

# 1766

Alumni Magazine



The magazine published  
by and for the  
Rutgers Alumni Association

FALL 2016

A photograph of three female athletes in dark blue athletic wear. The athlete on the left is holding a small American flag. The athlete in the middle has a bib that says 'HUDDLE'. The athlete on the right has a bib that says 'GULLEY'. They are all smiling and looking towards the right.

## Rutgers alum and former U.S. Olympian Julie Culley

### ALSO INSIDE:

- A Loyal Son Makes a Global Impact
- Schanck Observatory
- Class of 1966 50th Reunion Yearbook

...and more!





## Rutgers Alumni Association

*185 Years of Service to Rutgers Alumni*

Founded in 1831, the Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA) is a 501(c)(3) service organization maintained by and for the graduates of Rutgers College, the School of Engineering, the former College of Agriculture, the former School of Education, the Mason Gross School of the Arts, School of Management and Labor Relations, the Graduate School–New Brunswick, and other interested alumni from Rutgers University–New Brunswick. Chartered in 2008 as the largest affinity organization of the new universitywide alumni association (RUAA), the RAA’s purpose is to create a vital, beneficial, and continuing relationship between Rutgers and its alumni around the globe. The RAA also independently publishes *1766* to inform members about issues that concern them, provides funding to support deserving student organizations, awards an annual scholarship to a deserving legacy student, develops career seminars for graduates and offers opportunities for volunteer service in all aspects of university life — from participation in governance committees to mentoring undergraduates. As the fourth-oldest organized alumni association in America, the 185-year old Rutgers Alumni Association is proudly supported by a volunteer army fueled by more than 200,000 alumni constituents. We welcome your participation.

### RAA OFFICERS 2016–2017

**President:**

Erin Clarke RC’03

**President-Elect:**

Eugene Gentile RC’80

**Vice Presidents:**

Anwar Hussain RC’89

Bruce Marich RC’63, GSNB’65

Danielle Bechta SAS’11

**Vice President and Corresponding Secretary:**

Matt Lunemann ENG’06, GSNB’09

**Treasurer:**

James O’Neill RC’76, RBSG’84

# 1766

1766 is published by the Rutgers Alumni Association  
Vol. 34, No. 2

*Except for official announcements, the Rutgers Alumni Association disclaims all responsibility for opinions expressed and statements made in articles or advertisements published in this magazine.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE CULLEY RC’04

## COVER STORY

Profile: Julie Culley RC’04 .....4

## Feature Articles

A Loyal Son Makes a Global Impact .....10  
 Schanck Observatory .....13  
 Class of 1966 50th Reunion Yearbook .....16  
 Erickson: A Scarlet and Green Career .....18

## Departments

President’s Message .....3  
 RAA Happenings  
 Scarlet Harvest .....7  
 Loyal Sons and Loyal Daughters .....8  
 Calendar of Events .....20

We are no longer located in Winants Hall. Please note our new contact information:

**Rutgers Alumni Association**

P.O. Box 11320

New Brunswick, NJ 08906

Phone: 732-932-7474

Fax: 732-377-2099

info@rutgersalumni.org

**www.RutgersAlumni.org**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Erin Clarke RC'03

Dear Fellow Rutgers Alumni,

I am truly honored to serve as president of the Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA). It was just over 10 years ago that I attended my first RAA meeting with the Young Alumni Committee, and now I am serving as the sixth and youngest female president!

It is wonderful to be part of the RAA, one of the oldest alumni organizations in the country. We celebrated our 185th year on July 19, 2016, and for this special occasion, the Board of Directors was presented a cake at the September 2016 meeting. This milestone is only possible because of the many years of dedicated volunteers who have served the RAA in roles ranging from committee members to president. Over the years, the RAA has seen many changes, but the dedication of our volunteers has always remained constant.

It is my hope that by moving forward in the RAA's mission, "Engaging Alumni, Helping Students, Celebrating Rutgers" that we will continue to grow and play an important role in the lives of our alumni for many more years to come. Every year, the many committees of the RAA work hard to come up with and put together a variety of events to engage alumni. I hope that you will come out to support these events and enjoy them for the social, entertaining, and educational experiences that they are. Every December, our alumni come back to campus to help students at the annual RAA Speed Networking Event. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in this fantastic event, I urge you to go this year! It gives alumni not only the chance to connect with students, but the opportunity to feel that they have truly helped them in their path to success.

The RAA is always celebrating Rutgers, as is evidenced by the carefully selected new class inducted as Loyal Sons and Daughters, to our Homecoming and Reunion Weekend activities each year. We are proud of the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, and fellow alumni, which you will no doubt see by the articles in the rest of this issue of 1766.

As our alma mater celebrates 250 years, and we celebrate 185 years, we must remember the history that we share; however, it is just as important as the future this organization looks forward to. I want to thank my fellow alumni that continue to volunteer for the RAA each year. If you are not involved with this organization yet, I encourage you to get involved with the RAA. Become one of our volunteers who will help to keep this organization successfully moving into the future. Attend a committee meeting, support an event, tell a friend about the RAA. Most importantly, come out and celebrate Rutgers with us—I am looking forward to meeting you!

Warm regards,

Erin Clarke RC'03  
President, Rutgers Alumni Association

[erin.clarke@rutgersalumni.org](mailto:erin.clarke@rutgersalumni.org) ✨



Have a story idea, photos, or want to write for 1766? Contact us at [1766editor@rutgersalumni.org](mailto:1766editor@rutgersalumni.org).

### Connect with us!

Follow the RAA on the web, Facebook, and Twitter. Receive daily updates about alumni and events taking place on and off campus. Post your own news, links, photos, and videos, and find other alums or former classmates.



[www.rutgersalumni.org](http://www.rutgersalumni.org)



[Facebook.com/RAANewBrunswick](https://www.facebook.com/RAANewBrunswick)



[Twitter.com/RAANewBrunswick](https://twitter.com/RAANewBrunswick)



# Profile: Rutgers alum and former U.S. Olympian Julie Culley



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE CULLEY RC'04

By Francine Tardo RC'96

**J**ulie Culley RC'04 knows what it's like to rise and fall and rise again. The former U.S. Olympian runner, who stumbled upon the sport in high school, triumphed through a cycle of injuries to become an award-winning NCAA athlete—and eventually, a member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic team.

September 2016 she was named the interim director of track and field/cross country at Georgetown University. Culley talked with writer Francine Tardo about her experiences in the Olympics, her time at Rutgers, the importance of giving back to the community, and why she feels there are “no coincidences.”

## **When did you first become interested in running?**

My first interest in running began in middle school. I grew up in Clinton Township, and every year we'd have two middle school track meets against neighboring schools. I would sign-up to compete, and I won my first year and

second year running the 800m and mile. Soccer was my first love, and my travel soccer coach encouraged me to try running track in high school during the “off season” for fall soccer. As it turns out, I really enjoyed it. By my junior year, I gave up soccer and started focusing athletically on just running.

## **You had to overcome some injuries during your time at Rutgers. What kept you going?**

I had a lot of ups and downs through college. It seemed I was healthy one season, then hurt a season—all five years. I am grateful to have had a very supportive coach, Roberta Anthes, who supported me through each road block and gave me goals and such to work through my injury and return to health. I also had a few really wonderful athletic trainers at Rutgers who drove me to doctor appointments [and] specialists and listened to me when I would break down in tears over my frustrations. What kept me going is what keeps every determined

athlete to continue to compete: the desire to be great. I wanted so badly to prove my talent and fitness and compete among the best in the NCAA. Every injury only made me want to excel that much more.

