

CLAS *notes*

The Newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Message from the Dean

There is a lot of talk of change, not only nationally but locally as well.

Indeed, after Henry Rowan made his landmark gift to Glassboro State College, the institution could have been renamed "Change University." In my 10 years as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I have seen significant changes—though I like to describe the process as evolution.

We have new buildings, colleges, majors and programs—and many new faculty and staff. Yet I believe the core values of Rowan and CLAS have remained steadfast. We provide an exceptional learning environment in which we train students to be active lifelong learners. We do this through experiential learning and research opportunities with faculty. Our students also travel the world and study global cultures.

As we evolve as a college, the changes we make are in the lives of students who come to us eager to learn and leave with a myriad of skills and the ability to adapt to what life presents. They and you, our alumni, are the educated citizenry necessary for a successful democracy. Now that's change you can believe in.

Jay Harper, Ph.D.
Dean

Carb Marks 50 Years at Rowan

The stage was set.

The 9:25 a.m. Shakespeare I class was concluding and Professor Nathan Carb was ready to dismiss his students to ponder an important line from "The Merchant of Venice." That is, until a lawn mower whirred outside his classroom window, drowning out his voice and spoiling the big moment.

"That damn power mower," Carb said, still irked more than an hour later that he didn't get the chance to talk about Shylock's line, "I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys."

But while the moment to explore the line was lost in the classroom, Carb, ever the teacher, knew it wasn't lost forever, just for Wednesday.

FABULOUS FIFTY: CLAS mainstay Nathan Carb is marking 50 years in Rowan's Department of English.

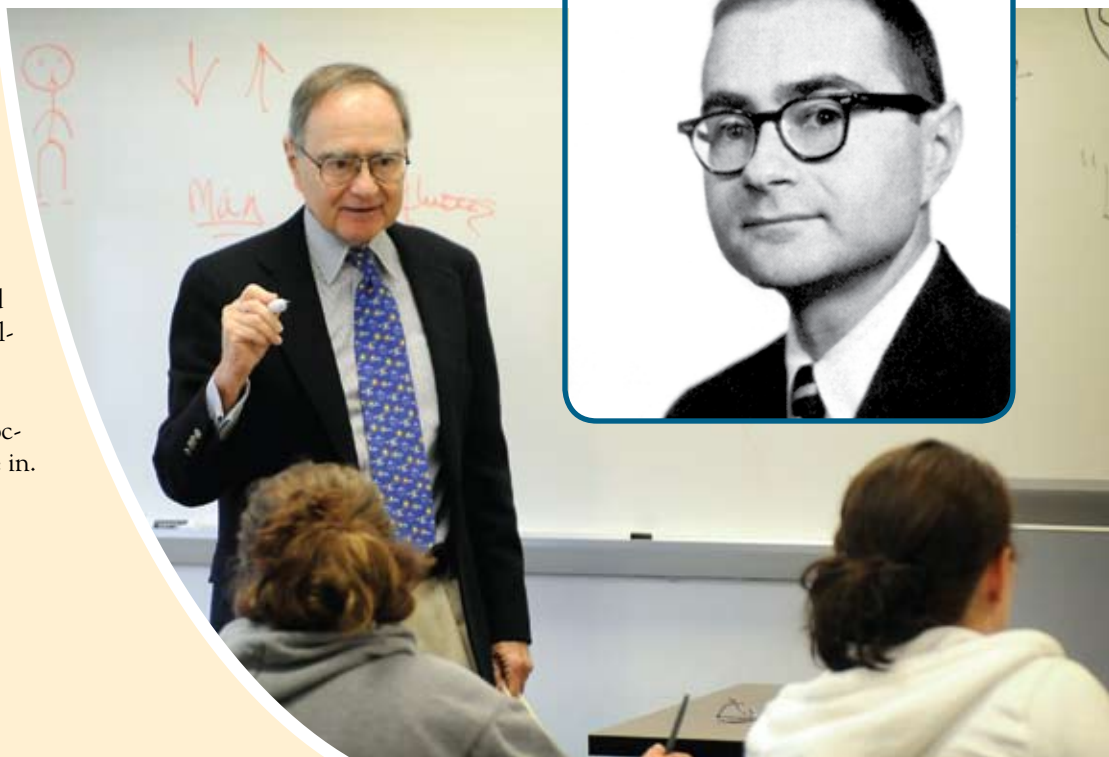
"That is such a poignant line," said Carb. "Hey, you can't force it. I'll figure out a way to get back to that the next period. Or the period after."

