

Fourth annual RowanGIVES Day makes history

New challenges, new goals and new donors made the University's fourth annual #RowanGIVES Day a record-breaking success.

Continuing its celebration of the importance of philanthropy, the Rowan community came together to make Prof history through their overwhelming support and generosity.

Rowan University's 24-hour day of giving more than doubled the amount of donors from last year, exceeding \$100,000 raised for the first time.

"We had to start thinking more creatively with this being our fourth go-round," said Amie Marshall, Associate Director of Annual Giving. "We designed less challenges, but had a wider variety of areas to support and a larger take away for a lot of the challenge winners. It was exciting to see such a vast development, not only in the total funds raised, but also the number of donors who were enthusiastic to participate."

On March 1, 2,332 students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends joined forces to raise \$112,692, shattering the day's goal of 1,250 donors. From on campus to online, Prof Pride amplified nationwide, benefitting 106 student programs and projects across Rowan campuses.

The day continues to be updated each year through its live giving website (rowan.edu/rowangives), as well as across various social media platforms including Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Snapchat.

On campus, over 500 students attended RowanGIVES Day celebrations from the Student Center Pit where WGLS-FM Rowan Radio was broadcasting live, to events hosted in the Science Hall Atrium, Rowan Hall and Hawthorn Hall.

This year's event featured eight new and unique challenges designed to reach larger audiences, invoking nostalgia, philanthropy and a little friendly competition.

Reaching the day's donor goal unlocked a \$1,000 challenge gift by alumnus, Shaun T. '01, which was designated to the Tedd Importico Memorial Scholarship by Cristin Kastner Farney '02 after being chosen as the winning donor.

Two of the day's most successful challenges were the Alumni Board Student Challenge and the Bo Niland '80 Athletics Challenge. The Rowan Alumni Board challenged 200 students to make a gift to unlock \$2,500 toward the

Senior Class Gift. An impressive 459 students participated, raising \$4,158 in addition to the Board's donation. Similarly, the Bo Niland '80 Athletics Challenge sparked fierce competition between 14 athletic funds for a \$2,500 gift from Niland to the top supported fund. Women's soccer dominated the challenge, garnering 265 donors in total.

As always, Prof Pride on social media was a force to be reckoned with. With a goal of 250 uses of the #RowanGIVES hash tag, 362 total users unlocked a \$1,000 gift to the Rowan Student Emergency Fund from Rowan University Foundation Board Member, Erica Ortiz '99, M'04.

Rowan's medical schools also received generous support with over \$5,000 raised for Cooper Medical School and over \$7,000 raised for Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine with an additional \$4,750 from RowanSOM leadership unlocked by 105 donors.

Finally, \$2,500 was awarded to the top six designations through the Rowan Community Challenge—field hockey; men's soccer; women's softball; women's basketball; the social justice, diversity and inclusion fund; and—for two happy student callers—the swimming and dive team.

Alex Bambrick '20 and Jake Kayati '20 were excited to share the day's message through Rowan's Student Calling Center.

"This day is important, especially for athletics," said Bambrick. "We're a low funded team, and one day of giving can do so much for student teams and programs."

"It's great for teams like ours," Kayati added, "but it's really great for the University in general, and we hope to reach as many people as we can to give back."

"The Rowan community continues to show the powerful impact our collaborative efforts have on the University," said Rowan President Dr. Ali A. Houshmand. "RowanGIVES Day is a wonderful reminder of what we can accomplish together." RA

"RowanGIVES Day is a wonderful reminder of what we can accomplish together."

—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.



KEEN partnership supports engineering education

In fall 2016, the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering was accepted as a partner in the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network (KEEN)—a network that grew from The Kern Family Foundation's passion for education and an entrepreneurial mindset.

The Network is a partnership of undergraduate engineering programs nationwide dedicated to graduating engineers with an entrepreneurial mindset so they can create personal, economic and societal value through a lifetime of meaningful work.

"KEEN reflects that transformational change in undergraduate engineering education would come from like-minded institutions and faculty leaders working together for a common mission," said Karen Wilken, program director at the Foundation. "Collaborative efforts such as KEEN have greater visibility and impact."

In January, The Kern Family Foundation

gifted the College a generous grant in support of Rowan's new project to reimagine engineering education and offer significant contributions as a partner of KEEN.

"This grant allows us not only the opportunity to integrate our ideas but also to continue to leverage our partnership with the Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network," said Dr. Cheryl Bodnar, assistant professor, Experiential Engineering Education (ExEEd). "We plan to build upon best practices of others and then share our results with a broader community."

