

\$5M gift supports RCB Honors student recruitment

A new \$5 million commitment from the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation will establish a permanent endowment within the William G. Rohrer College of Business to attract, support and graduate Honors business students. The fund will be used for targeted scholarships for potential students and to create and implement recruitment and retention initiatives.

Working with the University's Thomas N. Bantivoglio Honors Concentration in the Honors College, the Rohrer College of Business will build on its already strong population of talented and engaged students, and will continue to solidify its status as a top destination for the region's best and brightest business students.

"One of our primary responsibilities as a public research university is to help drive the economy of the region by developing a talented stream of future business leaders," said Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand. "This generous gift will help us stem the tide of students going out of state for business education, many of whom do not return."

The gift comes at time of great growth for the Rohrer College of Business as it celebrated the opening of its new home, Business Hall, in January 2017. There are currently 2,000 business students enrolled in the College's undergraduate and graduate programs.

"My father had a passion for education and for helping fellow businesspeople succeed," explained Linda M. Rohrer, Rowan Board of Trustees member and trustee of the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation. "As we work to continue his legacy, this gift will ensure that the Rohrer College of Business remains competitive and can educate even more talented business students."

A strong advocate of Rowan University, Rohrer has served on the University's Board of Trustees since 2009, including most recently as chairman of the Board, and as a member of the Rohrer College of Business Executive Advisory Council. In addition, she served on the Rowan University Foundation Board from 2005–2008. The gift announcement was made at the closing of the

September Board meeting, where she turned over the chairmanship to Chad Bruner.

The Rohrer College of Business is named for Rohrer's father, William G. Rohrer, a distinguished businessman, community leader, government official, and philanthropist who died in 1989.

The gift is the latest commitment by the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation to the institution, bringing its total commitment since 1995 to \$19 million.

The Foundation's previous support includes \$12 million for the College of Business: \$1 million to establish the William G. Rohrer Endowed Chair in 1995, \$1.02 million in 1999 to establish the William G. Rohrer Scholars in the College of Business, and \$10 million in 2005 to establish the William G. Rohrer Fund for Excellence in Business.

In addition, the Foundation has provided \$2 million in support for the School of Osteopathic Medicine: \$500,000 for the William G. Rohrer Research Endowment, \$500,000 for the School of Osteopathic Medicine Education Center Endowment, and \$1 million for the William G. Rohrer Endowed Chair in Geriatrics at SOM's New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging.

A leader in business education, the Rohrer College of Business' unique approach is built upon collaboration, small class sizes, project-based learning, problem solving, teamwork and entrepreneurship. Led by a faculty of internationally renowned scholars, students can choose from among eight majors and a Masters of Business Administration with various concentration options.

"The extraordinary generosity of the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation has been the catalyst for our College's amazing transformation," said Rohrer College of Business Dean Sue Lehrman. "Building on our commitment to create the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs, this gift will ensure that our college will retain its competitive advantage. We are grateful for the Foundation's continued investment in the future of business education at Rowan." **RA**

"One of our primary responsibilities as a public research university is to help drive the region's economy by developing a talented stream of future business leaders."

—Dr. Ali Houshmand



Thanks to Give Something Back, more to attend Rowan, RCGC

Robert O. Carr continues to make a difference for disadvantaged youth who want to pursue their education at Rowan University. A philanthropist, entrepreneur and author, Carr, through his non-profit organization Give Something Back, has announced his second \$1 million donation to Rowan University—along with a \$500,000 donation to Rowan College at Gloucester County—to fund scholarships for students with the most need.

“This contribution reflects Give Back’s new commitment to select students into the program who have been impacted by foster care and/or parental incarceration,” said Carr, founder and chairman of Give Back. “This is a population that experiences overwhelming obstacles; many of them never go to college and very few graduate. Those not in college often wind up in jail, homeless or worse.”

Give Back previously awarded \$1 million to the University in 2015 to enable 50 economically disadvantaged but academically talented students to attend at no cost. Fourteen Give Back scholars are presently enrolled at Rowan College and Rowan University.

Although Give Back has provided opportunities for students enrolling in four-year schools, the latest contribution is significant as RCGC is the first community college in the country to be funded by the organization.

The funding will allow RCGC and Rowan to build on several longstanding collaborations. The scholarships can be used by students in the Rowan Choice program, a partnership that lets RCGC students live on Rowan’s campus for their first two years of college, immersing themselves in activities and opportunities while taking classes at RCGC at a reduced cost. Upon successful completion of their associate degree, participants are automatically accepted into the University.