## **You were awarded New Jersey's NCAA Woman of the Year Award in 2004, which is given to female student athletes who have excelled in academics, athletics, and community service. How did that make you feel?**

The NCAA Woman of the Year Award was really significant and when I look back on it, I'm not sure I understood that quite as clearly in the moment. What truly made the award so special was the fact that it awarded overall contribution to academic, sport, and community. I believed, from a young age, in being involved in the many facets a school or university could offer, particularly through service and academic opportunities. I felt so proud to be recognized as an overall student athlete—and not just through my



athletic accomplishments. Service, even today, is something I focus on with my student athletes and encourage them to help those who are less fortunate or to share their experiences and help inspire young children.

**After graduating from Rutgers, you remained passionate about service, and even took a coaching position at Loyola College. Do you feel you were prepared for coaching? What did you find particularly challenging?**

When I graduated from Rutgers in May 2004, I was completely burned out from running. It wasn't the running that had burned me out, it was [because I was] not running. After returning for a fifth year and only running two races the entire year, I needed something different. I had applied and been accepted to Americorps and was to be stationed in Denver, Colorado, in January [2005] following graduation. That June, Anthes called me and told me about an opportunity she thought would be intriguing for me at Loyola.

You see, the athletic director at Loyola was a former Rutgers associate athletic director and former assistant basketball coach, [and] Anthes had kept in touch

with him over the years. So when a track coaching position opened up at Loyola, the athletic director, Joe Boylan, called Anthes and said, "Do you have anyone you would recommend?"

Anthes, who had groomed me for an eventual coaching position, said, "Yes, Joe, I think I do, but she just graduated!" He asked her to have me call him. So I did. But to be honest, I really didn't think anything would come of it. I found it hard to believe that I could be considered for a Division I head coach job at the age of 22, so I more or less took the interview as "practice" for the future.

Much to my disbelief, Boylan offered me the job. The biggest challenge I faced was coaching men and women who were just a few months younger than me. Learning to take an authoritative role and work to gain the respect of an entire team of athletes nearly my age was quite an emotional challenge. But I had great support from Boylan and a few other coaches who acknowledged the challenge I faced and mentored me throughout those two years. I learned a lot through trial and error. There were days I just didn't think I could do it, but then there were days I didn't think I could do without it. I guess that's coaching in a nutshell!



JULIE CULLEY COMPETES FOR USA IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS.

**After a few years of coaching, you returned to training. What made you decide to go back to competing?**

I don't believe in coincidences, so I don't believe that the opportunity to coach just months away from permanently closing the chapter on the sport and joining Americorps was a random coincidence. Coaching kept me in the sport when I was ready to quit. I'll never forget the moment when I decided I was done coaching (at least for the moment). I was standing on the track at Bucknell University in 2006 holding a watch waiting for the gun to sound and my athletes to start the race, and I had a moment where I finally felt the urge to start competing again. I stood there, watch in hand, and thought, "I don't want to hold the watch anymore. I want to be on the starting line."

My sophomore year in college after my first berth to the NCAA Cross Country Championships, Anthes and I sat in a Denny's eating breakfast, and she told me, "You're going to be very good in college, but if you have the patience and desire to stick with it, I think you are going to be incredible in your late 20s and early 30s." I don't know how she had that kind of foresight, but I never forgot those words. And those words were what gave me the confidence to give it one more shot.



JULIE CULLEY (BOTTOM SECOND FROM LEFT) WITH THE RUTGERS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Talk about how you found out you made the U.S. Olympic team.

The U.S. Olympic Team for track and field is considered one of the hardest teams on the planet to make. The talent pool in the United States is so deep, and the U.S. team scores the most points of any other country in track without a doubt—every Olympics. To make the team is an even bigger feat: you must finish top three at the Olympic Trials a month prior to the Olympics. So the way I knew I made the team? I crossed the line in first during the trials. And I stood there, staring at the Jumbotron, waiting for the Olympic rings to flash across the board next to my name. It was the single greatest moment of my athletic career.



JULIE CULLEY COMPETES FOR USA IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS.

## Can you briefly describe your experience at the Olympics?

Wearing the USA uniform in the Olympics is like nothing you'll experience again in your life. I'd made several World Championship teams prior to 2012 sporting the USA uniform, but those experiences paled in comparison to the Olympics. The world comes together those few weeks and watches the best athletes on the planet compete. To be a part of an event of that magnitude, to reflect on everything that happened, good and bad, to get you to that point, you're simply bursting with pride. It's indescribable.

## How has your experience been at Georgetown?

As a coach, Georgetown is a dream position to have. At Rutgers, we competed against Georgetown in the Big East, and I always admired their team. The women were so good and the tradition at Georgetown is as deep as any program in the country.

Our women just won an NCAA National Championship at NCAA Indoors in the Distance Medley Relay, a very coveted title for distance running powerhouse schools. Watching those athletes accomplish a goal that we had set-out three years prior was such a rewarding moment for our staff. It's incredible to run fast times and win titles as an athlete, but it's a beautiful moment when your athletes achieve those moments for themselves.

## You founded the New Jersey/New York Track Club. Why did you feel it was important to give back to the community?

The New Jersey/New York Track Club was the brainchild of current coach Frank Gagliano, or Coach "Gag." Gag has been in the sport for more than 50 years, and when the opportunity arose to work with him in 2010 and help start this new team, I couldn't pack my bags to return to New Jersey fast enough. He was starting a team based out of Rutgers—talk about my running career coming full circle.

I was going to get to work with a legendary coach and former director of Rutgers Track and Field and Georgetown Track and Field, who had coached 12 athletes to the U.S. Olympic team? And I was going to train on my home track, live in my hometown, train with a bunch of really talented athletes, with similar goals to mine? I was in!

Gag has a gift and within a day or two of working with him, it is so clear. All of us knew we were a part of something really special. When Gag asked me to help him incorporate the club and help turn it into a 501(c)(3), I was honored. We worked on it together and we, along with a few other teammates, created the club

he'd always dreamed of. He'd worked with the best clubs the United States had ever formulated, but the New Jersey New York Track Club was his dream. It was a joy and honor to help him realize that dream.

## What advice would you give current or future Rutgers students?

Get involved! I've now worked at three different private institutions, and I always reflect back on Rutgers with such sincere admiration. You may not realize it now, but Rutgers is one of the greatest institutions in the country to prepare you for life. Every club, every protest, every game, every class is unique to the university. It took me stepping off campus to fully realize just how special Rutgers truly is. ✨

*Culley currently lives in Arlington, Virginia, with her husband, newborn son, and dog.*



The Rutgers University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (RU Athletics) announced its 2016 Hall of Fame honorees. On October 15, 2016, the following individuals were recognized during the Scarlet Knights v. Illinois football game at High Point Solutions Stadium in Piscataway, New Jersey:

- Julie Culley (cross country/ track and field)
- Kelly Harrigan (swimming)
- Brian Leonard (football)
- Mike Leta (wrestling)
- Cappie Pondexter (basketball)
- Bob Reasso (soccer)



# SCARLET HARVEST ANNUAL FALL FAIR AT RUTGERS UNITES ALUMNI AND FAMILIES

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUTGERSALUMNI.ORG

By Melissa Lieberman-Elimanco DC'05, GSE'06,'15

**A** joint effort cultivated by the Rutgers Alumni Association and the Cook Community Alumni Association was ready for harvest on October 23, 2016.

Each year, Rutgers alumni and their young families convene at the annual Scarlet Harvest to enjoy breath-taking autumn foliage at the Rutgers Gardens.

