

Livi @50

*A Celebration of
Livingston College's
50th Anniversary*



*Friday, October 25, 2019 • 4:00 p.m.
James Dickson Carr Library*



RUTGERS
University Libraries

Program

Welcome from Rutgers– New Brunswick Libraries

Dee Magnoni
Assistant Vice President for
Information Services and Director,
New Brunswick Libraries

Chancellor's Welcome

Christopher J. Molloy
Chancellor, Rutgers–New
Brunswick

Greetings from the Livingston Alumni Association

Eric Schwarz, LC'92, SCILS'92,'07
Past President, Livingston Alumni
Association

Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award Presentation

Eshan Kaul, SEBS'19, RWJMS'22

Panel Discussion
Moderated by Erika Gorder,
Archivist, Special Collections and
University Archives

Noah Hart Jr., LC'73, GSED'88
Coordinator of First Year
Advising, Monmouth University

Robert W. Snyder, LC'77
Professor of Journalism and
American Studies, Rutgers–
Newark

Staci Berger, LC'94
President and CEO, Housing
and Community Development
Network of New Jersey

Reception & Exhibit Viewing

Carr Library Reading Room

**Livingston
College**

Cover: Workers unload mattresses at the first campus quadrangle on September 5, 1969 as (from l.) assistant dean Phillip Garcia and dean Ernest A. Lynton discuss plans for the college opening with two students, Judy Brynes and Timothy Harris.

Livingston at Fifty

By Robert W. Snyder, LC '77

One book from my college days occupies a place of honor in my home: a black paperback college catalog, published in 1972, called “this is Livingston.”

Its title page presents a quote from the abolitionist Frederick Douglass: “Those who profess to favor freedom yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing the ground; want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters.”

Inside the catalog, founding dean Ernest A. Lynton explains that Livingston offers “a liberating education” to understand and change the society around us. “Only through such understanding,” he concludes, “can an individual hope to bring about change; only in this way can a person be, even to some extent, in control of his or her own destiny.”

When I was in high school, that catalog worried my mother. But it drew me to Livingston like a magnet and has kept me thinking about the college ever since.

Livingston, which opened its doors in 1969, was a challenging but rewarding school because it tried to reconcile opposites.

Our professors included international scholars and street-smart activists. Our courses blended theory and practice. Our classrooms held students with solid high school educations and students who were denied a just measure of learning.

We studied with many different kinds of people. Opinions were sharp

and emotions ran strong. But if you embraced Livingston’s challenges, you learned something about yourself and the world.

Livingston, it must be said, suffered from conflicted goals, extravagant hopes, underdeveloped facilities, and a relationship to the rest of Rutgers that smacked of colonialism. But it was always much more than the sum of its differences.

Today, university centralization has erased Livingston as a college. But Livingston’s history is still relevant.

As liberal arts education is under siege, Livingston’s history shows how to contemplate the world and work to change it.

As higher education wrestles with educating first-generation college students from diverse backgrounds, we can learn from how Livingston took up that task.

As college courses are increasingly taught by poorly paid part-time adjuncts, Livingston’s history shows the benefits of learning with excellent full-time professors.

Rutgers today is a much more open and diverse university than it was when Livingston opened. It is sometimes even said that Rutgers has become what Livingston was.

If that is true, it’s a good thing. And an opportunity to learn from Livingston’s past to build a better future for Rutgers.

Robert W. Snyder is a professor of Journalism and American Studies at Rutgers University-Newark.

Livingston through the Years

Mid-1960s

Rutgers acquires 540 acres of the former Camp Kilmer base from the federal government (1964). Livingston College is founded, with Ernest Lynton as its first dean (1965–73).

Early 1970s

Campus buildings open: Quads I and III, Towers dorms, Tillett Hall (including campus center and dining hall), Kilmer (Carr) Library, New Academic Building (Lucy Stone Hall) (1970–72). Intercollegiate men's football and baseball, cheerleading, co-ed intramural baseball, AM radio broadcasts begin (1970–71).

1969

College opens in September, with about 700 students. Nearly one in three students was a minority, and students were included as voting members of the college assembly. Quad II dorm opens. First student newspaper, *Fango*.

1973

First full graduating class: 80% white, 15% black, 3% Puerto Rican, and 2% Asian. George Carey is acting dean (1973–1974). Black students take over Carey's office, demanding the resignation of the dean of student affairs and more student services. Four days later, 350 black, white, and Puerto Rican Rutgers University students pack the Board of Governors meeting to support the demands of Livingston's black students.

