



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, 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!



SPOTLIGHT ON: *Kean University Alumna Ina Giardina '63 '67*

*Luck, Passion and Generosity Combine to Create an Impactful
Legacy for Kean University Alumna Ina Giardina '63 '67*

According to Ina Giardina '63 '67, it was plain luck that led her to attend Kean University, which was then Newark State College. She began her college career at Jersey City State College. However, soon after, Ina relocated from Newark to Elizabeth, New Jersey. She then discovered that Newark State was within walking distance of her new home and made the decision to transfer schools to save on commuting costs. Ina completed her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Kean and began a career in teaching.

It was, it was a bit providential that Ina became an educator at all. She does not recall particularly enjoying school in her youth and, while her parents encouraged her to study and do well, they did not have much educational opportunity themselves. Therefore, they did not know how to guide Ina in the direction of higher education. It was during her high school years that her life's direction began to take shape. "I had really great teachers at Weequahic High School, located in Newark," she said. "A number of them held doctorates and I admired their enthusiasm and dedication." Ina began enjoying learning and, when her peers began to apply to college, she decided she should as well.

“Kean gives a lot of people the opportunity to fulfill a lot of their aspirations. I am happy to help keep it going and growing.”

-Ina Giardina

Following her graduation in 1963, Ina became one of those really great teachers herself. She obtained a position in the Newark school system and it was not long before she was back on Kean's campus, pursuing her master's degree in the evenings after teaching all day. Upon achieving her advanced degree, she was offered the opportunity to specialize in English as a Second Language (ESL) at a time when bilingual education was becoming a national norm. Ina challenged her students and succeeded in helping them – and, by extension, their families. Was this timing lucky? No! Rather, it is an example of finding opportunities and pursuing interests that can become passions. It is a trait that Ina exemplifies and inspires in others.

Several years ago, during Ina's teaching career, she received a gift of a beautiful antique sterling silver and ivory bracelet. She loved it so much that she went to the antique shop to see if there would be earrings available to compliment it. The dealer had a necklace and earring set that was perfect – but could only be sold as a set. Ina purchased the set, keeping the earrings and selling the necklace to a friend. Thus began her second career as an antiques dealer. After retiring from teaching, what started as a “side-gig” has now become a full-time profession and passion. Ina's expertise in finding unique treasures can be seen at her shop in the [Summit Antiques Center](#), which carries a wide range of timeless furniture, art, jewelry and more.

Another interest which has become an important part of Ina's life is her involvement with the Kean University Foundation. She reconnected with Kean during a class reunion celebration and was impressed by the University's growth. Ina began attending Kean's theater performances and art gallery exhibits, often joking that her attendance now makes up for the fact that she did not have the time to take advantage of many extracurricular offerings while working full-time as student. She volunteered to serve on Kean's former University Arts Council and has been a consistent supporter of the Kean Fund for Excellence. When asked what motivates her support, Ina stated, “Kean gives a lot of people the opportunity to fulfill a lot of their aspirations. I am happy to help keep it going and growing.”

To continue to impact Kean students' success, Ina has thoughtfully provided for a legacy gift in her estate plans. Her planned bequest will benefit student scholarships. Ina was inspired to make this arrangement given her interactions with her own students and with many Kean students over the years. “There is always a need for financial assistance; a little outside help can make a big difference,” she stated. In fact, a little outside help makes an immeasurable difference! As the students who have received support graduate and follow opportunities that become their passions, they will impact others around them, just as Ina has. The Kean University Foundation is grateful – and lucky – that Kean became part of Ina's life journey and, through her thoughtful planning, a place where her legacy will continue forever.



Dr. Dorothy G. Hennings H'10 Hosts Book Unveiling and Signing Event



On Sunday, July 2, 2023, a representative from the Kean University Foundation attended a book unveiling and signing opportunity for an esteemed supporter and long-time champion of Kean University.