On October 23, 2016, the Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA) and the Cook Community Alumni Association jointly hosted the event at the Rutgers Gardens, with the help of many other cosponsors and alumni associations.

Attendees explored the grounds and participated in family-friendly games and events in the log cabin at

the Rutgers Gardens. While the entertainment changes from year to year, there are some mainstay activities that remain a Scarlet Harvest tradition.



The event featured programs and shows performed by members of Rutgers student organizations. For instance, in 2015, these shows included a medieval battle by the Scarlet Cross and a meet and greet with the Rutgers Eye Seeing Puppy Training club and their dogs.

Of course, the one traditional event that never changes each year is a picture with the Scarlet Knight in front of the photo area.

Pre-registered attendees took advantage of the featured activities; for instance, pre-registered children picked pumpkins from the Scartlet Pumpkin Patch and

decorated them to take home. Another benefit from pre-registration is that the kids were able to make their own caramel apples.

That didn't mean walk-ins weren't welcome. While pre-registration was preferred, those who didn't pre-register still participated in many of the other activities, which included a corn cannon that fired corn husks into the air, and a tee-shirt cannon, which gave attendees the opportunity to catch and keep free garments. Families also built bird feeders with pinecones and bird seed, made s'mores, decorated buttons, and created other arts and crafts.

Refreshments—such as pretzels, popcorn, cotton candy, and cranberry fruity juice—were provided. ✨





# Loyal Sons and Loyal Daughters Class of 2016 Inducted

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICIAN PHOTOGRAPHY.

By Francine Tardo RC'96

**C**urrent and former members of the Rutgers Board of Trustees and Governors, treasurers, band chairs, young alumni leaders, and members of countless committees are among the eight Rutgers alumni who make up the Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA) Loyal Sons and Daughters Class of 2016.

For over 50 years, the RAA has recognized Rutgers alumni “who have made a meaningful and long-standing commitment to the betterment of the university by exemplifying extraordinary alumni service or by making a significant impact on university life and culture.” Among the awards made to alumni volunteers by the RAA, the Loyal Son and Loyal Daughter award is the highest acknowledgement of service. Existing members of the Loyal Sons and Loyal Daughters develop the nominations, and finalists are named by a special selection committee.

This year’s class was inducted on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Nielsen Dining Hall on Douglass Campus.

## Danielle Elizabeth Bechta SAS'11

Danielle Elizabeth Bechta is currently the RAA's secretary and vice president and is officer oversight for several different committees. She became involved with the young alumni and undergraduate committees immediately after graduation and eventually became chair of the Young Alumni Committee. Bechta also volunteers as an alumna advisor to her sorority and helped found the Rutgers Dance Marathon Alumni, becoming its first executive director.

## Greg Brown LC'82

Even with the demands of being the chairman and CEO for Motorola Solutions, Greg Brown has still been able to give generously of both his time and talents to

his alma mater. He has served as member of the Rutgers Board of Overseers since 2003, the Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2015, and was appointed by Governor Chris Christie to the Board of Governors in 2012, serving as chair for the past two years. His support and leadership has led to the successful integration of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey into Rutgers, including the reintegration of the former Rutgers Medical School (now Robert Wood Johnson Medical School).



AMANDA HUGELMEYER DC'04 IS ESCORTED INTO THE CEREMONY BY GREG BENDER ENG'68

## Amanda A. Hugelmeyer DC'04

Amanda Hugelmeyer has dedicated a lot of her time on behalf of activities to support her alma mater. She has worked hard the last 12 years not just for Douglass College, but for Rutgers as a whole. Hugelmeyer volunteers to be the Rutgers mascot at the reunion parade each May, and for almost 10 years, she has been volunteering as an extern sponsor for the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College. She has been a member of the Douglass College Reunion committee and served as co-chair in 2011 and 2012. Her service includes committee member and volunteer for the Rutgers University Alumni Association “Run for RAH” (Rutgers Against Hunger) from 2011 to 2014.



THE RUTGERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LOYAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS CLASS OF 2016. TOP ROW L TO R: GREG BROWN LC'82; JEFFREY M. ISAACS LC'84; KENNETH G. MILLER, JR. RC'07, RBS'07; MICHAEL R. TUOSTO SB'62, RBSG'65. BOTTOM ROW L TO R: DANIELLE ELIZABETH BECHTA SAS'11; AMANDA A. HUGELMEYER DC'04; ROCHELLE OHRING DC'78, RBS'83; RAYLENE P. RAVARRA RC'95.





RUTGERS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PAT HOBBS ADDRESSES THE HONOREES AND THEIR GUESTS.

**Jeffrey M. Isaacs LC'84**

For over 25 years, Jeff Isaacs has been a steadfast volunteer as a board officer for the Livingston Alumni Association, Rutgers University Alumni Federation, a trustee on the Rutgers Board of Trustees and has partnered and volunteered for various RAA programs and events. Isaacs has also donated his skills as a business leader and financial strategist to his fellow alumni. His work as the Rutgers University Alumni Federation's treasurer was instrumental in building a revenue sharing formula that was endorsed by the RAA and benefited all college charter groups. For the Livingston Alumni Association, he was the catalyst to reinventing and reviving the Livingston Alumni Association in the early 1990s and has served as the organization's president or treasurer for almost 25 years.



RAYLENE RAVARRA RC'95 RECEIVES HER AWARD FROM RAA PRESIDENT MARTY SIEDERER LC'77 AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR FRANK HUNDLEY RC'86.

**Kenneth G. Miller, Jr. RC'07, RBS'07**

Kenneth Miller has been a member of the President's Council since 2007, and helps Rutgers students as they seek employment in the financial sector. He has worked tirelessly to craft and guide the Road to Wall Street Program with University Career Services, designed to boost the preparation skills for a select group of students who demonstrate strong interest in and knowledge of financial markets. In addition to mentoring one to two students per year, Ken Miller spends significant time reviewing and critiquing resumes, conducting mock interviews and educating students on what firms look for in candidates. He was also active in the Rutgers Athletics–Knight of Networking Event for several years, which guides student athletes on potential careers in finance.

**Rochelle Ohring DC'78, RBS'83**

Rochelle Ohring has been an active member of the Rutgers University Bands Alumni Association (RUBAA) since graduation, serving as the group's librarian from 1978–1985, assisting in the creation of the Steve Moran Alumni Band Scholarship, mentoring band members, providing job skill training to seniors and performing with the Alumni Band. She also served on the RAA Board from 1986–1992 as the RUBAA representative. A founding member of the Rutgers University Alumni Wind Symphony, Ohring served on the executive board from 1984–1992, including a term as president from 1986–1992 and continues to assist the ensemble with various tasks. An active Douglass alumna, Ohring served on the Douglass Reunion Committee from 1983–2003 and was involved with University Career Services as a job mentor from 1988–2010.

**Raylene Ravarra RC'95**

Raylene Ravarra has been an active, loyal volunteer with the RAA for 20 years. She has served as the class representative, class co-correspondent, class vice president and class reunion

chair from 1995–2015. As class vice president, she was involved in the donation outreach for the class scholarship endowment and the class dedication planning for the Alexander Library study room. She has served on four different RAA committees, including Community Service, Undergraduate, Alumni Family Day, and Homecoming and Reunion, before taking on the tri-chair position with the Undergraduate committee this year.



RUTGERS PRESIDENT ROBERT BARCHI ADDRESSES THE HONOREES AND THEIR GUESTS.

