

Prof Pride shines on third annual #RowanGIVES Day

Hundreds of donors. Twelve challenges. One community.

Rowan University's #RowanGIVES Day campaign concluded its third annual day of giving with overwhelming support and success.

"#RowanGIVES Day is special because we can all come together in support of a common goal," said John Zabinski, senior vice president for University Advancement. "Thanks to our dedicated Rowan community, we have been able to achieve our goals each year with extraordinary momentum."

On March 1, Prof Pride swelled on campus, online and across the country, resulting in \$80,150 raised from 1,162 donors.

Surpassing its goal of 1,000 donors, the 24-hour event celebrated the importance of giving back to the University.

The day was updated through a custom website and efforts were also pushed through social media including Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. Alumni flooded the platforms to express their love for their alma mater and explain why they give back.

This year's event featured 12 giving challenges designed to benefit a range of areas across Rowan's campuses and targeted to groups including alumni, students, parents and friends. Challenge funding was provided by Virginia Rowan Smith and Joseph '80 and Anne-Marie Bottazzi '80.

"This year we really wanted to reach out to and communicate with an even broader audience," said Amie Marshall, associate director of Annual Giving. "The challenges were a unique way

for us to accommodate a variety of groups while inspiring everyone to give back to areas they are passionate about."

One challenge was a young alumni challenge, which once 50 graduates from the Classes of 2012–2016 made a gift would unlock a \$1,000 gift to their most supported designation. In total, 100 young alumni gave back—doubling the goal—and providing \$1,000 to the Peer Mentoring Scholarship Fund.

Also new this year, #RowanGIVES Day was supported by alumni-organized celebrations across the county, hosted at Landmark Americana in Glassboro, P.J. Whelihans in Cherry Hill, Provision No. 14 in Washington, D.C. and El Tejano in Los Angeles.

On campus, energy emanated from the Student Center Pit, where WGLS-FM Rowan Radio broadcast live while representatives from internal student organizations and external non-profit organizations were on hand to create awareness about volunteer and internship opportunities.

"I love seeing all the activity in the Pit," said Courtney



The Rowan University community demonstrated its Prof pride during the third annual #RowanGIVES Day on March 1.

Hopper '18, a member of Rowan's Student Alumni Association. "I think it's so important to give back since Rowan always has the best interests of students at heart."

"This year we invited the PROFFunder organizations to participate to bring awareness to student projects that need funding," said Jessica Kanady, assistant director of Alumni Engagement and co-advisor for the Student Alumni Association. "It's a great way to build the culture of philanthropy and get students excited about what their classmates are doing."

Rowan's PROFFunder Campaign helps students raise money for initiatives that provide opportunities that impact their experiences at the University.

Jake Culleney '18, a Rowan EMS (Emergency Medical Services) worker, participated in the day to share information about Rowan's EMS PROFFunder project.

"We're excited to talk about what we do and raise money for a Stryker-Power Lift Stretcher to improve patient care and safety," explained Culleney. "Rowan already does so much for us, so as students it's important to take a step back and give."

Rowan EMS was one of two winners of the #RowanGIVES Day Facebook Challenge where, once 100 followers shared a PROFFunder video, the top two designations were awarded \$500.

Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand is proud of the immense effort put forth by the Rowan community as it makes #RowanGIVES Day a growing—and successful—tradition.

"I am delighted that #RowanGIVES Day continues to unite the Rowan University community," Houshmand said. "The outpouring of pride and support is a testament to our collective strength and investment in student success." **RA**

"The outpouring of pride and support is a testament to our collective strength and investment in student success."

—Dr. Ali Houshmand

It's never too late to support Rowan students.
Visit rowan.edu/rowangives to learn more about #RowanGIVES Day and to make a gift.

Music Professor's Legacy Lives On

During his 36 years at Rowan University, Professor Clarence Miller touched the lives of countless music students and alumni. Today his legacy lives on through a scholarship in his name.

Established in 2003, the Clarence W. Miller Scholarship Fund provides annual awards to acknowledge the achievements of music majors who participate in the concert choir.