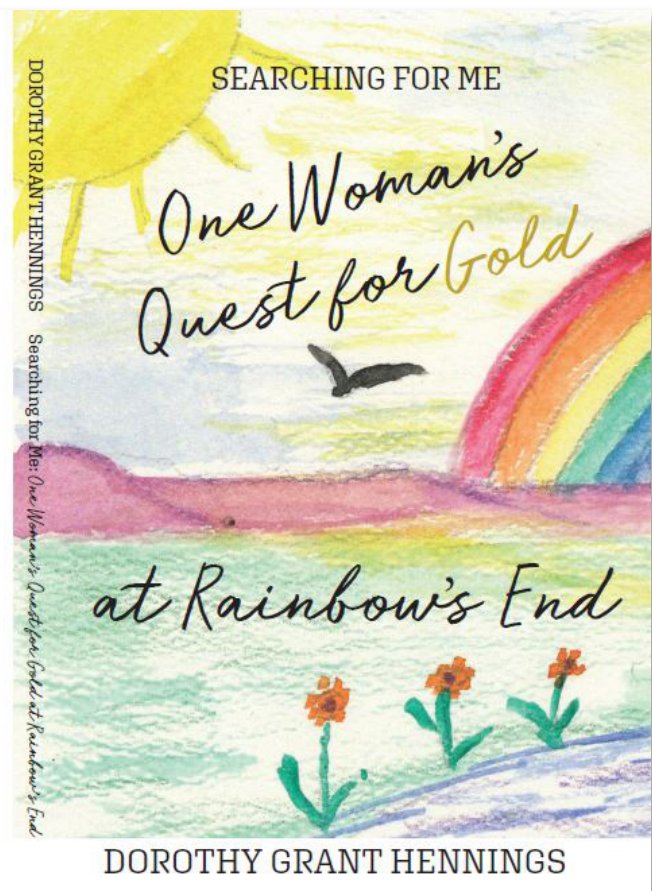
Dr. Dorothy G. Hennings H'10 hosted the unveiling of her second book in a series entitled *One Woman's Quest for Gold at Rainbow's End*. More than 35 of her friends and former colleagues attended the event held at Fellowship Village, located in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, which included a special book signing opportunity with the author during the closing ice cream social.

The books are being sold for \$19.95 per copy and are available for purchase through the Kean University Foundation's website at www.keanfoundation.org. All proceeds will directly benefit the George Hennings Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

Searching for Me is the story of the author's quest for hope, peace, and happiness after the loss of her husband, George Hennings, in 2016. Told in poetry, word play, prose, and emails, the book is a sequel to *Wandering the World with George*, published in 2021 by Kean University Press.



 **KEAN**
KEAN UNIVERSITY PRESS



23rd Annual Kean University Gala

On June 15, 2023, Kean University and the Kean University Foundation hosted the 23rd Annual Kean University Gala at the picturesque Stone House at Stirling Ridge, located in Warren, New Jersey. We were pleased to welcome approximately 300 guests, comprised of donors, alumni, sponsors and members of the Kean community all dressed “to the nines”, to the celebratory event on what was a lovely Thursday evening.

This year’s gala felt especially meaningful as it marked both our first gala in four years, as well as the first Kean University Gala under the presidency of Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.

The 2023 Kean University Gala Honoree was Kean Alumnus and valued friend, New Jersey Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari '89. Senator Scutari addressed those in attendance and, during the program, was presented with both the William Livingston Award, as well as a donation from Amazon for the establishment of the Nicholas P. Scutari Service Scholarship.

To read more about it, please visit: www.kean.edu/news/nj-senate-president-scutari-honored-kean-gala

We are tremendously grateful to the event's sponsors and all of our supporters who helped make the evening a rousing success.

Don't forget to check out the 2023 Gala eJournal at <https://www.keanfoundation.org/gala2023!>



Faculty Spotlight: Claire M. Mulry, OTD, OTR, CAPS, FAOTA

Chairperson for the Kean University Department of Occupational and Associate Professor



From murals to meals, classrooms to community, Dr. Claire Mulry's dedication to and passion for her Occupational Therapy students at Kean University, as well as older adults in the community, are hard to match.

Dr. Claire M. Mulry (she/her/hers) is the 8th Chairperson of Kean University's Department of Occupational Therapy. She has been a practicing occupational therapist for over 27 years. Dr. Mulry received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Rutgers University in 1988 and her Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Occupational Therapy from Kean College in 1997. She received her Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) from the National Association of Home Builders in 2009 and her Post Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from Quinnipiac University in 2010. Dr. Mulry earned her Post Professional Doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD)

from Thomas Jefferson University's School of Health Professions in 2012. She was awarded the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) Roster of Fellows Award (FAOTA) in 2021.

