



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. The Future Begins Now is sent out quarterly to friends and members of the Kean Community and includes 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: *Michael Milazzo '11*

A 2011 Kean University alumnus is giving back to his alma mater by establishing an endowed scholarship for communication students in honor of his parents and two of his former professors in the Department of Communication, Media and Journalism (CMJ).

Michael Milazzo, a partner at Latham & Watkins LLP in New York, created the Martha Gillen and Budd Milazzo Endowed Scholarship Honoring Jack Sargent and Fred Fitch with a \$50,000 donation. It is named after his parents and CMJ Associate Professor and Chair Jack Sargent, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor Fred Fitch, Ph.D. The scholarship will be awarded annually to CMJ students with between 60 and 95 credits.

"I enjoyed my time at Kean University immensely," Milazzo said. "Everything I have today can be attributed to my parents and professors. I am especially

grateful to Jack Sargent and Fred Fitch for their friendship and help along the way. If not for them, I don't think I would have ever found my confidence, ever found my footing, to go on to become a partner at an international law firm."

The scholarship can be applied to tuition, fees or room and board, and strong preference will be given to New Jersey residents with financial need. Bill Miller, CEO of the Kean University Foundation, said it will positively impact the academic experience of Kean students.

"We are very appreciative and excited that alumni like Mike are continuing to invest in Kean University," Miller said. "Through this scholarship, we can offer students pursuing a degree in communication transformational opportunities as well as philanthropic resources that can get them over the finish line to graduation and beyond."

Milazzo grew up in North Brunswick and initially attended Rutgers University but decided not to continue after his first year. He took some time off, and, encouraged by his parents, enrolled at Middlesex College and then transferred to Kean in 2009.

During his first year at Kean, he was taught by both Sargent and Fitch and admired how both professors encouraged and inspired their students. Sargent recalls Milazzo as an engaged student who made the most of his time at the University.

"He stood out. He wasn't your typical undergraduate student," Sargent said. "He was a little bit older, a little bit more mature, but he certainly made his presence known in terms of coming in and asking what he could do to help the department and where he could volunteer. He volunteered in our speech lab, anywhere he could."

Fitch and Sargent said they are surprised and humbled by Milazzo's generosity and the lasting recognition he has given them.

"Mike's gift is probably the highest honor a professor can receive because it's going to keep on giving back," Fitch said. "I broke down and cried. There is no feeling like it, and I never would have dreamed of this."

Sargent called Milazzo, a former CMJ student of the year, "an amazing person" who will always be a part of the communication department family.

"It is heartwarming and gratifying to know that I've helped Mike reach where he is today," Sargent said. "It am proud of him, our department and all of the faculty who support our students, who will now benefit because of the positive experiences Mike had at Kean and his generosity in giving back to the University."

Milazzo hopes the scholarship will stand as a tribute to his parents who never gave up on him and the professors who helped him find his way. He encourages all alumni who have built successful careers with their Kean degrees to remember that current and future students need their support.

"Continue to embody all the ideals and characteristics that brought you to Kean and remember that giving back is a way to pay it forward and honor those who have given to you and helped motivate and push you forward," he said.

Academic Leaders at Kean University Join Members of the Kean University Foundation for Immersive Philanthropic Conference

Bill Miller and Ed Ahart, chief executive officer and chief development officer, respectively, of the Kean University Foundation were joined by Jonathan Mercantini, Ph.D., active associate provost of special projects, Jin Wang, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business and Public Management, Jessica Thurlow, dean of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), Elizabeth Hyde, associate dean of CLA, Jim Konopack, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Professions and Human Services (HPHS) and Angela Larmony, managing assistant director of HPHS, in Boston, Massachusetts for the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Conference, "Development for Deans and Academic Leaders," held in Boston, Massachusetts.

Over three days, this team learned ways they can each fundraise for their respective areas from various thought leaders across North America. Topics ranged from how to establish meaningful relationships with alumni and potential donors to establishing impactful advisory boards and stewarding (saying thank you!) to long standing supporters.

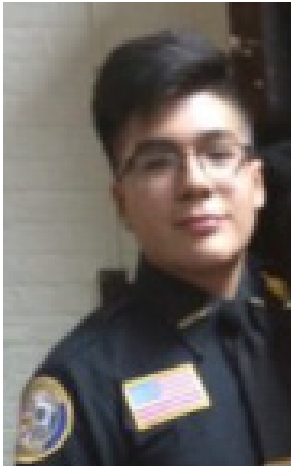
"Throughout the CASE conference, my thoughts kept returning to the meaning of 'philanthropy' as one's love for humanity. It feels good to give and to serve when you know you've made the world a better place, even just a little," said Konopack. "At Kean, we prepare our students to do well as they do good, whether that's in healthcare, the arts, science, education or business. The conference offered us valuable insights and an energizing reminder that giving to Kean is a great way for someone to express their love of humanity."

