



MAY 2009

FRANK TALK



My fellow members and friends of the RAA,

As I near the end of my term as Rutgers Alumni Association president, it's appropriate to reflect on what we've accomplished together over the past year. In the face of tremendous challenges, our committees put together outstanding events on the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus and in the surrounding community, including a prominent presence at Homecoming, a successful Alumni Family Day geared to alumni with young children and grandchildren, and, most recently, our marquee event, the 51st Loyal Sons & Daughters Awards celebration on April 4th.

Indeed, I've heard numerous people rave that this year's Loyal Sons & Daughters program was the best RAA has ever put together, and I'm proud to say we did it with all volunteers! In addition to being a smashing success, the black-tie dinner featured many first-time attendees, including Dean George Stauffer from the Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA); Rutgers Head Football Coach Greg Schiano and his wife Christy; and RUAA Board Chair Jim Rhodes CCAS '94. President Richard L. McCormick kicked off the evening with some very positive remarks about our association, the event, and the future of our beloved alma mater.

Loyal Sons & Daughters really made the RAA shine, and I can't heap enough praise on the volunteers who made it happen, particularly event co-chairs Bob Eichert and Debbie Fuchs. Ocean County Superior Court Judge Rochelle Gizinski RC '80 served as master of ceremonies, and Mary Baglivo RC '79, who is Chair and CEO of advertising giant Saatchi & Saatchi, delivered the evening's keynote address.

The Loyal Sons & Daughters event, and all of this year's activities, could never have been pulled off without the careful coordination and dedication of our phenomenal part-time staff, led by Athena Angelus, Gregory Taylor and student intern Cassie Kingsbury.

On a separate note, I'm pleased to announce that the Alumni and Friends of the School of Management and Labor Relations (SMLR) was recently granted a charter as an affiliate organization of the RUAA, joining the Engineering Society and the Queens Guard Alumni Association as RAA constituents that now have a seat at the table of the RUAA Alumni Leaders Council, along with the RAA itself.

Now we turn our attention to Reunion 2009 (May 15 through May 18) and planning for the upcoming year. Reunion has changed dramatically this year, with the RUAA partnering with the university's Alumni Relations Department to take over nearly all the planning and logistics on the New Brunswick/Piscataway campus. Still, the RAA will have a prominent presence inasmuch as our constituents comprise the majority of Reunion participants.

On Saturday, May 16, at the conclusion of the All Alumni Parade (which terminates on Seminary Place at the entrance to Voorhees Mall near the statue of Willie the Silent), there will be a lunch on the mall, planned and hosted by the RUAA and Alumni Relations Department. Afterwards, the RAA will hold its annual meeting in the large lecture room in Voorhees Hall, conveniently located adjacent to the lunch-time festivities. I encourage everyone to attend, as we will be taking a final vote on the new slate of officers for the 2009-10 term, as well as presenting many of our most treasured Reunion Awards.

On July 1, 2009, you will have a new president: Cara Bufanio, from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Class of '85. I've worked with Cara for many years and know she will be an outstanding president who will continue to guide the RAA to new and unprecedented heights.

When my term is complete, I will continue to serve our alma mater and the RAA as I move on to the university's Board of Trustees. While I look forward to the new challenges which lie ahead, you can rest assured that my contributions to this extraordinary organization will continue for years to come.

Thank you for your support, and I hope to see you at Reunion 2009!

With best regards in Rutgers Spirit,

Frank Hundley RC '86
President, Rutgers Alumni Association