is awesome. The University's growth provides so many more opportunities for so many more people and it's really rewarding to see."

Also rewarding has been her opportunity to be involved in many charitable endeavors, primarily revolving around education and journalism.

"It's just been a lifelong involvement with journalism and education. I don't have any children and I don't have any family so this, for me, is kind of my legacy carrying on at Rowan, through the alumni center, to provide the opportunity for other alums to get more involved and have a place to go. So having the ability to do that, with regard to Rowan, is really rewarding and makes me very pleased."

"I've really been blessed with a great adventure."

## **ROWAN FOUNDATION TO WELCOME GLOVER**



The Harry Walker Agency, Inc.

### **27th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast**

Join us as Rowan University welcomes keynote speaker, legendary actor, director and activist:

## **Danny Glover**

**Monday, January 21, 2013**

**9:30 a.m., Eynon Ballroom**

**Chamberlain Student Center**

Tickets are \$75 each (\$600 for tables of 8). To purchase, please call **856-256-5400**.

For information regarding corporate sponsorship opportunities, please email [dangelo@rowan.edu](mailto:dangelo@rowan.edu).

Proceeds support the William H. Myers Scholarship program.

## ROHRER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY



*Daymond John, internationally renowned entrepreneur and star of ABC's Shark Tank, delivered the keynote address during the RCOB's 40th Anniversary celebration.*

As the Rohrer College of Business at Rowan University celebrates 40 years of developing bright young business leaders, there's a new leader for the business school. These two milestones came to a celebratory collaboration on the last Friday of September.

Dr. Robert Beatty is the new Dean of the Rohrer College of Business (RCOB). Since taking over in July, he has described bold plans and big ideas as the College enters its fifth decade.

"To come in as dean at this time is very exciting," Beatty said. "I am fortunate to take over the position at this major milestone in the University's history. We're already ranked among the top 300 business schools in the U.S., but it's now time to take it to new heights."

### The Celebration

The day's events brought together over 300 students, alumni, faculty and friends of the Rohrer College of Business for a mini "Shark Tank" competition featuring one of the ABC television show's judges, Daymond John.

Later that evening, John was the keynote speaker at a reception and dinner celebrating the many successes of the College of Business over the past 40 years.

Entrepreneurship was the focus during another part of the evening when the College presented a number of "first" awards.

The William G. Rohrer Business Leader of the Year award was presented to Gerald Shreiber, President and CEO of J&J Snack Foods Corp., Pennsauken.

Distinguished Business Alumni Awards went to Sarah Piddington '03, M'05, Dorothy Stubblebine '80 and Paul Tully '99 in recognition of exemplifying the highest principles of the business profession and making outstanding contributions to the field of business and to society.

Class of 2013 members Jonathan Hirsch and Rachel Hallion and M.B.A. student Crystal (Anderson) O'Neill each were awarded \$1,000 Distinguished Alumni Scholarships.

"This event gave us the opportunity to be able to showcase some of our many distinguished alumni, the College itself, and to have Daymond John come in to speak. We want to build on the momentum that the 40th anniversary has provided us and really get the word out that we are committed to the business community in South Jersey and the Delaware Valley.

"Taking the job at Rowan was an easy decision," Beatty said. "When I took a look at it, I found Rowan to be a very exciting place to be. There are very few schools in the country doing what Rowan is doing right now.

That was reaffirmed when I came in and met with President Houshmand and Provost Newell. They are really allowing the opportunity to be aggressive and take the College to next level. I am happy to have their support and that of Linda Rohrer."

Beatty, who has pledged to make the Rohrer name as recognizable as that of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, served as the emcee of the evening's festivities.

What started in 1972 as the Administrative Studies Department with 150 majors and six adjunct professors has grown into a well-respected College with close to 1,200 students in undergraduate and graduate programs and 40 full-time, tenure-track faculty as well as adjuncts. The College has 9,658 alumni, many of whom are business leaders or have started their own firms and created jobs in South Jersey and elsewhere.

The Rohrer College of Business boasts two important accreditations: AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accredits the College, while its MIS Program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, <http://www.abet.org>, an accomplishment shared with only six schools nationwide.

