

Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine unveils Shelter Medicine & Community Engagement Mobile Unit



Rowan and Merck leaders tour the inside of the mobile unit—from left: Rowan President Dr. Ali A. Houshmand; president of Merck Animal Health Rick DeLuca; Shreiber School Founding Dean Dr. Matthew Edson; Dr. Kirsten White, section head of the Shreiber School's shelter medicine program; and Dr. Christine Royal, vice president of Merck's Companion Animal and Equine Business Unit.

Leaders from the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine of Rowan University (SSVM) joined company executives from Merck Animal Health in Rahway in November to unveil the school's new Shelter Medicine & Community Engagement Mobile Unit.

Funded through a \$500,000 gift from Merck, the mobile unit will allow SSVM students to learn about shelter medicine and to engage with communities through real-world interactions, bringing veterinary care to underserved pet populations throughout the state.

The custom-built 40-foot Freightliner vehicle is outfitted with a three-table surgical suite, recovery cages and an exam space equipped with a wet table. The vehicle can transport up to six people, allowing veterinary students to accompany faculty and participate in community-based activities.

Rowan is the second institution in the nation offering three medical degrees—an

MD, DO and DVM. While medical school students go into communities to provide flu clinics and wellness exams, the mobile unit will offer preventative care, illness care and select surgical services to animals in need, according to Dr. Matthew Edson, founding dean of the Shreiber School.

"We are building relationships with human provider organizations that serve community members experiencing homelessness and other barriers to help these community members access care for their pet family members as well," said Edson.

The unit will help the veterinary school—the first in New Jersey—partner with animal shelters around the state to provide overflow assistance with spays and neuters, helping more pets in shelters get ready for adoption.

Merck Animal Health's gift to support the Shelter Medicine Mobile Unit program underscores the company's commitment to the importance of improving access to health care for all pets, noted Dr. Christine Royal, Vice President of Merck's Companion Animal and Equine Business Unit.

"Merck Animal Health is thrilled to support the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine and the introduction of the new Shelter Medicine & Community Engagement Mobile Unit, which embodies our shared commitment to extending essential veterinary care to underserved pet populations in New Jersey."

"Through this partnership, we will make a positive impact on the community while equipping veterinary students with invaluable hands-on experience by training them in shelter medicine and fostering a deep understanding of the importance of improving access to care."

Edson said Merck's support "not only opened the door for a much-needed service in our state" but that the experiences students will have as part of this unit will allow them to "develop into

better clinicians, better communicators, better surgeons and better citizens."

"The goal of this service is to provide veterinary students with many opportunities to deliver care and hone

their medical and surgical skills in a variety of settings," explained Dr. Kirsten White, section head of the Shelter Medicine program at the Shreiber School. "We want students to learn about shelter medicine and to engage with communities through real-world interactions."

"Merck Animal Health's generous gift will do more than put a high-quality service into action," she continued. "It will help us develop conscientious, community-minded veterinarians who understand and value the importance of the human-animal bond by improving access to care for all." RA





Honoring a legacy of passion & idealism

A Visionary and an Idealist: A perfect match

Joseph '70 and Joan Batory '72 shared a lifelong passion for education, community service, the environment and philanthropy, a commitment that was recently honored through Joseph's \$30,000 gift to establish a scholarship in honor of his late wife.

The Joan Batory '72 Memorial Scholarship will support students in the School of Earth & Environment. "This scholarship is not only a tribute to Joan's memory but also a way to continue her legacy," Joseph shared. "She was passionate about teaching and believed in creating opportunities. Through this scholarship, we hope to inspire the next generation of intriguing educational leaders and environmental advocates who will carry forward that same passion and dedication."

Joseph additionally donated another \$30,000 to establish the Joseph P. Batory Scholarship for Rowan's Department of

Educational Leadership, Administration and Research. This multi-year scholarship will provide financial assistance to graduate students pursuing careers in educational leadership.

Joseph and Joan Batory began over 50 years ago when as young teachers in Camden they were driven by an idealistic vision to make a difference. "We were young and determined to save the world—and we did a lot of good along the way."

Joan sought out an environmental science program in the late 1960s when such programs were hard to find. "Nobody had environmental studies. But guess who did?," Joseph said. "Glassboro State!"

Joan earned her fellowship and pursued her master's degree at Glassboro State while Joseph chose Glassboro State for his career hopes in educational leadership.

