

Winter 2009

Rowan Family

A Publication for Family and Friends



Message from the President

As an institution of higher learning, we're responsible for providing an education that not only gives our students classroom knowledge, but also provides the social and cultural experiences they need to develop into well-educated—and well-rounded—adults.

Though our campus has historically provided many opportunities to educate the "whole student," we have, to quote a well-known television chef, "kicked it up a notch" in recent months.

In this issue of *Rowan Family*, you'll read about how our programs for students living on campus are emphasizing not just residential housing, but residential *learning*. You'll learn about how we're engaging students—in service projects, but also in spirit-building fun through the popular Rowan After Hours program. And you'll find out more about our recent campaign to expose students to arts and culture through a new initiative spearheaded by the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

The University's new 10-year strategic plan will call on us to continue to focus our resources on undergraduate education, and to continue to implement programs to educate the "whole student." Although the plan will not be unveiled until spring, as always, as we move forward, we welcome—and encourage—your input.

Donald J. Farish

After hours, a rocking good time

Erin Jensen works hard on her schoolwork all week, but on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, she's a devotee of the increasingly popular Rowan After Hours (RAH) program.

"Most of my friends hang out at RAH," said Jensen, a freshman from Little Falls, N.J. "The program has given me many chances to do things I never thought I would do."

Among them, riding a mechanical bull...for a whole two seconds.

"I could hardly get up on it in the first place!" Jensen laughed. "The program has helped me come out of my shell a lot. I used to be really shy, but now I know I have no reason to be."

Jensen's sentiments please Constantine Alexakos, assistant director of Student Activities at Rowan, who has built RAH over the past year from a one-night offering into three nights of programming each week.

In addition to mechanical bull riding, Jensen also has gone on stage for karaoke and game shows, won gift cards for stores and restaurants through raffles, and played inflatable games. Each night, the program offers a special midnight food bar.

"Variety is important to the success of the program," said Alexakos. "We're committed to reinventing ourselves continuously."

RAH has filled an important niche for Rowan students, according to vice president of Student Affairs Carmen Jordan-Cox.

"Rowan After Hours has given our students engaging new social and cultural outlets to relax, interact with fellow students and have fun after a long week of studying," Jordan-Cox said. "The response from students has been phenomenal, with more than 6,000 students participating in the first two months of the fall semester."

IT'S A BIRD. IT'S A PLANE. IT'S...Rowan junior history major **Matthew Ruiz**, who makes the most of a great bounce inside the inflatable defender dome as he dunks past (from left) **Chris Fable** and **Carmen Pizzo** during Rowan After Hours.



Reaching beyond the classroom

It's no secret that the college experience includes an education both inside and outside of the classroom. Rowan's Division of Student Affairs is working to emphasize that point to students by providing learning experiences that happen throughout campus—including in residence halls, in activities, and in service projects organized by the University.

"At Rowan, we're creating an atmosphere that truly supports what happens in the classroom," said Richard Jones, Rowan's new interim associate vice president for residential learning/dean of students. "Throughout campus, we're creating environments conducive to student learning."

One reflection of that change is the renaming of Rowan's Residence Life and University Housing Office to Residential Learning. Another reflection is the addition of Carol Gruber as the University's first-ever associate vice president for student engagement.

In her role, Gruber, who joined Rowan in the fall, is working to identify ways in which students are engaged on Rowan's campus. Her goal is to find growth and leadership opportunities for all students.

By giving students opportunities to lead and to serve others, the University also will provide them with valuable skills that will help them become successful adults who give back to their communities, Gruber notes.

"We're hoping, by purposefully engaging students in service and learning in a variety of settings, we will create opportunities for happy, successful students who graduate at a high level," said Gruber. "We have a great opportunity to help our students write the story of their lives in ways that are about making differences for others."

Jones agrees.

"If we start giving them a foundation of engagement, then engagement doesn't stop here," he said. "It just ripples. It doesn't stop at the college gate when they leave."

Free arts for Rowan students

The arts are alive at Rowan—with students, faculty and guest artists regularly presenting their work and their talent on campus. The College of Fine & Performing Arts (FPA) is implementing a campaign to bring that news to students in new ways. A major impetus for this effort is a new Arts Fee, which allows Rowan students free admission to all FPA-sponsored events requiring tickets.

"We truly believe that the arts are integral to the complete education of Rowan students."

The college is developing plans to raise awareness about what is being created, performed and presented by the University's painters, musicians, actors, designers, photographers, directors, singers, composers, sculptors and dancers right here. This might be accomplished through site-specific performances or installations, new outreach in the dorms, collaborations with existing student activity programming or any number of endeavors.

"We want to open students' eyes to the thrill of live performances and exhibitions," said Jon Robert Cart, dean of FPA. "We truly believe that the arts are integral to the complete education of Rowan students. By offering free events, we're hoping they will take advantage of Rowan's many concerts, plays and exhibitions and, in the process, develop a lifelong appreciation for the arts."

The College of Fine & Performing Arts presents nearly 60 events throughout the academic year, in addition to numerous student recitals and special programs. While many are already free, tickets are required for the annual jazz festival, productions by the theatre department and the opera company and select musical performances.