The Princeton Review named the College one of the "294 Best Business Schools" in its 2012 edition. The Philadelphia Business Journal ranked the M.B.A. program as tops in growth in 2010's analysis of Delaware Valley schools, after it showed an 81-percent jump in enrollment from 2008-09 to 2009-10. This year, *U.S. News & World Report* cited Rohrer College's M.B.A. program in the publication's first-ever edition of Top Online Education Program rankings.

Noted Rowan's President, Dr. Ali Houshmand, "The growth of the College is the result of many years of dedicated service. It's Rowan's entrepreneurial approach to higher education that has distinguished it.

Said Rowan University Board of Trustees Chair Linda Rohrer, a trustee of the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation that has contributed \$13 million to the RCOB, "I am continually impressed by the quality of students and faculty. (My father would) really enjoy giving Mr. Wharton a challenge."

### Business Plans

Along with his lofty goal of competing with Wharton, Dr. Beatty has already started to put his plan of attack in place to engage the area business community and give them a taste of what is going on at Rowan.

"I've made it a point to work in partnership with Rowan's Office of University Advancement to arrange meetings with business leaders and the business community in the South Jersey and tri-state area to get the story out about the Rohrer College of Business and to ask people for their support and engagement for the school. I think over the next couple of years, the plan is to get out in front of as many business leaders as possible to close the gap between what academics are teaching and what business' needs are. Partnering with people in industry and business are one of our primary concerns."

Other interesting plans included etiquette dinners, seminars on interviewing and other business-focused lectures that will benefit Rowan students beyond the classroom and into the "real world."

Beatty concluded: "We want to provide a wide variety of opportunities to make sure that those who are investing in a business education at Rowan are getting the most bang for the buck and an excellent return on their investments."



1. Dr. Steven Leshay, Professor Emeritus; Dr. Linda Ross, Professor; Dr. Mark Chamberlain, President Emeritus; Dr. Robert Lynch, Professor Emeritus; and Dr. George Romeo, Professor.
2. Rowan University Board of Trustees Chair Linda Rohrer and Rohrer College of Business Dean Robert Beatty (right) presented the first-ever William G. Rohrer Business Leader of the Year Award to Gerald Shreiber, President and CEO of J&J Snack Foods Corp., Pennsauken.
3. Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand addressed the celebrants gathered at the RCOB event.



## RECEPTION CELEBRATES LOYAL DONORS AND FRIENDS

Over 150 members of the University's President's Forum gathered for a reception in May at the home of Drs. Calvin and Orsula Knowlton in Moorestown. The event celebrated this loyal group of donors and friends for their commitment and generosity to the University. The President's Forum giving society was established in July 2008 to honor and recognize donors of \$1,000+.

1. Rowan President Ali A. and Farah Houshmand and Drs. Orsula and Calvin Knowlton
2. John Campbell III '08, Shirley Campbell, Rowan University Board of Trustees member Keith Campbell, Farah Houshmand and Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand
3. Rowan President Ali A. and Farah Houshmand and President Emeritus Mark and Barbara Chamberlain



## STUDENT-DESIGNED 9/11 MEMORIAL RECENTLY DEDICATED ON CAMPUS

*Rowan's newly dedicated, student-designed 9/11 Memorial is the culmination of hard work and generous contributions of time, money and resources from countless members of both the University and surrounding communities.*

Like many Americans—especially those in or near the New York metro area—the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 made a major impact on civil engineering major Patrick Lynch '13.

Eleven years later, Rowan University dedicated a 9/11 Memorial in remembrance of those lost, including two who were Rowan grads. Lynch, a junior from Parsippany, was the Memorial's designer

and also assisted with fundraising for the project. Upon its unveiling on September 11, 2012, it became the second memorial dedicated to 9/11 on campus.

"Even though I was nine I knew something was wrong," recalls Lynch. "I remember being in class and there were a lot of parents picking up their kids.

"We lived a half-hour out of the city and I remember, maybe a couple of weeks later, going to this one overlook and you could see the city and it was surreal when you noticed that the twin towers weren't there anymore. You had pictures in your mind of the skyline and then you look at it and they're gone. There was a void in so many people's hearts. But even at such a young age, I knew that event was going to change a lot of people's outlooks on life."

