



The Future Begins Now

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Greetings from the Kean University Foundation!

We are excited to share with you the latest edition of our eNewsletter. In keeping with previous publications, this eNewsletter is sent out quarterly to friends and members of the Kean Community, alike, including content related to the many ways we can all support Kean University, as well as options available for making a gift to the Foundation. We look forward to keeping you updated on the Foundation's activities and the tremendous impact of our valued supporters!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: *Kean University Alumna Joan Bick '52*

Kean University alumna Joan Bick '52 was a newlywed when she began her studies at Kean University, which was then named Newark State Teachers College. At the time, very few women in the United States pursued a higher education – but it never occurred to Joan not to do so. “College was an expectation in my family, it just seemed natural that I would continue my education,” she said. Joan has been proud to pass along the value of learning to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren – who are now a group with credentials ranging from bachelor’s to master’s to doctorate – and through her philanthropic support of worthy organizations.

Joan, a fine arts graduate, embodies the motto “*Semper Discens*” – always learning. Her interests are varied and eclectic. She generously shares the knowledge she gains with others – beginning with her family, which she lovingly describes as the center of all her involvements, and extending to her faith, friends and nonprofit communities.

At Kean, Joan directs her support to the Jewish Studies program. She values that the program seeks to encourage cross-cultural understanding within our diverse student population and the larger community. Dennis Klein, Ph.D., chair of the Jewish Studies program at Kean, is grateful for supporters like Joan who make it possible for the department to educate and inspire students of all backgrounds to explore the seminal influence of Jewish history and culture in our country and the world at large. With assistance from Joan and other alumni and friends, the program succeeds in encouraging cross-cultural understanding based on an appreciation of a fundamental and important culture. “I cannot thank our supporters enough for making this possible. Contributions make a notable difference. I express my warmest and deepest gratitude,” he stated.

To learn more about planning a gift to your area of interest, please contact
Eileen M. Cotter, Philanthropy Officer, via phone at (908) 316-8924 or email to ecotter@keanfoundation.org.



“The impact of philanthropy to the Kean University Foundation is truly transformational.”

A Message from the Foundation’s Acting Chief Development Officer, Edward W. Ahart II

Dear Kean Alumni, Parents and Friends,

This time of year is always one for reflection of togetherness and gratitude. In that spirit, I would like to open by saying thank you to our entire Kean University community for all you do for the Kean University Foundation.

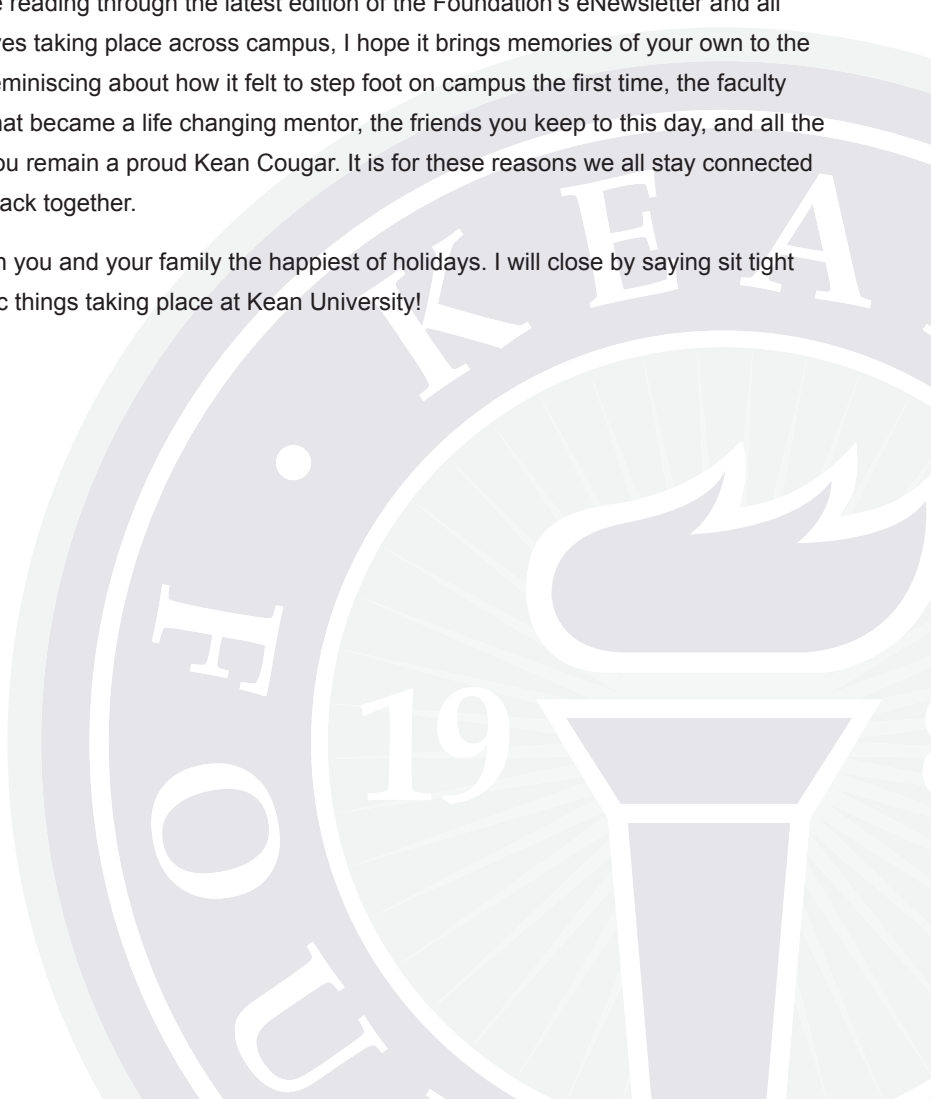
From extraordinary support from our loyal donors and volunteers in the form of scholarship and programmatic support, to substantial funding for faculty through research grants from private foundations and corporate partners, the impact of philanthropy to the Kean University Foundation is truly transformational for our students and the future of the University. You keep our Cougars climbing higher!