In 2008, more than 200 alumni joined in a musical tribute in his honor, raising over \$11,000 for the fund. In 2013, choir alumni and friends came together again as the Clarence W. Miller Choral Room Dedication & Scholarship Concert celebrated Miller's service to the University and the choir's rehearsal room was named in his honor.

Professor Miller joined the faculty of Glassboro State College in 1956. He co-founded the Music Department and founded the Concert Choir (later known as the Governor's Choir), in addition to teaching, conducting and chairing the vocal division. He retired in 1992.

Some of his many honors include a citation from the New Jersey State

Assembly for outstanding service to choral art, five GSC/Rowan Distinguished Service Awards and the New Jersey Music Educator Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Class of 1972 graduates, Rhonda Holland and Dr. LaNetta Hammill, remained lifelong students and friends of their esteemed professor.

"Mr. Miller made our college a community," said Holland, describing the days when GSC was known as a "singing college."

Holland's high school choral director introduced her to Mrs. Lois Miller to help her prepare for her vocal college audition.

"After my audition I spent the next four years seeing the Millers on a weekly basis," she said. "Outside of lessons with Mr. Miller, I babysat his children and even had him sing at my wedding."

Professor Miller maintained close relationships with his students and was passionate about helping them succeed.

"We loved him," said Hammill. "He was a man of character and heart and had plenty of inspiration to go around."

Hammill penned a memoir in Mr. Miller's honor, *Rehearsals Remembered*,



where she describes the meaningful impact he had on her life.

"He encouraged me to participate in the world and continue my education. It is an honor to be able to support a scholarship in his name."

Miller's wife, Lois, calls the overwhelming support of her husband and his legacy an absolute honor.

"It is so meaningful to see this scholarship grow," she said. "I feel very strongly about meeting the recipients. I want them to know I am here to aid them in any way that I can, from attending their concerts and recitals to just being a guide for them. The ones who have been selected thus far have been absolutely stellar."

Lois Miller summed up her husband's legacy in a few powerful words, "I believe as long as someone remembers you, you will forever be alive." **RA**

LaNetta Hammill '72, Lois Adams Miller, Natalie Gattuso '16, Rhonda Holland '72 and Thomas Holland M'99.

To support the Clarence W. Miller Scholarship Fund, visit **giving.rufoundation.org**.

Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation supports University's STEAM Academy

The Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation strives to empower Salem City's youth to change the world.

This summer, the Foundation will again fund scholarships for Salem City high school students to attend Rowan University's three-week STEAM Academy—creating pathways for them to advance their education, achieve career success and become global leaders.

Developed by President Ali Houshmand, Rowan's STEAM Academy is unique in its pairing of traditional STEM-focused instruction (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) with learning experiences in art, design, culture and humanities.

Founded in October 2014, the Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation was funded by and named after Dr. Forman S. Acton, a pioneering computer scientist, engineer, professor and author who was born in Salem, NJ, traveled the world, and then returned to Salem to live until he passed away in February 2014.

Acton strongly believed that educational excellence formed the basis for his personal and professional accomplishments and wished to create similar opportunities for young people from his hometown.

"Dr. Acton's vision was to support Salem students who showed academic promise but were not as financially able to access rich educational experiences," said Kathryn Markovchick, President of the Foundation. "He knew he needed to do something when they were younger to jump start their futures and Rowan's STEAM Academy exemplifies that vision."

"STEAM Academy is a great program because it embodies everything Dr. Acton wished to support," agreed Beth Bordowitz, the Foundation's Vice President of Legal and Administration. "It demonstrates the value of higher education and the opportunities it can offer."

Dr. Kara Ieva, an associate professor in the College of Education and member of Rowan's STEAM Academy team, recognizes the Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation as among the Academy's most involved funders.

"This program continues to grow and improve," said Dr. Ieva. "Each year the Foundation has worked with us to meet our needs as well as their own. We look forward to continuing to work with them to support opportunities for Salem City's students that empower them to reach their potential." **RA**

To learn about ways to support the STEAM Academy, visit **rowan.edu/steam** or contact Deanne Farrell, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, at 856-256-5418 or farrelld@rowan.edu.

