



# Firefighter Kevin Apuzzio, LC'06, Gave His Life in the Line of Duty; Posthumously Honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2009

**Kevin Anthony Bernardo Apuzzio**, a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT), died on April 11, 2006, in the line of duty while attempting to rescue a woman in a house fire. He was 21, and the woman, Betty Scott, was 75. 


A month later, Rutgers University's Livingston College posthumously awarded him a bachelor's degree. Also in 2006, Apuzzio was presented posthumously with the Rutgers University Alumni Federation's Edward J. Bloustein Award for Community Service.

In [2009](#) the Livingston Alumni Association honored Apuzzio as a Seth Dvorin Distinguished Young Alumnus.

At age 16, Apuzzio, a lifelong resident of Union, New Jersey, had trained to become an EMT. In 2002 he graduated from Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. 

Apuzzio had worked as a part-time EMT in Rutgers Department of Emergency Services for more than three years, and for about two years as a volunteer firefighter with the [East Franklin Fire Department](#), Station 27, in Somerset, New Jersey, where he obtained his Firefighter 1 certification and was promoted to foreman.

Apuzzio, who had studied criminal justice at Rutgers, wanted to become a police officer in New York City. On the day of his death, his family received his police exam test results in the mail. Apuzzio achieved an almost perfect score of 99.6.

A 2009 tribute video to Apuzzio (embedded on this page) interweaves recollections from his parents and from Dan Krushinski, East Franklin Fire Chief. 

Joseph Apuzzio called his son a role model. "If he even knew you just a little bit, he'd do anything he could. ... He volunteered for just about anything."

At the fatal fire, Chief Krushinski said, Apuzzio answered the call and entered the burning house "without hesitation, without doubt in his mind."

His father also remembers taking Kevin fishing: “The first time I took him fishing, I guess he was 6, maybe 7 years old. And he caught a trout, a good size trout, OK? So he drags the trout onto the shore, and I got to pick it up and he saw where the hook was and he got very upset. He said he didn’t want to hurt the trout.”

Krushinski remembered Apuzzio as “a gentleman and easy-going, but he wanted to help people.”

“I think if you drove down (Interstate) 287 and passed five people with flat tires, he probably would have stopped and helped all five people change their tires.”

In 2007, one year to the day after Apuzzio’s passing, members of the Rutgers community and the Apuzzio family gathered in the university’s Public Safety Building to honor him by renaming the training facility the Kevin Apuzzio Training Center.

“Kevin personified the best of Rutgers students: hard work, community involvement and a desire to help others,” said Richard L. McCormick, then president of Rutgers. “We use this training center to prepare public safety personnel to serve and protect our community. It is only fitting that it bear Kevin’s name.”

In December 2013, the voting members of the East Franklin Fire Company established the Kevin A. Apuzzio Memorial Foundation to provide funds and support to student firefighters following in Apuzzio’s footsteps of community service. In June 2014, the foundation officially incorporated as a New Jersey nonprofit corporation. Funds raised support the foundation’s mission to carry on Apuzzio’s legacy through scholarships and outreach programs.

On the 10th anniversary of his death in 2016, friends and family remembered Apuzzio, with the Union Township Committee and the Union County Sheriff presenting commemorative resolutions to his family.

Apuzzio was survived by his parents, Joseph and Marili, and a sister, Leila. He is buried at Mount Olive Cemetery in Newark, New Jersey.

Read more about Apuzzio:

- *An EMT and selfless hero who was devoted to others (The Star-Ledger, April 12, 2006)*
- *A hero, a role model (Coverage of his funeral, April 19, 2006)*


*Watch the LAA’s interview and video tribute to Apuzzio (2 minutes, 32 seconds),*

embedded on this page, or open in a new window.

Photos courtesy of the Apuzzio family and the East Franklin Fire Department.

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## [Distinguished Alumna Martha Nell Smith, LC'77, Is an Emily Dickinson Scholar and Author](#)

**Martha Nell Smith** (LC'77) is a scholar who has focused her career on the life and work of Emily Dickinson, on American poetry, and on feminist and queer theory and criticism. 

In 2009 the Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) of Rutgers University honored Smith as a Distinguished Alumna. Smith additionally earned a Master of Arts (1982) and a Ph.D (1985), both in English, from Rutgers' Graduate School-New Brunswick.

