Letter from the Dean

In 1962, President Franklin F. Moore's vision of transforming Rider from a Business School to a Liberal Arts College became a reality with the creation of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (SLAS). This was an extraordinary milestone that changed the face of the University forever.

SLAS started with a few programs (journalism, biology, behavioral sciences, English, history) and a few students, (less than 13 percent of the student body), and grew through the years with innovation to adapt to world changes. Today, the College of Liberal Arts, Education and Sciences (CLAES) is Rider's largest academic division with more than 50 percent of our students. We offer programs in criminal justice, sustainability, global studies, gender and sexuality studies, homeland security and graphic design to name a few; and a master in applied psychology and a master in business communication.

Even more, the mission of the University has been shaped by CLAES. We prepare students to live ethical, responsible, productive and creative lives in a dramatically changing world. We foster in our students a disposition towards lifelong learning, a yearning for truth, a capacity to understand and express complex ideas, a growing imagination and a sense of responsibility for the ethical consequences of our actions.

We continue to shape Rider University transforming our students by providing them with a fuller life of the minds, inspiring them to question goals and values, and helping them to better understand themselves and their place in the world.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rider University, I believe our College will continue to change the face of the University moving forward, creating habits of mind that provide our students with a road-map for how to learn and how to organize ideas and the capacity for a better understanding of the structures that determine organization of power in one’s community and in the world, and a sense of how justice and equity can be enhanced by one’s personal choices.

To learn more, please come visit us at www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-liberal-arts-education-science/science-programs. Also, let me hear from you, by e-mail, phone, or by dropping in to say hello or to share stories for future CLAES News.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Mosto
Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences
pmosto@rider.edu • 609-896-5314

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Richard Butsch (SOC) published “Sociology and audience studies” in Media Sociology Polity Press, 2014.


Dr. Lucien J. Frary (HIS) co-edited From the Balkans to the Caucasus: Reconsiderations of the Eastern Question, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2014.

Dr. Sheena Howard (COM) was awarded a 2014 Eisner Award for her book, Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation.


Dr. A.J. Moore (COM) published “Multi-million dollar assistants” and “Heaven is still a playground” in Basketball Times Magazine, 2014.

Dean Patricia Mosto received the 2014 Women of Achievement Award from the Gloucester County Commission for Women (GCCW) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the profession.


New Initiatives in Liberal Arts and Sciences
Establishing New Areas of Study and Global Partnerships for the Greater Good

The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences is always looking for innovative programs that produce creative ferment in cutting-edge areas, combining rigorous intellectual standards with an ethical imperative to make a difference in the world.

Like all of our programs, any new offerings can be expected to provide engaging challenges and set expectations for serious academic commitment from students and faculty alike. The intellectual experiences we offer our students are career shaping; combining research collaborations, intensive seminars, internships and senior projects. Our new majors provide creative participation and flexibility, and will focus on complex problems, addressing real world social and ethical dynamics from diverse disciplinary and cultural perspectives.

Health care has, for decades, been a stable and profitable career choice. But health care reform, changes in reimbursement methods, government cuts and hospital debt are predicted to upend the health care economy. How will this era of accelerating change impact hiring and career planning? How can someone planning a career in health care anticipate and adapt to these rapid changes? To address some of these pressing questions, SLAS is working in new health-related programs including health sciences, health care policy, health communication, organizational behavior (in collaboration with the College of Business Administration), a certificate in Business for Professionals in the Sciences, and a certificate in Medicinal Chemistry. These new programs will put Rider at the forefront of the health care conversation in Central Jersey and beyond.

We are also planning to address the industrial needs of the region with a new certificate in Environmental Remediation and another in LEED Certification.

More than ever, in our daily lives, economic vitality and homeland security depend on stability, safety and resilience in cyberspace. We rely on this vast array of networks not only to communicate, but also to power our homes, run our economy and provide countless services for people, governments and industry. Yet cyber threats have increased dramatically over the last decade, exposing sensitive personal and business information, disrupting critical operations and imposing high costs on the economy. Preparing our students to understand and address these threats is another aspect of our new programming. We are developing a new master’s degree in homeland security with a track in cybersecurity that will position our students well in this complex landscape.

Additionally, as part of the global initiatives at Rider, SLAS has created a partnership with Banco Santander to train faculty at a number of universities in New Jersey to promote and re-create our global village course. The Student Global Village® (SGV®) facilitates mediated exchanges between university students from various academic disciplines via a web-based videoconferencing system. Rider has established partnerships with the American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt, the University of Dresden, Germany, Birzeit University on the West Bank, Notre Dame University in Beirut, Lebanon; Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, University of Kufa in Najaf, Iraq; and the University of Ulster in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Since its inception, SGV® has brought prestige to Rider. Now, through The Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) and Banco Santander, Rider will expand this initiative. The SGV® will foster global proficiency through ongoing and vibrant mediated dialogues among students from different cultures, academic disciplines, professional levels and perspectives.