"Reflecting back, I like to say Glassboro State College was our Cape Canaveral—it was our launching pad," Joseph shared. "The professors were outstanding and the classroom experience was intimate and enriching. It was first-rate in every way, and that's why it felt right to establish this

scholarship, so students can share the same experience and inspire future generations."

As an award-winning Upper Darby School District superintendent and a recognized educational administration leader Joseph understands the transformative power of education—a value he and Joan shared deeply. "This scholarship honors Joan's memory and her legacy, and that's what's more important," he shared.

"The growth of Rowan—the third fastest growing in the United States—and the breadth and depth of the programs in the College of Education and in environmental sciences are absolutely remarkable," he said.

"My advice for current Rowan students? Resilience is key. No matter what happens negatively, always get back up," Batory said. "We often think working hard and achieving success will eventually make us happy, but it's the other way around. True happiness comes from appreciating the present and doing things that bring you joy now. When you find happiness in what you do each day, success will naturally follow. [RA](#)



Sports CaM Conquering Challenges Scholarship

Allan Wylie, a first-year student in Rowan's Sports Communication & Media (Sports CaM) program, has dreamed of being a color commentator for professional sports all his life. And, all his life, Allan has been blind.

Now he is chasing his dreams at Rowan thanks in part to the Conquering Challenges Sports Communication & Media Scholarship. The scholarship was created by Chris Gheysens, Mark Caprarola and Jim Sheehan to benefit students pursuing a Sports CaM degree.

Allan is one of 45 Rowan students interning with the Delaware Blue Coats professional basketball team this year through an ongoing partnership with the team, the G League affiliate of the Philadelphia 76ers. Allan also served as the student speaker during this year's annual scholarship reception and dinner. [RA](#)

"I want to say to every donor, thank you. What you do gives people like me a pathway to success. Without your generous donations and scholarships we wouldn't have these opportunities. It truly has made a difference."

-Allan Wylie

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALLAN



WATCH ALLAN MEET HIS SCHOLARSHIP DONORS



Chabad at Rowan to build The Stanley Middleman Center for Jewish Life

Chabad at Rowan, led by Rabbi Hersh Loschak and Fraidy Loschak, aims to revolutionize Jewish life on campus through the construction of a new 20,000 square foot Jewish student center. Named in honor of lead donor Stanley Middleman, the Center will have ample space to meet the needs of Rowan’s growing Jewish community and will attract many more Jewish students to the University.

The Center will feature a large dining hall for Shabbat and holiday dinners, student lounge, sanctuary, library and a kosher restaurant. “Students come to our center to wind down and be with their Jewish peers,” said Rabbi Loschak. “We are all about catering to the needs of students.”

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Operation Uganda Renewed: Students, faculty give new life to 1960s initiative supporting African culture, history

Denis Abaine, a first-year history major at Rowan, has a humanitarian movement begun by students more than 60 years ago—and the modern-day renewal of the initiative—to thank for the opportunity to leave his home in Uganda to pursue his goal of becoming a public history professor. In 1962, students at then-Glassboro State College established Operation Uganda, a gargantuan humanitarian effort to support the education and independence of citizens in Uganda. Operation Uganda Renewed is working to support international students and build a community that celebrates the African diaspora.

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McVeigh Family donation advances Rowan’s sustainable agriculture vision

A generous donation of aquaponics and aquaculture equipment from the McVeigh family brings Rowan University’s College of Science & Mathematics one step closer to its vision for a hands-on aquaponics center and learning space. This sustainable system merges aquaculture and hydroponics into one interconnected system to create a controlled agriculture system in Rowan’s West Campus Greenhouse.

Proud alumnus Danny McMullen ’21 and his uncle, Dan McVeigh, not only donated this equipment, but secured transportation to Glassboro and loaded the heavy equipment into the new greenhouse.

“The more we develop this space, the more produce we can generate, making a greater positive impact,” said Steve Ordog, Assistant Teaching Professor and Aquaponic



Steve Ordog (left) and Danny McMullen ’21 at work in a new controlled agriculture environment in Rowan’s West Campus Greenhouse



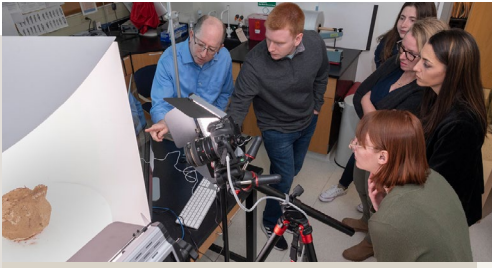
Facility Technician. “Our goal is to use this equipment and space to help to produce fresh, nutritious food to supplement our community: whether it be Fresh For All, the Shop pantry or a local food bank.”