As of 2021, Smith is a Professor of English, Distinguished Scholar-Teacher, and Founding Director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Her numerous print publications include five books on Dickinson:

- *Rowing in Eden: Rereading Emily Dickinson* (1992)
-  *Comic Power in Emily Dickinson*, coauthored with Suzanne Juhasz and Cristanne Miller (1993)
- *Open Me Carefully: Emily Dickinson's Intimate Letters to Susan Dickinson*, coauthored with Ellen Louise Hart (1998)
- *A Companion to Emily Dickinson* (2008), co-edited with Mary Loeffelholz
- *Emily Dickinson: A User's Guide* (2012, with a revised edition planned for publication in 2022)

Smith also has written more than 40 articles and essays in *American Literature*, *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Profils Americains*, *San Jose Studies*, *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, and *A Companion to Digital Humanities*.

Smith was an early proponent of using technology to advance scholarship, and in 1994 she began the Dickinson Electronic Archives.

At the Digital Humanities 2009 conference, hosted by MITH, Smith said: "Content counts first, and we use the technology, the technology does not use us."

"I am really interested in how we can import literary theory and philosophy and actually do something innovative in terms of knowledge-building. So as an editor I'm really interested in ways we can import social editing into scholarly editing."

In 2010, Smith was named a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher at the University of Maryland. In 2011 she was appointed ADVANCE Professor in the College of Arts and Humanities and in 2012 was appointed an ADVANCE Fellow. In May 2011, Smith was voted Chair-Elect of the University of Maryland Senate, and became Chair for the 2012-2013 term.

Smith transferred to Livingston College from Rutgers College as a senior, taking 39 credits at Livingston in the 1976-1977 academic year. In a 2009 interview and profile for the Distinguished Alumni Award, Smith says: "I often refer to the year I was at Livingston as the year I learned more than anyplace else.

"That passion and that belief that learning is crucial, vital and important, I carry with me to this day.

"Be generous, follow your intellectual passion, not what is trending but follow what you really want to do, and specifically for Livingston, never forget the legacy of serious-minded politics. ... Be great citizens, be fabulous students all throughout the rest of your life."


Follow Martha Nell Smith on Twitter.

*Watch the LAA's interview and video tribute to Smith (3 minutes, 13 seconds), embedded on this page, or open in a new window.*

*Photos: (top) Courtesy of University of Maryland; (bottom) From the 1977 Livingston College yearbook, The Rock, Volume II.*

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# Radio Journalist Marla Diamond, LC'92, Chronicles the Streets of New York; Honored as a Distinguished Alumna in 2009


Radio journalist **Marla Diamond** (LC'92) has been a mainstay on the WCBS Newsradio 880 staff since 1997. 

In 2009, the Livingston Alumni Association honored Diamond as a Distinguished Alumna.

Diamond joined WCBS as its New Jersey correspondent and currently covers New York City for the station.

Diamond's radio career started at New Brunswick's WCTC-AM 1450, where she served as a street reporter and anchor. She later served as morning anchor of WCTC's sister station WMGQ-FM 98.3.

Bruce Johnson remembered Diamond coming to him as a college student seeking a radio news internship.

"She seemed beyond her years as a college student, and I was struck by her immediately," Johnson said in a 2009 interview for LAA's tribute to Diamond.. "She ... just did everything exceedingly well," said Johnson, then the news and sports director for Greater Media New Jersey, which included WCTC, WMGQ and four other radio stations. 

In another interview, Tim Scheld, director of news and programming at WCBS Newsradio, calls Diamond one of the station's "best street reporters."

"She's not afraid to get down and dirty. She's not afraid what alley she's going to walk in," Scheld said.

"She knows how to tell a story, and there aren't that many people left in this world and in this business that can tell the story the way that the street reporters at CBS do."

For about a year, Diamond worked as media director for a hospital but, as she writes on her WCBS profile page, found that radio was indeed her calling, and successfully "begged for my job back."

"I have had the privilege to be a part of some of the city's biggest breaking news stories," Diamond writes. "I am often brought to tears by New Yorkers' random acts of kindness and courage. But I really enjoy the offbeat, the people

who give this city its pulse and craziness.”

Diamond has won numerous awards in her career at WCBS, including the Art Athens Award for General Excellence in radio reporting.