At Rowan, students supported by Give Back participate in the Rowan First Star Academy. The Academy is implemented by the South Jersey First Star Collaborative, a partnership between First Star, the University and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children), and United Advocacy Group, serving foster youth from Gloucester, Cumberland and Salem counties and funded by the Pascale Sykes Foundation. The Rowan First Star Academy focuses on creating lifetime networks of support for the participating youth and their families (natural or foster).

Carr created Give Back to help talented youth of modest means attend college in Illinois in 2003. The organization expanded to New Jersey in 2015, making its first gift to Rowan. Since then it has funded scholarships at Montclair State University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Saint Peter’s University, The College of New Jersey and William Paterson University, and has extended its program to Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, California and Kansas.

The Give Back program involves much more than simply paying tuition and room and board. Historically, the organization has worked with select school districts, inviting freshmen to apply for entrance into the program, which, if successfully completed, includes a four-year college scholarship. To qualify, high-achieving students must be eligible for full Pell Grants and, if selected, must meet additional criteria such as maintaining good grades, taking honors/AP courses and demonstrating admirable character. Upon high school graduation, students must meet the college standard admissions requirements and be admitted to their selected school.

“We are honored that Give Back is entrusting us with another million-dollar gift to create access for talented young students to attend college,” said Rowan’s president, Dr. Ali Houshmand. “Mr. Carr’s mission aligns perfectly with our commitment to make higher education more affordable and accessible for students in New Jersey.”

Carr recently launched a new payment processing company, Beyond, that will help sustain Give Back for years to come. Give Back is the beneficiary of all of Carr’s personal earnings in this venture and is the majority shareholder. “Simply by being our client, you help make a difference for students who have faced adversity,” added Carr. **RA**



Robert O. Carr discusses his \$1.5 million gift to assist students at Rowan College at Gloucester County and Rowan University.

In the business of paying it forward by giving back

Bob Palmer '88 had been giving back to Rowan University for a number of years when he recently decided to create an endowed scholarship to benefit business students in perpetuity.

Palmer, who worked for several years after high school before deciding to attend college, explained that he “didn’t know much of anything in the beginning” of his time at GSC.

“I hadn’t decided on a business degree right away either, but Glassboro State College was like nothing I had ever experienced.”

“The academics, the atmosphere, the learning opportunities—being exposed to different cultures and ways of thinking—was really what I took with me from my time in college,” said Palmer. “Meeting so many people and seeing things through a new lens was life changing.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1988, Palmer began working his way up to his current role as Chief Solutions Officer at Wedgewood Pharmacy in Swedesboro, NJ, where he creates business strategies and formulates and implements strategic initiatives.

The Bob and Deana Palmer Endowed Scholarship in Business will support a business student in any major from New Jersey. Palmer recognizes the scale of the business field and hopes simply to support students with big business dreams.

“I developed a pattern [of giving] that I continued for years,” he explained. “But creating a scholarship feels great and a lot different. There is a direct correlation now.”

Whereas before, Palmer imagined his gifts going into a larger pool to be used for research, textbooks or general infrastructure, now his generosity is directly helping undergraduate students with financial assistance to attend Rowan—beginning with freshman Marketing/Honors major, Karen Drake.

Palmer’s contribution will also support Rowan University’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program by providing student volunteers with new laptops as they work to provide free income tax preparation services for member of the Glassboro community during tax season.

“I owe a lot to Rowan,” concluded Palmer. “I’d been giving for so long, I was ready to do something larger and more meaningful.” **RA**

Advancing the arts at Rowan

Since 2011, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts has been a generous supporter of Rowan University's arts initiatives, providing over \$63,000 in grant funding.

Most recently, the Council awarded \$35,000 in support for the Rowan University Art Gallery and the College of Performing Arts' Marie Rader Presenting Series for the 2017–2018 academic year.

"The last six years have been quite a journey. We are supporting many different areas of the arts at Rowan," says Danielle Bursk, Program Officer and Director of Arts Education with the council. "A great thing about all of these projects is the creation of opportunities for non arts consumers to experience the arts."

The State Arts Council's support has allowed the Rowan University Art Gallery to encourage dialogue and foster discussion about Gallery and Exhibitions Program Director Mary Salvante's social-issue-themed art exhibitions while also sparking social activism on the community level.