Rowan's initiative to reimagine engineering education will include revisions made to its freshman and sophomore clinic courses to include a more targeted focus on entrepreneurial mindset development, and expansion of faculty certificate programs offered through the Rowan Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RCIE) to allow for continued mentorship in teaching

practices that emphasize entrepreneurial mindset characteristics and the development of training opportunities in this area that best meet the needs of temporary faculty on campus. The College of Engineering strives to provide effective and valuable professional development trainings, courses and research programs for faculty to ensure that every Rowan engineering student is exposed to and has multiple opportunities to develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

"Rowan has some wonderful contributions to make to the Network," concluded Wilken, "not only in engineering education in general, but in assessment, faculty development and curriculum innovation focused on developing entrepreneurial mindset in undergraduate engineering students." **RA**

To learn more about The Kern Family Foundation, visit **www.kffdn.org**

From scholarship to friendship

Sounds from the Chester River echo outside Jane Presser's Maryland home, and sheet music from the 1920s sits in the stand of her digital Kawai.

She gently sifts through pamphlets, photographs and letters, speaking affectionately of the young woman who sent them to her.

"She wrote me a thank you letter in the fall," said Jane, "and we've continued to stay in touch. She's just remarkable."

In the fall of 2017, Isabella Knapp '20 became only the second recipient of Jane's award, The Clifford V. Presser and Jane Gullett Presser '47 Endowed Scholarship Fund, and says, "Ever since receiving this scholarship, Jane and I have become pen pals, and I'd consider her one of my most honored mentors."

While Jane has also established two charitable gift annuities and a planned gift with the University, her deep-rooted love for education is why she so passionately supports students like Isabella who still believe in the life of an educator.

"I remember I graduated with my degree on a Thursday night, and I was in a classroom teaching by Monday morning," said Jane. "Teachers continue to be needed now more than ever."

Jane taught elementary education from places like small-town New Jersey to Fukuoka, Japan. She spent five years in Maple Shade, New Jersey, two years working closely with the children of United States Air Force members in Japan and France, ten years in



Isabella Knapp '20 has received much more than financial support from her scholarship donor, Jane Presser '47—she has gained a mentor and a friend.

Michigan and she finished her career in Collingswood, New Jersey.

With more than 30 years in a classroom, Jane is overwhelmingly familiar with the struggles and demands that sometimes come with being an educator. With that, she's been able to offer guidance through her letters as one future teacher avidly learns the craft.

"Throughout my sophomore year," said Knapp, "Jane has been there to give me advice about my classes, my extracurriculars and really anything that is troubling me. She can always see the positive in any situation."

Jane earned her master's degree in education from Temple University and credits her value for higher education philanthropy to her late husband, Cliff.

"We always talked about giving back to Rowan," said Jane. "He was instrumental in my decision—which was an easy one, really. It's important to me that students still want to be teachers. I wanted to help somebody else become an educator because you must always remember, how many people have helped you?"

Just as Jane remembers Ethel Merriman as a mentor during her time as a student, Isabella will remember Jane.

"I've gained a lifelong friend, and I am eternally grateful for the kindness and affection she has shown me," said Knapp. "I hope that one day I can be half the educator and woman she is." **RA**

Love for Rowan faculty continues

Dr. Denis Mercier says Rowan couldn't have come back into his life at a better time. Last year, the 75-year-old retired professor said "for no apparent reason other than his own thinking," he decided it was time to get some affairs in order.

So when the idea to support faculty development was brought to the table, he couldn't have been more thrilled.

"I was five feet off the ground!" Mercier exclaimed. "I was always trying to get out and represent the University when I was there, so I really saw something in this idea."

The Denis Mercier Endowed Professional Development Fund was established to support faculty members within the College of Communication & Creative Arts (CCCA) in professional development endeavors.



CCCA writing instructors
Tim Zatzariny, Jr. and
Katherine Budris



CCCA Dean Dr. Sanford
Tweedie and retired
writing/mass media
professor Dr. Denis Mercier

During his 35-year career as a writing and mass media professor at Rowan, Mercier self-financed some of the department's costs because he was so passionate about his work and that of his colleagues.

"It was nothing crazy," he said, "but when we needed faculty development items like a new computer and new software or funding for a trip, my wife at the time and I were able to absorb any finances the college couldn't provide, and we were happy to do it."

Mercier loved getting the University's name out into the greater academic world, traveling all over the country and even into Canada. He wrote papers, presented his work, chaired panels and participated in various conferences, furthering his knowledge of mass media and popular culture while working to put Rowan's communication faculty on the map.

"We started getting mentioned in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*," said Mercier. "I had always thought the teachers were head and shoulders—and whole bodies—ahead of

everyone else. The communication faculty were not only good at what they did, but they practiced what they did, and that's something special you can't overlook."

Dean of the College of Communication & Creative Arts Dr. Sanford Tweedie was overwhelmingly supportive of Mercier's fund to support faculty and instrumental in getting the initiative started. "Mercier's support expands opportunities for faculty to develop as teachers, researchers and artists," said Tweedie. "And we are deeply appreciative that Denis created an endowed fund, which will continue to provide more opportunities in the future."