**Michael R. Tuosto SB'62, RBSG'65**

Michael Tuosto has been on the Rutgers Board of Trustees since 1984, serving as vice chair from 1989–1990 and chair from 1990–1991. Tuosto was made a trustee emeritus in 1997 and continues to be an active trustee and a valued mentor on the board. Following his term as chair, Tuosto was nominated and served on the Board of Governors from 1991–1997. Besides his role on these boards, Tuosto has found time to be on the Rutgers Graduate School of Management Alumni Council, the Rutgers University Alumni Federation, the Rutgers Chair and Gavel Society and is active with the Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity, as well as numerous other Rutgers committees. ✨







PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK ROBSON.

# A Loyal Son Makes a Global Impact

By Carissa Sestito RC'06

Over 43 years and almost three million frequent flier miles later, Dr. Mark Robson CC'77, GSNB'79, '88, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Public Health '95, Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor and professor of plant biology and pathology at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS), has made a major impact at Rutgers—locally and globally.

The Rutgers alum and faculty, who jokes that “my mother dropped me off at Rutgers in 1973, and I’m still waiting for her to come back,” is an internationally recognized expert in the study of pesticides in farmer and rural populations—and he shares that knowledge base with the rest of the world.

“I was born and raised on a farm in Burlington County, New Jersey. I watched my father use large amounts of pesticides and also saw the effects first-hand. I was the first member of my family to go to college, and I decided that this was the area I was going to study.”

The Office of the Rutgers–New Brunswick Chancellor honored Robson with the prestigious Rutgers–New Brunswick Chancellor’s International Impact Award for Faculty Excellence, and it’s easy to see why.

## THAILAND

In addition to mentoring dozens of undergraduate, master’s, and Ph.D. students from Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America



and editing or co-editing a number of international scientific publications, he has been a leader, a visionary, and a builder of health programs related to agriculture and the environment. His research has had a considerable impact on environmental and agricultural health in Southeast Asia, where Robson serves as the principal investigator on the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded collaborative research and training center, the Thai Fogarty International Training and Research in Environmental and Occupational Health (ITREOH) Center.

“Prior to the ITREOH, the College of Public Health Sciences (CPHS) only had limited course work in environmental health, and the focus had been maternal and child health, health policy, and HIV/AIDS,” he said. “Through ITREOH, I’ve directly mentored 26 master’s of public health (MPH) and Ph.D. students from Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Bhutan and the Philippines. Many of these women and men are up-and-coming scientists who will be the next leaders in their universities or ministries of health, agriculture, or the environment.”

One of these mentees, Dr. Wattasit Siriwong, an associate professor and deputy dean at Chulalongkorn University, said that Robson was directly responsible for progressing his career.

“In 2001, he introduced one of the first environmental health risk assessment courses at a Southeast Asian university through a program funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Because of Robson, I am an associate editor of the *Journal of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment (HERA)*, and I serve on four editorial boards, have written three book chapters with him—and over 40 peer reviewed papers. He has taught me how to be a good researcher, a good teacher, and a good adviser,” Siriwong said.

Siriwong currently mentors students through the ITREOH Thai Fogarty Center; he says this “second generation” of researchers affectionately refer to Robson as “Grandfather Professor.”

As a result of the center’s growth, the NIH-funded Thai Center for Environmental and Occupational Health Research at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand—an expansion of the ITREOH Thai Fogarty Center. The expanded center focuses on the assessment and reduction of pesticide exposures to farmers and farm families and provides professional training.



“We have supported a number of trainees from southeast Asian countries for master’s and Ph.D. degrees in a variety of environmental sciences,” Robson said. “We have also funded five pilot projects, including one on the neurobehavioral effects of pesticide exposure among children in rural Thailand.”

Robson’s Thailand ties aren’t just about teaching and research—it’s about service. He leads a two-week Rutgers environmental health service-learning course to Bangkok, Thailand; in May 2016, 15 undergraduates participated in rotating assignments that included home health care visits with local



clinic nurses, observing hospital care procedures, and delivering health and hygiene activities in nursery schools.

“Thailand is a wonderful country and with exceptional people, but it is still a poor country in many ways, and the majority of the people living in rural areas...have no infrastructure and lack basic health care. Rural Thais have a 50 percent prevalence rate for hypertension,” Robson said. “The students go into very humble and sometimes very sparse homes in the rural areas with the nurses for follow-up visits, often with stroke patients.”

Public health major Jacob Wasserman SAS’18 joined the latest service-learning trip as a result of chance.

“I was walking through the Centers for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA Centers) annual Fall Study Abroad Fair when I heard someone compliment my glasses—I walked over to Professor Robson and began a conversation with him about global health and the service-learning trip to Thailand,” Wasserman said. “He has been a mentor to me. I knew from my first visit to his office when we discussed honey production and the HIV/AIDS prevalence in urban Thailand, that the eccentric man on the other side of the desk was someone that I wanted to know.”

Wasserman describes the service-learning program as an immersive experience, with each day beginning at about 6:30 a.m.

“We drove each morning, through the previously unfathomable Bangkok traffic, from Bangkok to Pathum Thani, about an hour and a half before arriving at each of our worksites. I was assigned to the Bueng Thong Lang Sub-District Health Promotion Hospital, a local clinic with about 10 total employees that served the health needs of about 80,000 people. With the clinic, I



worked with public health nurses and other volunteers to visit homes and care for patients with hypertension, diabetes, and paralysis,” Wasserman said.

Other service activities included planting rice and rice paddies.

“The rainy season had just started,” Robson said. “It had been unusually dry... so the rains are important for the crop production...which was expected to fall short for more major crops in 2016 because of the drought.”

“I really enjoyed learning how to farm rice from a local farmer. We took off our shoes, rolled up our pants, and got right in the mud to help him plant for an hour or so,” Wasserman said.



Benefits of the service-learning course weren’t reaped purely through hands-on educational experiences, Robson said. Thailand was gearing up for its 2017 presidential election, which provided the group with a first-hand look at international politics.

“The English newspapers were quite critical of President Obama’s recent visit to Vietnam—the Thais felt slighted and were pretty vocal about it,” he said.

Wasserman said he learned from Thai culture during the program.

“After work, the evenings either had a cultural activity scheduled, such as a Muay Thai boxing lesson,” he said. “I got to learn how to give a Thai massage, as well as cook homemade desserts and an extremely spicy papaya salad.”

Robson’s program, he said, also gave him an opportunity to make meaningful and lasting connections.

“I made many friends on my trip, from nurses to restaurant owners to cab drivers to farmers,” Wasserman said. “I realized on my journey, that common language is not a prerequisite for friendship, friendship only requires a mutual understanding and a smile from ear to ear.”

Those types of networks aligned with the large degree of freedom and independence Robson gave his students outside of their work.

“Fifteen undergraduates are a lot of work far from home with lost wallets, changes in travel plans, and minor medical issues,” Robson said, adding that at times the trip could feel “more parental than professorial.” Still, navigating these types of issues far from home is critically important for students in establishing independence.

“They stayed at the Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS) house in the Bangsue section of Bangkok, and I was in an efficiency apartment closer to the university in Chidlom,” Robson said. “The students had weekends open, some went out in groups to the parks or beaches, while others remained in Bangkok.”

At the end of the program, students presented at the Lamukka Hospital in Pathum Thani, Thailand, on what they learned, and came away with a number of good experiences, he said, “from things as simple as being in a very different place 12,000 miles from home, to seeing health care system with a very different lens and also seeing remarkable health and income disparities.”

“I’m really proud of them,” he added.



## PHILIPPINES

Economists predict that the Philippines will be the world’s 16th largest economy in 2050—currently, the nation is 44th—so there is a significant demand for more technologically savvy, globally-focused, and properly trained labor in the Philippines.