"Rowan's art gallery is positioned to make a unique contribution to both the University community and the community at large," notes Bursk. "It has opened the door even wider, attracting a broad array of visitors and also exposing the richness of artistic talent right here in our home state."

In April 2018, the Gallery will host the Arts Annual exhibition titled, "Navigating Elements," highlighting the best work of artists currently living and working in New Jersey, with a focus on content that considers the natural environment and how choice of medium impacts meaning.

"The kind of programming that's happening [at Rowan] is not necessarily what people

expect," said Bursk. "It's progressive and contemporary, and because so much of the work is based on a social practice, it often sparks conversations about what is going on in the world today."

In addition to the Art Gallery, the State Arts Council is further broadening Rowan's community arts outreach through support for

the Marie Rader Presenting Series in the College of Performing Arts. Internationally renowned Brazilian movement artist, Christiane Matallo, will be featured for a six-week residency and the public premier of her work, "House of Murals."

"The efforts being made at Rowan to use art as a conduit for dialogue and community engagement are exciting," Bursk says. "The caliber of work is high and there's an impressive mix of emerging and established talent."

Don Ehman, Director of Arts Inclusion and Artist Services for the Council, spoke about the State Arts Council's work with Rowan regarding the development of public art pieces. An aesthetic committee comprising a diverse mix of stakeholders with a deep knowledge about art and/or a deep interest in the campus and community worked together in developing art pieces to complement the architecture surrounding the University's recently opened buildings for the Colleges of Business and Engineering.

"I've worked on five public art projects over the past five years at Rowan," said Ehman. "The University's leadership in creating public art is profound and tells the story of its dedication to inclusiveness with the surrounding community." **RA**



Celebrating impact

On November 16, the Rowan University Foundation held its annual Scholarship Reception and Dinner to recognize those who have created endowed scholarships. Over 130 donors and their student recipients spent the evening together, sharing a meal and getting to know one another. Donor Barbara Armand Kushner; scholarship recipient, Ashley Nichols '18; and President Ali Houshmand spoke about the power of scholarships, the critical support they provide and the impact they make on donors and students. As the University strives to keep education affordable and accessible, we are indebted to donors who have partnered with us in supporting this mission.

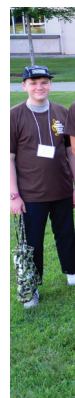


1. Top row: Mollie Rubinstein '18, David Burgin '82, M'02, Tri Tam Nguyen '18, Lisa Burgin.
Bottom: Christine Yovnnello, Linda Yovnnello, Maureen Scott, Mary Lee Donahue
2. Barbara Armand Kushner, Uriel Clark '18
3. Rowan President Dr. Ali A. Houshmand

Rowan on the RISE

Join us for a special series of events throughout the region to catch up with your alma mater! Highlights include a campus update, hors d'oeuvres, complimentary drinks, and Rowan giveaways.

For more information and to register, visit alumni.rowan.edu/ontherise



Scholarship honors late respected alumni leader

Paul A. Hilton '83 knew how to make others feel special.

Remembered with an infectious smile and bigger-than-life personality, Angelique Hilton '15 says her husband simply loved people and he loved getting to know them. He truly embodied what it meant to be a "people person."

"He had a way of making everyone he met feel like they were the only person in the room," said Angelique. "He listened intently and he always wanted to hear stories about their lives. He made people a part of his life because he always remembered."

Paul passed away in late spring after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer. He was a reunion organizer and fundraiser, a respected leader on the Rowan University Alumni Board of Directors and an extremely proud and passionate alum.

Paul came to Glassboro State College with little money but an overflowing work ethic. He had to work several jobs during his time as a student, sparking his desire to spend his life giving to those who were in need.

"We talked about having a scholarship of some sort before to impact a student who didn't have access or didn't have support in

a financial way," said Angelique. "We wanted to help them to get where they wanted to be in their lives, and when I lost Paul, I knew this was the best way to keep his memory and legacy moving forward."

The Hiltons strongly shared the University's core value that education should be accessible and affordable. Paul was an enthusiast for education and the scholarship in his memory will eliminate some of the financial burden for students pursuing a Rowan degree.

"That's all Paul would talk about," adds Angelique, "everyone having the same accessibility to education and the opportunity to thrive in their own life."

