

Dean's Letter to Class of 1974: Be Proud of Acting in Unity Amid Shaken Society

George W. Carey, acting dean of Livingston College, wrote the following letter to the Class of 1974, included in the college yearbook, [We the People](#). Note that the yearbook misspells his last name as "Cary."

To the Graduating Class of 1974, Livingston College

This has been a year in which we have seen the legitimacy and credibility of some of the most central institutions of our society shaken. At all scales of concern – national, regional, state and local – there has been a breakdown of public faith and confidence attended by the explosive growth of disillusionment and cynicism.

What has occurred in society as a whole, has always manifested itself in Livingston College as well. We have gone through our own crisis of confidence. The reason for this is surely related to the fact that our college, more than most, represents a cross-section of society in its students and faculty: affluent, middle class, and poor: white, black and Puerto Rican, we represent a heterogenous mix of all of the elements of our social order. Since we have chosen not to be homogenized into only one class or ethnic group, we have brought with us into our collegiate halls many of the issues which are left at the threshold of more homogenous colleges. We are a part of society, not apart from society.

In Livingston during this year, pressures arising from the inadequate support of certain vital areas threatened to divide us into competing interest groups. Despite the relentless pressures of resource scarcity which we feel so acutely, we were able to respond by drawing together to fight for common goals, rather than split apart to compete with each other. Our success in this regard has been greater than society's. We may be proud of it.

As the Spring semester progresses, there seems to be growing a renewed interest in the organization of student participation in community governance. I hope and trust that students and faculty alike will continue to work out the means to enable Livingston College to respond in unity to the challenges which await us in the future.

If it is true that our college is of society rather than a thing apart, then we hope that you, the graduating class, will remain committed to our efforts to

grow as a multi-racial, multi-ethnic institution dedicated to providing a quality education to the members of all of the communities to which you now return. We hope that as you work towards the betterment of those communities, that – by word and deed – you will be advocates of the College. And we hope that you will return active and interested participants in our efforts as alumni. Goodbye and good luck.

Sincerely,
George W. [Carey]
Acting Dean

[A Look Back at the Livingston College Journalism Legacy of Rutgers University and a Future Forecast](#)

[Note: The following account by Jerome Aumente, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Rutgers' School of Communication and Information, was written to promote the 2010 journalism panel. It has been edited to reflect the past tense.]



By Jerome Aumente

The role that Livingston College played in keeping journalism alive at Rutgers University after journalism curriculum entered a precarious fight for its survival in the 1970s [was] one focus of a special “legacy” program sponsored by the Livingston College Alumni Association on Wednesday, April 21, [2010], 7 p.m. at the Livingston College Student Center in Piscataway, N.J.

Key players in the original drama [gathered] to remember the past. But the program also [examined] the future challenges in the 21st century as the print and broadcast news media urgently redefine themselves in light of the new media and Internet revolution. Alumni, faculty, students, editors, publishers and journalists are welcome to join in the discussion that I [co-moderated] along with Marty Siederer, the Livingston alumni president. The School of Communication and Information Alumni Association and Livingston Dean Lea Stewart [were] co-sponsors of the program.

The New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) played a critically important role in lobbying successfully for the “re-creation” of a journalism department after

the School of Journalism, one of the oldest in the United States, was deactivated at Rutgers College and replaced by a Department of Human Communication in the early 1970s. A groundswell of concern from publishers and editors resulted in the Rutgers University Provost authorizing me to reconstitute the journalism department on the New Brunswick campus.

In 1978, the Board of Governors and the N.J. Department of Higher Education approved creation of a new Department of Journalism and Urban Communications at Livingston College at a time when the individual colleges such as Livingston, Rutgers, Cook and Douglass controlled their own free-standing curricula.

✘ A year later the university's governing board and the state higher education department also approved creation of the Journalism Resources Institute (JRI) which I founded and directed. Over 14,000 journalists participated in programs during my tenure, and again, NJPA support from its publishers, editors and reporters was crucially important.