Watch the LAA’s interview and video tribute to Diamond (2 minutes, 24 seconds), embedded on this page, or open in a new window.

Follow Marla Diamond on Twitter.

*Photos of Marla Diamond: (top) Courtesy of Diamond; (bottom) From the 1992 Livingston College yearbook, Diversity: A Style of Our Own, Volume Two.*

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## [Distinguished Alumna Francoise Jacobsohn, LC’79, Is an Advocate for Women and Workers](#)

**Francoise Jacobsohn** (LC’79) has been an advocate for women and workers since the 1970s. 

**In 2009, the Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) honored her as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumna.**

As of 2023, Jacobsohn is the Court Compliance Officer with Sheet Metal Workers’ International Association Local Union No. 28 in New York City. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring that Local 28, and contractors employing its members, comply with a court order mandating workplaces free from discrimination.

She also has served as a member of the New York City Mayor’s Commission on Construction Opportunity, established in March 2005, to ensure that women and minorities gain access to work in the construction trades.

Jacobsohn previously served as the Project Manager at two organizations – Equal Rights Advocates and Equality Works – seeking to expand opportunities for women. Equality Works is Legal Momentum’s Economic Justice Program focusing on expanding women’s participation in high-paying non-traditional employment. 

Jacobsohn is a former president of the National Organization for Women-New York City (NOW-NYC). She also has worked on an institutional and community-building project for public education in Upper Manhattan.

At France's Political Science Institute, Jacobsohn taught a class on "Women, the Law and Public Opinion." She also worked for a European nonprofit focused on violence against women at the workplace, and helped set up one of the early battered women's shelters in New Jersey in the late 1970s.

"My everyday life is talking to women on the ground, finding out what needs to be done and figuring out how to get it done, and that is completely Livingston," Jacobsohn said in a 2009 interview. "You need to know who the people are, what people are doing on the ground, what are they thinking, what are their needs, what do they want. And if you don't ask there, then the policy you get is not going to really look like what you want it to look like."


She earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Rutgers' Livingston College in 1979, and a master of public administration degree in 2003 from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Watch the LAA's interview and video tribute to Jacobsohn (2 minutes, 9 seconds), embedded on this page, or open in a new window.

*Photos of Francoise Jacobsohn: (top) Courtesy of Jacobsohn; (bottom) From the 1980 Livingston College yearbook, The Rock, Volume IV. (This yearbook included photos of graduates from both 1979 and 1980.)*

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## [Dean Paula Van Riper Remembered; Honored with Memorial Bench on Livingston Campus](#)

Rutgers University has honored **Paula K. Van Riper**, a former assistant dean and director of advising for Rutgers' School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) and previously for Livingston College, with a tribute plaque erected on a bench outside the James Dickson Carr Library (formerly the Kilmer Library) on Livingston campus. 

Rutgers dedicated the plaque to Van Riper's memory at a ceremony on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

Van Riper, 67, of Branchburg, New Jersey, passed away on August 20, 2015, after a long struggle with multiple myeloma.

Van Riper had served as a dean at Rutgers in various roles since 1992. Prior to joining the university, Van Riper served on the Piscataway, New Jersey, Board of Education as a member, Vice President and President, and as President of the

PTA Presidents Council.

Diagnosed with myeloma in 1999, Van Riper founded the Central Jersey Multiple Myeloma Support Group, providing information, guidance, and support to many fellow patients and their families. She had spoken and written extensively in support of the myeloma community, and had appeared as its advocate before legislative bodies. She also started a yearly 5K race to support multiple myeloma research. In fall 2015, shortly after Van Riper's death, the proceeds from the race funded a research grant in her name.

A fund-raiser for Van Riper's memorial plaque, which ran from August 10-September 12, 2016, raised \$8,840, with \$7,000 earmarked for Rutgers and \$1,840 for scholarships for Piscataway High School students.

"Thousands of students remember her fondly as the advisor ready with a word of good advice, a smile and a gentle push forward," her colleague, SAS Assistant Dean Robin Diamond, said in a video explaining the fund-raising campaign (also embedded on this page). "Need someone to talk to who would give it to you straight while still caring about your experience? Paula was your person."

Among other accomplishments, Van Riper established a connection between the radio stations at Rutgers and Piscataway High School, allowing them to merge and serve both the university and the high school since 2000.

