

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing the Martyn & Cheryl Gallus Flying First Scholarship

February 5, 2021 - "Stay the course and the reward is huge." For Rowan University class of 1986 alumnus, Martyn Gallus, this has been a lifelong mantra and a message he wants to share with future first-generation students.

Martyn and his wife, Cheryl, recently developed the Martyn & Cheryl Gallus Flying First Scholarship, a fund that helps first-generation college students "stay the course" at Rowan.

"Recipients can spend more time focused on the college experience and less time worrying about how to fund it," Martyn explains. As a first-generation college student himself, Martyn understands the importance of having a great college experience.

"It's not just about the future financial rewards of having a degree. College is also about who you become and the people you meet."



Martyn's experience as a first-generation college student was robust. He learned how to study, leaned on his professors for mentorship and guidance, and made connections through networking and friendships. He was fortunate to have a stable home life and a steady part-time job, which helped him see his degree through to completion. But Martyn also witnessed many first-generation classmates fall off course because of finances.

"We were all the same - smart, motivated, capable students. Some of us made it through and some had to drop out, mostly for financial reasons."

Martyn sees his past observations of the first-generation college student experience persisting today. Many students, who are the first in their family to attend college, struggle to balance

academic and financial obligations. This is what gave Martyn the idea to establish the Martyn & Cheryl Gallus Flying First Scholarship.

"I've been fortunate during this pandemic because I was able to pivot my company to remote operations quickly, but I know that many others have been less fortunate. I can imagine that families of first-generation students may be feeling an extra burden at this time."

It was the thought of first-generation college students working on the front lines to fund their education that moved Martyn to prefund the Scholarship.

"I've always been a small donor to Rowan, but I really wanted to do something that would help the students at my alma mater stay the course, even during this difficult time."

The Martyn & Cheryl Gallus Flying First Scholarship was established in connection with the work being done by Rowan University's [Flying First Task Force](#), which provides first-generation college students direct access to mentorship, programming, services, scholarships, and social support.