His 50-by-70 foot monument features pentagon- and square-shaped planter beds to signify the tragedies at the Pentagon and World Trade Center towers. The square planters contain flagpoles, while the pentagon planter holds a symbolic Callery pear tree. Called the "Survivor Tree," a nearly dead Callery pear tree was found among the Ground Zero rubble and nursed back to health in a Bronx, N.Y. park. Today, more than four times its 2001 size, that same tree stands in Memorial Plaza in Manhattan.

The time frame from initial discussions to the dedication was about a year, and there were challenges along the way. Lynch, however, was undeterred in his enthusiasm

for the project, which was funded by monetary donations as well as in-kind contributions of materials and services.

"It really was an eye-opening experience," said Lynch. "I had my mind set on a goal and I put everything into it. I put hours a day into it... There were so many little things. If someone just showed up and looked at it, they would never know the time and effort that went into it. It was amazing how many people came together in the end."

Located in the open area off Route 322 across from Savitz Hall, the Memorial was funded through senior class gifts from the Classes of 2009 and 2012, as well as 154 gifts to the Rowan University Foundation from friends and family of the Class of 2012.

The project also received major in-kind donations from companies including EP Henry Corporation; Brida Stone, Inc.; Chamings Electric, Inc.; Colonial Land Design; Crown Pipeline Construction Co.; Enviroprobe Services, Inc.; Frank J. Fazzio & Sons, Inc.; George Sparks Electric; G.P. Freni Custom Landscapes; Groff's Mill Pond Nursery, Inc.; Johnson Sod Farm; Peach Country Tractor; Recreation Resource, Inc.; Trico Equipment Services, LLC; and Tuckahoe Nurseries, Inc. The businesses donated funds, labor and materials, including brick pavers, trees and shrubs, benches, irrigation equipment and wiring and light fixtures. A plaque listing the donors will appear between the Memorial's two square planter beds.



## PIONEERING SPIRIT GUIDING CMSRU'S CHARTER CLASS

**P**assion. It is, according to Dr. Paul Katz, Founding Dean of the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, the characteristic that drives every person who is a part of the school's charter class, which has been gathering at the new facility in Camden during its first semester.

"Passion, plain and simple," said Dr. Katz when asked what it takes to be a part of a new venture such as CMSRU. "You need to have passion for what we're trying to do, passion for this community, and passion for trying to create a new kind of physician who's prepared to meet the challenges that are with us in healthcare now.

"I think if you have that passion, the rest of it is really pretty easy and that's really the kind of characteristic we're looking for in all of our folks (students and faculty)."

Dr. Katz appraised what the first semester has revealed.

"It's been a great summer and fall with our charter class and when you start something new, you never know exactly how it's going to go. We're very pleased with what we've accomplished so far and there's a couple of observations we've made.

"One is that it's very important to go out and seek the kind of students who understand what we're about, what it means to be in a new school and make a commitment to this community.

"Another part of it is that we have such an enthusiastic bunch of students who really want to be involved in a lot of things, we're trying to keep them contained a little bit so they don't get overly distracted by service opportunities and community events and stay a little more focused on the academics. They're so interested in helping the city and the people who live here, we sometimes have to reel them in a little bit.

"The last thing we're learning is that we're really trying to create some innovative things around this curriculum and even at this early stage, we've had success and realized that there are even more innovative things we can do."

Dr. Katz cited some innovations at CMSRU, one of which includes cutting back on classroom time revolving around lectures, memorization and regurgitation of facts.

"When you think about it, that's not really the way medicine is practiced and not the way physicians should work. It's much more about problem solving, working together and critical thinking."

The Dean has also been impressed with the way the Rowan community—especially alumni—have rallied to support the Medical School.

"People are excited and proud of what's going on and see this as a great opportunity, not just for the Medical School but for



Rowan University as a whole. We really are grateful to them especially given the fact that they could've chosen other places at Rowan to direct their contributions.

"One of the things they all realize is that there's no great Medical School without a great University and anything we can do to help make the University better we're excited about. As alums they see that it is having a significant beneficial impact on the entire University."

Looking ahead, Katz says, "We're taking our temperature, seeing where we are, and we want to keep pushing and getting to the next level."