Scholarship rewards students passionate about education

Dr. Marilyn Gonyo, a 1965 graduate of Rowan University's College of Education, knew she was destined to be a teacher from a young age. And as a first generation college graduate, becoming one was an accomplishment she and her family considered a tremendous achievement.

"I had a huge support system," said Dr. Gonyo. "Glassboro is where I received a foundation to become a good educator."



College of Education student Nicole Wyglendowski '17 met Dr. Marilyn Gonyo '65 to thank her for the scholarship.

Now, through her generosity, she is rewarding students who share her unwavering passion for teaching with a newly created scholarship.

The Dr. Marilyn E. Gonyo Scholarship for Excellence in Education recognizes students in their junior or senior year who are enrolled full time at Rowan studying education, with preference to those in the Teacher of Students with Disabilities and/or Reading Endorsement programs.

After completing her undergraduate degree, Dr. Gonyo

began working as an elementary school teacher. Immediately recognizing the importance of teaching students how to read, she went on to earn her master's degree in reading from Kean University. Soon after, she became her school district's first Reading Specialist, assisting students with reading and learning disabilities.

Continuing her education, she received a Doctorate in Special Education from Rutgers University. An internship with Montclair State University sparked her career in higher education as an assistant professor, teaching graduate courses in Learning Disabilities and Special Education.

Her passion to enhance the educational experience for students with learning disabilities then led her to the New Jersey State Department of Education as an Education Program Specialist. Later, she returned to teaching as a full professor and Director of Graduate Programs in Learning Disabilities at Georgian Court University.

"When I look back at my experiences and seamless career progression, I really just happened to be in the right places at the right times," said Dr. Gonyo. "Having received scholarships that really helped me along the way, I am so pleased to offer this opportunity to help someone else."

In fall 2016, Nicole Wyglendowski '17 was chosen as the first recipient of Dr. Gonyo's scholarship. A double major in Elementary Education and English with a Teacher of Students with Disabilities Endorsement, she serves as a Peer Mentor for the Harley Flack Mentoring Program and is President of SAIL, a volunteer organization that provides support to people with disabilities.

"I have never wanted to do anything but teach," explained Wyglendowski. "Teaching is a guaranteed way to take part in inspiring and educating our future generations. It has always been about teaching for me."

Both women agree there is no better way to touch a life than through teaching, and Dr. Gonyo feels there could not be a more deserving student to be the first recipient of her award than Wyglendowski.

"I've been blessed with a wonderful career and that is why I wanted to give back," said Dr. Gonyo. "Financially I am at the point where I can support my wish to help students. I feel so thrilled, honored and privileged. This scholarship has given me tremendous pleasure being able to reward someone like Nicole for her hard work and big dreaming." **RA**

Fueling success for entrepreneurial students

Ed Remster has always been driven to succeed. Now, the former truck driver turned President and CEO for SJ Transportation Co., Inc., has established a scholarship for future entrepreneurs at Rowan.

Continually tackling the challenges of running a business, Remster is passionate about shortening the path to success for enthusiastic business students.

"Students today are learning things in their 20s that I didn't know until much later," says Remster. "I want to share my experiences in the hopes that I can help them be successful in a much shorter period of time."

A South Jersey native, Remster has over 35 years of experience in the transportation industry. He went from diligently transporting hazardous industrial waste across the country—sleeping many nights in his truck—to overseeing all corporate operations, new business ventures and growth investment opportunities for the company.

"You just have to wake up and get to work," he says. "If that means you have to work 70 or 80 hour weeks to get where you're going, then that's what you have to do."

Remster's first visit to Rowan University was in 2008 with his mentor and SJ Transportation's founder, Samuel H. Jones, Jr., at the opening of the Samuel H. Jones Innovation Center at the South Jersey Technology Park.

"That was a special opportunity for me," recalls Remster. "I saw firsthand the enthusiasm students had about being business leaders and entrepreneurs in the region."

R.J. Tallarida, Jr., Vice President for University Advancement, says scholarships like the one established by Remster will change the lives of future entrepreneurs.

"[Ed] went from driving for the company to owning it, which is really unique," said Tallarida. "He sees the potential in our students to do amazing things too and that's what he wants to support."