When the New Brunswick campus was consolidated into arts and sciences and professional studies faculties in the early 1980s, journalism at Livingston went campus-wide. I was named by the provost, along with the directors of the library sciences and communication programs to design a new entity to bring our related disciplines under one tent. The School of Communication, Information and Library Studies (SCILS) was born with the Journalism Department and JRI able to preserve their identity and join the new school as a full partner.

The school was a pioneer – one of the first in the United States – in bringing together journalism, communication and library studies as sub-disciplines with their own identities but able to interact in the new world of communication and information that was changing rapidly and technologically complex. Together, we formed a critical mass strong enough to survive the recurrent storms of budget crises, and enjoyed superior building facilities, shared computer and audiovisual resources, and vastly expanded interdisciplinary opportunities for the students and faculty.

Luckily, journalism today is alive and well at the School of Communication and Information (SC&I), the new name for SCILS, with a solid department of Journalism and Media Studies, a long track record of service to the profession through the Journalism Resources Institute (JRI), and a new Dean, Jorge Schement, who is committed to a vibrant journalism program in the school, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Livingston Legacy program on April 21 [included] among its panelists, Dean Schement and myself; Roger Cohen, emeritus professor in journalism and former acting dean of SCILS; John O'Brien, Executive Director of the New Jersey Press Association; John Pavlik, chair of the journalism department at SC&I and director of JRI; four of my former students, two of whom also taught at Livingston – Barry Orton, Professor of Telecommunications at University of

Wisconsin-Madison and Jay Miller, Professor and Chair, Communication Studies and Theater, Ursinus College – and Robert W. Snyder, Associate Professor and Director of Journalism and Media Studies, Rutgers-Newark, and Jim Simon, Professor of Journalism at Fairfield University.

The Livingston College Legacy series can point to many programs the college influenced and that are campus-wide at Rutgers University today such as journalism; computer sciences; urban planning, policy and community development; comparative languages and literature, anthropology etc., that had their roots in the exciting but controversial incubator that Livingston was as the newest college on the New Brunswick-Piscataway campus, opened in 1969.

From the creation of the George Street Theater to African-American studies, or leading edge approaches to sociology while housing "Transaction" magazine, or an innovative physicians associate program, Livingston and its founding Dean Ernest Lynton and his successors nurtured an experimental, "let's try it" atmosphere. Livingston faculty later dispersed among the larger, consolidated campus faculty in the 1980s, bringing with them their own special brand of commitment to students as individuals, engaging them in a humane, proactive, interactive learning environment they developed at Livingston College.

In my case, I joined the university faculty in 1969 after ten years in journalism and a recent Nieman Fellowship to Harvard. Having first accepted an offer to teach at Rutgers College, I instead decided to join the Livingston College faculty at the urging of Dean Lynton who could be a compelling advocate for his dream of new approaches to university curriculum and learning.

There, we developed an Urban Communications program within the Department of Community Development (in the Division of Urban Planning and Policy Development, now the Edward Bloustein School of Planning and Policy Development) that encompassed the newer technologies then emerging – from CATV to portable video field equipment, and a still evolving Internet testing the beginnings of electronic publishing. Students were involved in all of our grant-funded, community efforts from programs to assist municipalities in writing better CATV ordinances in the public interest, to multimedia documentation of environmental concerns in New Jersey communities, documentation of the work ethic, or creation of a full-fledged media training center in one community as part of an anti-poverty program.

The core courses in reporting, editing and multimedia documentation formed a natural platform upon which we built the revived Department of Journalism when the opportunity arose. Richard Hixson, a respected, senior journalism professor switched from Rutgers College to Livingston because, he said, that was where journalism now thrived. Other faculty including Roger Cohen, David Sachsman, and Thomas Hartmann brought additional strengths, and a strong adjunct faculty of journalism professionals gave us added lift. The code name for all of this might as well be "Lazarus" because journalism was back from the dead.

