

New Jersey Health Foundation supporting success

Nearly \$8 million of support for a variety of areas at the School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM) and more recently at Rowan University has established New Jersey Health Foundation (NJHF) as a valuable partner in furthering Rowan's efforts to impact the healthcare landscape of the region.

A not-for-profit organization that funds health-related research and education programs, NJHF continues to provide significant support to the University.

Supporting research and technologies

Through a competitive process open to faculty at Rowan and other select institutions, research grants of up to \$35,000 support early health-related projects that demonstrate exciting potential and help researchers qualify for larger grants from other organizations to advance their projects.

From 2001 through 2016, NJHF awarded 79 research grants to faculty members at RowanSOM and Rowan University totaling approximately \$1.7 million, including 13 for 2016 and 2017.

"New Jersey Health Foundation's support is critical as we expand research that is focused on making a difference in health care and beyond."

—Dr. Ali Houshmand

an opportunity for SOM medical students and students from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to perform research with SOM faculty and connect with some of the leading researchers worldwide.

"We are fortunate to have extraordinary scientists on our campus who are mentoring a new generation of physicians and researchers and, thanks to NJHF's support, we continue to

In 2016, NJHF awarded Rowan \$25,000 to fund ten students' participation in the SOM Summer Medical Research Fellowship Program, and will provide the same funding in 2017. The annual program affords



James Golubieski, President, New Jersey Health Foundation; Thomas Cavalieri, D.O., Dean, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and George F. Heinrich, M.D., Vice Chair and CEO, New Jersey Health Foundation

advance our research mission," said Thomas Cavalieri, D.O., RowanSOM Dean. "Our students are introduced to an innovative environment in the Summer Medical Research Fellowship Program, which paves the way for groundbreaking translational research that will directly affect the future practice of medicine."

Through the NJHF Innovation Grants Program, grants of up to \$50,000 are available to researchers with promising ideas that may lead to developing patents or other intellectual property. To date, up to \$150,000 has been committed to three Rowan faculty members/teams for initiatives that address orthopedic post-operative care, non-invasive health monitoring and a peanut allergen vaccine.

"We established the Innovation Grants program to advance breakthrough research that demonstrates commercialization potential to offer improved and focused treatments and cures for people around the world," noted James M. Golubieski, NJHF president. "The Rowan projects we have supported thus far are all promising projects for this funding."

Sustaining excellence

Annual endowment distributions from NJHF to RowanSOM, which includes funding designated by donors for scholarships and other projects, totaled approximately \$2.5 million from 2001 through 2016. These endowments have created a permanent legacy of support for SOM, providing significant funding every year for initiatives including scholarships, New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging and many other programs.

In 2015, NJHF donated a parcel of land, valued at more than \$3 million and adjacent to

the School of Osteopathic Medicine, to Rowan University for its future use. The land provides a wide range of opportunities for the medical school as it continues to work to meet the State's growing need for physicians.

"As Rowan University has grown, so have our opportunities to help advance that growth," explained George F. Heinrich, M.D., NJHF vice chair and CEO. "We are looking forward to exploring other projects at the University that need early funding to move forward."

In addition to the grants programs and annual endowment distributions, Foundation Venture Capital Group, an affiliate of New Jersey Health Foundation, invested \$500,000 in 2010 in Durin Technologies, a company started by RowanSOM faculty member Dr. Robert Nagele to pursue initial testing focusing on diagnostic tests for Alzheimer and Parkinson's diseases.

Valued partnership

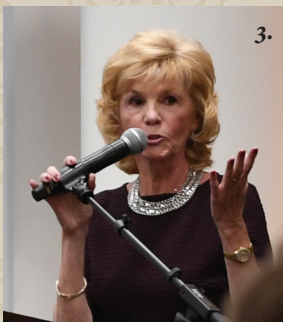
With roots that date to the 1970s, New Jersey Health Foundation's deep involvement has created a partnership that has been important to the School of Osteopathic Medicine, the University and the Foundation. The ongoing support is providing much needed resources for medical students, undergraduate programs and faculty on all Rowan campuses.