The Edward Remster Entrepreneurial Scholars will provide three annual scholarship awards and textbook stipends to incoming entrepreneurship majors in the Rohrer College of Business beginning in fall 2017.

Dedicated to hard work and perseverance, Remster is excited to support students who share his drive for success.

"It takes a lot of effort to start something," says Remster, "but you can't give up." **RA**

"I want to share my experiences in the hopes that I can help students be successful."

—Edward Remster

Correction In the last issue's John P. Maas Family Scholarship story, the pledge amount was listed as \$25,000. The correct amount is \$30,000. We regret the error.

Open for business

On January 18, a capacity crowd of students, faculty, alumni, business leaders and supporters gathered to celebrate the opening of the new home of the William G. Rohrer College of Business (RCB).

The \$63.2 million, 98,300-square-foot building on Route 322 will allow the RCB to

double enrollment and expand programming.

Rowan Board of Trustees Chairman Linda Rohrer, a trustee of the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation and a member of the RCB Executive Advisory Council, said Business Hall “reflects a first-class education for this College.”



Designed with RCB’s unique approach to business education in mind—one that is built upon collaboration, small class sizes, project-based learning,

problem solving, teamwork and entrepreneurship—the building has common areas to encourage collaboration among students and business leaders. **RA**

PROFunder campaign promotes student projects



Inspired by sites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe, Rowan University’s PROFunder Campaign is helping students raise money for projects, programs, student experiences and more.

The PROFunder platform connects donors, some of whom contribute as little

as \$5 to one or more projects, with visionary students who seek to affect real change.

The one-month campaigns—the Spring 2017 campaign runs throughout the month of March—are raising money for a variety of student projects. The current campaign features projects from RowanSOM, CMSRU, the College Engineering, the Student Government Association, Rowan EMS and others, with individual campaign goals ranging from \$500 to \$4,849.

“PROFunder is a way for donors to make a direct and meaningful impact on students and projects that are important to them,” said John Zabinski, Senior Vice President for University Advancement.

The program, which started in 2015,

differs from funding sites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe in that there are no administrative charges. Every dollar raised helps fund the project for which it was donated.

The PROFunder campaigns are limited in duration to inspire a sense of urgency and a better response rate. **RA**

**PROF
FUNDER**

Visit rowan.edu/proffunder to learn more about the PROFunder campaign and the current projects that need support.

Right: Representatives from Gala sponsor M&T Bank/Wilmington Trust: Timothy Gillespie, Blair Talty, Melissa Wheatcroft, Ron Caputo and Jerry Mauro.

Far right: Event co-chairs (from left) Steven Kantor, Shawn O’Neil and Mike Sherman recognize Angels Award recipient Bonnie Joffe.



Gala raises funds for CARES Institute

The 9th Annual Calling All Angels Gala benefiting CARES (Child Abuse Research Education and Service) Institute at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine was held on October 20, led by the extraordinary efforts of the CARES Advisory Board and co-chairs, Steven Kantor, Shawn

O’Neil and Mike Sherman.

With the generosity of the Gala’s Arch Angel sponsor, Investors Bank, Prelude Angel sponsor, M&T Bank, and many additional sponsors and attendees, the Gala raised more than \$124,000 for the Institute. Four hundred guests attended

the superhero-themed event and enjoyed an evening of dinner, dancing and bidding on auction items for a great cause.

Angels and superheroes alike helped to provide healing and hope to children who have experienced abuse, neglect and violence. Mark your calendar to join us for the 10th anniversary of the Calling All Angels Gala on October 19, 2017. **RA**

Second annual reception celebrates impact made by generous scholarship donors

As more students reach for their dream of a Rowan University degree, scholarship support has become a critical factor in the ability for many to make this dream a reality.

Rowan is committed to providing quality education that is affordable and accessible. In addition to extensive institutional scholarship offerings, the Rowan University Foundation offers a wide range of scholarship opportunities,



Colleen Scott '18, David Burgin '82, M'02, Evan Larison '17 and Brighid Hoempler '12.

created through gifts from generous donors. In academic year 2015–16, 285 students benefited from 106 endowed scholarships.