Katherine Budris and Tim Zatzariny, Jr. '94, M'07, both CCCA writing instructors, are the first two recipients of The Denis Mercier Endowed Professional Development Fund and recently attended The Association of Writers and Writers Programs conference in Tampa, Florida.

"After all these years," said Zatzariny, a former student of Mercier's, "he's still helping me." RA

SOM Scholarships

The Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine's Annual Scholarship Luncheon has hosted generous donors and their student award recipients for more than 20 years. On March 11, nearly 200 students, families, friends and alumni joined the celebration.

This year 107 scholarships were awarded, totaling over \$354,000 in scholarship support to help students fund their medical education. The loyalty of these donors enables the School of Osteopathic Medicine to enrich the educational experiences for every student. Thank you to the generous donors who are investing in the medical school and the students, faculty and staff who will shape the future of medical care.



Above: SOM Alumni
Association scholarship
recipients with members
of SOM Alumni Board:
Ira Monka, DO '84, Andrea
Iannuzzelli DO '95, and
Megan Reilly DO '97



Left: 4th year SOM
students, Jessica Tyrrell
and Julien Atis, with
scholarship donor,
Anthony Maressa

To learn more about the impact of scholarships or how to create your own, please visit giving.rufoundation.org/som

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

Much more than marmalade

When Rose Glassberg speaks enthusiastically about the hard work the AFT retirees have put into their chapter's scholarship fund, she is quick to note, "It isn't all marmalade!"

With the initiation of its scholarship program in 1993, the AFT Retirees Chapter proudly accepted helping students at Rowan University as one of its official purposes. The group endeavors to grow its scholarship fund through an annual holiday fundraiser where they are recognized for their famous homemade marmalade and jellies. Over the years, their sales have also grown to include hand knit afghans and a raffle of different gift certificates from local businesses.

In addition to fundraiser proceeds, Glassberg adds that a large percentage of their scholarship fund still comes directly from generous member donations, ranging from \$10 to \$1,000 a year.

President of AFT Local 2373 for 18 years and President of the AFT Retirees Chapter since 1993, Glassberg was instrumental in the retirees' proposal to begin supporting student scholarships. She wanted the group to be part of a larger project—something more than just lunching and decision-making.

"We were eventually asked to prepare a more developed set of by-laws," said Glassberg, "and that's when we formalized our commitment to helping worthy Rowan students."

In the beginning, the chapter awarded whatever they could raise as stipends, but quickly decided to establish a fund with the Rowan University Foundation that

supports four annual scholarships: a general scholarship fund, one dedicated in memory of Dr. Albert Taylor, one in memory of Nick Yovnello and one in Glassberg's name.

However, there is also what some might call a fifth scholarship—one that holds great significance to the chapter and equally benefits from their generosity—in honor of Dr. Hoyle D. Carpenter.

Dr. Carpenter was an outstanding musicologist—proficient on the organ, piano, oboe and clarinet—and taught in the music department for 19 years before retiring in 1976. As an AFT retiree, he remained active with the University and proposed an idea of a concert where his personal compositions would be played for the community.

"I immediately saw this as an opportunity to support a scholarship," said Glassberg. "Ticket sales came from publishing ads in a program booklet to accompany the performance. Music alumni responded very enthusiastically to our request for contributions, and the event was beautiful—there wasn't a dry eye in the house."

A luncheon was also held prior to the "Celebratory Concert for Hoyle," where many of Dr. Carpenter's former students and colleagues spoke glowingly of his contribution to their education. The funds raised from the concert were used to initiate a scholarship in his name, and after his unexpected passing six months later, the award was named the Dr. Hoyle D. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship.

"The AFT Retirees made helping Rowan



Harold Sahm, member of Retirees Chapter of Local 2373, sits behind the Chapter's Holiday Fundraiser table of raffle prizes and sale items, including knitwear by Chapter member Roberta Fitzgerald, jewelry designed and crafted by Georgette Sahm, and jars of English marmalade, lemon curd, and raspberry sauce, made by Rose Glassberg, President of the Retirees Chapter. Also assisting with sales are student volunteers from the College of Engineering.

students one of our major goals early on in the organization," said Glassberg. "I'm proud that we played a small role in starting the Dr. Hoyle D. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship and of our work to make the AFT Chapter's scholarship fund the significant program that it is."

Having come a long way from marmalade sales, the AFT Retirees have also recently begun supporting The Shop—Rowan's first ever food pantry and resource center available to students in need—to help end student hunger on college campuses.

"We may be retired," Glassberg concluded, "but we are not done." **RA**

You can help! By providing financial assistance to promising Rowan students in need, scholarships like those supported by the AFT Retirees provide resources that help ensure a Rowan education remains accessible and affordable. To learn more, please call 856-256-4095 or visit **giving.rufoundation.org**



Employee endorsement making a difference

No one knows better than Rowan faculty and staff what a difference private support makes for the University. Each day they see its impact on campus, including enhanced opportunities for students, expanded resources for research and teaching, and new and improved facilities.