"New Jersey Health Foundation's support is critical as we expand research that is focused on making a difference in health care and beyond," said Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand. "We are truly grateful for their ongoing investment as we partner to further medical education, health care and research programs to address society's needs." RA

ROWAN UNIVERSITY

President's Forum

More than 225 of Rowan University's friends gathered at the new William G. Rohrer Business Hall on March 16th for the annual President's Forum reception. The event celebrated the vision and commitment of this loyal group while showcasing one of the University's newest learning environments. The significance of private contributions to the Rowan University Foundation continues to grow. As the institution transforms higher education, the investment of generous alumni and friends is vital for continued success.



1. Michael Martirone '09, President Ali Houshmand, Mark Walter '08
2. Farah Houshmand, Surendra Bagaria, M.D., President Houshmand
3. Rowan Board of Trustees Chairman Linda Rohrer
4. Rowan Foundation Board Chair Steve Clark
5. Farah Houshmand, Rebekah Marine '10, Jared Paster, President Houshmand
6. Farah Houshmand, President Houshmand, Xitlalachomiha (Taly) O'Dell D'10, Sean O'Dell
7. Farah Houshmand, Michael Carbone '85, Wendy Carbone, President Houshmand
8. Joanne Katzen Jones '81, Brian Jones, Rowan Foundation Board member Pauline Schneider '65, College of Education Dean Dr. Monika Shealey
9. Farah Houshmand, Merrill Abele, Rowan Board of Trustees member Lita Abele, President Houshmand

Gift honors legacy of fossil enthusiast

John Wolf was passionate about fossil excavation. Now, a gift to support field research at the Ric & Jean Edelman Fossil Park will honor his legacy of discovery.

Dr. Kenneth Lacovara, park director and founding dean of Rowan's School of Earth & Environment, has created a community of passionate fossil finders over the course of his extensive research career, including John and his wife, Joan.

Dr. Lacovara introduced the couple to the quarry over five years ago where he worked closely with them as researchers and volunteers. The Wolfs were active participants in many fossil dig projects and Dr. Lacovara claims John always found the "most fascinating fossils."

"The Wolfs are some of our best and most loyal fossil finders," said Lacovara. "John remarkably discovered a mosasaur tooth in the quarry—a creature among the most fiercest predators that swam in Cretaceous New Jersey."

John was an enthusiastic amateur fossil hunter who belonged to many fossil clubs in the tri-state area as well as Maryland and New York. He spent many hours with his wife and friends exploring various fossil locales. He was also a volunteer at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia



Fossil hunter and enthusiast John Wolf relished his work at the Fossil Park and will be remembered through a gift to honor his passion.

and was scheduled to volunteer in the preparatory lab at Drexel University before his untimely passing.

Dr. Paul Ullman, postdoctoral researcher and professor in Rowan's geology department, remembers John as knowledgeable and excellent at fossil excavation. "He was a lot of fun to work with. He was never afraid to tackle the most difficult areas and was responsible for a number of our best finds."

"The students called him the 'Swamp Thing,'" Joan added in reference to John's desire to dig in the most challenging areas. "It didn't

bother him. He loved it there. He always went early and stayed late. It was a true passion."

In honor of John's love for fossils and his commitment to research and education, Joan donated \$10,000 to establish a fund designated to undergraduate fieldwork and research in paleontology and geology at the Ric & Jean Edelman Fossil Park. The Wolfs shared a desire for students to be inspired to study the earth and what once lived here.

"I hope to be involved with the park for as long as I can," added Joan. "I know how much John loved it there and I want to honor him." RA

SAA receives double honors

Following a year of successful events and growth, Rowan's Student Alumni Association (SAA) has been recognized as the 2017 Outstanding Emerging Organization for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II.

"This award can truly be attributed to the hard work of the students," said Jessica Kanady, Assistant Director for Alumni Engagement and SAA co-advisor. "SAA attracts super motivated student leaders from all areas of campus who continue to impress with their passion and creativity."

In addition to the national honor, SAA was awarded Program of the Year at Rowan's Celebrating Leadership Awards Ceremony held at the conclusion of the Rowan Leadership Summit, a one-day conference aimed toward student leadership development for all Rowan students.

SAA plays a key role in a variety of campus-wide traditions, including Homecoming, TAG, RowanGIVES Day, Run for Rowan 5K and the Senior Send-Off Celebration. The group also facilitates programs and initiatives throughout the year that bring students and alumni together to foster student-alumni relationships, build tradition, establish a spirit of loyalty to the University and promote philanthropy. RA

NCAA grant funds Prof Academy

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has awarded Rowan University an Innovations in Research and Practice grant to launch the PROF Academy project that began in March.