Garth Patterson, an academic advisor in SAS since its founding in 2007, remembers Van Riper as a professional mentor "and in uncountable ways, influenced my growth as a person."

Jason Goldstein, a 2002 alumnus of Livingston College, remembers Van Riper from an open house event he attended before entering college.

"As a dean, Paula Van Riper provided remarks, led a panel discussion, and provided insight when answering questions from the audience. She showcased her warmth, energy, and love for students, a disposition that represented Livingston College very well," said Goldstein, who is also a former President of the Livingston Alumni Association. "As an inquisitive high school student, I had a million questions. After the event ended, I approached Paula in the hallway to introduce myself and learn a little more. Paula spent what must have been a half hour with me and my parents sharing her passion for Livingston College and tips to be successful at Rutgers and in life. I felt there was now a face, with a beautiful smile, on this intimidating university."

Sabrina Laudent, an alumna from the SAS Class of 2015, remembers Van Riper as "thoughtful, kind, witty and very honest to me about everything.

"Dean Van Riper was thoughtful, kind, witty and very honest to me about everything. Dean Van Riper guided me through a lot of my academic and personal struggles, and was always willing to meet with me in between work and classes,"



said Laudent, a secretarial assistant at the Livingston Advising Center. "During each advising session she encouraged me to try harder and simply do better, and I always left feeling a little more confident in my abilities and myself.


"There were plenty of fun conversations too, about puppies, the weather and our hair. I loved everything about Dean Van Riper from the way she appreciated everyone around her, the way she spoke, the pretty scarves she wore, her cute green Prius, and the hugs she gave me before and after every long break."

Van Riper was born in 1947 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and graduated from Franklin High School in 1965. Van Riper earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Rider University in 1969, and a Master's in Social Work from Rutgers in 1997.

She is survived by her son Ryan Van Riper, daughter Renee (Whitman) and her husband Eric Whitman, brother Richard Bonopane, sister Bonnie (Fochi), brother Alan Bonopane, and grandson Alexander Whitman. She is predeceased by her parents, Vincent and Frances Bonopane.

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## [Musician Mark Helias, LC'74, Is an Innovative Bassist and Composer; Honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2006](#)

**Mark Helias**, a renowned bassist and composer, has been making innovative music since the mid-1970s. 

He graduated from Rutgers University's Livingston College in 1974, and in 1976 earned a master's degree from the Yale School of Music.

In 2006, the Livingston Alumni Association honored Helias as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumnus.

Helias has recorded multiple albums as a lead musician since 1985 and dozens more with cooperative bands and other artists. His 2015 album *The Signal Maker*, with Helias on double bass, Tom Rainey on drums and Tony Malaby on saxophone, is the seventh he recorded as part of the trio Open Loose.

He continues performing and recording with BassDrumBone, a three-decade collaboration with Gerry Hemingway and Ray Anderson. Helias performs solo bass

concerts and can also be heard in the duo The Marks Brothers with fellow bassist Mark Dresser.

Helias has also composed music for short film and two feature films by director Jay Anania. In addition to his many performances on records and CDs, Helias has produced recordings for other artists. He has taught at Sarah Lawrence College, The New School, and The School for Improvised Music.

Helias epitomizes Livingston's early reputation as a jazz music hotbed. Reflecting on his undergraduate education, Helias said: "I came away with a broader idea of how music worked, and I think it really informed my whole career in a sense, because that's the way I've approached being a composer and being an improviser and being a teacher."


Helias, a native of New Brunswick, New Jersey, lives in Manhattan.

*Watch a short (1 minute, 39 seconds) video saluting Mark Helias in 2006 (embedded on this page), or open the video in a new window.*

*Pictured: Mark Helias at the 2006 Livingston College Distinguished Alumni Awards.*


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## [Distinguished Alumnus Avery Brooks, LC'73, 'Star Trek' and 'Spenser' Actor, Is Dedicated to African-American Issues](#)

Actor, director and singer **Avery Brooks**, a tenured professor of Theater Arts at Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA), is best known to TV audiences for his roles as Commodore/Captain Benjamin Lafayette Sisko on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and Hawk on *Spenser: For Hire* and its spinoff, *A Man Called Hawk*. 