As you are reading through the latest edition of the Foundation’s eNewsletter and all the initiatives taking place across campus, I hope it brings memories of your own to the surface: reminiscing about how it felt to step foot on campus the first time, the faculty member that became a life changing mentor, the friends you keep to this day, and all the reasons you remain a proud Kean Cougar. It is for these reasons we all stay connected and give back together.

From all of us at the Kean University Foundation, we wish you and your family the happiest of holidays. I will close by saying sit tight and keep close. There are some truly exciting and historic things taking place at Kean University!

With sincere appreciation,

Ed Ahart





Rivera and team were awarded a \$40,000 grant from Bank of America to help family childcare providers enhance educational quality and business viability. The initiative will provide technical assistance and consultancy via culturally competent and responsive education and business development support in underserved communities.

Academic Spotlight: Alex Rivera

One of the greatest things about working at the Kean University Foundation is collaborating with our dedicated, passionate and brilliant academic partners across Kean University. Each day is a learning experience with some of the best and brightest – in the arts and theatre to economic workforce development and social entrepreneurship. It is a pleasure and a privilege to continue to highlight some of the stories in our eNewsletter's Academic Spotlight.

Alex Rivera is the director of the Center for Economic and Workforce Development, Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University. He supports New Jersey communities in providing for the economic needs of people in socially equitable and environmentally sustainable ways.

In collaboration and partnership with fellow colleagues from the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research, Ana I. Berdecia, M.Ed., director for the Center for Positive Development of Urban Children, and Kean University Equity in Action Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow Saran Nurse, Ph.D., from the College of Business and Public Management, Rivera and team were awarded a \$40,000 grant from Bank of America to link family childcare provider educational quality and business development. This initiative aims to help family childcare providers enhance educational quality and business viability by providing technical assistance and consultancy for providing culturally competent and responsive education and business development support in underserved communities.

This grant will be instrumental in developing a program that provides entrepreneurial childcare providers with highly valuable skills to help their businesses thrive while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for children. It will have a ripple effect of

strengthening the local economy and of parents having the freedom and confidence to maintain their own employment.

"The work that the Kean University Foundation is doing to provide programs and initiatives that support family childcare providers in New Jersey is crucial," said Alberto Garofalo, president of Bank of America New Jersey. "The job of a parent or guardian is challenging enough and providing childcare assistance is an important way to increase economic mobility in our community."

On behalf of the entire team at the Kean University Foundation, congratulations to Alex, Ana and Saran!