For Carb, there's always more time... for classes, for lines, for students, for great literature. In September, Carb, whom one English alumna calls "the quintessential college professor," began his 50th year of teaching in Rowan's English department.

Speak not to him of retirement.

"In the classroom, if I can still make them laugh, and I can, and if they look at me with interest or complication or outrage, as long as I can command their attention with the material, I'm going to keep teaching," says Carb. "To tell

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Newest Major Emphasizes Critical Thinking, Analysis

Professional training takes a society only so far. According to Youru Wang, associate professor of religion studies, increasingly we are recognizing the need to reflect more deeply upon past events and future directions.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' newest major, in philosophy and religion, is designed to foster the kind of critical thinking and analytical skills that such reflection needs. The skills instilled by the program can be applied to any num-

ber of careers, Wang points out, including the law, foundation work, and consulting.

"To face practical questions and try to find a solution, you need to learn those skills and have the resources," he says. "Those things are in our major."

Research Focuses on the Price of New Jersey Development

As you drive through what used to be pristine Gloucester County farmland and is now subdivisions and big-box stores, you're probably thinking that New Jersey seems intent on paving over every last square inch of open space.

You're not too far off.

Research conducted by Rowan geographer John Hasse and a colleague at Rutgers University shows that throughout the entire state, the transformation of open space into developed land is happening at a startling rate.

"From 1986 to 1995, the first period we began studying, the development rate was just below 15,000 acres per year," Hasse says. "We didn't know if that was unusually high or low. With the second period we looked at, from 1996 to 2002, we were surprised to find the development rate was a little bit higher. That's a very large number. It's the equivalent of developing 30 football fields per day in New Jersey."

Every several years the state makes a detailed aerial map that notes how the Garden State's land is being used down to tenths of acres. Hasse, an associate professor of geography, and Richard Lathrop of Rut-

gers run the data contained in those maps through sophisticated computer algorithms to produce an analysis of land-use patterns. (Their interactive map analyzing the loss of open space is at <http://www.rowan.edu/colleges/las/departments/geography/GEOLAB/luc.html>.)

The rapid loss of open space statewide has troubling implications beyond merely the aesthetic. Hasse's data reveal that much of the farmland is being gobbled up not by dense housing but by so-called McMansions, large houses on large lots where relatively few people live. That type of development can have negative environmental consequences.

"If you are in an area where you have housing that is not spread out, you're closer to the things you need to go to every day, like the grocery store, school, and gas station," Hasse says. "Those living in more compact development patterns have a much easier time walking and bicycling and doing things other than driving a car. The average American makes 13 trips in a day. If you're living in a rural area, the number of miles driven is significantly more than if you're in a compact housing area."

'The transformation of open space into developed land is happening at a startling rate.'



DEVELOPING STORIES: Rowan geographer John Hasse chronicles New Jersey's burgeoning development of open spaces.

And while the researchers' report doesn't go into social implications, Hasse calls them significant nevertheless.

"New Jersey is either the first or second wealthiest per capita state in the U.S. We also have five or six of the poorest cities in the country," he points out. "When you look at the rural sprawling development, it's large, very high-end housing. You can really see the social segregation that is happening."

For Kane '77, a Rollercoaster Career

Like most of us, Mark Kane has had a career filled with its share of ups and downs, a true rollercoaster ride of dizzying heights and stomach-churning valleys.

Except that, in Kane's case, the metaphor is literal.

Decades after spending his summers away from campus working at Great Adventure in Jackson Township, he has come back to what is now Six Flags Great Adventure & Wild Safari as its president.

"It's a job I always wanted," he says.

After graduating from Glassboro State in 1977 with a bachelor's in psychology, Kane transitioned from summer employment to a full-time job at Great Adventure, where he rotated through a variety of areas at the park over the next 11 years. He left to join a Michigan startup that manufactured equipment for and provided consulting services to the amusement industry, and eventually led its merger with suburban Philadelphia-based Skee-Ball Inc. Tightening markets

and encroaching competition led Kane to contemplate another change, and in 2002 he came back to Six Flags, this time taking a corporate role in Dallas.