Dr. Mulry's passion is to promote participation and engagement in meaningful occupations for all. Her research interests include aging and participation, acquired brain injury, inter-professional care and program development. Dr. Mulry has received outside grants totaling more than \$2,000,000 from the New Jersey Building Our Future Bond Initiative, AARP Community Challenge, AARP New Jersey and Roselle Senior Housing. She has received Kean University grants including the Quality First Initiative Grant in 2017-2018, Students Partnering with Faculty Grant (SpF) in 2016-2017 and Foundation Faculty Research Awards in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Dr. Mulry and a team of student researchers implemented her Let's Go Program to promote community mobility for older adults in seven urban residences and in the community for clients living with chronic mental health concerns.

Currently, Dr. Mulry is launching a new initiative entitled "Resilience Through Relationships and Recipes" thanks to the generous support from the Grotta Fund for Older Adults. Resilience through Relationship and Recipes is a collaboration between Kean University's Department of Occupational Therapy (OT) and the Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth (HACE). This project creates new and innovative pilot programming to increase health and quality of life for older adult residents of HACE by helping them reengage in social participation through intergenerational community building. It targets multiple goals, social connectedness, increased health and quality of life.

Dr. Mulry has also been the recipient of the New Jersey Occupational Therapy Association's President's Award (2014), Award of Merit (2014), Service Award (2014, 2012, 2010) and Nathan Weiss Graduate College Excellence in Graduate Faculty Award (2016). Her occupational roles, in addition to OT, OT educator and citizen, include wife, dog mom, sister, friend, aunt and Grauntie. Dr. Mulry's leisure pursuits include hiking, reading, board games, roller coasters, music and concerts and theater, as well as being an avid Mets fan.

Kean Athletics 3rd Annual Golf Outing

On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, roughly 130 golfers grabbed their clubs and came out in support of the Kean Athletics' 3rd Annual Golf Outing, which took place at the beautiful Galloping Hill Golf Course located in Kenilworth, New Jersey.

Those in attendance included Kean University President, Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D. and Kean's Athletics Director, Kelly Williams. Numerous members of Kean's administration and staff, as well as alumni, donors and friends of Kean were also present in support of Kean and the Kean Community

The golfers took to the course following a "shotgun start" and traversed the course's 18 holes, replete with special contest holes along the way – such as the 'Longest Drive' competition! Once all participants had completed the course, everyone was invited inside to cool down and enjoy lunch during the day's awards ceremony.

For the second year in a row, a silent auction also took place. This year's prizes included incredible items, such as a quartet of tickets to a New York Red Bulls soccer match and an autographed football signed by New York Jets Running Back, Breece Hall.

We are grateful such a dedicated group of Cougars once again braved the summer heat and helped make this year's event a roaring success!



Student Spotlight: Nikye Jennings-Jackson



“I fell in love with Kean’s campus – between the architecture, the motivational statues and posters, it’s so encouraging.”

With both a major and minor in Information Studies, Kean University Senior Nikye Jennings-Jackson has his sights set on graduating in May 2024.

Nikye Jennings-Jackson decided to enroll at Kean University in the fall of 2019 for several reasons. First, the artistic portions of campus. He fell in love with the creative thought process behind multiple areas of the campus, such as the mini art galleries within the Green Lane Academic Building. Between the architecture, the paintings and the motivational statues and posters around campus, Nikye experienced a familiar and encouraging feeling the moment he stepped on campus.

Second, Nikye also decided to attend Kean because of its proximity to his home. Being a commuter student has been very beneficial to his education. Nikye also appreciated all of Kean’s student-run organizations and was attracted to the number of clubs, programs and organizations in comparison to other schools. During Nikye’s time at Kean, there has been a lot of

transparency between campus leaders and the students. Kean has always been an institution that clearly communicates with members of the community and Nikye has a strong appreciation for that.

After enrolling, Nikye attended Kean’s New Student Orientation event, which happens to be his favorite memory at Kean (thus far). This was Nikye’s first exposure to making friends at Kean and where he met his best friend, Alexia, along with a group of friends whom he continues to be close with to this day. Meeting Alexia is a core memory for Nikye; meeting her in front of the Miron Student Center, it felt like they had known each other for years.

Since meeting Alexia, Nikye vowed to be extroverted in college and continue meeting new people, which he did not do during primary school. He quickly became involved in many clubs and activities, such as Greek Life, Kean Pulse and the Center for Leadership and Service, and he has volunteered for Freshman Move-in Drives. He is currently the Second Vice President of Sigma Beta Tau.

Nikye’s time at Kean University has played a major role in transforming him from the person he needed to be to the person he wanted to be. Between working up the courage to join student organizations, managing to get through the COVID-19 pandemic and online learning, he is constantly reminded of how great a decision it was for him to enroll at Kean. Even in tough times, he had the support of his fellow students, colleagues and mentors.