That's why 385 Rowan University employees participated in the 2017 *Why We Give Campaign*, supporting charities at home and across the globe. Combined, the Rowan community committed \$167,551 to support various missions at the University and \$15,270 to support external organizations.

"Each year the Rowan community demonstrates its deep investment in serving our students and those in our communities through our collective support of this campaign," said Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand. "This philanthropic spirit makes the University a special place to work." **RA**

Though the annual *Why We Give Campaign* ended in November, it's never too late to support Rowan students and organizations. For more information, please visit **giving.rufoundation.org**

A running tradition

When the Rowan University Alumni Association hosts its 3rd Annual Run for Rowan 5K to benefit the Rowan Student Emergency Fund on April 21, a familiar family will be there.

Although the run has cultivated three years of dedicated alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, it has also gained a three-time sponsor—one that plans to support the event for many more years to come.

The Daniel P. Ryan Foundation has been a sponsor of the Run for Rowan 5K since its inception, having added it to their list of meaningful, annual traditions to celebrate an athlete who refused to quit.

Ken Ryan '95 and his wife, Gabrielle Ryan '96, run the foundation in honor of Ken's brother Danny, a 1991 alumnus and two-time football captain, who lost his battle with Leukemia at the age of 26.

"He was such a big presence," explained Gabrielle. "He was a fun, happy-go-lucky soul. Always encouraging with a smile on his face."

The Daniel P. Ryan Foundation hosts a major golfing fundraiser each year and assists families experiencing cancer through as many small gestures as they can, including hand delivering gift baskets, toys and meals to cancer patients at Hackensack University Medical Center and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

"That's primarily what we do," said Gabrielle. "We always want to help. When we heard about the Run for Rowan 5K, it just seemed like the perfect opportunity to do more—especially since it's an athletic event and Daniel was an athlete."

Ken Ryan and the couple's daughters, Francesca, Annabella and Juliette, will be racing this year for Danny, hoping to spread the message that every battle needs an army.

"The opportunity to give back to the University we all went to and bring the foundation's name to Rowan was really special for us," concluded Gabrielle. "We plan on supporting this event for as long as they will let us." **RA**



Daniel P. Ryan '91

"The opportunity to give back to the University we all went to and bring the foundation's name to Rowan was really special for us."

—Gabrielle Ryan '96



For more information, or to support the Daniel P. Ryan Foundation, visit their website at www.dprf.org

Invest in what is important to you...

Retired Professor Emeritus of Finance Dr. Robert E. Pritchard spent 40 years helping students develop the financial skills, experience and confidence needed in the next generation of business and industry leaders. Since 2004, he and his wife, Barbara, have generously given back by providing endowed support for business students and faculty.

"Rowan provided me with many opportunities for professional growth. I am grateful for this and want to give back to support the University's further growth. Donors like Mr. Rowan set the stage for Glassboro State College to become a nationally recognized research university. All of the stakeholders—alumni, students, faculty, employers and the New Jersey community—have benefitted appreciably from Rowan's transformation. Now a degree from Rowan is recognized nationally! As a stakeholder, I encourage you to support Rowan too."

—Robert E. Pritchard, Ed.D.

Plan to Make a Difference

Rowan University has been shaped and strengthened by generations of alumni and friends like the Pritchards—and you have the opportunity to join them. You can create your own legacy in a variety of ways, including estate gifts, retirement plans and life income gifts. Please contact us today to discover how you can support a bright future for Rowan University's students, faculty and campus.

For more information, please contact:

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4th annual RowanGIVES
Day shatters records

Foundation support
helping reimagine
engineering education

Scholarship donation
forges lasting friendship

Gift boosts faculty
development in CCCA

Celebrating SOM
Scholarship supporters

AFT Retirees sustaining
student success

5K sponsor honoring
alum's legacy

Employee giving shows
philanthropic spirit



HOUSHMAND'S HAZARDOUS HOT SAUCE IGNITES SUPPORT FOR ROWAN STUDENTS

Rowan University President Dr. Ali A. Houshmand has a passion for homemade hot sauce—and student success. His line of hot sauces, born of a love of hot peppers that he grows and tends himself, launched in October, with all proceeds supporting scholarships for Rowan students in need. To date, the University has sold more than 1,500 jars of sauce and, including hot sauce-related gear, has raised more than \$18,000 for scholarships. From a Wing Wars event at Chickie's & Pete's in October to a Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce Cook-Off at Landmark Americana in January, Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce is helping make a difference in higher education and in the lives of Rowan students.

Visit rowan.edu/hotsauce for information about Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce or to place an order.