Paul was committed to his community, serving on the Winslow Township Board of Education and the Winslow Township Drug and Alcohol Alliance. He also served on the Board of Trustees for First Nazarene Baptist Church in Camden. Students of any major with a strong sense of volunteerism serving as a positive force in their communities will be considered for the award.

"Paul was passionate about service and being of service to those around him," said Angelique. "You don't know what a person is

going through or what their journey is like. For the students, I'd just love to help them on their own journey in honor of Paul."

The Paul A. Hilton '83 Memorial

Scholarship Fund continues to grow and Angelique is thrilled to support Rowan students.

"I eventually would like to make the fund into an endowment," adds Angelique. "That way it will be around forever and the people Paul impacted can always remember him—because he is with me always." **RA**



Angelique and Paul Hilton

You can help! By providing financial assistance to promising students in need, scholarships at Rowan provide resources to recruit and support the best and brightest students and ensure that their education remains affordable. To learn more, please call 856-256-4095 or visit giving.rufoundation.org

Summer Camp tunes students in to career options

In July Rowan University hosted its first week-long Music Industry Summer Camp, offering high school students a unique world-class learning experience on music technology and key aspects of the music business.

A generous grant from The Les Paul Foundation supported 32 area high school students with dreams of studying music in college and developing successful careers in the music industry.

The Les Paul Foundation inspires innovative and creative thinking by sharing the legacy of Les Paul through support of music education, recording, innovation and medical research related to hearing.

"This grant was a very big deal," said Mathieu Gendreau, Associate Professor & Music Industry Program Director. "There aren't many grants dedicated to the arts and Les Paul is a huge inspiration. He was an inventor and an entrepreneur who became a number one recording artist. He worked really hard and he never gave up. To have the support of the Foundation is really special."

Through working with Gendreau, Assistant Professor of Music Business Michael McArthur, and other faculty from the B.S. in Music Industry degree program, campers learned directly from active music industry insiders who also provided insight into college admissions and career development advice.

Throughout the camp, students were taught the basics of what it takes to work as an audio engineer, record producer, post-production engineer, record label manager, artist manager, booking agent, marketing manager and

music publisher.

Students honed their skills and knowledge in audio recording, editing, MIDI sequencing (musical instrument digital interface), audio mixing, recording studio acoustics, the music industry, record deals, music publishing, social media and music marketing. Students were also introduced to the history and legacy of Les Paul and his impact on the music industry.

Les Paul was the only person inducted into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The many recording techniques he developed in his Hollywood garage and later in his Mahwah, New Jersey home studios forever changed modern music.

"We talked a lot about Les Paul and his achievements during the camp," said Gendreau. "I didn't have access to something like this as a kid. Thanks to the Foundation, we were able to cut our fees in half, offer five full scholarships to underprivileged students and really put Rowan on the map musically, especially in Philadelphia." **RA**



To learn more about Les Paul, visit www.lespaulfoundation.org

Twice the passion, twice the impact

For Jeff Weber '75, paying it forward to his alma mater was always important—but there was no choosing between his two biggest loves.

Weber, an extremely active student who majored in Communications, worked for Rowan Radio WGLS-FM beginning in his freshman year and ended his senior year as President of the Student Government Association (SGA).

Weber's interest in radio took root during his time at Rowan and grew into a successful career; beginning as a disc jockey and followed by many years as general manager or sales manager of radio stations in Baltimore, Indianapolis and Albany, before settling in Connecticut. He spent 11 years in Greenwich, CT as executive vice president and later as president of a national radio company.

"For quite some time I've wanted to do something financially that would benefit the University," he explained. "This is a small way of giving back for my years at Rowan that had a

profound impact on my life and work."

Weber also credits his experiences at Rowan for helping him prepare for service endeavors outside of work including serving as Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce in two separate cities, as president of two different Rotary clubs and as a city councilman in upstate New York.

"My years at SGA and WGLS really helped contribute to the successful broadcasting career that I've been fortunate enough to have," said Weber. "When I look back on my time as SGA president, I learned how to work with the University's president and various administrators, as well as diverse student groups, and that helped tremendously in my ability to be successful after college."

The Jeff Weber '75 Student Life Endowed Fund will equally support Rowan Radio WGLS-FM and the Student Government Association. In addition, Weber has named Rowan as a beneficiary on his life-insurance proceeds to ensure his generosity lasts in perpetuity.

"Most people probably don't think of that," said Weber, speaking of his decision to list the University as a beneficiary. "After setting up the funds the challenge became how to allocate them, and I was pleased that I could support both areas that I am passionate about."