Kean Day 2022

On Friday, September 9, 2022, Kean University hosted Kean Day, a campus wide event promoting student involvement – and the Kean University Foundation was onsite and happy to support! It was a perfect opportunity for students to walk around and familiarize themselves with the campus, all while learning about the more than 170 programs and groups, from academic clubs to service organizations to Greek life. Students who get involved on Kean's campus build stronger networks and have a more enjoyable university experience

It was wonderful to see the campus bustling with new faces while interacting with students and providing valuable information regarding the Foundation's mission and the scholarship application process.

For more details about the event, please visit: www.kean.edu/news/kean-day-connects-students-170-groups

Amazon Makes Commitment to the Kean Community



Amazon, one of the largest employers in New Jersey, has made a generous \$50,000 pledge to support Kean University students and faculty. The gift exemplifies Amazon's commitment to the communities where their employees live and work. Kean University's mission to provide an affordable, accessible and world-class education that prepares students to think and respond critically and creatively in a rapidly changing world is

synergistic with Amazon's leadership principals and dedication to investing in programs that have a lasting impact. Amazon's culture is built around solving problems. At Kean, students develop the skills they need to affect change and to always climb higher.

The Kean University Foundation is grateful to welcome Amazon as a mission partner!



Kean University's 2nd Annual Jazz and Roots Music Festival

Kicking off the University's roster of 2022 Homecoming events and activities, Kean hosted its 2nd Annual Jazz & Roots Music Festival on Saturday, September 24, 2022. The free outdoor concert was open to the Kean community, as well as the surrounding community, and took place on The Lawn at Enlow Hall in Hillside, New Jersey. The Cougar pride was fierce and the lawn was full as 4,000 people were in attendance – doubling the number of guests at the previous year's festival. Festival goers came out with their lawn chairs, blankets and coolers in tow to enjoy the day's entertainment. There were also a number of food trucks and vendors located around the perimeter of the festival as well, where guests could grab some food and Kean gear, or visit the wellness tents.

Presented in conjunction with internationally acclaimed bassist/producer Mike Griot, the festival featured fantastic music from Blue People, Big Fun(k) with Don Braden and Karl Latham, Judah Tribe with Josh David, and the evening's headliner – 5-time Grammy Award-winner Dianne Reeves.

The Kean University Foundation was elated to again host the "VIP Experience" as a thank you to our festival sponsors and our dedicated donors who support Kean University year after year. The experience included a luxury tent, lounge-style seating and a tasty food and beverage display.

Excitement is already brewing for next year's Jazz & Roots Music Festival; keep an eye out for the announcement of the 2023 date and lineup!

Student Spotlight: Dean Schirripa

Dean Schirripa arrived at Kean University in the Fall of 2021 as a transfer student. He took the initiative to compare different colleges and universities based on their curriculum, location, transfer equivalency and affordability. After further review, Dean decided to attend Kean because it was one of the first teaching colleges in New Jersey.



“Transferring to Kean University was one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

When he enrolled, he applied for scholarships and was fortunate to qualify for and receive The Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Foundation scholarship which focuses on the fields of healthcare, education, social service and faith. “Kean afforded me the most flexibility with the highest access to quality education and I am thankful for the scholarship and the services provided for me,” said Dean.

When he enrolled at Kean, Dean made a promise to himself that he would find ways to push through the challenges he would face, especially since he would be balancing both work and school. He strategically scheduled his classes and balanced course options by levels of difficulty. For example, he does best when mixing freshman, sophomore and junior classes each semester so he can absorb the information more effectively while maintaining his GPA and easing mental fatigue. It’s a strategy that he’s found most helpful.

Dean has also learned to schedule his courses with breaks built into the days. Scheduling his courses in this manner has afforded him the time for self-care, study and even participate in some extracurricular activities. He has become involved in the Earth Science Club and hopes to join the ASL (American Sign Language) Club, as well as the Tomorrow’s Teachers Club for aspiring educators.

Dean has already taken courses in ASL and it has been an experience that has very much resonated with him. He has also enjoyed his psychology courses, particularly child psychology, and is considering taking a course in the psychology of learning. Since arriving at Kean, he has appreciated the passion and dedication each faculty member has for their subject. Dean has been amazed at how his professors have been able to formulate their subject and their ability to make the lessons and coursework relatable and exciting.

