



RETIRES
American Federation
of Teachers

AFTerwords
NEWSLETTER • LOCAL 2373
ROWAN UNIVERSITY
201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, N.J., 08028

Chapter Scholarships Help Rowan Students Achieve Their Dreams

Over the years, the FORCE Retirees General Scholarship program has expanded substantially. Initiated in 1993 and offering its first award of \$400

in AY 1995-96, four annual scholarships of *at least* \$500 each are now offered. These scholarship programs, as well as other kinds of student aid the Chapter offers, are helping

worthy Rowan students achieve their dreams now, more than ever.

Although Local 2373 approved the establishment of its Retirees Chapter in 1987, the Chapter spent a number of years experimenting with programs and activities that would reflect properly its role as an AFT Chapter of retired college educators. Even then, we understood our role representing AFT retirees and had already begun offering some financial assistance to students.

So when, in 2003, at the request of National AFT Retiree Director Frank Stella, the Chapter undertook an extensive revision of our by-laws, we were careful to include a section continuing our practice of financially aiding “worthy Rowan students.”

Part of our aid today awards stipends to students who provide Chapter programs; for example, the international music performance students who perform in the recital Professor Veda Zuponic arranges every April, are paid individual stipends. With Engineers without Borders (EWB), however, stipends are paid to their campus organization to assist with engineering projects in underdeveloped countries.

The Chapter’s annual budget includes specific allocations for this type of student assistance. In addition, many Chapter members and associate members make regular contributions to scholarship funds when renewing their membership. Holiday Party sales also have expanded, and with the assistance of EWB at the sale on December 8, 2009, the Chapter raised over \$900, a

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Retirees Raise Record Amount with EWB Students

Rowan University students representing Engineers without Borders assisted Chapter members during our fund-raising sale, held during the annual Holiday Party hosted by Rowan Administration, the Faculty Senate, and all of the unions representing Rowan University staff, including, of course, AFT Local 2373. Working in shifts between classes, EWB students, engineering majors, assisted us with sales throughout the three hours of the party, which saw a total of over \$900 earned for the FORCE Retirees General Scholarship Fund, the highest total earned at similar events since their inception about ten years ago.

This year’s sales included a return to such old favorites as home-made lemon curd and English orange marmalade, as well as Roberta Fitzgerald’s popular knitted scarves and artistically crafted afghans. As we have done before, two afghans were raffled off. In addition, there was still a selection of inexpensive costume

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Fran Mitchell and Rose Glassberg are busy selling a variety of choice items at the festive Holiday Party Fundraiser on Decemeber 8, 2009. Pictured on Rose’s shirt is her prize pet cat, Peggotty.

Photos by Des McLean



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record amount.

The Chapter also received a significant transfer from a dormant account in the Rowan Foundation. This account was established by Dr. and Mrs. Gene Vivian “so that students who need help can get it.” Mrs. Rose Carpenter, an associate member of our Chapter, continues to make contributions, with matching funds from Verizon, to our General Scholarship Fund while providing the bulk of the funding for the Dr. Hoyle Carpenter Memorial Scholarship program.

Increasingly, friends and former colleagues choose to make memorial contributions to our General Scholarship Fund; these contributions are deposited directly into our scholarship account with the Rowan Foundation.

We have augmented these awards by adding one-third of members’ contributions in the preceding year to the awards of the current year; the balance is deposited in the program’s account with the Rowan Foundation. This year’s General Scholarship awards added \$293 to the base of \$500.

The Chapter’s General Scholarships are divided into four categories: Traditional Undergraduate Student; Non-Traditional (beyond the 18-22 year age span) Undergraduate student; Student at the Camden Campus; and Graduate Student. In 2008, the scholarship for Non-Traditional Students was renamed the Dr. Albert J. Taylor Scholarship, in memory of our former colleague and AFT leader.

Students awarded FORCE Retirees General Scholarships consistently demonstrate in their performance, in their own writing, and in what others have written about them, all that we hoped to achieve in assisting Rowan students.

Lan Nguyn was awarded the Scholarship for an Undergraduate Student. A

junior chemistry major, Ms. Nguyn emigrated from Vietnam about five years ago; despite the difficulty of learning English, she has earned the respect of her professors of both composition and mathematics. Ms. Nguyn works weekends at Starbucks, but during the week she spends long hours at her studies and in the English language. She also volunteers time

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teaching mathematics and Vietnamese to children at the Young Heart Day Care Center in Philadelphia.

Majoring in history and education, Ms. Allison Beverly, a single mother of three children, is the recipient of the Dr. Albert J. Taylor FORCE Retirees Scholarship for a Non-Traditional Undergraduate Student. All of her references comment on her strong work ethic and compassion. An EOF student and student worker, Ms. Beverly notes that, at age forty-seven, it has been hard to balance work, school, and family but “it has been well worth it.” A Rowan staff member, familiar with her work and situation, describes her as “caring, motivational, and personable” and adds, “She is typically enlisted as a mentor and motivator for other students.”

Ms. Nguyet Minh Do, a bio-chemistry major at Rowan’s Camden campus, arrived

in the United States in 2006. She also confronts the problem of addressing her college studies through a language still new to her. She wrote that her parents came to America with the dream that their children could realize the “American dream” of a better future. In addition to maintaining her high grade point average, she also volunteers with a Vietnamese church in South Jersey and teaches Vietnamese language and traditions to Vietnamese-American children.

Mrs. Joanellen Fenimore is the recipient of the FORCE Retirees General Scholarship for a graduate student. Mrs. Fenimore, a graduate of the University of Delaware in 2005, worked for three years as a Case Manager in a non-profit mental health program with abused, neglected, or emotionally disturbed children. This has convinced her that she would like to help children in an educational system because she has observed how difficult it is to effect a transition for such children to a school setting. She has completed a Master’s Degree in School Psychology and is now working towards the Education Specialist degree for certification in Child Study Teams. Mrs. Fenimore has maintained a 4 point grade average in her graduate program and is appreciative of financial assistance because she must complete an internship which will not permit her enough time to earn money.

Nguyet Minh Do reminds us of the role Rowan plays in her efforts to pursue her “American Dream.” Perhaps it reminds us of the importance of some similar college or university in our own education, or the role we played during our careers at Rowan in the lives of earlier students. Now we play a new role, a continuing one: to help not only these, but also so many other “worthy Rowan students” reach their goals; surely, it is a dream worth sharing. —by Rose Glassberg



Celebrating her 80th Birthday, Rose Glassberg pauses to chat with Veda Zuponic, Ed Wolfe, and Fran Mitchell during her birthday party at Uxbridge, in Cherry Hill, on August 23, 2009. Photo by Toni Libro