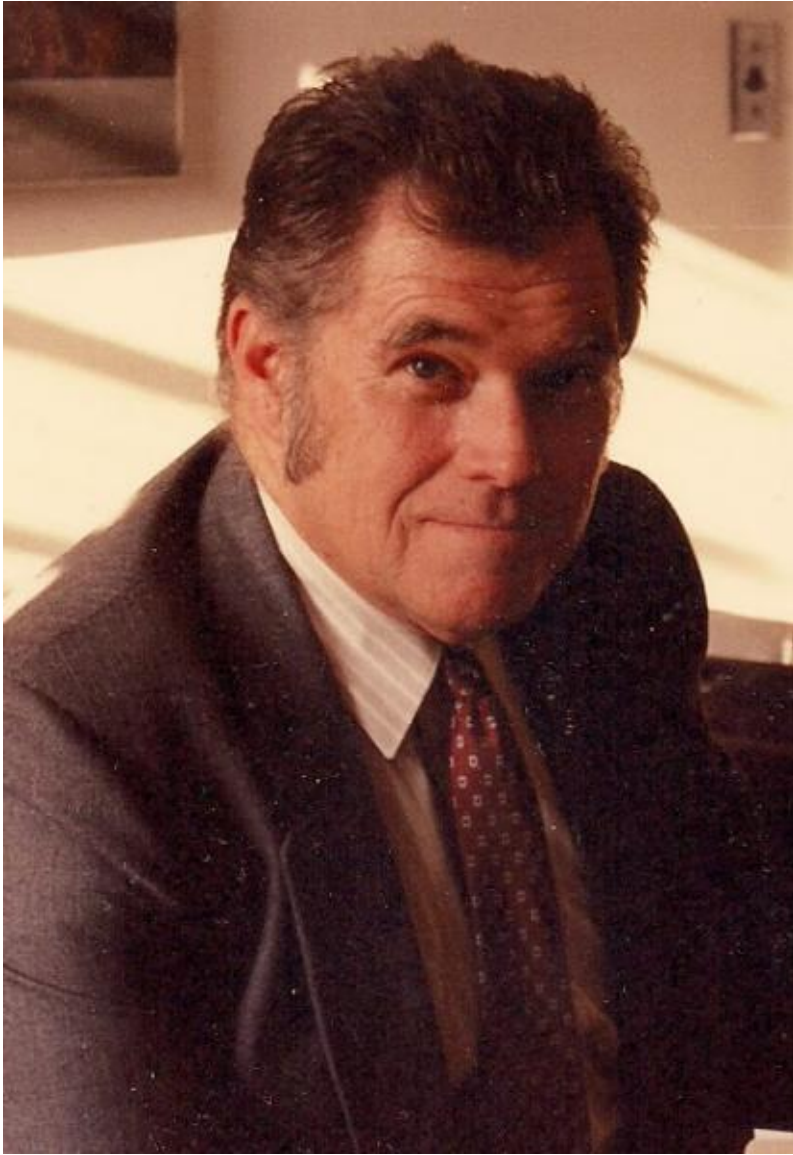
In my book, *From Ink on Paper to the Internet: Past Challenges and Future Transformations for New Jersey's Newspapers*, I have a chapter tracing the origins of journalism at Rutgers University. It all began with a few courses organized by NJPA and eventually evolved into the School of Journalism by 1926 at Rutgers College. Yes, the school was deactivated in the 1970s but the embers were kept alive, glowing hot, long enough for journalism to be rekindled on the Livingston campus, and then introduced back into the entire New Brunswick-Piscataway campus through SC&I by the early 1980s.

Top photo: Jerome Aumente.

Bottom photo: Livingston College Journalism and Urban Communications faculty, as seen in the 1981 yearbook, The Last: Richard Hixson (upper left), Thomas Hartman (center), David Sachsman (top right), and Roger Cohen (lower right). At lower left: Bernice Weinberg, department secretary. Not shown: Aumente (department chair), and faculty members Juliet Lushbough, Warren Sloat, Emily Van Ness, and Roxanne Zimmer.

Jerome Aumente (1937-2023) was a Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Special Counselor to the Dean, School of Communication and Information (SC&I) at Rutgers University. He also was founding chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies and founding director of the Journalism Resources Institute, both units in SC&I.