External agencies oftentimes play a role in stimulating or sustaining these international projects, like the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that funded a five-year \$32 million cooperative grant in 2014 to Robson and partners from several institutions, called “Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation for Development (STRIDE).”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



The project expands viable economic growth in the Philippines through improved collaborative science, technology, and innovative research between the United States and the Philippines. University experts on the STRIDE team will also help Philippine institutions develop technical curriculums and expand applied research facilities to cultivate this world-class workforce; it will also help Philippine universities implement administrative protocols for more efficient finance, management, and technology operations.

Robson directs Rutgers' participation in the collaborative project, which focuses on economic development, science and technology investment, and training of young Philippine scientists through faculty exchanges, country visits, master's programs, mentorship programs, and scholarships.

Over five years, STRIDE will award 30 Philippine faculty members with research grants that allow them to spend one academic year in the United States; 27 smaller grants that support collaborative research; 55 scholarships to Philippine university instructors seeking advanced degrees; 55 scholarships for Philippine graduate students to conduct dissertation research in the United States; and 150 postdoctoral training fellowships. The project will also facilitate visiting faculty appointments and connect them to the needs of local industry.

Since 2014, Rutgers has welcomed STRIDE scholars from the Philippines to study under the professional science master's (PSM) program. In 2016–2017, Robson will supervise 10 mentees under the program.

"Rutgers has one of the largest PSM programs in the United States," Robson said. "Under the STRIDE project, Rutgers is developing 10 PSM programs in the Philippines and will assist in training Filipino scientists who will come to the

United States for master's in business and science (MBS) degrees... the program is going strong."

The STRIDE consortium is led by RTI International, a nonprofit organization that provides research and technical services to governments and businesses in more than 75 countries in health and pharmaceuticals, education and training, surveys and statistics, energy, and more; other partners include Florida State University, William Davidson Institute, and the University of Michigan.



## LIBERIA

Just like nothing is done in a vacuum, Robson seeks the expertise of other Rutgers faculty to galvanize international projects—particularly in Liberia.

Liberia has a promising agricultural sector that could bring about economic growth and prosperity to a region battered by recent civil wars.

This budding farming activity—much of which is spearheaded by women in Liberia—spurs the need for more education in agriculture, engineering, and gender equity studies at the university level. Though Liberian universities employ dedicated faculty and host eager students, limited resources and IT facilities impede these goals.

Rutgers set forth to fill these resource gaps. In 2011, Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) Distinguished Professor Dr. James Simon and EHELD PI and Rutgers' School of Engineering (SOE) Distinguished Professor Dr. Bala Balaguru and experts from the GAIA Centers, SEBS, School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), the Food Policy Institute, the School of Social Work (SSW), the School of Communication and Information (SC&I) and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies—along with partners from North Carolina State University, the University of Michigan, TetraTech ARD,

Inc., and the nonprofit RTI—began development of an innovative education and development initiative, the Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD).

Funded by a five-year \$18 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), EHELD is bringing centers of excellence in agriculture and engineering to the University of Liberia and Cuttington University in Liberia.

This partnership is developing a cutting-edge curriculum that will address agricultural and engineering topics to encourage all students to pursue these STEM career fields.

The program not only focuses on technical innovations, but on pressing social issues like university-building and gender equity. A portion of EHELD's outreach aims to recruit more women into these professions.

The grant ends in 2017.

## AT RUTGERS

Robson considers his time at Rutgers to be a very important part of his life, and global issues have always been an integral part of Robson's teaching. In addition to his many international research projects, he also has several globally based courses. In fact, Robson was one of the first faculty to offer a Byrne course, "Global Health."

In addition to the honor of being named a Loyal Son, he has received the SEBS International Award as well as the APLU (Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' Malone Award). He is the recipient of the Mehlman Award from the International Society of Exposure Science and is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, an elected fellow of the American College of Toxicology and an elected fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini. ✨





# SCHANCK OBSERVATORY

## Time for a Second Look

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREG BENDER ENG'68.

By Greg Bender ENG'68

*A light house for guiding shipping on the Raritan? A lookout built for Alexander Hamilton's Artillery batteries? An administration building for old alumni? The first Rutgers president's house?*

From the time I first saw the strange, little octagonal building perched on a hill at the corner of George Street and Hamilton Street, I just couldn't figure out what it was. As a newly arrived freshman in 1964, walking to downtown New Brunswick, I was sure it was a significant part of the university, but what was it? The best answer I ever got as a student was that it was an "observatory where somebody looks at the stars or something."

Life moves quickly for a university student, and I was soon on to other things, and the little observatory—officially the Daniel S. Schanck Observatory—was soon forgotten. I've spent a lot of time navigating the College Avenue Campus as an active alumni over the years, and I frequently passed through that George Street-Hamilton Street intersection. Over the years on that hill remained the rundown and unoccupied observatory, seemingly passed over by time.

Until recently.



SCHANCK OBSERVATORY IN JULY 2016, WITH DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS.

Suddenly, there was a full restoration of the building! It seemed strange to me. Rutgers was restoring the only unoccupied building on its College Avenue Campus? It was time to give Schanck Observatory a closer look, or—more accurately—a second look.

One year after Rutgers was designated as the Land Grant College of New Jersey in 1864, the Rutgers Scientific School began operation—in fall 1865. The school offered study in astronomy, mathematics, and land surveying, and Rutgers professors were considered some of the world leaders in astronomical physics.

To advance this study, an observatory was constructed just east of the president's house on the Old Queens Campus. Practicality was the order of the day; the site selected was high enough to rise above the "noise, smoke, and turmoil" of the streets, and it was close to restrooms in Kirkpatrick Chapel.

Support for the construction started with Daniel S. Schanck, a New Jersey gentleman who was a successful window-glass importer located in New York City (perhaps he made a few sales to Rutgers). In response to an appeal from "Friends of Rutgers College," he contributed more than \$2,400 toward the cost of the fully equipped observatory, which was estimated to be about \$6,000 in the 1860s. The observatory was completed in June 1866.

Since observatories were a prestigious preoccupation in the 19th century, aesthetics were a primary component of the design. Schanck Observatory was designed by Willard Smith, and patterned after the Tower of the Winds in Athens. In fact, it is still considered a remarkable example of Greek Revival architecture in the United States.

In 1966, Rutgers art curator Walter M. Widrig wrote: "Strangely, the Schanck Observatory today assumes the proportion of a garden pavilion on the



THE OLD WORKROOM, NOW RESTORED AS A LOUNGE. COATED BRICKWORK REPLICATES THE ORIGINAL.

Rutgers scene. One might even say its venerable age and quaintness have invested it with the nostalgic spirit of the old Rutgers."

Mechanically, however, things inside Schanck were quite basic. Equipped with gas lights and minimal heat, the center of the observatory was a 6.5-inch refracting telescope, mounted on a two-story pedestal. There was also a sidereal clock, a mean solar clock, a chronograph, and a telegraph, among other instruments.

In addition to the astronomical observations, Schanck kept solar time for the railroads and provided updates via the telegraph. The key operating features of the observatory's astronomical mission were a full hand-operated rotating roof and a wooden staircase that was isolated from the telescope to reduce vibrations. The telescope was rebuilt in 1950, and the physics department renovated the observatory deck in 1971. Basic electrical service was added in the 1920s. Somewhere along the line, a sand-colored stucco was applied to the entire outer shell of the observatory, covering the original brickwork.