As someone who has always been an enthusiast about race, culture and diversity, Nikye’s favorite class has been English 2403 as it focuses on World Literature. This class helped Nikye learn about different cultures and ways of life around the world by way of literature.

Nikye continues to make lifelong connections and build networks with people he would have never imagined prior to attending Kean. He considers attending Kean as the best experience of his life and is looking forward to his final months as an undergraduate student.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Holds International Conclave in Houston, Texas



Celebrating 108 years of service, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity continues to live out its mission of “Culture for Service and Service to Humanity”.

For over 100 years, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. has been engaged in communities across the world as an organization that cares about people. Through a variety of programs and initiatives, Phi Beta Sigma continues to live out its mission of “Culture for Service and Service to Humanity”. Celebrating 108 years of service, the fraternity held its International Conclave in Houston, Texas, from July 10th through 16th, 2023. The theme “Believe in Our Power, Leading the Movement” recognized the trailblazing servant leaders impacting communities from coast to coast. The fraternity’s fundamental mission is based on their public promise to vigorously impact the communities we serve by facing and eradicating societal ills that challenge their living conditions.

The Conclave brought together over 3,500 professional men, representing many communities and occupations who are actively involved in the work of the fraternity. Along with developing strategies and plans for being an active, visible presence in their respective communities, members of the fraternity continued its commemoration of 108 years of active involvement and influence in business, education, social services and politics across the world.



Members of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors Recognized and Honored

Join us in both recognizing and celebrating the recent achievements of members of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors.



James "Jim" G. Hynes '63 H'09, after more than twenty years of service as a member of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors, including holding the title of Chair, was recently bestowed the honor of Distinguished Lifetime Emeritus.

Jim, his wife, Carole, for whom both the Jim Hynes Baseball Stadium and the Carole Hynes Field House are named, have been champions and generous supporters of Kean University for decades. Mr. Hynes was previously inducted into the Kean University Athletics Hall of Fame, having played baseball as a Kean Cougar during his time as a student. He is also a member of the Sigma Beta Tau Fraternity and was honored as a recipient of the Kean University Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.

The Kean University Foundation is tremendously grateful for the Hynes' years of leadership and continued dedication to Kean.



Steve Fastook H'06, Chair of the Kean University Board of Trustees and valued member of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors, for which he also served as Chair, has been named amongst those who will be feted by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences 44th Annual News & Documentary Awards.

Mr. Fastook, Senior Vice President of Operations at CNBC, will be inducted into the Gold and Silver Circle, an honor for exceptional professionals who have performed distinguished service within the television industry, setting standards for achievement, mentoring, leadership and professional accolades for 50 or 25 years, respectively. They represent the best and brightest in the industry.

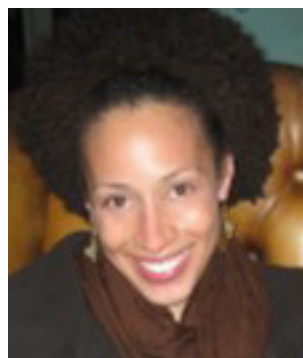
Congratulations, Steve!



We are pleased to congratulate James K. Estabrook, Esquire, for being among the fifteen attorneys who have been selected from Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C.'s for the 2024 editions of The Best Lawyers in America and The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch, both highly regarded published guides to excellence in the legal field.

Mr. Estabrook, who has been a member of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors since 2008, specializes in employees benefits (ERISA) law, trusts and estates.

To read more about this honor, please [click here](#).



Please join us in congratulating the newest member of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors, Christina Carey Dunleavy '98, on recently being named among the Cynopsis 2023 Top Women in Media – "DEI Dynamos" Category.

Ms. Dunleavy, who joined the Foundation's Board via unanimous vote earlier in 2023, is Vice President of Disney Creative Works and Multicultural and Inclusion Solutions.



Extra! Extra! Kean University in the News!

Kean Grad Goes from High School Dropout to Researcher of the Year

[CLICK HERE](#)

Couple Leaves \$850K to Kean, Expands Scholarship Fund for Future Teachers

[CLICK HERE](#)

Kean Ocean Grad Helps Build a 'Field of Dreams' for Special Needs Children

[CLICK HERE](#)

From NFL to Ph.D., Former NY Giant to Earn Doctorate in Counseling at Kean

[CLICK HERE](#)

Thoughtful Estate Planning – and Gifts That Cost You Nothing Today!