By additionally teaching students how to operate controlled agriculture systems in this learning lab, it aims to equip students with valuable skills in planning, logistics, marketing and food production management—skills that can be applied to any number of occupations.

“To ensure a sustainable future we must adapt food production to meet the challenge

of climate uncertainty,” said Ordog. “While traditional methods aren’t going away, improving sustainable practices and tactics is essential to maintaining environmental health and producing reliable food.”

With this donation providing key hardware for the systems, the greenhouse is positioned to become a vital resource for integrating sustainable agriculture into curriculum, providing students with practical experience and making a meaningful impact for students, the environment and the local community. **RA**



Groundbreaking research at Red Bank Battlefield

Bob and Martha Gilliam’s \$20,000 gift is propelling groundbreaking research at Gloucester County’s Red Bank Battlefield Park, where scientists and historians are uncovering the stories of 15 Hessian soldiers discovered two years ago through stable isotope analysis. The rare and significant archaeological find came near the finish of a small research project led by Rowan University Professor of History and Red Bank Battlefield Public Historian Jennifer Janofsky.

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Generations of Compassion: A Commitment to Camden’s Healthcare

The Introcaso family established the The Introcaso Fund, created to posthumously honor Dr. Alexander & Mrs. Marie Introcaso and their years of unwavering commitment to Cooper Hospital and selfless dedication to the community. The endowed scholarship fund, established at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, seeks to alleviate some of the financial pressures faced by students, enabling them to concentrate on their pursuit of medical careers.

SAVE THE DATE

DAY of GIVING

A better and brighter future for our students Mark your calendar—Wednesday, February 26

On February 26, Rowan University will celebrate our annual 24-hour day of giving. Since its inception, the event has raised almost \$1.7 million to secure a better and brighter future for our students.

We are excited to have you join us as we work to make our 2025 Day of Giving bigger and better than ever before.

Interested in participating as a Day of Giving ambassador? Contact:

Kaylee Collins
Director of Annual Giving
dayofgiving@rowan.edu

dayofgiving.rowan.edu

 **MAKE A GIFT**

Homecoming 2024

On Saturday, November 2, thousands of Rowan students, friends, family and alumni gathered to cheer on the Profs during the inaugural “Breakfast Bowl” versus Montclair State University. **Plan now to join us for Homecoming 2025 on October 18!**

[READ MORE](#)

Annual MLK Scholarship Breakfast and Day of Service

Rowan honored the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a scholarship breakfast featuring NYU law professor Melissa Murray. The event raised money for the William H. Myers Scholarship Program.

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Scholarship Reception

With almost \$3.5 million awarded in Rowan University Foundation scholarships in 2024, support from generous donors strengthens the University's commitment to providing an excellent education that is affordable and accessible for students. On November 14, more than 250 donors and students gathered for the tenth annual Scholarship Reception and Dinner. The evening provided an opportunity for donors to meet their scholarship recipients and for students to express their gratitude. **RA**

RECAP AND FULL PHOTO GALLERY



(1) Farah Houshmand, Ali Houshmand, Allan Wylie, Neil Hartman (2) Leah Thorpe, Leonard Goldberg, Larry Salva, Jordan Sheppard. (3) DeeAnn Scott, Angelique Hilton. (4) Moosh Khan, Eritzahy Moran Carro, Tony Galvin, Megan Steckler. (5) Diane Welburn, Marcos Sadallah, CJ Welburn. (6) Brett Gitskin, Taylar Daher, Mireille Gitskin.

You can help!

By providing financial assistance to promising students in need, scholarships at Rowan University provide resources to recruit and support the best and brightest students and ensure that their education remains affordable.



MAKE A GIFT
supporting scholarships
or any area at Rowan University



Forge your legacy at Rowan University

Make an impact with the gift that gives back to you

You can help make education more affordable and more accessible for Rowan University students by making a planned gift. Planned gifts are a perfect way to support Rowan in the future without using any of your assets today. There are a variety of gift vehicles to help you meet your personal financial goals and leave a legacy of learning for future generations of Rowan students.

For more information, please contact:

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