Rapidly changing technology and academic focus within the university led to a decline in the use of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



AUTHOR GREG BENDER FINDS THE ROTATING ROOF FULLY FUNCTIONAL AND EASY TO ROTATE.

the observatory. It was placed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1973, but its last use by the physics department was just one year later in 1974, after which it began its role as that sole unoccupied College Avenue Campus building. Time took its toll, and the building ended up in an advanced state of deterioration, suffering from crumbling plaster, rotting wood trim, moisture intrusion, and mold. It had become a historic eyesore, and no clear recovery was in sight.

After a few limited and isolated attempts over the years, the remarkable turnaround for the observatory ramped up in 2011, with Rutgers' initiative to get landmark status for the entire Old Queens Campus. Since the Geology Hall and Kirkpatrick Chapel are open for events and tours on a regular basis, adding Schanck to the agenda would mean that over 50 percent of the campus would be accessible to the public—no doubt an asset to the landmark designation efforts. Although the university considered reusing Schanck as an annex to Kirkpatrick or Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers has pursued a less intensive use by partnering with the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Cap and Skull Society, an honor society composed of senior class members and alumni that has served Rutgers for almost 117 years. Substantial donations from Cap and Skull members contributed significantly to the reconstruction.

Cap and Skull chair emeritus Tim Mueller RC'91, CLAW'95 offered: "The restoration of the observatory was a long process pushed by Cap and Skull for many, many years. A number of Skulls contributed a good deal of money to make it happen, as the Old Queens Campus is near and dear to our hearts."

Now, years of meticulous and difficult work by the staff at Rutgers University Facilities have resulted in the complete restoration—and upgrade—of the observatory interior. The rededication of the observatory occurred on June 18, 2016, appropriately in the middle of the Rutgers 250th anniversary celebration.

Placed by Cap and Skull, a commemorative plaque reads: "In the spirit of our commitment to the history and traditions of Alma Mater, we of Cap and Skull preserve and rededicate this historic observatory in memory of her many loyal sons and daughters who made their college home on the banks of the old Raritan."

From the perspective of passersby, the renovated exterior of Schanck Observatory looks remarkable: it was stripped of the stucco and resealed with a coating that matches the original finish. However, it is the interior renovation that is an impressive—if not shocking—feat.

The extensive research, attention to detail, and the difficult construction work required to bring back Schanck was all thanks to the incredible work of the Rutgers Facilities Department, and Mueller agrees.

"We knew the observatory deserved a proper restoration, but we soon discovered it needed



RECREATED FLOORING AND RESTORED HANDRAIL ARE AMAZING.

significant structural work as well. Rutgers facilities did an absolutely outstanding job on the meticulous rehabilitation!"

My visit this past July was like a trip back into time—Rutgers time! Plaster walls were repaired and refinished, a replica wood floor was installed, the tin roof was replaced with stainless steel, decayed doors, trim and fittings were recreated, and the original wood railings were reused.



LOUNGING IN THE OBSERVATION DECK SEATING AREA — ON SCARLET CUSHIONS!

Replicated millwork and moldings are now visible, and unseen is the central air conditioning system and the Wi-Fi. Although there is a new updated electrical system, the movable roof and the telescope—yes, it's coming back—are all hand operated. I had a chance to rotate the roof, on its railroad wheels, and I can say, "It works!"

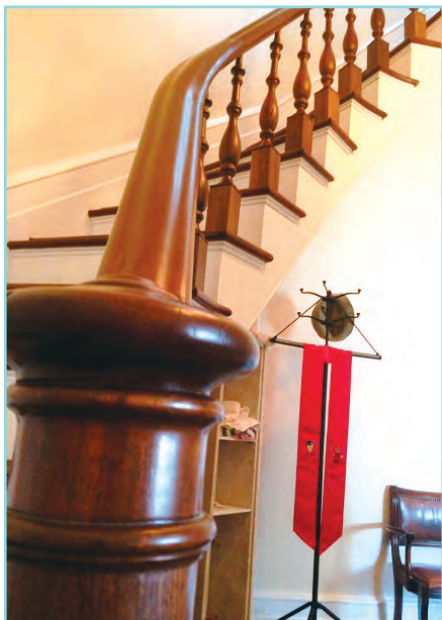
But don't forget to release the latches.

Next, I tried out the restored scarlet chairs on the observation deck, which is open to host meetings and for education activities. With the anticipated return of the telescope, this could be a really interesting room in which to meet or study.

The original wood railing along the stairs had to be increased in height to meet current safety standards, so Rutgers employees recreated longer spindles to support the original wood piece. The main entrance room is set up as an exhibit of the building's history, the history of Astronomical Studies at Rutgers, and the history of the Cap and Skull Society.

Centered in the room is the support base for the telescope, which extends up to the observation deck.





THE RESTORED STAIRWAY LEADS TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE ROOM HISTORICAL DISPLAYS.

These upgrades serve as a nod to the university's anniversary, and the special history of the observatory,

"Cap and Skull is currently assembling some unique items to put on display in the observatory that will tell the full story of its special place in our school's rich, 250-year history," Mueller said.

Finally, I looked into the back workroom part of the building, which was also fully restored. It now serves as a Cap and Skull lounge for both current members and alumni. The chairs, robes, and banners give the room an amazing feel.

While Schanck Observatory may now be a jewel on Old Queens Campus, there are signs of future trouble along the foundation. I've always



THE HISTORICAL BUILDING, ASTRONOMICAL STUDIES AND CAP AND SKULL DISPLAYS.

wondered why the front door provided you with a one-step plunge onto George Street. Was it built that way? Rutgers facilities people are sure the door arrangement is correct, but that there was much more hill in front of the steps years ago.

Investigating the site gives a hint of what's progressing: after the president's house between Schank and Kirkpatrick Chapel was demolished, the university created a paved parking lot. Unfortunately, the lot drained runoff directly to the observatory area, where a single storm drain was inadequate. Years of rainwater erosion not only undercut the hill at the front door, but also damaged the shallow footing the observatory rests on.

There was a small drainage improvement project completed recently, but the long-term answer—to stabilize the soil around the observatory with a new retaining wall on the George Street side—will need a source of funding. Hopefully, we can help support this need before Schanck Observatory ends up in a parking space on George Street!



THE RESTORED WORKROOM ANNEX, FURNISHED AND READY FOR CAP AND SKULL MEETINGS.

Friends and alumni interested in preserving and securing this very special piece of Rutgers history in a way where future visitors can connect with over a century of the university's classic heritage can offer support by contacting Tom Mueller at Cap and Skull ([tom@hcgraphics.com](mailto:tom@hcgraphics.com)) or Cindy Shersick at the University Foundation ([cshersick@winants.rutgers.edu](mailto:cshersick@winants.rutgers.edu)). You can be part of keeping Schanck Observatory, one of the crown jewels of Old Queens Campus, in our future. ✨

## Rutgers Cap and Skull Society

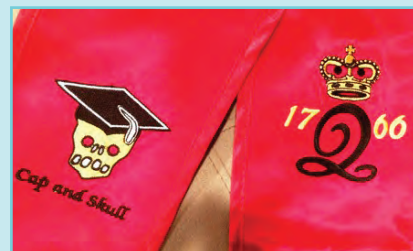
Cap and Skull has long been one of the special interest groups in the Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA). A small organization, they are an active honor society with a deep commitment to Rutgers history, spirit and tradition.

They are a senior class society, and the only surviving "class-based" organization of its kind at Rutgers. Currently in their 117th year (!), their mission is: "Honor and encourage the campus wide pursuit of excellence in student leadership while offering their 18 senior undergraduate members a seat at a unique roundtable of diverse peer leaders and skilled, interested advisors."