Ever since Dean’s initial campus tour, he has had a welcoming experience at Kean University. He noted that Dr. Kim-Le Downes’ transfer transitions course was incredibly helpful and both Drs. Barbara Lee and Joseph Sarnoski have been informative and accommodating. “They’ve helped to expand my perspective and thinking about different courses and have given me a stronger appreciation for a wide variety of disciplines,” said Dean.

With passion, dedication and a flexible mind, Dean hopes to continue to work toward his degree to become an educator and give back to his future students.

President's Alumni Ball and Distinguished Alumni Awards

On Friday, September 30, 2022, hundreds were in attendance at Kean University's inaugural President's Alumni Ball to honor four alumni with Kean Distinguished Alumni Awards. The honorees were:

- **Christina Carey Dunleavy '98**, vice president of Disney CreativeWorks and Multicultural & Inclusive Solutions;
- **Sergio Granados '10, '16 MPA**, Union County commissioner;
- **Michael James, DBA, '98**, enterprise growth & engagement leader, Elevance Health; and,
- **Anthony Sa '71**, founder and retired president, Sa and Sons Construction Company.

"We are honored to welcome back and recognize these distinguished alumni," said Kean President Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D., who presented the awards. "These individuals so clearly demonstrate the value of a Kean University education and are models of achievement for our students."

Repollet also presented Presidential Excellence Awards to six members of the faculty, six members of Kean's administrative staff and six students. The awards recognize outstanding achievement in the areas of teaching, scholarship/research and service in alignment with the pillars of academic excellence, safety and equity.

Kean alumnus Michael "Meteor Mike" Rizzo '14, '16 M.A., meteorologist at *News 12*

The Bronx and Brooklyn, emceed the evening that kicked off a weekend of homecoming celebrations.





Christine Girtain '05

Kean University Alumna Named New Jersey Educator of the Year

The Kean University Foundation congratulates Christine Girtain '05 on being named the 2022-23 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. Christine earned a master's degree in earth science instruction and curriculum from Kean University. She is currently a science teacher and director of authentic science research at Toms River High Schools North and South, where she has been teaching for 28 years.

The Foundation is always thrilled to learn of the professional successes achieved by our Kean alumni and wishes Christine all the best as with she continues to climb higher in her career – way to go!

Extra! Extra! Kean University in the News!



Kean Named a
'National University'
by *U.S. News & World
Report*, Ranked in Top 50
for Social Mobility

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Kean University
Is 'Fast Company'
2022 Innovation
by Design Awards
Honoree

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Kean Senior Wins
Top Undergraduate
Award at
Prestigious GMIS
Conference

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Kean Launches
Learning Labs to
Help Small
Businesses Grow

[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Year-End Giving!



***“An investment
in knowledge
pays the best
interest.”***

- Benjamin Franklin

Consider some ways to invest wisely at calendar year-end.

- Benefit from a charitable income-tax deduction: Individuals who itemize may deduct 2022 gifts up to 60% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for charitable contributions. If your contributions exceed the deduction limit, the amount of the excess contributions can be carried forward over the next five years.
- Give all or part of a required minimum Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRA) distribution: An individual over age 70 1/2 is permitted to make a transfer directly from their IRA custodian to a qualified charity, like the Kean University Foundation. The amount transferred is then not included as taxable income and will count toward the required minimum distribution (RDM).
- Avoid capital gains tax: Individuals who contribute appreciated stock avoid incurring capital gains tax on the appreciation.

To learn more, contact Eileen M. Cotter, Philanthropy Officer,
at ecotter@keanfoundation.org or via phone at (908) 316-8924.



Consider the Kean University Foundation for Your Year-End Giving!

Looking for a way to honor or memorialize a loved one this holiday season? Making a donation to the Kean Fund for Excellence is a wonderful way to pay tribute to a friend or loved one. This can also be a great way to take care of last-minute holiday gifts, especially for those hard-to-shop-for recipients.

There is also gift matching! Some employers match charitable donations – and may even match donations given by an employee's spouse or a retired employee – enabling you to double or even triple your impact. Employers may place deadlines on charitable matches, such as December 31st, so don't wait to make your contribution.

Don't forget! To count towards your 2022 taxes, you must make your gift by Saturday, December 31, 2022.

*Thank you for your support,
and have a happy and healthy holiday season!*

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

click here 

As always, consult your personal financial advisor for more information.

Questions? Comments? Info?

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