[Professor Carey McWilliams Brought Political Philosophy to Life for Students; Honored with Livingston Legacy Award](#)



Wilson Carey McWilliams (1933–2005), known as Carey, was posthumously honored in 2015 with the Livingston Legacy Award for his role as a distinguished political scientist throughout most of Livingston College's history. ✖

McWilliams was a political scientist at Livingston College and Rutgers University for 35 years.

McWilliams was born in Santa Monica, California. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1955, then served in the 11th Airborne Division of the United States Army from 1955–1961. He earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees at the same university. He was also active in the early stages of the Berkeley Free Speech Movement and the student activist group SLATE.

Prior to teaching at Rutgers he taught at Oberlin College and Brooklyn College. He was also a visiting professor at Yale University, Harvard University and Haverford College. He came to Yale in spring 1969 with a timely and provocative

seminar on "American Radical Thought."

McWilliams was the recipient of the John Witherspoon Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities, conferred by the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities, and also served as a Vice-President of the American Political Science Association.

McWilliams was the author of several books, including *The Idea of Fraternity in America* (1973, University of California Press), for which he won the National Historical Society prize in 1974. In this book, McWilliams argued that there was an "alternative tradition" to the dominant liberal tradition in America, which he variously traced through the thought of the Puritans, the Anti-Federalists, and various major and minor literary figures such as Hawthorne, Melville, Twain and Ellison. He argued that this tradition drew philosophical inspiration from ancient Greek and Christian sources manifested in an emphasis upon community and fraternity, which was properly the means to achieving a form of civic liberty. McWilliams was also a prolific essayist.

McWilliams died on March 29, 2005, at age 71. He had been married for 38 years to the psychoanalyst and author Nancy Riley McWilliams. Carey and Nancy have two daughters, the musician Helen McWilliams, and Susan McWilliams, an associate professor of politics.

McWilliams "really cared about individual students," his spouse Nancy Riley McWilliams tells us in the embedded video. **"He made the ideas of long-dead thinkers be alive and relevant to students">(You may also open the video in a new window.)**

At the 2015 Livingston Legacy Award presentation, Patrick Deneen, a student of McWilliams at the undergraduate and graduate levels, remembered him as a friend and "about the best teacher and finest human this institution ever had the fortune to call its own."

After her father's death, Susan McWilliams spoke to Rutgers students about her father's love for Rutgers and his great interest in his students' lives.

Leonard M. Klepner, a Livingston College 1972 graduate, also wrote about McWilliams' friendship and mentorship.

The Livingston College Distinguished Alumni and Livingston Legacy Awards are held approximately every two years by the Livingston Alumni Association of Rutgers University. The 2015 celebration was held Tuesday, November 10 at the Rutgers Club in New Brunswick, New Jersey.


Carey McWilliams Loved Rutgers and Took Joy in Sharing in His Students' Lives: A Daughter's Tribute



By Susan McWilliams

By Susan McWilliams

[Susan McWilliams presented the following remembrance of her father, (Wilson) Carey McWilliams, shortly after his passing. McWilliams had been a political science professor at Rutgers University, initially on the Livingston College faculty. He was posthumously honored in 2015 with the Livingston Legacy Award given by Livingston Alumni Association at Rutgers University. See his bio and award video.]

My father, Professor Wilson Carey McWilliams, died on March 29, [2005,] in his 35th year of teaching at Rutgers University. 

Dad loved Rutgers. He didn't always love the campus or those responsible for it: He grumbled about the Hickman Hall elevators; he grumbled about those administrators who privilege football over financial aid; he grumbled about the increasingly elitist status of Rutgers College within the University system.

But he grumbled about these things because his love for Rutgers was a love for Rutgers' student body. And her knew that those things, and others, made Rutgers a place that often burdened his students.

For my whole life, Dad would come home with stories about students: their hometowns, families, problems, and possibilities. He took evident joy in knowing them and learning from their lives.