The Kean University Foundation is truly grateful for this experience and our academic leaders who attended this conference to learn how to secure philanthropic resources for their areas of academia and our students.



Left to Right: Jim Konopack, Angela Larmony, Bill Miller, Jonathan Mercantini, Elizabeth Hyde, Ed Ahart, Jin Wang, Jessica Thurlow

Spotlight On: The Family of Kean University Student Robert Huiracocha



Kean University student Robert A. Huiracocha was an aspiring State Trooper whose life was tragically cut short in June of 2021. His mother, father, sister, brother, nephew, relatives and friends came together in their grief to create a fitting memorial. Their hope was to support someone who, like Huiracocha, dreamed of a career in service to the public. The group has collectively donated \$21,000 to create an annual scholarship in Huiracocha's memory, an amount they seek to increase in the future. "In this way, our family and friends, as well as the deserving scholarship recipients, will continue his legacy," his immediate family said.

Huiracocha had been studying forensic psychology at Kean. He also participated in the Newark and Bloomfield Police Explorer programs, a career preparation program for youth interested in law enforcement. Robert held two jobs, one of which was as a security guard. He was dedicated to doing all that he could to prepare for a future in public service. "It was his dream," his family said. "It was always what he wanted to do; he wanted to help people."

In addition to his academic and career pursuits, Huiracocha is remembered as a loving son and "best friend" to his parents. He was a caring and devoted brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend to many, as evidenced by those who have come together to create this scholarship in his honor.

The Kean University Foundation is grateful for this thoughtful gift in Huiracocha's name. It will make a positive impact on others who are endeavoring to achieve similar career goals.

To find out more about scholarship giving at the Foundation, to contribute to the Robert A. Huiracocha Scholarship or to learn more about making a gift in your area of interest, please contact KUF Philanthropy Officer Eileen Cotter via email at ecotter@keanfoundation.org.

Kean University's 2023 Homecoming Weekend



The forecast couldn't dampen the spirits of the Kean University students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members who came out and showed their Cougar Pride during a rainy Homecoming weekend on Kean's main campus in Union, NJ.

The campus was a sea of Kean sweatshirts, hats and other gear as the crowd enjoyed carnival games, inflatable obstacle courses and bumper cars, photo booths, music, food trucks and more, both inside Harwood Arena and outdoors in the surrounding parking lots. Students manned tents with their Greek life organizations and clubs, offering snacks, photo opportunities and other fun activities.

Hundreds of Kean alumni came back to campus to reconnect with friends and check in on the latest developments at their alma mater.