Livingston College was founded in 1965, and opened in 1969, at Rutgers University's Kilmer Campus (renamed as Livingston Campus in 1991) in Piscataway, New Jersey. It brought together students, faculty, and staff in a shared-learning community committed to the pursuit of academic innovation and excellence. Livingston College had the distinction of being Rutgers-New Brunswick's first coeducational undergraduate residential college for the liberal arts.

Dedicated to expanding opportunities for its students, the college fulfilled its mission through its core curriculum, its minor in organizational leadership, its internship programs, and its student life activities. Livingston offered students the personal attention of a small college community within a major research institution.



Late 1970s

Emmanuel George Mesthene is dean (1974–77). Livingston College Association of Graduates (LCAG) is formed (1975–76); later renamed as Livingston Alumni Association (LAA). Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) opens (1977). W. Robert Jenkins is dean (1977–1990).

1990-1999

University renames campus to “Livingston” following a student campaign (1991). Arnold G. Hyndman serves as final dean (1993–2007). First Livingston Theatre Company production (1999).

2010-2019

LSC renovated and expanded; Livingston College holds final commencement of students admitted pre-merger (2010). Livingston Dining Commons and Livingston Apartments open (2011). Livingston Apartments open (2012). The Plaza retail complex and Rutgers Business School building open (2013). RWJBarnabas Health Athletic Performance Center opens (2019).

1980s

Rutgers merges the faculties of the liberal arts schools in New Brunswick, largely muting Livingston’s academic autonomy (1980). Livingston Student Center (LSC) opens (1986).

2000-2009

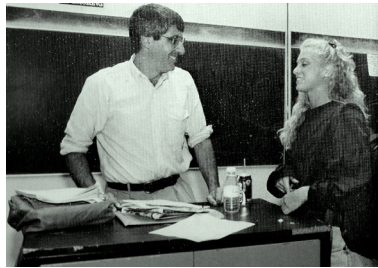
University and Piscataway High School begin broadcasting at 90.3 FM (2000). Rutgers merges Livingston, Rutgers, Douglass, and University colleges in New Brunswick into the School of Arts and Sciences, and Livingston College officially ends (2007).

Livingston College offered an undergraduate education that prepared students to think critically and to act responsibly in the contemporary world. The college offered the broadest possible choice at the university, with more than 60 majors. Courses in fulfillment of distribution requirements gave students experience in the humanities, natural and social sciences, and quantitative and analytical studies. Livingston College students were also introduced to the diversity of world cultures as they developed insight into the origins and character of contemporary national and global issues.

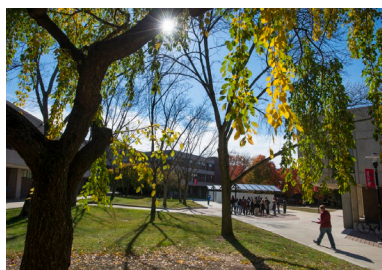
Rutgers’ new School of Arts and Sciences enrolled its first students for the fall 2007 semester, replacing the New Brunswick-area liberal arts undergraduate colleges, including Livingston College. Livingston’s final commencement as a separate college was held in 2010. Learn more at livingstonalumni.org/history.



Innovation in Education



Through December 2019, Carr Library is exhibiting items from the University Archives on the history of Livingston as a college and campus. The 50th anniversary celebration continues in the spring with the Livingston College Distinguished Alumni Awards on Friday, April 24, 2020. Learn more at livingstonalumni.org.



About the Livingston Alumni Association

The Livingston Alumni Association (LAA), founded in 1975-76 as the Livingston College Association of Graduates, is committed to connecting students, faculty, and alumni in a diverse learning community. The LAA provides numerous opportunities for Rutgers students, as well as stimulating programs and outreach opportunities that strengthen and enhance the connections among Livingston alumni, friends, faculty, administrators, staff, and students.



President: Jeffrey Armus; Vice Presidents: Rosemary Agrista, Stephen Yanick, Derek Young; Secretary: Iris Martinez-Campbell; Additional board members: Carla Alexander-Reilly, Joseph Capo, Jason Goldstein, Eric Schwarz.

About Rutgers University Libraries

Rutgers University Libraries support and enrich the instructional, research, and public service missions of Rutgers University through the stewardship of scholarly information and the delivery of information services.

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