Currently, Weber is a media consultant based out of Delray, Florida. He has two sons, Eric and Mark and a grandson, Damien.

"There were many people at the college who really had a tremendous impact on me," added Weber. "One in particular, the late Bob Collard, was Assistant Dean of Students at the time. He really mentored me and became a good friend of mine."

Others who had an impact on Weber include Bob Loughran; Dr. Herb Appleson, who taught him a lot about how the college functions; WGLS-FM staffers: Jim Servino, one of his closest friends; Bob Catania; Tony Imbimbo; Craig Denning; Greg Miller; Mike Donovan; Bill Mollenhauer; and SGA Secretary Mrs. Vivian Shimp. **RA**

Honoring an entrepreneur's legacy

Joan Radcliffe Brower '58 and husband, William, have established an endowed scholarship to honor the memory of their daughter, Katharine, by supporting Rowan University and local high school graduates.

Katharine graduated from Pitman High School in 1982 and, in 1989, established a business called International Laser, eventually accruing over \$2 million in revenue. By recycling ink cartridges, her company kept

thousands of tons of plastic, metal and paper out of landfills.

The *Philadelphia Business Journal* named Katharine a "Woman of Distinction" in 2001 and also named International Laser as one of "South Jersey's 25 Fastest Growing Privately Held Companies" for six consecutive years.

An active philanthropist, in

1997 she established the "Women's Entrepreneurial Spirit Award," an annual scholarship to benefit young women at Pitman High School.

After her untimely passing in 2005, Katharine's family wanted her legacy to live on and created the Katharine Brower Foundation. Shortly after, the couple decided the best way to honor her memory would be to establish an endowment in her name at Rowan University, Joan's alma mater.

"Our daughter had a passion for giving back to her community," the Browsers explained. "Preserving the environment, research and entrepreneurship were important to her. Rowan will be able to honor the joy she had for living and giving by helping young people achieve their dreams."

Now called The Katharine Brower Endowed Scholarship, the fund supports local students who major in science, health science or business and who share Katharine's dream of becoming an entrepreneur. **RA**



President Ali Houshmand, Joan '58 and William Brower, Farah Houshmand

Improving community health

Wakefern Food Corporation has donated \$100,000 of its proceeds from their ShopRite LPGA Classic to support four distinct programs at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM). To date, Wakefern has contributed more than \$1 million to the School's programs over the past 15 years.

Wakefern is the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the country, comprising 50 families that own and operate ShopRite stores in a six-state trading area stretching from Connecticut through Maryland.

"The core focus of our charitable giving has always been poverty and hunger," says Christine Magyarits, Community Relations Manager at Wakefern. "People have to eat—it's surprising how many think hunger is only happening in lower income urban areas because unfortunately it strikes across all socioeconomic levels."

The recent donation will support four RowanSOM programs—Area Health Education Center (AHEC), funding activities to enrich community service learning; Camden Community Health Center (CCHC), assisting patients in overcoming barriers to healthcare access in Camden and the surrounding Stratford area; Medical Science Academy, a 28-week medical exploration program for 12th grade honor students at Bridgeton Senior High School; and the CARES Institute: Experts in Child Abuse and Neglect Lecture Series, helping frontline professionals gain new skills and knowledge to improve their professional practices when responding and caring for children impacted by abuse.

A shared dedication to impacting health and wellness will always be where the focuses of Wakefern Food Corporation and RowanSOM align. "That's what's important," concludes Magyarits. "That we work to keep our communities healthy, well and safe." **RA**



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Rowan Advances is published 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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\$5M gift supports RCB
Honors students

Give Something Back
continues support with
\$1.5M commitment

State Arts Council
advancing arts outreach

Scholarship honors late
respected alumni leader

Foundation funds Music
Industry Summer Camp

Alum's gifts support
SGA and WGLS-FM

Honoring an
entrepreneur's legacy

Wakefern improving
health and wellness



STUDENT GRATITUDE SHINES ON THANK A DONOR DAY

On November 15, Rowan University celebrated National Philanthropy Day as the Division of University Advancement hosted an inaugural "ThankU" event to recognize donors who make a difference at Rowan through the simple act of giving. Volunteers from the Student Alumni Association and the Annual Giving Phonathon Program (pictured above)

ran appreciation stations where over 400 students wrote "thank you" postcards to the University's donors to express gratitude for their generosity and the impact it has made on their college experience.

