Rosemary Fliszar Heads New RN to BSN Program

By David J. Parlab
When Rosemary Fliszar saw a listing from Rider University seeking a director for the RN to BSN program, it was an opportunity that she couldn’t pass up.

“I’ve been a nurse for over 40 years and I’ve been teaching for 25,” Fliszar says. “I was at a point in my career where when I saw the advertisement for this position at Rider, I felt that I was highly qualified. I felt this would be an opportunity and a challenge for me to help move the program to a really good place so that RNs would want to attend Rider for their BSN studies.”

The RN to BSN program is designed to further the skills of licensed registered nurses. The capstone course for the program requires students to use previous knowledge and experience to design a program relevant to today’s healthcare and patient needs. This project can be used within one’s own practice of nursing to effect possible change in the institution, according to Sean Levine, director of the College of Continuing Studies.

“The program is designed for registered nurses who have graduated from community college or a hospital-based diploma program and now wish to go back and get their bachelor of science degrees in nursing,” Fliszar says. “This all came about because studies have shown that a nurse with a bachelor’s degree has been found to be better prepared and the outcomes says, ‘This all came about because studies have shown that a nurse with a bachelor’s degree has been found to be better prepared and the outcomes

The program’s first major goal is to get the program accredited through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. I would also like to see the program grow in enrollment,” she explains. “Eventually, I would like to develop additional nursing programs in the form of a master’s degree, and possibly a doctorate of nursing practice.”

An aspect of the program beneficial to students is the flexibility of classes, an item that was of particular interest to Fliszar.

“Even though the program is online, we have people throughout the College of Continuing Studies like myself who can meet with students, answer questions and give them a sense of belonging—a lot of other online programs do not offer this face to face interaction,” Fliszar says. “We are also willing to go to their institution and meet with them. We are trying to make the experience as accommodating as possible. We are very student-oriented, friendly and transparent in both what students need to do to succeed and what our expectations are.”

As the program evolves, Fliszar hopes it will attract RN’s from all around the area, while also growing the opportunities available to current students.

Science has a profound influence in our culture. Email, cell phones and text messaging have changed the way in which people communicate. Medical advances and technology have created entire communities where people connect with each other through computers. The effect of all these changes has a significant impact on our daily lives, human interaction and human behavior.

Rider University’s science departments believe that students need to not only understand the process of science but also grasp the impact of science and technology. An approach that will prepare them best to design and implement innovations that improve life quality and minimize world conflicts, as well as addres the challenges the scientific community will face in the future.

Given this new scientific and technological complex landscape, it is clear that students should develop expertise in a particular science while at the same time building an understanding of the links among the sciences. Employers frequently report that they have the internal capacity to teach students technological skills, but what they need are workers who have experience with evaluating data, developing strong arguments, and using the scientific method.

Rider University embraces this perspective and prepares students both technically and professionally. The personal attention Rider offers students is the catalyst for scientific understanding and growth. Our students are our collaborators, working side by side with faculty in the lab, acting as curators on peer-reviewed publications and presenting their scientific work at national and regional scientific meetings. We infuse in our students the value of studying science because of the important role it plays, and will always play, in our lives.

These experiences prepare them for the work-place, graduate education and ultimately, scientific leadership.

As we combine our renowned liberal arts education with excellent scientific training, our students are best positioned for a lifetime of learning and the leadership positions they will take in the variety of fields of science and technology the future will bring. Rider students are doing science every day to understand tomorrow’s scientific challenges, as you will read in the articles in this newsletter.

To learn more, please come visit us at http://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-of-liberal-arts-education-science-science-programs. Also, let me hear from you by e-mail, phone, or by dropping in to say hello, and don’t hesitate to share news for future CLAES newsletters.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Mero
Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Dan Druckenbrod obtained support for the Sustainability Studies Program from the Springer Publishing company; they will be providing textbooks for the introductory course free of charge as well as sponsoring a scholarship for student internships. Along with former student N. Chakowski, he also published “Dendrochronological Dating of Two Tulip Poplars on the West Lawn of Monticello” in Tree-Ring Research 70(1) in 2014.


Dr. Jonathan Husch published the article “Mineralogical and Anthropogenic Controls of Stream Water Chemistry in Salted Watersheds” in the Journal of Applied Geochemistry in 2013.