Nominations for entry into Cap and Skull are required to meet rigorous criteria: "Eighteen members are selected each year from the junior class at Rutgers–New Brunswick. Members are selected in the spring based upon their campus activities and accomplishments. Demonstrated leadership, outstanding character, exceptional service, and school spirit are the key elements of member selection. Also important is the candidate's trajectory for continued excellence and commitment to alma mater."

"Cap and Skull seeks to graduate class after class of dedicated alumni united in their affinity for alma mater and mutually pledged to her lifelong support. Alumni Skulls are expected to exemplify the best traits and character of leaders in their communities and chosen pursuits and to never relent in their support of dear old Rutgers, far and wide!"

Not surprisingly, they view the Old Queens Campus as sacred ground and see Schanck Observatory as a bridge between Rutgers liberal arts past and its transition to a land grant institution and finally a state university. Fittingly, the observatory restoration partnership between Rutgers and Cap and Skull was a natural choice.



# CLASS OF 1966 50TH REUNION YEARBOOK

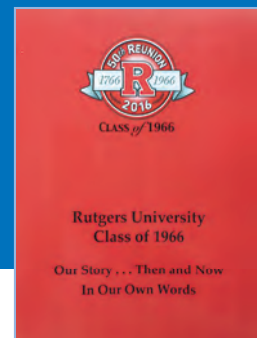


PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANE HARDIES DC'68.

By Hal Shill RC'66 and Larry Benjamin RC'66

**I**t all started in November 2013 with an email call to classmates for memories of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy—the most startling event of our generation—50 years earlier. The overwhelming and deeply moving responses prompted calls for recollections of other undergraduate experiences, and a Class of 1966 history listserv was created. Its members contributed a treasure trove of memories, telling the story of a special group of graduates (Rutgers' bicentennial class) living through a special and historically significant time (1962–1966).



YEARBOOK EDITORS AND WRITERS (FROM LEFT) STEVE FRAKT, HAL SHILL, ED MALBERG AND LARRY BENJAMIN WITH COPIES OF THE YEARBOOK PRESENTED AT THE CLASS DINNER. PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANE HARDIES DC'68.

Class president Ted Hardies RC'66 and the class officers felt that these recollections should be published and presented to the university as a gift from the Class of 1966. Funds were raised from class leaders and listserv participants to cover the publication costs. Other classes have compiled reunion books that included a class history, classmates' profiles, and an "In Memoriam" to deceased classmates—but we were unaware of any that featured a "Class Memories" section capturing detailed memories of undergraduate life: why we decided to attend Rutgers, freshman year, dorm life, food and drink, academic experiences, sports, planning for the future, and many others. Those

recollections—from 53 classmates on 31 topics—and postgraduate life stories and photos are combined into our 50th Reunion yearbook, "Our Story ... Then and Now in Our Own Words."

Freshman year was a year of profound adjustment. Dean of Men Cornelius Boocock warned us to "look at the man on your left and the man on your right" (Rutgers was all-male at



DEAN OF MEN CORNELIUS BOOCOOCK. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE FRAKT RC'66.

the time), then realize that only two of us would still be around for graduation. Nearly 500 of us were temporarily housed in experimental dorms at The Heights.

Ed Malberg RC'66 wrote in the class history chapter of the yearbook, "It was not ... recognizable as a campus. Nor were the living spaces ... recognizable as dorms. The men there didn't have beds ... they had units that featured mattresses on wooden shelves." That arrangement lasted only one term. As Ray Kaden RC'66 put it, "Second semester at the new Clothier dorm was like going to heaven."

Classroom work brought new challenges. English Composition, in particular, brought back bad memories.

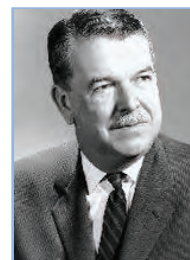
"I hadn't a clue about all the hidden meanings of the stuff we were reading," Alan Lemberger RC'66 wrote, referring to sexual themes embedded in short stories. "I'm an engineer. I interpret things the way they are written."

Advised that the professor was "big on the Oedipus complex," fellow engineer John Bravo RC'66 attributed all literary characters' behavior to that condition and

earned a B in the course. In contrast, many of us were spellbound by superb lectures from senior faculty in the Western Civilization course.

That first year also introduced us to dorm life, campus and grease truck food, fraternities, ROTC, media, other extracurricular organizations and—of course—sports, whether intercollegiate, intramural, or just as fans. The email response showed that we shared so many experiences, but may have gone about them in very different ways.

"We lived in a series of 'parallel universes' without realizing it at the time," Michael Perlin RC'66 said.



PRESIDENT MASON W. GROSS. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE FRAKT RC'66.

We also learned that the university president, Mason W. Gross, didn't just stay in his office. He was a regular presence on campus—as a teacher, adviser, leader, and listener.

In the 50th Reunion Yearbook, Walt Orth RC'66 recalled that Gross invited the crew team to his office for a chat and would even show up at practices. When angry students protested food poisoning from Commons



ALAN LEMBERGER RC'66 AND WALT ORTH RC'66 HAVE A LIFETIME OF SHARED EXPERIENCES. THEY MET IN KINDERGARTEN AND WERE ON THE CREW TEAM. PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY BENJAMIN RC'66.

food, Gross spoke to the protesters and assured them the situation would be corrected. They knew he would keep his word and dispersed.

Ours was a class not only passionate about campus issues, but





THE DAILY TARGUM FRONT PAGE ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963, CREATED UPON LEARNING OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE FRAKT RC'66.

about ones that changed the world. News of the Kennedy assassination made that November Friday of our sophomore year unlike any other. The campus was closed, and the scheduled football game with Columbia was postponed.

“People were walking around in a daze, some crying, others in disbelief,” Lou Chazen RC'66 recalled. “We were all glued to the only TV on the dorm floor for the weekend.”

This would not be the only time the world beyond Rutgers would challenge our priorities. Early in our freshman year, the Cuban Missile Crisis prompted classmates to wonder whether we faced imminent incineration in a nuclear war. Classmates later petitioned on behalf of a Rutgers senior arrested for engaging in a voter registration campaign in Georgia. The escalating war in Vietnam prompted an all-night teach-in late in our junior year. Remarks supportive of the Viet Cong by Eugene Genovese, a history professor, became a national story and an issue in the state's gubernatorial campaign that year. President Gross spoke out strongly in defense of freedom of speech, resisting political pressure for Genovese's dismissal. The Daily Targum's anti-war editorials prompted a campus visit by FBI agents to Perlin, who also served as the newspaper's editor-in-chief.



KEN JOHNSON AND TED HARDIES AT THE CLASS OF 1883 MEMORIAL GATEWAY AT OLD QUEENS, WHICH THE CLASS RENOVATED AS ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY GIFT. PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY BENJAMIN RC'66.

Those are a few anecdotes from our undergraduate story, now 50 years in the past. The “Profiles” section picks up the story by bringing the reader up to date with the lives of 129 classmates since graduation. An “In Memoriam” listing identifies deceased classmates. Short biographies of these classmates, gleaned from reports in the “Class Column” of Rutgers alumni magazine, and personal tributes from friends are included.

The “Profiles” essays detail the remarkable professional and personal achievements of our classmates. Jack Jacobs RC'66 and Dave Schuller RC'66 are honored in Rutgers' Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Jacobs received the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in Vietnam. In April, the Army ROTC Scarlet Knight Battalion headquarters was dedicated to Jacobs and Frederick Kroesen RC'44. Schuller was recognized as a “renowned leader in treating cancers of the head and neck.” For four decades, he helped lead cancer research at Ohio State University.