The program will assist student athletes as they transition to post-graduation by providing education on mental health and well-being including mindfulness, stress management, anxiety reduction and understanding depression.

Rowan was one of only five grant awardees among Division III schools. Dr. JoAnn Bullard, Rowan University's Faculty Athletics Representative and an instructor in the Department of Health & Exercise Science, is serving as the project director.

"Research from the NCAA's 2016 Goals Study showed the majority of student athletes nationwide want to be more prepared for the

transitional period after college," said Bullard. "That's what started our idea for PROF Academy."

The program consists of workshops and online modules that provide career development skills, including resume and cover letter writing, interviewing and networking.

"We will bring in local employers to conduct mock interviews with students and will also bring back student-athlete alumni to serve as mentors," explained Bullard.

"Rowan's proposal hit so many of the things the committee looks for in awarding Innovations grants," said Innovations Committee chair, John Morris. "The ideas in their proposal would be easily transferred to other schools that might not have a lot of resources to promote mental well-being. The campus-wide collaboration was also a big plus for the committee. We look forward to

seeing how the PROF Academy provides tangible benefits to college athletes as they transition from their college careers to professional ones."

Interdisciplinary collaboration among the Rowan community to holistically bolster the psychosocial well-being and mental health of student athletes is paramount. Collaborators include the Office of Career Advancement, University Advising Services, Wellness Center, Office of Academic Transitions, the Athletics Department, the Psychology Department, the Health and Exercise Science Department and the Office of Alumni Engagement.

"Collaboration will be key," said Bullard. "Our number one focus must always be the needs of our students. This program will be highly beneficial in helping them incorporate the fundamentals of maintaining their overall well-being while preparing for graduation and what comes next." RA

Engineering a legacy of support

Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering graduate, Catherine Ni '00 and her husband, James, have funded engineering scholarships for Rowan University students since 2012. But in fall 2016 they decided to create an endowed scholarship to build a lasting legacy of support for engineering students with big dreams.

"After gifting annual scholarships for a few years we decided it was important to have something that could continue," said Catherine. "We wanted something that would grow for years to come."

The Catherine '00 and James Ni Endowed Scholarship Fund was established with a \$30,000 commitment that will be matched by the couple's employer, Lockheed Martin.

James is a Senior Program Manager at Lockheed Martin while Catherine is the Deputy Director of International Apache Fire Control Programs.

In short, Catherine's job is to save the lives of military personnel. She serves 15 international customers focusing on the Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision Sensor and Fire Control Radar.

"For the most part, every 18 months my job changes," she explained. "It's been centered on a greater leadership role in the business, but it's

been very diverse—from international business development to strategic planning/mergers and acquisitions to program management."

Lockheed fast-tracked Ni from day one, placing her in its Operations Leadership Development Program upon her graduation from Rowan and she is the first to attribute her wildly successful engineering career to a full scholarship she received to Rowan.

"As one of the Pride 2000 scholars I was part of the first class of engineers to go to Rowan," said Ni. "There wasn't an engineering college back then; there wasn't even a building. We all took a huge risk, and you know what, it was absolutely worth it."

Catherine and James both graduated with master's degrees from Drexel University—Catherine studying engineering management and James, electrical engineering. Ni spoke in depth about her husband's enthusiastic support for Rowan University even as an undergraduate alumnus of the University of Michigan.

"We are both so proud of our graduate degrees, but Drexel didn't have the same impact for me as Rowan, nor did Michigan for James," said Ni. "It's been 17 years and the more my husband learned about Rowan, the more he was completely enthralled. Coming from such a large university, he wasn't used to the personal



College of Engineering Dean Anthony Lowman, James and Catherine '00 Ni, and Rowan Provost Jim Newell at a 2014 reception celebrating 15 years of alumni excellence in engineering.

touch and connections Rowan gives its students. He has been beyond impressed by Rowan's continued growth."

Ni explained that the couple's continuous support for Rowan stems from their desire to invest in what they believe in and ultimately what gave Catherine such a bright future.

"The foundational principles of Rowan have remained true since I left," she said. "I owe a lot of where I am today to Rowan. If Henry Rowan didn't do what he did, I wouldn't be able to do what I do—and now this will be a way for my husband and I to do the same for others."