In short, the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Rider is looking ahead to celebrate the traditions of our past. Continued excellence in new areas is our goal. We would love to hear from you, especially if you have professional experience and/or expertise in any of the above discussed areas.
Past, Present and Future
The Blossoming of Our University from the Perspective of One of Our Own
By Dr. Pamela A. Brown '73, professor and chairperson, C&J

Each workday when I turn my car into the main entrance of Rider University, I delight in the abundant trees and glorious flowerbeds that line the roadways. I never take them for granted because I well recall when they were not here. To me, the beautified campus might be viewed as a metaphor for all that has blossomed academically at Rider in its 150-year history. I personally have had a close-up view of—dare I say it—45 of those years, the past 34 of them as a faculty member.

In 1969 when I entered Rider College as a freshman, I lived in Wright A dormitory and studied journalism (my first journalism class did not even provide typewriters; we wrote our fledgling news stories in longhand. Today, our journalism students have three computer labs.) Back then, the campus had one noteworthy tree, a grand elm beside Moore Library, and no flowerbeds to speak of. As a student in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I supplemented my journalism classes with literature, political science and history courses, all traditional college disciplines and all of which I found challenging and engaging. Still, at my alma mater, Rider College, there were fewer buildings, fewer cozy places to sit outdoors and enjoy nature while reading or socializing, and most important of all, fewer areas to study. And, of course, there was no Princeton campus; Rider didn’t merge with Westminster Choir College until 1992. Two years later, Rider became a university.

I’ve had the privilege and the pleasure of teaching on both the Lawrenceville and Princeton campuses, and I wonder at all today’s Rider students have to choose among. Today’s Rider is worthy of the “university” designation that it acquired in 1994. Those traditional disciplines frequently merge into fascinating integrations of knowledge and ideas. Students now can enrich their curriculum with choices like sports studies, law and justice, popular music culture, global studies and health communication, all featuring courses in multiple disciplines while also erasing the once hard lines between schools, now colleges. Further, many areas of study also offer internships and co-op experiences. In communication and journalism, as many as 40 students every semester are gaining experience and building their portfolios working at sports teams, magazines, public relations firms, television networks, newspapers, radio stations, social media, among other businesses. In addition, the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences now offers master’s degrees, including the one I’m so proud of, the Master of Arts in Business Communication.

Rider today is a veritable cornucopia of opportunities for the intellectual growth and professional development students need to build a productive and satisfying life. The vital center of it all is the richness of the liberal arts education Rider’s LAS faculty endeavor to share with students through the ongoing crafting of stimulating course content, the honing of thoughtful pedagogy and the encouragement of active learning. I believe that vital center has only gotten stronger since I first arrived on campus so long ago. And I can’t wait to see what the future will bring.

As a student in the early 70’s, Dr. Brown was a theatre reviewer for the Rider News.
New Faculty Bios

**Dr. John Bochanski**

**Department:** Chemistry  
**Degrees:** Ph.D., M.S. – University of Washington (Astronomy)  
B.S. – Villanova University (Astronomy and Astrophysics)  
**Research:** Post-docs at MIT, Penn State and Haverford College. Research on using large surveys of the night sky to study the structure and evolution of the Milky Way.  
**Teaching Interests:** General physics and astronomy

**Dr. Janani Umamaheswar**

**Department:** Sociology (Criminal Justice)  
**Degrees:** Ph.D. – Pennsylvania State University (Criminology)  
M.A., B.A. – University of Toronto (Sociology)  
**Research:** Her scholarship centers on crime and deviance, criminal justice, punishment, and the life course.  
**Teaching Interests:** Theories of deviance and crime, criminology.

**Dr. Jacoba Incollingo**

**Department:** Communication and Journalism  
**Degrees:** Ph.D., M.A. – Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland (Journalism)  
B.A. – Connecticut College (History and Government)  
**Research:** As a former newspaper reporter and Washington correspondent, her academic research examines user engagement with mobile news content from newspapers.  
**Teaching Interests:** News and feature writing, literary journalism, multimedia and mobile journalism.

**Dr. Laurel Harris**

**Department:** English  
**Degrees:** Ph.D. – City University of New York (English)  
B.A. – Oberlin College (English)  
**Research:** Research interests include Anglophone and British modernism, the relationship between fiction and film in the early 20th century, sound technologies and literary modernism, and modernist women writers.  
**Teaching Interests:** Composition, introductory courses in film and literature, and 20th- and 21st-century literature.

**Dr. Kelly Ross**

**Department:** English  
**Degrees:** Ph.D., M.S. – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (American Literature)  
B.A. – The College of William and Mary (English)  
**Research:** She is currently revising her book manuscript, *Marks and Traces: The Origins of Literary Detection in the Antebellum United States*.  
**Teaching Interests:** 19th and 20th-century American Literature, detective fiction, poetry, African American literature, and American studies.