



JANUARY 2009

FRANK TALK



I greet you in Rutgers spirit!

We've now passed the mid-point of my term as president, and I'm pleased to report that the state of the Rutgers Alumni Association is strong. We have settled into a smooth operational routine which will ensure our long-term success, thanks in large part to our new office manager, Athena Angelus, and our student intern, Cassie Kingsbury. Greg Taylor, an active RAA member, has also stepped up to help us with day-to-day operations. And I certainly can't thank Keri DeMayo, our former executive director, enough for volunteering as my special assistant. Without her direction, guidance and steadfast loyalty, the RAA would be facing many more challenges than it does today.

Since last fall, our committees have put on a number of outstanding events, including Homecoming, Business Card Exchange, Speed Networking, and Alumni Family Day, and we also have two fall board meetings and a very successful annual holiday party under our belt. In the spring, we look forward to our Rutgers in Your Backyard community service event, Loyal Sons and Daughters award dinner, and much more.

A milestone for the RAA occurred on December 1 when we officially became a chartered organization of the new university-wide Rutgers University Alumni Association (RUAA). In addition, I'm pleased to report that the Engineering Society and Queens Guard Alumni Association, both RAA constituent groups, have been granted their own chartered status with the RUAA. For each of us, that status means a seat on the Alumni Leaders Council and the ability to tap into the RUAA's programs, communications and volunteer opportunities.

Since volunteer opportunities also abound within the RAA, what exactly is the difference between these two organizations? Well, RUAA volunteers do not represent a single region, campus, school, or constituency. Their focus is on partnering with the university's Alumni Relations Department to provide services to all alumni, unifying them under a single tent. Chartered organizations, like the RAA (the largest within the RUAA), represent a narrower focus aimed at meeting the individual needs of smaller alumni groups. More specifically, our focus is on alumni from the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus, though we are open to anyone who wishes to participate and who shares our vision and mission, namely to form a lifelong bond among Rutgers University and its alumni around the world.

While our mandate seems broad, we are actually a very close knit family. Participation in our association affords volunteers the opportunity to advance their skills, work and socialize with fellow alumni, and serve their alma mater.

On a personal note, I want to express my sadness at the recently announced departure of Robert Mulcahy III as the university's Director of Athletics. Bob came to Rutgers 10 years ago, and has truly taken Rutgers to the next level, beyond the expectations of even the most optimistic supporters. While you may not have agreed with every decision Bob made as athletic director, you have to give him credit for instilling a winning attitude at Rutgers without compromising the academics of our student athletes. As an alumnus and fan, I couldn't be more proud of the legacy Bob leaves at Rutgers. The latest chapter was written by our football team which, after a 1-5 start last fall, regained its focus and rattled off seven straight victories to become the hottest team in the college ranks, capped by a thrilling come-from-behind victory over North Carolina State in the Papajohns.com Bowl in Birmingham. It was only fitting that Bob was honored with the game ball after the bowl victory, on the eve of his departure.

On a final note, I'd like to encourage everyone to stay in touch with the RAA by logging on to our web site at www.rutgersalumni.org. You'll not only find out about the many activities and events that are going on, but how you can experience the excitement and personal rewards of getting involved.

In Rutgers Spirit,

Frank Hundley RC '86
President, Rutgers Alumni Association