

Programs Celebrating Livingston College's 50th Anniversary and Beyond

Information and links to documents and photos related to the 50-year anniversary of Livingston College.

Livingston Legacy Lectures (2009-2010)

Alumni Talks (Since 2021)

The Livingston Alumni Association (LAA), in association with our partners within Rutgers University, has held multiple events and embarked on projects to celebrate and commemorate the 50+ years since Livingston College opened in 1969. These include events specifically related to the college's history.



Livi at 50: A Celebration of Livingston College's 50th Anniversary kicked off with a keystone event at the James Dickson Carr Library on Livingston campus on October 25, 2019. The event was co-presented by Rutgers University–New Brunswick Libraries and the LAA.

It featured a panel discussion of prominent Livingston alumni, a presentation of the Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award, and an exhibition from the University Archives of materials including yearbooks, photographs, and other artifacts that captured Livingston's evolution from its beginnings as the military base Camp Kilmer in the 1950s through the present day.

A panel discussion reflected this diversity, with alumni Noah Hart Jr. LC'73, GSED'88, Staci Berger LC'94, EJB/GSNB'04, and Robert W. Snyder, LC'77 all speaking about their formative years at Livingston and the impact the college had on them. In addition to the panel discussion and audience Q&A, student Eshan Kaul, SEBS'19, RWJMS'22, was named recipient of the 2019 Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award.

Pictured: Hart, Snyder, and Berger.

Livi at 50: A Remembrance of Livingston College: Latino Studies and the Livingston Panthers Sports Teams



Livingston College Panthers cheerleaders, circa 1970. Courtesy of Rutgers University Libraries.

Our April 22, 2021, “Livi at 50” online event celebrated the formation of the Latino Studies program and the history of the Livingston Panthers sports teams. Iris Martinez Campbell LC’75, SSW’81, moderated a discussion about the Latino Studies program with Margie Rivera LC’72 and Grizel Ubarry LC’74. LAA President Jeff Armus led a discussion about the Livingston Panthers with Lucille Lo Sapio LC’76, BernaDette Session LC’75, Dwight Williams, defensive coordinator of the Panthers, and Rick Williams LC’74, a member of the team. Watch a replay (58 minutes).

Livingston: A Governor, a College, and the Long Echoes of Slavery at Rutgers

A historical marker on the Livingston campus, placed in 2021, explains its namesake William Livingston’s deep involvement in slavery and his halting efforts to abolish slavery as New Jersey’s first governor.

Video from ***Livingston: A Governor, a College, and the Long Echoes of Slavery at Rutgers*** (58 minutes)

In a virtual presentation held Jan. 18, 2022, Robert Snyder LC’77, a professor emeritus of journalism and American studies at Rutgers–Newark, talked with Jesse Bayker SGS’19, digital archivist for the Scarlet and Black Project at Rutgers–New Brunswick, who discussed Livingston’s life.

Brooke A. Thomas, an African American history doctoral candidate at Rutgers–New Brunswick, shared the importance of Livingston College to Rutgers, why it was created, and how activism was one of its important contributions to Rutgers. Thomas is also a co-author of the chapter “We the People: Student Activism at Rutgers and Livingston College, 1960–1985” in *Scarlet and Black, Volume 3*.

Livingston College graduates Snyder and Debra O’Neal LC’87 shared their experiences of educational innovation and campus activism from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. The discussion ended with a question-and-answer forum.

This event was sponsored by the RUAA, the LAA, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the Rutgers Alumni Association.

[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.

[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."

Livingston Legacy Lectures (2009-2010)

Those of us who were members of the Livingston College family, whether as a student, faculty or staff member, or friend, know of the vital and eternal legacy Livingston has to this day on the overall programs of Rutgers University and on a global scale.

Livingston graduates and staff play key roles in the national and international communities, and Livingston's programs and unique attributes live on in a variety of Rutgers University programs.

To celebrate Livingston's contributions to the overall Rutgers and global communities, the Livingston Alumni Association hosted two Livingston Legacy Lecture programs in 2009 and 2010.

- Livingston College History Panel (2009).
- Journalism Panel (2010).