Dr. Jason McCallough has an American Mathematical Society-Simons travel grant for 2014–2015.

Dr. James Riggs in the Department of Biology was awarded a $364,000 grant by the National Institutes of Health for a grant proposal entitled, “EPO Increases Macrophage Suppression.”
**Science Career Bootcamp**

Bootcamp teaches future scientists how to thrive in the workplace

By Adam Grybowski

The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences hosted a weeklong event for science majors intent on building successful careers. Briana Lettsome '16 knew she wanted to work in government. But doing what? Looking for direction, the biochemistry major attended the Science Career Bootcamp hosted by Rider’s School of Liberal Arts and Sciences this past January.

Dr. Laura Hyatt, associate dean of CLAES (Science), and Gary Nath ’66, owner of Nath, Goldberg & Meyer and chair of the School’s Science Advisory Board, worked together to create the bootcamp as a way to help students like Lettsome choose a career, land a job and understand the expectations of professional behavior.

When Briana asked Hyatt and Nath for direction, they recommended she consider the Centers for Disease Control as a viable option. From that conversation, Lettsome shaped her vague notion of a possible career into a specific goal. “I had an idea, but no way to put a name to it,” she says. Now, she’s determined to work as an environmental scientist.

“Although Lettsome speaks confidently about the direction of her career, she says the event revealed the variety of options a science education holds. ‘I figured if you’re a science major, you automatically go into the sciences,’” she says. “This opened my eyes that you can go into business or into law if you decide that you don’t want to go work in a lab.”

**Alumnus Forges New Scientific Law**

Gary Nath’s science education helped make him an expert in intellectual property law

By Adam Grybowski

Thousands of technologies have crossed the desk of Gary Nath ’66 during his 21-year career as managing partner of Nath, Goldberg & Meyer. The firm, which specializes in intellectual property law, provides expertise on some of science’s most promising advances.

Before his career pivoted toward law, Nath had never even heard of one of the cornerstones of intellectual property, patents. “I didn’t understand what they were used for, why you would get them or who would get them,” he says.

However, Rider prepared Nath well for understanding the science behind patented technologies. Now the chair of the University’s Science Advisory Board, he studied chemistry and biology at Rider; harnessing his education to pursue a scientific career outside of the typical fields of research, academia and medicine.

After earning his degree, the Trenton native began doctoral studies in biochemistry at Temple University while teaching biology and chemistry at Trenton High School. Nath’s advanced science studies effectively ended when he began his patent career as an examiner in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That turn came after visiting the research center of David Sarnoff, the president of RCA for much of the 20th century.

Located in West Windsor, the research center made its mark by innovating technology for consumer electronics and telecommunications. The facility incubated the work of a Nobel Prize winner, Herbert Kroemer, and the company pioneered technology that remains familiar today, such as color television, LEDs and liquid crystal displays.

Patents play an important role in protecting the competitive advantage of companies like RCA. After investing potentially ample amounts of time and large sums of money to create new products and technologies, companies patent them to create what is essentially a limited monopoly that they can exploit in the marketplace. “The only effective way to do that is to patent the product or technology,” Nath says.

Meeting people who worked in RCA’s patent department altered Nath’s conception of what was possible with a science degree. After the visit, “I became conscious of the opportunity for scientists to be intimately involved with sciences through a different career path,” he says.

Nath took a job in the USPTO in 1969, when he also enrolled in law school at American College’s Washington College of Law. He went on to work as a patent attorney at FMG Corporation and then as general counsel for Warner-Lambert Company before founding the Nath Law Group in 1993. Working with clients all over the world, the firm is based in Alexandria, Va., in Old Town, the city’s historic center, and also has an office in the San Diego, Calif., area.

Nath, who lives in Maryland with his wife, Judith, joined the School’s Science Advisory Board in the early ’90s and now serves as its chair. His contributions to the Science Initiatives Fund helped the University renovate the Science and Technology Building, where, on the ground floor, a laboratory is named after him and Judith.

Most recently, he was a catalyst behind the science career bootcamp to help students find a focus for their career by exposing them to options outside of the lab. In addition to working with Dr. Laura Hyatt, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Sciences, to create the weeklong event, he made several presentations during the bootcamp.

“All of us, no matter what our profession, have needed others to get where we are,” he says. “We all have to rely on the people who came before us. Rider has been extremely instrumental in enabling me to become who I am.”