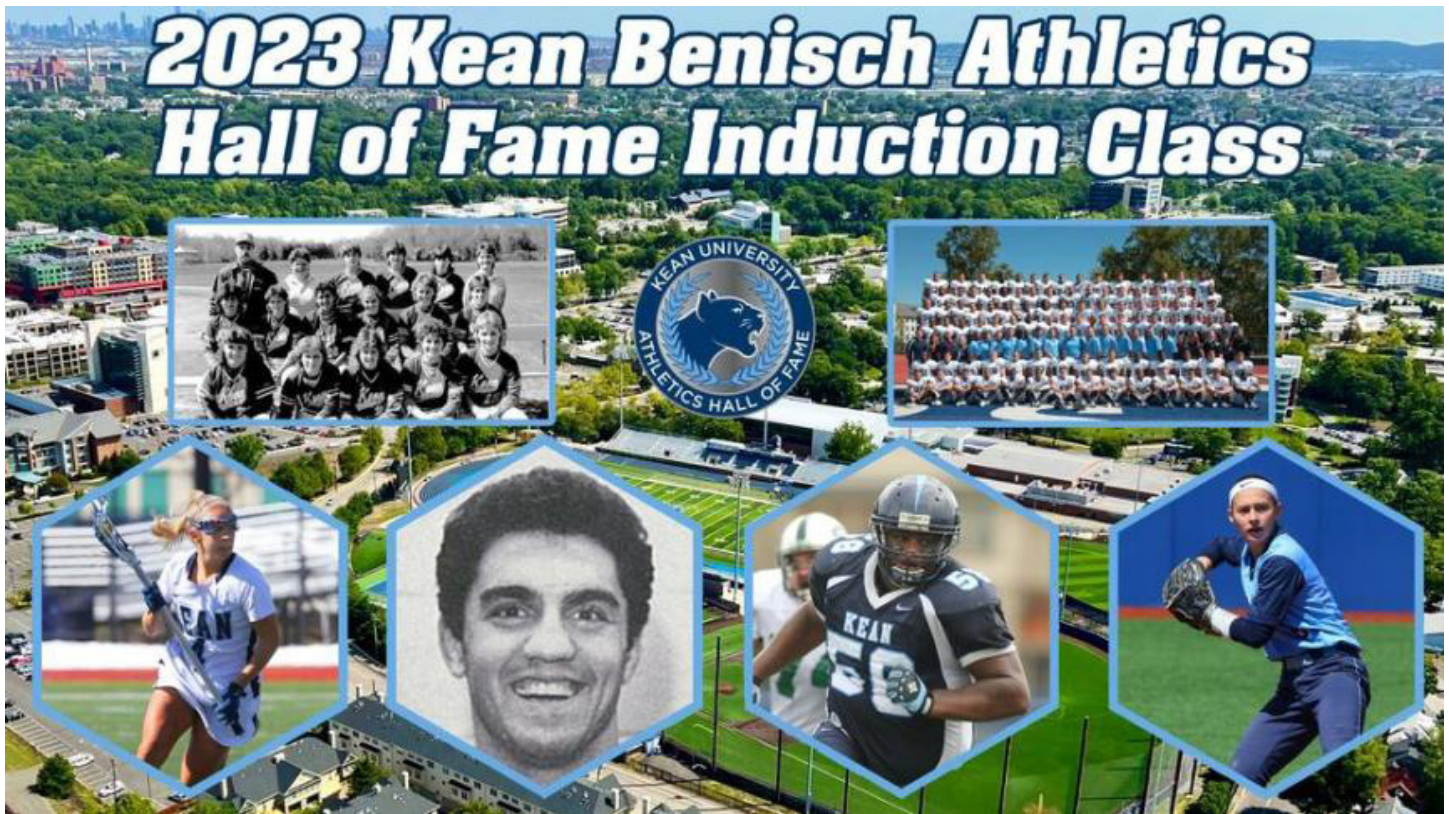
Denis Llagami '20 '21, of Kenilworth, studied accounting at Kean, and was making his second visit to Kean in the last few weeks. He represented his company at a recent Kean career day. "It's a full circle moment for me," Llagami said. "I remember being on the other side just a few years ago. I remember the people who were helpful to me when I was at Kean."

"I come every year," said Catherine Colon '03 '16, who lives and teaches in Elizabeth. "I've been bringing my kids since they were born to promote how important it is to get a higher education. I have wonderful memories of Kean University."

[Click here](#) to watch some more highlights from Kean's Homecoming weekend!



Kean University Department of Athletics Holds Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



On October 15, 2023, the Kean University Department of Athletics hosted their biennial event to induct four standout Kean alumni - two athletes and two distinguished teams - into the Benisch Athletics Hall of Fame.

New this year, Kean Athletics added the Pat and D'Ann Ippolito Legacy Award. The award is named after Patrick "Pat" Ippolito '62 '65 M.A., a Hall of Fame inductee, former soccer player, NCAA faculty athletics representative and Kean's longest-serving faculty member – and his late wife D'Ann Ippolito.

The annual award, presented to five recipients this year, recognizes individuals outside of the athletics department who made substantial and enduring contributions to the department and University.

The sold out event proved to be the perfect end to a great homecoming weekend.

[Click here](#) to see the full list of this year's inductees!

Kean University Alumni Association Honors Pair of Respected Alumni

The Kean University Alumni Association recently paid tribute to two long-time members of their board with a donation of \$10,000. This donation will be used to start two scholarship funds in memory of Donna Madrigal '88 '91 and Anthony (Tony) Brennan '81.

"The Alumni Association has always been a great advocate in advancing the work of Kean University. The addition of The Donna Madrigal and The Tony Brennan Scholarships is not only a testament to the association's generosity, but it also speaks to its dedication to Kean students," said Bill Miller, chief executive officer of the Kean University Foundation. "The Kean University The Kean University Foundation is grateful for the Alumni Association's support in both Donna and Tony's names."