To recognize those who have created endowed scholarships, the Foundation hosted its second annual Scholarship Reception in November. The event allows donors to meet their recipient(s) while also providing students an opportunity to express their gratitude.

The event included donors who have made a gift or pledge to named, endowed scholarships; have established a bequest for a scholarship; or have given \$25,000+ to a currently operating scholarship at Rowan or CMSRU, as well as corporate/foundation donors who support a currently operating scholarship.

Donors are increasingly seeing the value in helping Rowan students realize their full

potential through establishing scholarship endowments.

Rowan University Foundation Board member, David Burgin '82, M'02, and his daughter, Brighid Hoempler '12, a member of the Rowan University Alumni Association Board and College of Engineering Advisory Board, are one example.

The pair established the Burgin Leadership Scholarship to support passionate Rowan students in their junior or senior year, in an effort to alleviate the financial burden for those farther along their educational paths.

Created to benefit students who demonstrate leadership and volunteerism within their academic major, the University and surrounding communities, the scholarship supports both of the Burgins' fields of study, with recipients chosen from the College of Engineering and the College of Communication & Creative Arts.

"This is the third year our scholarship was awarded, but it was the first year with two recipients," said Brighid. "It's so easy to set up a scholarship; the Foundation takes care of all the details and then it just keeps growing, especially with a company match."

"We really wanted to ensure that the opportunity is out there for students with similar passions," added David. "Events like the Scholarship Reception are great because we want to know our recipients."

For many students, their education results in a heavy financial debt that limits their options upon graduation. Gifts to create scholarships enable the University to recruit and support the best and brightest students.

"The University is indebted to generous alumni and friends who are deeply invested in making an impact in the lives of students in need," said Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand.



Dante Germano, Peter Hodson '20 and President Ali A. Houshmand.

"Our scholarship donors help hundreds of students annually achieve their academic ambitions and ensure the dream of a Rowan education remains attainable for all students."

Creating a scholarship is a rewarding experience that allows donors to choose certain criteria under which the scholarship will be awarded.

For donors Dante & Diana Germano, they wanted their scholarship to reward graduating seniors from Glassboro High School who demonstrate leadership characteristics and evidence of community service.

Their first recipient, Peter Hodson, a biological sciences major, found out about the scholarship after speaking with someone in Rowan's financial aid office and was excited to apply. "I hope to be a geneticist one day and I'm beyond grateful to be awarded this help for the costs of tuition," said Hodson.

"A long time ago, the Glassboro community and its school system made an investment in my future," said Dante Germano. "I hope this scholarship shows my gratitude and continues to help students from Glassboro High School who may not be financially able to attend a university like Rowan." **RA**

To learn more about creating your own scholarship legacy, visit **rowan.edu/home/foundation/where-give/scholarships** or contact John Zabinski at 856-256-4148 or zabinski@rowan.edu.

Engineering excellence

On January 26, an audience packed the atrium of Rowan University's new Engineering Hall to celebrate the grand opening of the \$70.6 million, 88,000-square-foot addition to Rowan Hall.

"Educating the students here to be great engineers is just what we are doing," said Virginia Rowan Smith, a member of the Rowan University Board of Trustees and daughter of the late Henry Rowan, noting the new facility enables the College to build on its strong history and further its status as an international leader in engineering education. "(My father) wanted our program to be exceptional, and it truly is. (He)... would have been so pleased to see this building today." **RA**





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RowanGIVES Day
exceeds goal and
celebrates Rowan pride

Scholarship supports
passionate future
educators

Fueling success for
future entrepreneurs

PROffunder Campaign
promotes student
projects

Recognizing the impact
of scholarship donors

Music professor's legacy
celebrated through
scholarship

Grant provides STEAM
Academy opportunity
for Salem City students



AN EVENING WITH TONY BENNETT

On December 10, 2016 legendary American popular music icon Tony Bennett performed at Rowan University as part of the College of Performing Arts' Marie Rader Presenting Series. The Marie F. Rader Memorial Fund was established in 2008 by Virginia Rowan Smith in an effort to expand artistic programming at the University. Above: Virginia Rowan Smith, Manning Smith III, Tony Bennett, Lee Rowan and Carol Cushman.