The Catherine '00 and James Ni Endowed Scholarship will provide scholarships to students majoring in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Engineering Entrepreneurship, with the first recipients selected for the 2017–18 academic year. **RA**

Focused on student success

INOLEX, based in Philadelphia, is working to build an academic partnership with Rowan University and its talented engineering students.

Passionate about people and powered by chemistry, INOLEX works closely with leading beauty care brands around the world, combining core scientific expertise with a deep understanding of market needs to deliver safe, effective and sustainable ingredients.

The company recently donated equipment to the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering to benefit students working in the chemical engineering clinic who may have an interest in the cosmetic industry.

The XploRA Confocal Raman Microscope System, valued at \$100,000, is largely considered cutting edge technology that uses laser probes to elucidate the chemical fingerprint of cosmetic materials.

"You can use the microscope to distinguish the chemical differences on the surface of the materials," said Daniel Sujo '07, Engineering Manager at INOLEX and adjunct professor at Rowan University. "It utilizes spectrometry, sending a laser that reads the reflection of the surface. We use this tool a lot for things like lotions, conditioners and hair dyes to make sure the film on top of your skin is even."

Rowan post-doctorate researcher, Dr. Ivan Souza, is currently using the microscope system to analyze sunscreen formulations.

Due to the vast amount of talent among Rowan's engineering students, INOLEX is passionate about building a strong and lasting partnership with the University.

"In the past four years we have hired four engineering students from Rowan," said Sujo. "We hope this microscope system can increase awareness and interest in the cosmetic chemical engineering field." **RA**

Supporting SOM

During the 2017 Stratford Campus Annual Scholarship Luncheon, Katrina Mazzocchi Weeks listened intently to a young alumna who spoke about her and her husband's decision to start two annual scholarships that year. This inspired Mrs. Weeks to forgo wedding favors to create a scholarship for medical students with her then fiancé' and scholarship recipient, William Weeks, DO'17.

Dr. & Mrs. Weeks are the youngest donors to establish an annual scholarship award at the School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Weeks has begun his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Morristown Hospital and Mrs. Weeks intends to continue working as a dietitian in the area as they begin their newly married life together. Congratulations and thanks to both for their generosity to our students! **RA**



William, DO'17 and Katrina Mazzocchi Weeks

Planned gift is instrumental vehicle in giving back

Joseph Kornicke '70 and his wife, Wanda, are passionate about music and making a difference through a charitable gift annuity to support Rowan students studying music.

A charitable gift annuity is unique in that the donor makes a gift to the University and receives an immediate income tax deduction and a fixed income—benefiting the donor now, while also providing an opportunity to make a significant gift to benefit Rowan in the future.

“This is what worked best for us,” explained Joseph. “I’ve always had an affinity for Rowan and music can play such a huge role in a student’s life.”

The Joseph Kornicke '70 and Wanda Kornicke Endowed Music Scholarship will benefit an undergraduate College of Performing Arts' student studying music, with first preference given to students who are veterans.

“It’s important to us that we do all we can for music students and it seems it could be even more beneficial to help veterans,” noted Joseph.

Joseph received a B.A. in music education

from Rowan and later earned his M.A. in musical composition from the University of Pennsylvania and completed doctoral level musical composition courses at Indiana University and New York University. He taught K-12 instrumental and general music for 25 years in Elizabethtown, New Jersey and spent time as an instructor of music theory at Rowan.

He spent many years writing music and composing, but said it wasn’t until he met Wanda that he remembered how much he really loved it. The two met through the Stonewall Brigade Band, established in 1865 and considered to be the longest performing band of its kind in the country.

Wanda taught general music for grades three and five for 42 years. She and Joseph are both naturals on the clarinet.

“We want to see music education continue at Rowan,” said Joseph. “Our hats go off to those who teach elementary school students how to play instruments. We have been there and know how difficult it can be.”

“The grade level kids are the students who will end up playing in college,” agreed Wanda. “Students who have a musical outlet always perform better academically; that’s what we hope to support.”

Joseph has had compositions performed at the Manhattan School of Music, Eastern Mennonite University, The Crane School of Music in New York City, Mary Baldwin University and the United States Air Force Band.