Scholarships and The Tony Brennan Scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 to four students who are active on campus and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

"With these new scholarships, the Alumni Association honors two distinguished Board members, Donna Madrigal and Tony Brennan, who each served on the Alumni Board for more than 20 years. Their dedication to the students and Kean University will be remembered for a long time," said Ed Esposito '69 '72, President of the Kean University Alumni Association.



Meet One of the Newest Members of the Kean University Foundation Board of Directors



The Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors is a distinguished group of professionals who generously offer their time and expertise in support of the University. As such, we are pleased to introduce one of the Board's newest members: Christina Carey Dunleavy '98, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Foundation.

Dunleavy began her career in the entertainment industry at Viacom, where she worked in special events and programming. She relocated to the Los Angeles area of California and took on roles at Studio City and Imaginary Forces, where she held roles as production coordinator, writer/producer and associate producer, respectively. Dunleavy eventually moved on to ABC Family (now Freeform), an affiliate of Walt Disney Television where she held numerous roles within On-Air Promotions.

In 2004, Dunleavy continued her tenure with Walt Disney Television as director of on-air promotions for ABC, which included linear, mobile programming and digital content, and then creative director at ABC. As creative director, she created, executed and managed overall strategy, branding, positioning and content for marketing initiatives, advertising sales, product launches, events and corporate initiatives.

Dunleavy relocated to Dublin, Ireland, to attend UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in which she earned her MBA degree. During her time in Dublin, she spent nearly two years as head of marketing and brand strategy for RTE, Ireland's national public service media, a role which included management of portfolio marketing and strategy to

drive big picture brand vision that positioned the business units as leaders in the evolving media landscape. In 2012, Dunleavy established her own marketing and brand consulting agency, affording her the opportunity to work with many great partners like Philanthropy Ireland, Publicis, Parentline and LauraLynn House.

Dunleavy returned to the United States in 2014 and, in the years that followed, held multiple positions in entertainment including director of CreativeWorks at ESPN (New York), vice president of client partnerships at NBCUniversal Media, LLC (California) and vice president of portfolio integrated marketing and partnerships at Discovery, Inc. In April 2021, Dunleavy returned to The Walt Disney Company where she is presently vice president of Disney CreativeWorks, Entertainment Solutions, and multicultural and inclusive marketing.

Dunleavy is an avid supporter of Kean University and the Kean University Foundation, having established The Shaw Scholarship for Educational Advancement and Empowerment. "I'm incredibly grateful for my time at Kean University. It proved to be a foundational experience, filled with amazing friendships, academic excellence and endless support," she said. The journey truly set me on my professional path. My hope, as part of the Kean University Foundation's Board of Directors, is to further empower students to achieve their goals through education and opportunity.

In September 2022, Dunleavy received a Kean Distinguished Alumni Award at the University's inaugural President's Alumni Ball. Additionally, effective January 16th, 2024, she will serve as an Adjunct Professor at Kean University in the Department of Marketing, Global Business and Economics.

Corporate and Foundation Relations Awareness

A donor-advised fund, or DAF, is a charitable investment account for the sole purpose of supporting charitable organizations you care about – like the Kean University Foundation!

When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a DAF at a public charity, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Those funds can then be invested for tax-free growth, and you can recommend grants to any eligible IRS-qualified public charity.

Donor-advised funds are the fastest-growing charitable giving vehicle in the United States because they are one of the easiest and most tax-advantageous ways to give to charity. A contribution to a DAF is an irrevocable commitment to charity; the funds cannot be returned to the donor or any other individual or used for any purpose other than grantmaking to charities. Most sponsoring organizations have investment options that permit the holder of the DAF to make investments strategies that can potentially help grow your donation, tax-free!



To learn more about donor-advised funds, contact Edward Ahart, Chief Development Officer, at eahart@keanfoundation.org or via phone at (908) 721-7056.

Student Spotlight: Glynnis Tan

Senior Glynnis Tan decided to attend Kean University because of its unique global business program. With the promise of traveling and studying abroad, it was too good of an opportunity to pass by. However, once she stepped foot on campus and took a tour, Tan fell more in love with Kean. She knew this was where she needed to be.

Tan is an active member of the Kean student body. She has been the president of three honor societies at Kean: Tau Sigma National Honor Society, The National Society of Leadership and Success, and The National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars. Tan is also serving as senior class president for the Student Government Association's Class of 2023.