So I was struck, at his funeral, not by how many students attended – I expected that, knowing how much he gave – but by how many introduced themselves with the caveat, “I was *just* a students of your father's at Rutgers ...”. This phrase, of course, implies that being a Rutgers students is an anonymous thing. These students had implied answered, negatively, this question: Should I, your professor's daughter, care about you?

The thing was: Usually, I recognized these students' names and remembered Dad's stories about them. When I revealed that, they seemed surprised that my father had mentioned – or even known – them. I realize that my father was not the average professor. He was known, I am told, for his willingness to engage students, help them navigate the University bureaucracy, and give advice about problems one doesn't often share with teachers.

But if there was one lesson Dad was committed to teaching at Rutgers – and he proved his commitment to teaching here, rejecting numerous offers from private schools, at greater salaries for fewer responsibilities – it was that his students should never feel nameless. My father, like Socrates, knew that there are no second-class souls.

My father was raised – a sick kid, with debilitating allergies and almost-fatal polio – by a working single mother in a time of few working single mothers. He went to a state university because he could afford it, and although he saw the temptations of fame and money, he knew that fame and money can't teach anything that life – real life, unadorned by material surfaces – doesn't teach better.

My father found particular joy in teaching at Rutgers because it is a public institution, which at its best stands against for forces of this privatist age. He loved the number of Rutgers students who are first-generation baccalaureates, who are immigrants, who attend this University to save parents money or worry, who are here just living an honest life. He always said he wanted to teach at Rutgers until he dropped dead; I am glad he did.

For my father, each of his students was a miracle – not just an independent miracle, but also a reflection of the human miracle. We are, as Jefferson said, created equally: made of the same stuff, born of the same bodily labors and subject to the same bodily end, who have the briefest opportunity to seek truth together by speaking truthfully.

Aristotle says in his *Politics* that humans are *logistikon*: beings who talk. What demarcates our species, even in light of what scientists learn, is our ability to communicate in terms particular and universal. We are aware of our partialness yet able to comprehend wholeness; we can speak about justice and abstract truth, and also speak about individual differences. We must recognize each other's particularity in order to access what in us is universal, but we

can never transcend our particularity – or imagine we should.

✘ My father wished his students would learn from him that they are not properly defined as anonymous members of a fairly anonymous group – *just* Rutgers students – but defined by their fascinating particularities, and equally by their status as humans, seekers.

Dad knew that we humans are all kin. We are all worthy of remembering, and remembrance. My father remembered his students, and he hoped they would know him as someone who remembered them. He did, and so do I.

On behalf of Dad, I thank you, Rutgers students, for bringing to Wilson Carey McWilliams such joy and affirming his knowledge that we are best recognized through that love which acknowledges other people as equal partners in a mystery. As he said, we can only be cured – from all our problems, personal and political – by a better kind of love.

[*Susan McWilliams*](#) is an associate professor of politics at Pomona College in California.

Photos: (Top) Carey McWilliams teaches a class at Lucy Stone Hall on Rutgers' Livingston campus in October 1994. (Bottom) McWilliams plays with his daughters Helen and Susan in June 1982.

Revised November 22, 2015

[Journalism Panel](#)

A Look Back at the Livingston College Journalism Legacy of Rutgers University and a Future Forecast

More than 100 alumni, students and faculty joined us on April 21, 2010, at the Livingston Student Center for “Journalism: Past, Present and Future,” ✘ an exciting panel discussion celebrating the history and impact of the Department of Journalism and Urban Communications and journalism programs at Livingston College and the School of Communication and Information.

Professors Jerome Aumente and Roger Cohen; along with Jim Simon and Rob Snyder, two Livingston 1970s journalism and urban communications majors; John Pavlik, the director of the Journalism Resources Institute; and John O'Brien, executive director of the New Jersey Press Association, participated in a lively discussion on the history of the journalism programs at Livingston College and Rutgers University, and a look at the current and future state of the journalism industry.

The program was co-sponsored by the School of Communication and Information Alumni Association and the Livingston Campus Dean of Student Life.

- Event flier.

Photo (from left): Panelists Roger Cohen, Jim Simon, and Rob Snyder.