*Above (l to r): New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Rowan University President Dr. Ali A. Houshmand, CMSRU Founding Dean Dr. Paul Katz, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and Cooper University Health Care Board Chair George E. Norcross, III.*

## CMSRU GIFT FROM KOSTIC MEMORIAL FOUNDATION PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIPS



Jonathan Kolbe

*Created through the John E. Kostic Memorial Foundation, the CMSRU scholarship honors the legacy of John E. Kostic. The foundation that bears his name seeks opportunities to impact the lives of young people in New Jersey and the region.*

**W**hen she was a senior in high school, Emily Kostic '10 lost her older brother, John, after a 2005 car accident. John was a junior at Rider University, just shy of his 21st birthday.

As difficult as it may sound, since that tragedy, Emily and her family have tried to create some good out their painful loss. The family created the John E. Kostic Memorial Foundation with the funds they were awarded after a wrongful death lawsuit.

Seven years later, the Foundation has established an \$80,000 scholarship at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University—created in large part thanks to a couple of key connections.

"I was still a student at Rowan when the University announced that it would be joining with Cooper to create a medical school," said Emily, who majored in journalism in the then-College of Communication. "It brought me and my friends an immense amount of pride that our school would be combining with one of the most well-respected hospitals in the area.

"When John was diagnosed at the age of four with juvenile diabetes, he was admitted to Cooper for a few days. John's endocrinologist was affiliated with Cooper and he continued with his doctor the remaining years of his life.

"We thought there is no better way to contribute to the medical community than to help an aspiring doctor offset the cost of medical school," added Emily, who was

raised in Delran. "Cooper Medical School of Rowan University was the obvious choice for this gift due to its connection to John and me. Also to be a part of (CMSRU's) Legacy Society and to be among the first contributors to the school was something we all found terribly exciting. We wanted to help in any way we could."

"The idea of the foundation is to give back to the community and to 'do good' in John's name," explained Eileen Kostic, Emily and John's mother and president of the Foundation's Board of Directors. "This gift recognizes the need for more doctors in South Jersey and celebrates the passion John had for math and science."

Emily now lives and works in New York City. She handles social media for the History Channel and her experience at Rowan holds a fond spot in her heart.

"My brother died... right around the time I was choosing where to go to college. I didn't want to go far from home during such a sensitive time for my family, so I went to Rowan. It ended up being—thus far—one of the best decisions I've made in life.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Rowan. I made countless friends, got very involved with *The Whit* and other organizations and met professors there who changed my life. If there's such a thing as the perfect college experience, I would say I had it. I have nothing but fond memories of Rowan."

The John E. Kostic Memorial Foundation also funds one of the largest scholarships in the state for a New Jersey student living with juvenile diabetes. For more information about the John E. Kostic Memorial Foundation, please visit [johnekostic.org](http://johnekostic.org).



Charter philanthropists through Cooper Medical School of Rowan University's 2012 Legacy Society will advance CMSRU's mission, prepare for its future and inspire others to follow their lead. Joining the 2012 Legacy Society is an opportunity to create an enduring legacy at an institution primed to make a significant impact on healthcare delivery in the region.

### For more information

To learn about opportunities to support CMSRU, please contact Kim Barkhamer at 856-361-2812 or [barkhamer@rowan.edu](mailto:barkhamer@rowan.edu) or visit [rowan.edu/coopermed/giving](http://rowan.edu/coopermed/giving).

## FOUNDATION'S COMMITMENT FUNDS CONTINUED ENGINEERING OUTREACH

John Martinson Jr. experienced first hand on a November afternoon what his firm helped fund—a series of engineering activities designed to further introduce K-12 students to the world of technology.

Rowan College of Engineering professors Drs. Kausar Jahan, Krishan Bhatia and Smitesh Bakrania and their students unveiled those activities at the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University.

The activities are one part of a Virtual Hub for Promoting Engineering (VHUB), funded by the Lawrenceville, N.J.-based Edison Ventures with a \$300,000 grant.

The brainchild of Dr. Jahan, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, VHUB is a virtual site that will provide resources for materials that use technological products. The resources will include worksheets, video clips, hands-on activities, lab experiments and animated apps that will be mapped to the State's core curriculum standards according to grade level.

With the U.S. lagging behind many other countries in science, technology, math and engineering, Rowan faculty developed VHUB as a means to address the need for a new vision for educating engineers to push the country to the forefront of technology.

"Currently there are very few workshops that train teachers on using contemporary technology and multimedia as resources for enhancing and promoting science and engineering education in the South Jersey area," said Jahan. "VHUB aims to develop and offer opportunities for K-12 educators to enhance their technological skills for promoting science and engineering education."