During her time at Kean, Tan founded the Business Analytics Student Association and the Content Creation Network. She served as vice president for the Business Research Society and the Human Resource Management Club, as well as director of public relations for the Kean Union Accounting Association, United Nations Association and Content Creation Network. Tan has also been part of the Healthcare Occupation Society of America Fundraising Committee, a supplemental instructor for math, business pre-calculus, and the Supplemental Instruction Team Lead for principals of accounting.

And that's not all! Tan is the student representative for the new Navigate App and the University Senate. She is also attempting to revive two more organizations on campus: FINE (The Finance and Economics Club) and the GBO (Global Business Organization). It's evident that Glynnis loves to stay active and remain involved with ongoing at Kean.

As part of the global business program at Kean, Tan traveled abroad to South Korea, which, she said, is one of her favorite memories at Kean. She was able to gain a sense of self and solidify what she wanted to do after graduation. It is thanks to Kean University that Tan was able to participate in such a unique and beautiful experience and grow into the person she has become.

"My time here at Kean University is the best I have ever had, and I would not trade it for the world. I have made many friends I now call family," Tan said. "I've found my purpose and am thankful to Kean University and everyone in it."

Kean truly helps its students climb Higher and the Kean University Foundation is glad that Tan is part of the Kean Cougar family.



*"I love to stay active
and get involved with
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Yeah Baby Golf Classic



The Yeah Baby Golf Classic, an annual event hosted by the Yeah Baby Foundation, was a resounding success, having brought 136 dedicated golfers and more than 30 guests together for a day of camaraderie and competition.

Established in tribute to beloved Kean University Lacrosse Assistant Coach Michael J. Cleary, the Yeah Baby Foundation showcases the spirit of the community that surrounded him – and this year's golf outing did not disappoint! The competition came down to an intense “putt-off” that kept participants on the edge of their seats. Ultimately, the victorious quartet emerged, with Kean University faculty/staff and alumni Matt Caruso '99 '04 M.A., Pat Ippolito '62 '65 M.A., Chris Rustick '02, and Joey Moran '02 holding the trophy. Their triumph not only added an exciting element to the event but also served as a fitting tribute to the enduring legacy of Coach Cleary, whose memory was honored by family and friends.





Extra! Extra! Kean University in the News!

Kean University Receives NSF Grant to Accelerate Innovation

[CLICK HERE](#)

Kean Using Data from 'Vitality Index' to Support Student, Faculty and Staff Well-Being

[CLICK HERE](#)

ILSE at Kean Announces \$4 Million in Federal Awards to Three Companies

[CLICK HERE](#)

Kean Public Affairs Alumni Offer Students Expertise in Government

[CLICK HERE](#)

Consider Including a Charitable Bequest in Your Will or Trust



“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

– Anne Frank

Including a charitable bequest in your will or trust to benefit the Kean University Foundation is one of the simplest ways to leave a legacy while making an impact on future generations of students at Kean University.

Charitable bequests may be made in several ways:

- **Percentage Bequest** - A percentage bequest is one of the most popular and preferred ways to include the Kean University Foundation in your will or trust. The benefit of this type of bequest is that it allows the amount given to charity to increase or decrease based upon the value of your final estate. Including a percentage bequest in your estate plan is an equitable and balanced approach which ensures that your wishes to support Kean University are carried out while also ensuring that there are sufficient assets remaining for other beneficiaries named in your estate plan.
- **Specific Bequest** - A specific bequest may be the right solution for you if you wish to gift a specific dollar amount or a specific asset to the Kean University Foundation through your will or trust. This type of bequest is popular among donors who want to provide a charitable gift of a predetermined dollar amount or gift a piece of tangible property.
- **Residual bequest** - A residual bequest is a gift made from the balance (residue) of your final estate after all other assets are divided among your heirs and other charities, and after all debts are paid. Often, your final estate may include overlooked or unclaimed assets which are not specifically named in your will or trust because these may have been acquired after you finalized your estate plan. Including a residual bequest in your will or trust helps to ensure that all assets are divided in accordance with your wishes and not left for the probate court to decide.

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

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



A New Year Brings New Opportunities

A new year brings about new and exciting reasons to support the students of Kean University. From providing funding for scholarships to enhancing academic and athletic programs; from enriching student life to helping maintain state-of-the-art facilities, your support will directly benefit the day-to-day activities of every current and future Cougar.

As you continue to celebrate the new year, we hope you will click the link below and make a gift in support of Kean's students. Remember, every gift makes a difference!

We thank you for your consideration and generosity. Go Cougars!

[MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!](#)

click here 

Questions? Comments?

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