[Livingston College History Panel](#)

The first Livingston Legacy program was held on March 11, 2009, with the LAA and the Livingston Campus Dean of Student Life celebrating the history and contributions of Livingston College. Professors Edward Ortiz, Gerald Pomper and Gordon Schochet, all members of the Livingston College faculty in its early years, during a lively panel discussion shared their memories of the key years in Livingston's development and impact on the overall Rutgers and global communities.

- Listen to a podcast of the March 11, 2009, program (courtesy 90.3 The Core)
- Read alumnus Rob Snyder's reflections on the program.
- See entries from our former blog.

In March 2008, Pomper and Schochet spoke to the Livingston Campus Council about the college's history and the need to preserve that history, according to a March 30, 2008, article from *The Daily Targum*. "It was a troubled place, but also a very exciting place," Schochet said. "There were hard times, but we have overcome them."

[2014-15 Executive Board and Council](#)



2014-2015 Officers



2014-2015 Officers

- Jason Goldstein, President
- Mindy Hoffman, Vice President for Public Relations
- Debra O'Neal, Vice President for Outreach
- Eric Schwarz, Vice President for Internal Affairs
- Jeff Isaacs, Treasurer

LAA Executive Council

- Rosemary Agrista
- Carla Alexander-Reilly
- Jeffrey Armus
- Michael Beachem
- Joseph Capo
- Jason Goldstein
- Mindy Hoffman
- Jeff Isaacs
- Michelle Jackson
- Debra O'Neal
- Eric Schwarz
- Marty Siederer
- Stephen Yanick
- Derek Young

2014-2015 Committee Chairs

- Budget and Finance – Jeff Isaacs
- Community Service – Jeffrey Armus
- Election and Nominations – Vacant
- Membership – Vacant
- Programming and Events – Rosemary Agrista
- Public Relations – Mindy Hoffman
- Reunion and Class – Derek Young

Revised April 8, 2015

1999-2000 Officers

LAA Officers: 1999-2000

President: Jeffrey Isaacs '84
First Vice President: Mark Weller '85
Second Vice President: Bill Bauer '86
Secretary: Bob Uhrik '78
Treasurer: Michele Ostrowski '88

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Treasurer: Michele Ostrowski '88

(Sourced from the Internet Archive Wayback Machine. Updated February 7, 2015.)

2006-07 Executive Board and Council

2006-07 Executive Board and Council

- President: Marty Siederer
- 1st Vice President: Jason Goldstein
- 2nd Vice President: Michael Beachem

- Treasurer: Jeff Isaacs
- Secretary: Harsh Dutia

LAA Executive Council:

- Carla Alexander
- Lynn Astorga
- William Bauer
- Rob Bertrand
- Joseph Capo
- Yash Dalal
- Jason Goldstein
- Jeff Isaacs
- Ava Johnson
- Karen Kanu
- Stephanie Ledgin-Toskos
- Iris Martinez-Campbell
- Walter O'Brien
- Tiffany Ross
- Robert Uhrik
- Lilliana Vendra
- Philip Wang

- Federation Rep. 2006-09: William Bauer
- Federation Rep. 2004-07: Robert Uhrik
- Alternate Fed. Rep.: Ava Johnson

2006-2007 Standing Committees

- Budget and Finance: Jeff Isaacs
- Election and Nominations: Carla Alexander and Lynn Astorga, Co-Chairs
- Membership: Yash Dalal
- Reunion and Class: Karen Kanu
- Programming and Events: William Bauer
- Public Relations: Jason Goldstein
- Young Alumni: Tiffany Ross

(Sourced from the Internet Archive Wayback Machine. Updated February 7, 2015.)

Livingston College in the Early 1970s: A Great Social Experiment

By Richard D. Apgar, LC'75

[Read more Livingston College Students' Memories.]