VHUB is just one of the College of Engineering's outreach programs for the K-12 community. All are designed to interest young students in engineering and technology in general, starting them on a path to in-demand careers, keeping them current in a global marketplace and contributing to building the United States' strength in those fields.

Since 2005, Edison Ventures has committed over \$1 million to Rowan's College of Engineering programs:

- \$326,235 in 2005 for a 3-year grant in support of the Engineering Clinics for Teachers program
- \$420,000 in 2008 for a 3-year grant in support of the Engineers on Wheels program
- \$300,000 in 2012 for a 3-year grant in support of the VHUB

"The overwhelming generosity of Edison Ventures has allowed our Engineering College to focus on critical STEM outreach initiatives that impact K-12 teachers and students throughout the region," said Ali A. Houshmand, president. "We are grateful for their continued confidence in our abilities."

"What excites us at Rowan is they have the best educators that we have worked with and like us they are always thinking forward to what they can do next," said Martinson. "With the Virtual Hub, the possibilities are endless to deliver their expertise... to anywhere the Internet can take them."



Rowan civil engineering student Colleen Nauss (l) and Denise Barr (Glassboro Intermediate School Science Teacher and previous ECT participant) watch as John Martinson, Jr. (Investment Manager, Edison Venture Fund) gets a hands-on lesson during the demonstration of a Virtual Hub for Promoting Engineering (VHUB) activity.

## GET FIT PROGRAM IN HEALTH AND EXERCISE SCIENCE GAINS MAJOR GRANT



Developed at Rowan University, the Get FIT program is helping adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers get fit and stay fit while also preparing the next generation of trainers to help a population with special needs.

The latest grant that Rowan University professor Dr. Leslie Spencer has received for the Get FIT program, sponsored by the Health and Exercise Science department in the College of Education, is, in a way, a gift that keeps on giving.

Spencer established the Get FIT program in 2008. Now in its fifth year, it seeks to achieve two broad objectives. First, it is intended to improve access to wellness programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) as well as their caregivers. Second, it helps to increase the capacity of the health promotion field to serve individuals with disabilities by providing undergraduate health promotion students with direct involvement in designing, implementing and evaluating the program.

The \$50,000 grant award over two years is from the Aetna Foundation, whose mission is to promote wellness, health and access to high-quality health care for everyone. The grant will help Spencer and students in the department in the College

of Education continue to positively affect the lives of a very underserved population.

"Back in 2008, I was contacted by Jessica Goldsmith-Barzilay from the Family Resource Network, a paid agency that serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Spencer, who created the Health Promotion and Fitness Management (HPFM) undergraduate specialization. "She said she was toying with this idea of looking for ways to provide fitness for their clients because they serve people throughout the state."

Not only is the program making a very positive influence on the lives of those it serves, it has become a valuable part of the curriculum for Health and Exercise Science majors with all of the one-on-one work with clients taking place in the state-of-the-art fitness lab in James Hall.

"It is a terrific benefit to the Rowan students," said Spencer. "We were very intentional about building this into the curriculum — this is part of their education and part of their training, learning how to work with this population and really getting hands-on experience. Not only do they get to talk about ideas in the classroom but then they get to turn around and implement those ideas and work with real clients in a real setting."

Added Spencer, "Every semester we have over 40 students involved in the program in one form or another. So it has a big impact. They really enjoy working with this group, and find it very fulfilling and meaningful. A lot of them find that they're really good at working with people with special needs and feel more confident to do that once they graduate and get into their careers."

"We have students who participate in the program certainly beyond what they need to. We have students who have already met their requirements for professional development hours but keep volunteering anyway simply because they like working with this group so much. They really rise to the occasion and do a beautiful job."

Spencer cited the Rowan University Foundation and the Wal-Mart Foundation as two additional providers of key grant money to sustain the Get FIT program.

## ROWAN FUTURE FUND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



Students like Melanie Judge '13 directly benefit from the generosity of the University's alumni and friends.

**H**ello! My name is Melanie Judge and I am a senior at Rowan University. These last few years have been amazing. Time has passed so quickly and I am very excited for what my future will bring. I'm looking forward to every moment.

Growing up in central New Jersey, I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to advance my education at a place like Rowan. It is rare to find a university where faculty and staff take such an active interest in nurturing each student's academic life—especially one right in one's own backyard.