In 2014 and 2015, Joseph’s compositions were arranged by former College of Performing Arts’ Dean John Pastin and used as the recessionary for the graduating classes in the College of Performing Arts with both Joseph and Wanda in the audience.

The Kornickes agree, “Music is art, and without art, what do you really have?” **RA**



Dodge Foundation Funds Innovative Mapping Technology

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has supported the Rowan University Department of Geography’s New Jersey Municipal Asset Profiler (NJ MAP) tool with its fourth, and largest gift, a \$65,000 grant.

The private foundation, based in Morristown, New Jersey and established in 1974, focuses on issues critical to New Jersey and partners specifically with organizations whose work has a direct and meaningful impact on our home state.

“New Jersey is our place,” said Margaret Waldo, Environment Program Director for the Foundation. “We support projects in many areas including the arts and education, but we are solidly committed to advancing New Jersey’s environmental initiatives. We work with organizations who are striving to conserve land as our small state experiences serious development pressure.”

With \$3 million worth of funding a year dedicated to environmental protection in New Jersey, the Foundation recognizes conservation efforts are overwhelmingly supported by the public but are heavily limited by funds.

“The sky is the limit with this mapping tool,” said Waldo. “New Jersey’s conservation efforts are only limited by the amount of funds they receive. For anyone who cares about local land use, conserving land and the decision making process that goes into it all, this tool is invaluable in helping make the right environmental decisions in regard to individual communities

and making Rowan’s expertise tangible.”

The NJ MAP tool is a publicly accessible, municipally focused portal that takes a thematic approach to data visualization.

Initially developed by Rowan’s Geospatial Research Lab (GeoLab) in 2011, NJ MAP is a set of internet-based geospatial tools designed to assist local New Jersey municipalities in making sound land use and environmental management decisions in order to achieve sustainability goals and objectives.

The project is designed so that volunteer citizen users (including planning board members, environmental commission members and citizen groups) can have access to the vast amounts of geospatial data available for New Jersey that are typically only usable to trained GIS professionals.

Project Director, Dr. John Hasse, Professor of Geography and Director of the GeoLab in the School of Earth & Environment, has worked closely with Rowan’s geography department to fine-tune and enhance NJ MAP and expand its reach throughout the state.

“We saw a great need to provide information at the local level,” said Dr. Hasse. “This project can really help communicate, educate and inform New Jersey residents about land and environmental management in an effective way.”

The GeoLab collaborated with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the NJ Chapter

of the Nature Conservancy in 2016 to develop “The New Jersey Lands Conservation Blueprint.” Through the Blueprint, NJ MAP is operating as the platform to deliver visualizations and mapping functions of the project.

NJ MAP is also being used as an educational tool for Rowan geography students, whose work is integral to the tool’s success.

“Our student interns are largely involved in the work of NJ MAP and we are also using it to teach geography majors about mapping and dimensions,” explained Megan Bucknum, Department of Geography Professor and NJ MAP Project Coordinator. “NJ MAP is a huge public service and it’s been great having this project from our lab that integrates education and implementation with faculty resources, student interns and research funding.”

A service that makes a difference, NJ MAP has successfully created a free platform that is easily accessible to the public to prioritize their community’s environmental needs—providing unlimited information on what areas local representatives need to be putting their efforts toward preserving and what the consequences could be if not properly done so.

“This project is vital in protecting New Jersey’s ecology, farmland, clean water and overall community,” concluded Dr. Hasse. “We are grateful to the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for their continued investment in our work and its impact.” **RA**



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INSIDE

Partnering for Progress:
New Jersey Health
Foundation

Reception celebrates
loyal friends and partners

INOLEX gifts equipment

Scholarship supports
future engineers

Planned gift benefits
music students

Dodge Foundation
supports environmental
mapping tool

NCAA grant benefits
student athletes

Gift honors Fossil Park
volunteer through
research fund



COMMENCEMENT WEEK CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2017

From May 9-12 the University celebrated Commencement Week—the first nine-ceremony schedule—hosting 17,000 guests who came to honor more than 3,800 new Rowan graduates. Above (third from left), Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering Commencement speaker Barbara Kushner, CEO of New York City-based engineering and construction management firm Armand Corporation, receives an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree. Also pictured: Rowan University Board of Trustees member Virginia Rowan Smith, Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand and Rowan Provost Jim Newell.