Members of the Class of 1966 have succeeded in many fields. Take aerospace: Ken Johnson RC'66 was a pioneer in the design and launching of satellites from the Lockheed Martin Space Center. Or agriculture: Bill Castle RC'66 started the pomegranate industry in Florida. Or oceanography: Bob Embley RC'66 led many explorations using submersibles and unmanned robotic vehicles to map the ocean floor and discover new life forms. Or law: Perlin is a widely recognized advocate of mental disability law. Or theater: Eric Krebs RC'66 is a Tony-nominated producer of off-Broadway shows. Or politics: Wayne

Valis RC'66 served in the White House under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Classmates also used their essays to share moving personal stories. George Lane RC'66 tells how he and his wife decided to accept a daughter with Down syndrome. As a result of that experience, he wrote a book about parental choices and the blessings of a special child. Jeff Grote RC'66, a freshman football captain who became an award-winning architect, expresses his appreciation to coach John Bateman for refusing to allow him to continue playing football after suffering three concussions.



MICK AND RICK WEISZ HOLD THE CLASS OF 1966 BANNER WHILE ANDY LAWRENCE HOISTS THE 1966 FLAG AT THE ALUMNI PARADE DOWN COLLEGE AVENUE. PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE WEINER RC'66.

“Coach Bateman was way ahead of his time, and I remain grateful for his judgment,” he wrote.

This yearbook is one of our class' many contributions to Rutgers and to American society. “Our Story” is part of the larger Rutgers' story. History professors have asked permission to use its memories in their university history courses. The “Class Memories” also stand as a unique contribution to social history, capturing the 1960s college experience through the eyes of its participants. By linking 50-year-old recollections with current biographies, this volume documents our transition from the undergraduates we were to the people Rutgers helped us become. ✨

Hal Shill is class historian and Larry Benjamin is class correspondent of the Class of 1966. They co-edited “Our Story... Then and Now in Our Own Words.” The yearbook is available for \$42.89 plus shipping and taxes by ordering online: [wwwcreatespace.com/6110156](http://wwwcreatespace.com/6110156).

# ERICKSON - A SCARLET AND GREEN CAREER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREW GHILINO SAS'11.

By Ron Ghilino RC'80

**M**ost articles about Rutgers alum are very scarlet—but this one is decidedly green. When it comes to conserving energy in New Jersey, Bernie Erickson RC'80 is second to none. It would be impossible to know how many miles Erickson has logged in the name of energy conservation. He has worked on buildings, bridges, boats, and just about anything that needs more efficient systems.

Chances are good that if you spend any time driving through the Garden State, you have seen Erickson's work. Erickson has completed successful projects at Newark Liberty International Airport, the Holland Tunnel, the George Washington

Bridge, NJ Transit, Northern State Prison, Trump Taj Mahal Casino, and at Rutgers University-New Brunswick and Rutgers University-Newark.

"We even relit the Lincoln Tunnel before the Super Bowl with a deadline of less than one month" Erickson said.

As a student at Perth Amboy High School in the 1970s, Erickson was already selling. He ran the school store and was one of the youngest auctioneers in New Jersey, which ultimately helped to cement his career choice of sales. Erickson took a position at O.K. Electric Supply after graduating from Rutgers and eventually bought the company in 1986. Erickson had become an expert in electrical design and

specification for distribution equipment, motor control, classified area equipment, lighting, and controls.

Demand side management was a fledgling industry in 1989 when Erickson formed Energy Solutions to provide turnkey energy retrofits. These retrofits can be applied to existing lighting facilities to save energy and provide more powerful illumination—ultimately reducing crime and helping to save lives.

Lighting is upgraded in both indoor areas such as classrooms and offices, as well as outdoor areas such as building mounted lights and parking lots. In interior spaces, sensors that turn off lights when areas are vacant are also installed. New energy efficient lighting often has a longer life than the less efficient technologies it replaces, saving maintenance costs as well.

Ahead of the curve, Erickson positioned his companies and himself for future success in the world of energy conservation. It was then that Erickson's own light bulb went off in his head: he had become the "go to guy" for energy conservation projects in New Jersey and beyond. He merged his company into FSG in 2006.

Rutgers was a prime candidate for energy conservation, and the first of four projects—and the first energy conservation project ever done at the university—took place during 1991 and 1992. A second round of projects happened in 2001.

In 2009, Erickson joined forces with industrial engineering major Joe Prusik ENG'86, a manager of asset management renewable at PSE&G. This new partnership resulted in conservation projects in additional parts of the New Brunswick and Piscataway campuses not touched by the first projects in the 1990s and early 2000s.

"We expanded our efforts to Rutgers University-Newark in 2010 using a new



AS RUTGERS CELEBRATES BEING REVOLUTIONARY FOR 250 YEARS, FSG WILL BE WORKING TO SAVE THE SCHOOL MONEY SO IT CAN BE REVOLUTIONARY FOR THE NEXT 250 YEARS.



program offered through PSE&G, the Economic Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program for Municipal, Local and State Government,” explained Erickson, and a current project is now underway to upgrade lighting at six additional buildings at Rutgers University–Newark through the NJ Clean Energy program.

Erickson confidently states that “Rutgers is saving millions of dollars a year and the savings will continue far into the future” as a result of energy conserved through these new lighting and controls upgrades.

As Rutgers continues to expand their footprint throughout the state, it is critical that

the most efficient technologies are being used at all times.

Erickson feels fortunate to have been able to work with a number of Rutgers alumni with prominent positions within the energy industry. He has also been a regular at the annual Rutgers Career Day where he has found “a long line of students interested in green careers.

He said, “I always find great applicants trained by Rutgers and ready to go and be productive immediately.”

Erickson says he has hired new Rutgers graduates throughout the years that have been integral in generating projects and

ideas, including students from the Rutgers’ Center for Advanced Energy Systems (CAES).

“You can find Rutgers represented in the industry, not only in New Jersey but throughout the country,” said Erickson. “They are dedicated and eager to become involved in all aspects of energy conservation.”

Rutgers alumni have had a great influence on the energy conservation industry in New Jersey lead by the vision of Erickson. He remains at the top of an industry that is continually changing and growing—a testament to a true Scarlet Knight with an unparalleled green career. ✨



FSG ELECTRICIAN RETROFITTING A FIXTURE FROM FLUORESCENT TO LED.



## Happy Birthday, RAA!

The Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA), established July 19, 1831, is the fourth oldest alumni association in the country and an original charter member of the Rutgers University Alumni Association. Throughout our history, the RAA has partnered with Rutgers University to engage alumni, help students, and celebrate Rutgers! At 185 years old, we proudly adapt our initiatives and grow our programs to meet the needs of our fellow alumni.

As we celebrate our 185th year, we will publish recollections and memories from RAA past presidents about their time in office. We hope you will enjoy reflecting on the changes the association has gone through over the last few decades!





**RAA**  
*Established 1831*

Rutgers Alumni Association  
PO Box 11320  
New Brunswick, NJ 08906

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Permit No. 863

## RAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FALL/WINTER 2016

- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**     **Mason Gross Dance Spectacular**  
Mastro Buono Theatre  
2:00 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7**     **RAA Speed Networking**  
College Avenue Student Center  
6:00–9:00 p.m.
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**     **Faraday Physics Event**  
Science Fair, 2:00–3:00 p.m.  
Faraday Show, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**     **Christmas in Carol & Song**  
Kirkpatrick Chapel  
6:00 p.m.
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**     **Alumni Wind Symphony Concert**  
Nicholas Center  
8:00 p.m.

To register, or for more  
information about these  
events, call the RAA at  
732-932-7474 or visit  
our website at:

[www.RutgersAlumni.org](http://www.RutgersAlumni.org)