Attending Rowan has allowed me to get involved in activities while forming lasting friendships and has helped me move toward realizing my goals for the future. As a dual Subject Matter Education

and English major, I have dreams of one day working in a middle school and impacting the lives of young people one student at a time.

I feel privileged to have so many academic advantages and opportunities because of the generosity of alumni and friends like you.

With so many of Rowan's students receiving financial assistance, there is always a need for support through our Rowan Future Fund. I urge you to give, and to once again create opportunities for students like me as we strive to reach our full potential. In return, you will be rewarded in knowing that you helped to educate tomorrow's leaders—including future teachers, doctors, writers, nurses, engineers or business owners.

As we close another calendar year and enjoy the holidays with our families and friends, I'd like to thank you for your previous support to the Rowan University Foundation. During this season of giving, I ask you to take a moment to consider a gift to your RU family. A gift to Rowan University offers students like me an even brighter future.

Best wishes to you and yours for a healthy, happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

*Melanie Judge*  
Melanie Judge  
Class of 2013



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### Rowan University Colleges and Schools

William G. Rohrer College of Business  
*Robert C. Beatty, Dean*

School of Biomedical Sciences  
*Parviz Ansari, Founding Dean*

College of Communication & Creative Arts  
*Lorin Basden Arnold, Dean*

College of Education  
*Carol Sharp, Dean*

College of Engineering  
*Steven Chin, Interim Dean*

College of Graduate & Continuing Education  
*Horacio Sosa, Dean*

College of Humanities & Social Sciences  
*Cindy Vitto, Dean*

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University  
*Paul Katz, Founding Dean*

College of Performing Arts  
*John Pastin, Dean*

College of Science & Mathematics  
*Parviz Ansari, Dean*

Camden Campus  
*Tyrone McCombs, Assistant Provost/Dean*

# LINDA M. ROHRER ELECTED CHAIR OF ROWAN'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**“Rowan is on a remarkable trajectory and I am truly honored by this appointment.”**  
Linda Rohrer

In September, Rowan University’s Board of Trustees elected Linda M. Rohrer as its chair for the 2012-13 academic year.

Rohrer, who was first installed on the board in January 2009, has over 30 years of business experience. The lifelong Haddon Township resident is president of Rohrer and Sayers Real Estate, vice chair of the Camden County Improvement Authority, a member of the Haddon Township Planning Board, and chair of 1st Colonial National Bank of Collingswood.

The University’s Rohrer College of Business is named for her late father, and the Foundation that bears his name has supported the College for more than a decade with over \$13 million to cultivate business education at Rowan.

“Rowan is on a remarkable trajectory and I am truly honored by this appointment,” Rohrer said of her election as chair.

A former high school Spanish teacher at Paul VI High School, Rohrer holds a Bachelor of Arts from Upsala College in East Orange.

William G. Rohrer was the first mayor of Haddon Township and served in that role for 40 years. He also founded 1st Peoples National Bank in 1963. The charitable foundation bearing his name annually presents gifts of nearly \$2 million to worthy causes in the South Jersey area. Some of

those include the Rohrer Fitness Center at Virtua, the Rohrer Campus of Camden County College and the Rohrer Memorial Library in Haddon Township.

Linda Rohrer is also on the Board of Trustees for the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation which focuses on carrying on her father’s legacy and making an impact on South Jersey.

In addition to Rohrer’s election, the Board elected Glassboro businessmen Larry DiVietro Jr. vice chair and Nick Petroni secretary.

Installed on the Board in February 2002, DiVietro, of Wenonah, is president and CEO of Land Dimensions Engineering in Glassboro. He serves as vice chair of the Gloucester County YMCA, on the Board of the Southern New Jersey Development Council, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Installed on the Board in February 2004, Petroni, of Glassboro, is a certified public accountant with a degree from the University of Notre Dame. The owner of Glassboro accounting firm Petroni and Associates, Petroni serves on the Mayor’s Committee for Downtown Redevelopment in Glassboro, on the Finance Council for the Church of St. Bridget in Glassboro, and is a past president of the Glassboro Chamber of Commerce.



*Longtime businesswoman Linda M. Rohrer leads Board during transformative year for the University.*

**ROWAN ADVANCES**  
Rowan Advances is published twice 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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