"It was great to get back in and do something new and different," he says, "but at the same time utilize the contacts I had made over the years, use what I had learned, and fall back on my original tenure at Six Flags."

After four years at headquarters, the company sent him to New England to run its park in Springfield, Mass. Two years later, Kane was tapped to come back to his roots and run Six Flags', well, flagship venue in central New Jersey.

"Glassboro gave me a great start, no question about it," Kane says. "I got a great education there. The education is the primary reason you're there, but it's also about freeing yourself and becoming responsible for yourself. It's a socialization process, and it's all about growing up. My time at Glassboro, which was simultaneous to my initial year here, gave me a good introduction to the skill set I use today."

'My time at Glassboro gave me a good introduction to the skill set I use today.'

THRILLS & CHILLS:

Alumnus Mark Kane puts his Rowan psychology degree to work as president of Six Flags Great Adventure.



Carb Marks 50th Year

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you the truth, I'm not good at anything else."

Carb was just 26 when, after a short stint teaching at West Virginia University, he joined then-Glassboro State College. In seven years, he was named a full professor, making him, at 33, the youngest-ever full-time professor in New Jersey state colleges at the time.

Carb, who served nearly 20 years as chair of the English department—and kept the coveted Bunce Hall corner office—is teaching British Literature, American Dramatists and two sections of Shakespeare I this semester. From the instant he stepped into the classroom, he knew he belonged. Even after five decades, teaching Shakespeare, especially, is thrilling, he says.

"Really, I'm a frustrated actor," says Carb. "Shakespeare, since it is drama, allows you to ingratiate yourself to the audience. It's my privilege to teach the greatest writer who ever lived. Shakespeare speaks for all people for all times."

The same, it seems, can be said for Carb, himself a Rowan institution.

"He was very physical, very witty, very creative," says 1962 English alumna Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, now dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Florida International University. "He would move around and engage us in the learning process. He's a wonderful man and a gifted, gifted teacher. I just sat in awe of him."

Clearly, there's more Hamlet and Othello and Lear to introduce to eager English majors, students who still get the best from the 75-year-old, drama-loving professor.

"I know what I teach and I teach what I know," he says. "I never use notes. I know the structure of what I'm working on. I strive for spontaneity.

"Very early here, I knew I had a good job. I keep at it. I've loved it."

In short, it's a gig he wouldn't ever trade. Not even, like Shylock, for a wilderness of monkeys.

Afternoon of Shakespeare to Celebrate Golden Anniversary in the Classroom

In celebration of Professor Nathan Carb's 50th year of teaching, Rowan's English department is planning "The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged" on Saturday, April 4, 2009, at 2 p.m. in Bunce Hall's Tohill Theatre.

Little Fish Collaborative Theatre Company, a group of recent Rowan theater alumni, will present the work, which is a comic pastiche of high-and low—points from Shakespeare's works.

"The show also is a comedy and we're hoping to adapt it just a bit so that we have some 'Carb humor' included," says English professor Cindy Vitto. "Nathan has touched the lives of literally thousands of students in his 50 years here, and he's still going strong. We have much to celebrate this year."

Tickets for the performance are \$20. A reception, with light, elegant dinner fare and wine, will follow at the newly restored Hollybush Mansion. Tickets for the reception are \$50 apiece. All proceeds will benefit the Dr. Nathan R. Carb, Jr. Fund to enrich the academic and cultural offerings of the English department.

For information on the event or to purchase tickets, contact Alumni Relations at 856-256-5400 or alumni.rowan.edu.

'The Complete Works of Shakespeare, Abridged'

Saturday, April 4, 2009

2 p.m.

Bunce Hall's
Tohill Theatre

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ON THE HOUSE: Rowan political science majors Thomas Woltjen (left) and William Moen, Jr., represented their Congressional districts at the 2008 United States Model House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., last May. Moen, of Runnemede, represented New Jersey's First Congressional District, while Woltjen, of Merchantville, represented the Third District.

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