I attended Livingston College while the Vietnam War was still raging although we were told it was winding down. I survived three selective service draft lotteries and considered myself lucky enough to continue my degree despite the fact that my classmates were still dying in a useless war. There were still plenty of things to protest, and Livingston College saw its share. In those days (1973 -1975), Livingston College became a great social experiment. Rutgers University opened its doors to every citizen of New Jersey and at Livingston we all gathered for what I consider the best education in the world. I was raised in a farming community in western Morris County and earned an AA degree from Morris County Community College in the summer of 1973. I was excited about being accepted at Rutgers and looked forward to real college dorm life. After seeing years of war and protest and finally seeing real social change I knew my time at Rutgers would be special.

The day I checked into my dorm room I was paired with a black student. I was willing to share my dorm room and hoped that we could prove that blacks and whites could be friends after all. We were all ready to stop the rioting and it seemed the war would end and real change could take place. That night I couldn't get to sleep. My new roommate insisted on playing music all night even after he fell asleep. When he did, I reached over and turned the radio off and fell asleep myself. The next morning my roommate moved out after a brief discussion about keeping my hands off his stuff. I guess the great social experiment wasn't going to work right away. There were still plenty of protests going on. I would wake up some nights to hear close order military drill going on in the courtyard at 2 a.m. by uniformed young Black Panthers. I would talk about what I saw to others students in the dorm later on. They were part of the great social experiment as well. They were from inner cities and rural towns from across the tri-state area. They were Catholics, Orthodox Jews, Muslims and Protestants. They were black, white and Spanish, and foreign students from all five continents. Eventually we all got to know each other, and learn from each other, and finally love each other.

One dorm mate was a tunnel rat recently back from Vietnam. He was a brilliant chess player and it took me six months to finally win a game from him. He called me the Professor because I would help him in his English composition class. One day I knocked on his door to have another chess game and when he answered he wouldn't let me in. He told me to go away because he joined the Black Panthers and had taken an oath to kill a white man a year. It was for my

own good, he told me. I was a bit surprised but after witnessing years of riots and shootings it was understandable. I never saw him again after he left the dorm.

There were also other examples of racial tension around campus. Sometimes angry black students would knock down food trays from nerdy white students in the cafeteria. There were a few fistfights but mostly everyone learned to get along, especially after the college approved an on-campus tavern. It was in the Livingston College beer hall that the great social experiment finally succeeded.

The education I received was spectacular. Some professors taught from a somewhat socialistic approach, others from a strong capitalistic approach and yet others from a wonderfully creative approach. The best teacher of Shakespeare I ever encountered was Miguel Algarin. He truly brought the works of Shakespeare to a modern political light. Perhaps when the Livingston College tavern came to be, Professor Algarin conceived his idea of the Nuyorican Poet Society. It was sheer pleasure to read poetry in New York City with Miguel and be a part of his dream in the early days. Sometimes other English literature classes were held in the tavern or at times in the home of a professor in a more relaxed, less formal way where true creativity and expression was unencumbered.

Livingston College was indeed a trip. The class of 1975 graduation ceremony was like a carnival. Some wore the traditional cap and gown while others dressed in African ceremonial tribal dress. Still others wore tattered blue jeans and some decided not to attend at all. I remember my father saying it was the strangest graduation ceremony he ever saw. Thinking back, I would have to agree. And as I think back, I remember trying to date girls from Douglass College and trying to make out with them at the Passion Puddle. Sometime I would take my dates into the woods at Livingston where there was a large tree with a rope tied to its branch where you could swing over a muddy ravine and pretend to be Tarzan. Finally, there were plenty of fun frat parties to attend on Union Avenue in New Brunswick or simply have fun dining out at Tumulty's Pub or a wonderful pizzeria whose name I can't remember.

Looking back, all I can say is that the education and life's lesson learned at Livingston served me well. I was able to have a wonderful career in the fire service industry. I became a fire chief and a business owner. And now that I am retired my only regret is that during my time at Livingston I never attended enough football games. Go Scarlet Knights!

Richard D. (Rick) Apgar is a 1975 graduate of Livingston College at Rutgers University.

(Contact Rick via email.)



(Spam-resistant email link provided by WillMaster; email address image provided by Nexodyne.)