*“The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away.”*

– Pablo Picasso

You have worked hard all your life to save, invest and grow your assets. If you are like most people, you are looking for ways to minimize taxes and maximize monetary gain, while getting the most satisfaction from your hard-earned money.

The Kean University Foundation's Office of Planned Giving can help you maximize the satisfaction you receive from your assets while also helping you accomplish your philanthropic goals. There are many tax-smart ways to leave a legacy while providing for your family, friends and the charities you care about through thoughtful estate planning.

Gifts that have a big impact that cost you nothing today!

Charitable Bequest: Including a charitable bequest in your will or trust to benefit the Kean University Foundation is one of the most popular ways to provide for future students at Kean that costs you nothing today!

Beneficiary Designation Gifts: Naming the Kean University Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement account, life insurance policy or donor advised fund is another easy and popular way to provide for future students at Kean. Beneficiary designation gifts pass outside of probate, cost you nothing today and reduce the estate taxes owed by your heirs.

Gifts you can make today from highly appreciated assets that will reduce your taxes!

Gifts of Appreciated Stock: Gifts of appreciated stock or securities are a great way to support the Kean University Foundation today! When you make a gift of appreciated stock or securities, your gift can be up to 20% larger because you avoid the capital gains taxes you would normally incur from selling the stock and then donating the cash. This means more money going to the mission that you care about the most.

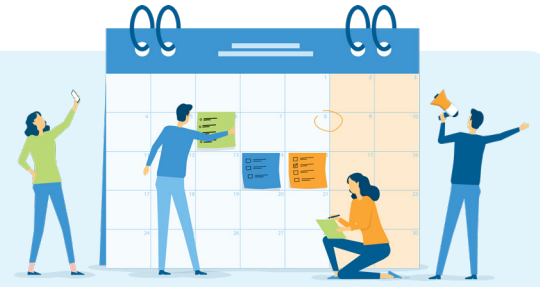
IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution or IRA Rollover: If you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA. Even better, if you are 72 or older, this gift will count towards your required minimum distributions (RMDs). In either case, you will reduce your taxable income (even if you do not itemize) while making a significant impact on students at Kean University!

To learn more, contact Lori Funicello, Director of Planned Giving, at lfunicel@keanfoundation.org or via phone at (908) 481-5336.

Visit our website at keanlegacy.org to sign up for our monthly planned giving e-newsletter!

Mark Your Calendars!

Save-the-Dates for exciting events and celebrations happening in the coming months!



Kean University Homecoming Weekend

WHEN: Saturday, October 14th and Sunday, October 15th

WHERE: Kean University Main Campus in Union, New Jersey

Come home to Kean, Cougars! Kean alumni, students, faculty, staff and the local community are invited to join Kean University for Homecoming Weekend.

On Saturday, October 14th, the Family Friendly Tailgate Party and Football Game will take place on Saturday, October 14th, while the Kean Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 15th.

For more information, please visit the event's webpage at <https://www.kean.edu/homecoming>.

Yeah Baby!

Annual Yeah Baby Golf Classic

WHEN: Saturday, October 21, 2023

TIME: Sign-in and Breakfast at 8:00 am; Tee Time at 9:00 am

WHERE: Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes, New Jersey

The Yeah Baby Foundation was established in 2019 by a group of Kean Lacrosse Alumni in honor of their late coach, Mike Cleary. The Kean University Foundation has since partnered with the Yeah Baby Foundation to form the Michael J. Cleary – Yeah Baby Scholarship.

To more about Yeah Baby Foundation and register for the Yeah Baby Golf Classic, please visit the event's webpage at www.keanfoundation.org/yeah-baby-2023-golf-outing.



Help Create Opportunities for Kean University Students!

Making a gift in honor of Kean students is the perfect way to celebrate the start of a new academic year!

From providing funding for scholarships, academic and athletic programs, to supporting student life and numerous extra curriculums that tuition alone is unable to cover, your gift will have a direct impact on every Kean Cougar – current and future! Your support touches the lives of each student across all of Kean's campuses and truly makes a difference in both their day-to-day activities, as well as their efforts in striving toward and reaching their goals.

We hope that you will click the link below and welcome this new academic year with a gift in support of Kean students.

Thank you for your generosity! Go Cougars!

[MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!](#)

click here 

Questions? Comments?

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