In 2006, the Livingston Alumni Association of Rutgers University honored Brooks as a Livingston College Distinguished Alumnus. Brooks graduated from Livingston College in 1973, and in 1976 earned a master of fine arts (MFA) degree from MGSA, the first African-American to earn a Rutgers MFA in acting and directing. Brooks appeared in plays presented at Livingston College, including *Short Eyes* and *Streamers*. He also served as the script coordinator for Livingston Theatre's *Dark Symphony*.

In 1993, Rutgers University named Brooks to its Hall of Distinguished Alumni.

Known for his dedication to African-American issues, Brooks has served as artistic director for the National Black Arts Festival. 

At various times since 1988 he has portrayed Paul Robeson (Rutgers College, 1919), the famous singer, actor and civil rights activist, in the plays *Paul Robeson* and *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?*, both on and off-Broadway.

In a 1997 interview at Oberlin College, Brooks, paraphrasing Frederick Douglass, said: "I will keep telling this story as long as I have breath. ... [Robeson was] a man who had a great heart, great courage, enormous intellect, and deep caring for humankind."

Brooks has worked extensively with the Smithsonian Institution's program in African-American culture. He was nominated for an American Cable Entertainment Award for his performance in Showtime's TV production of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. He has performed with the Shakespeare Theatre Company, and he sang the title role in the American Musical Theater Festival production of the Anthony Davis opera *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*.

His movies include the 1998 Academy Award-nominated *American History X*, and the 2001 action film *15 Minutes*, which co-starred Robert De Niro.

Brooks has hosted several documentaries and served as narrator in such features as the IMAX film *Africa's Elephant Kingdom*.

In 2009 Brooks released the album *Here*, featuring jazz and blues covers, as well as spoken word tracks.

Brooks was born October 2, 1948, in Evansville, Indiana.

He is married to Vicki Lenora Brooks, who has served as an assistant dean at Rutgers. They live in Princeton, New Jersey, and have three adult children.


*Watch the LAA's video tribute to Avery Brooks (1 minute, 28 seconds), embedded on this page, or open in a new window.*

*Photos: (Top) Avery Brooks at the 2006 Livingston College Distinguished Alumni Awards; (Bottom) Speaking at the 1992 Livingston College commencement, from the yearbook, A Style of Our Own.*

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**[Distinguished Alumna Liza Kirschenbaum,](#)**


## [LC'87, Gives Children a Voice in the Courts](#)

**Liza Kirschenbaum**, a 1987 graduate of Livingston College at Rutgers University, has touched the lives of thousands of children as the founding state director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Jersey. CASA supports the many abused and neglected children working their way through the state's foster care system. 

In 2006, the Livingston Alumni Association honored Kirschenbaum as a Distinguished Alumna. As of June 2017, Kirschenbaum serves as CASA of New Jersey's associate director.

She earned her Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law after graduating summa cum laude from Livingston.

Kirschenbaum additionally has served on the Advisory Board of Foster and Adoptive Family Services of New Jersey, the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Task Force Protection Sub-Committee.

As a student, Kirschenbaum received the Livingston College Academic Achievement Award and the Lynne M. Kellermann Memorial (Honors Program) Award. 

Watch the LAA's video tribute to Liza Kirschenbaum (1 minute, 39 seconds), embedded on this page, or open in a new window.

Follow Liza Kirschenbaum on Twitter.

*Photos: (Top) Liza Kirschenbaum at the 2006 Livingston College Distinguished Alumni Awards; (Bottom) From the 1987 Livingston College yearbook, In Quest of Excellence.*

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## [With His Brother, Distinguished Alumnus Gregg Spiridellis, LC'93, Has Made the Internet Laugh Out Loud Since 2000](#)


"Recovering" from four years in investment banking, **Gregg Spiridellis**, and 

his brother Evan in 1999 set out to create what they called a “brave new world of entertainment” with the founding of their production company JibJab Media Inc.

In 2006 the Livingston Alumni Association honored Gregg Spiridellis, a 1993 graduate of Livingston College and Rutgers Business School at Rutgers University, with the Seth Dvorin Distinguished Young Alumni Award.

Gregg and Evan Spiridellis started their company in 1999 from a garage in Brooklyn, New York. In February 2000 they created their first viral video hit with an interactive video of the Founding Fathers rapping about the Declaration of Independence.