IN A GROOVE - Student dancers perform in "Groove," an original work created and choreographed by faculty member **Paule Turner** and presented by the Department of Theatre & Dance last year.



Green initiatives earn big awards for Rowan

Rowan's school colors have always been brown and gold, but, these days, the University is grabbing a lot of attention for being green.

That's because Rowan's "green" environmental initiatives, over the past 18 months, have won eight major state and national awards.

Rowan has won eight major state and national awards for "green" environmental initiatives over the past 18 months.

Most recently, the University received the 2008 Excellence in Education Award from the New Jersey Clean Communities Council in recognition of Rowan's commitment, enthusiasm and community pride for environmentally friendly initiatives that encourage the proper handling of solid waste.

In presenting the award to Rowan, the council recognized the University's clean-up days, educational programs and other projects that engage students, faculty and staff in cleaning up the campus and planting shrubs and flowers for beautification.

Also this year, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized Rowan as the 2007-08 Individual Conference Champion for purchasing more green power than any other school in the New Jersey Athletic Conference.

Rowan placed third nationally in waste minimization in RecycleMania, an EPA initiative, and also received the EPA Green

Power Partnership Award for purchasing 25 percent of the electricity the University uses from wind-generated sources. Those efforts were also awarded the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Office of Clean Energy's New Jersey Clean Energy School of the Year award. To learn about all of Rowan's awards and the University's "green" initiatives, visit www.rowan.edu/rugreen.

BEING 'GREEN' - Rowan students (from left) **Andrew Havrisko**, a sophomore history major, and **Chrissy McKay**, a junior early childhood education major, do their part to support the University's "green" initiatives by recycling plastic bottles.



Fall sports programs continue winning tradition

The long, proud winning traditions of all of Rowan's fall sports continued this year as each of the men's and women's teams again enjoyed fine seasons.

The women's soccer team, which ended the season 16-1-2, had six players named to the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) All-Conference first team. They included: Jess Babice (NJAC Co-Offensive Player of the Year/Groveville), Sarah Volkomer (Goalkeeper of the Year/Glen Rock), Christine Foy (Rookie of the Year/Hamilton), Michelle Carrocino (Mickleton), Alicia Kavlunas (Mullica Hill), and Krista Verzi (Delran).

Additionally, Coach Scott Leacott, who in 10 seasons has amassed a 133-41-17 record, was named the NJAC Coach of the Year.

NJAC Coach of the Year honors also were awarded to Ringo Adams, who guided the women's cross country team to a second-place finish at the NJAC Championships. NJAC Rookie of the Year Jena Peacock (Williamstown) earned All-Conference first team honors. Four runners were named to the NJAC second team.

The Profs' football team, which has won 10 NJAC championships since 1991, finished the season at 8-2 and had five players selected to the All-Conference first team: Ken Siano and Justin Hinds (both of

Port Reading), Drew Yezzi (Franklinville), Kenneth Quinones (Dover) and Jimmy DiPaolo (North Plainfield).

The field hockey team completed its season 15-5. Three players – Amanda Greene (Thorofare), Kelly Angstadt (Sewell) and Kiley Graham (Williamstown) – were named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association South Atlantic All-Region team.

In men's soccer, three players received All-Conference honorable mention, while the men's cross country squad finished second at the NJAC championships and saw four runners named to the All-Conference second team.

S.J. Tech Park offers opportunities for students, too

When the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University officially opened the doors of its initial building—the Samuel H. Jones Innovation Center—in October, it wasn't just to companies looking to build their businesses; it was also to Rowan students looking to expand their education.

College of Engineering majors are among those working at the Tech Park, located off Rt. 322 at the Rt. 55 intersection in Mantua Township. The students are teaming with professors in 12 labs—including pavement, virtual reality and nanotechnology—on research funded by NASA, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, among other prestigious organizations.

The Rohrer College of Business also has taken space in the Tech Park, which is being developed to support budding entrepreneurs, start-ups and established companies working to bring innovative technologies to the marketplace and to help spin them off into independent firms.

The College of Business is housing its Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and its Incubator in the two-story, 45,000-square-foot Innovation Center.

"While we are committed to the economic development of the community, we also recognize how vital it is for our students to work hand in hand with the real world as a part of their education," said Rowan President Dr. Donald Farish.

Mike Russell is a graduate student working on virtual reality research with Electrical and Computer Engineering chair Dr. Shreekanth Mandayam.

"The space in this building was the big thing for us as we moved in," Russell said. "We're now able to do more projects in this space, and we're hoping to expand on our current projects and maybe even add to our current team of graduate students."

SPACE FOR ENGINEERS

Showing off a virtual reality space the College of Engineering is occupying on the first floor of the Technology Park are graduate students (from left)

Steven Latman,
Michael Russell,
George Lecakes, Jr.,
and **Michael Bloom.**



University Relations

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To the family of:

FAMILY FUN - The **Hope** family of Howell, N.J. had plenty of fun at Rowan's annual Family Weekend. Freshman **Harrison Hope** (center) is joined by his parents, **Rich** and **Sue**, and his brothers (from left) **Derek** and **Lucas**.

For a full schedule of Rowan Profs fall, winter and spring athletic events, visit: www.rowan.edu/sports.