After the dot-com crash, the brothers expanded their business by creating gag gifts, worked on animation projects for clients, and a children’s book with rap superstar LL Cool J.

They quickly followed it with an even bigger hit featuring George Bush and Al Gore in a rap battle for the 2000 presidential election. The video was one of the web’s first broad-based hits and landed on Fox’s MadTV, ABC News, CNN, and a host of other national media outlets. 

After the Spiridellis brothers moved to Los Angeles to do additional work for clients, they kept pouring their resources into original short programming for

In 2004 their investment paid off when JibJab exploded in popularity with the release of an election parody video, *This Land*. The video starred animated versions of George W. Bush and John Kerry battling and belittling each other.

The video, animated by Evan and written by Gregg, rocketed around the world from inbox to inbox after the brothers emailed a link to the 130,000 people on their fan newsletter. By the end of the 2004 election, JibJab’s election videos (including the follow-up *Good To Be in DC!*) were viewed more than 80 million times online on every continent, including Antarctica, and even on the International Space Station.

The media frenzy that followed put the brothers in front of millions of people watching The Tonight Show, CNN, FOX, CNBC and the Today show.

ABC World News Tonight even named the brothers “People of the Year” in 2004.

As of 2015, according to an article from *Response* magazine, JibJab had more than 1.5 million paid subscribers, 100 million site visitors per year, and an expanding staff of 85. The company is based in Marina del Rey, California.

Gregg Spiridellis, chief executive officer of JibJab, is a native of Marlboro, New Jersey, and is married with three children, according to the same *Response* profile.


Follow Gregg Spiridellis on Twitter.

Watch the LAA's video tribute to Gregg Spiridellis (1 minute, 42 seconds), embedded on this page, or open in a new window.

Photos: (Top) Gregg Spiridellis at the 2006 Livingston College Distinguished Alumni Awards; (Bottom) From the 1993 Livingston College yearbook, Diversity: A Higher Form of Education.

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## [Distinguished Alumna Karen Rogers, LC'92, Is a Television Meteorologist and Journalist in Philadelphia](#)

Karen Rogers Lee, known professionally as **Karen Rogers**, is the weekday traffic and weather anchor for *Action News Mornings* on Philadelphia's WPVI-TV (6ABC). 

Rogers, a 1992 honors graduate of Livingston College at Rutgers University, was honored by the Livingston Alumni Association in 2004 as the first recipient of the Seth Dvorin Distinguished Young Alumni Award.

In addition to being valedictorian of her communication class, she was the class speaker at her commencement convocation and is listed in "Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities." Rogers spoke again at Livingston College's Commencement, as the invited speaker in 2005.

Rogers is a meteorologist who earned her seal of approval from the American Meteorological Society. She holds a certificate in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University following three years of studies in atmospheric sciences and geosciences. Rogers was a 1992-93 Rotary International Scholar and studied at the Graduate Centre for Journalism Studies at the University of Wales.

 Rogers joined 6ABC in 1996 as a reporter and producer for *AM/Philadelphia*. Rogers quickly joined the AccuWeather team and found her true passion in weather forecasting.

She had previously worked at WHSP-TV in Vineland, New Jersey, where she was a host and producer of a weekly public affairs program and the monthly show Congressional Reports. Rogers also anchored daily news cut-ins and filed feature reports for WHSP-TV. Prior to WHSP-TV, she was a features reporter for several cable stations in southern New Jersey.

Rogers co-hosts *FYI Philly*, a weekly entertainment show on 6ABC. She also has co-hosted many special events broadcasts for the station, including *Philly on Wheels*, the Philadelphia Home Show and the Miss America Preview Special. Rogers also has reported for the 6ABC/Boscov's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the 4th of July Parade, the Philadelphia Flower Show and the First Union Bike Race.

In addition to her work at 6ABC, Rogers is active in supporting young people. A first runner-up to Miss New Jersey in 1994, she often hosts or judges local pageants. Rogers has also been active in the fight against child abuse, and has taught elementary school students empowerment skills for reporting and preventing abuse.

Follow Karen Rogers on Twitter.

*Photos: (Top) Courtesy of 6ABC; (Bottom) Rogers speaks to her fellow graduates at the Livingston College 1992 Commencement, as pictured in the yearbook, Diversity: A Style of Our Own.*