“To my mind, satisfaction has always been the enemy of progress.”

Celebrating a life

HENRY M. ROWAN

Every Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering student who conquers a new subject, every professor who lands a new federal research grant, every alumnus who is moving up the career ladder owes a debt of gratitude to Henry M. Rowan.

This man — a truly great innovator and leader in business and our dear friend and benefactor — passed away in December 2015 at age 92. As a community we in the College named for him as well as all of the Rowan University family mourn his loss.

Mr. Rowan’s vision and generosity transformed the then-Glassboro State College into the nationally recognized University that proudly bears his name today. The renowned $100-million gift he made to what had primarily been known as a teachers’ college came with one stipulation — that the institution revitalize engineering education.
Mr. Rowan’s vision — and his passion for higher education, hard work, innovation, problem solving and engineering — propelled our College’s success and led us to national accolades. His gift helped shape a program that has been a leader in engineering education since it was inaugurated 20 years ago. Mr. Rowan and his family validated the College with a subsequent gift in 2014, and the University named the College in his honor.

As we mourn the passing and celebrate the life of Mr. Rowan, we acknowledge his legacy as a champion of innovation, excellence, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. The students, faculty and staff, alumni and others who are part of the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering are a part of that legacy.

And while we grieve his passing, we take comfort in our memories of Mr. Rowan. We know that the best way to honor him is to continually strive for excellence in engineering education. Perhaps he said it best when he noted, “To my mind, satisfaction has always been the enemy of progress.”

With that in mind, our College — his College — will never be satisfied. We pledge to honor Mr. Rowan’s memory through innovation and ingenuity. We will meet his challenge to be a leader in the engineering field so that we remain a College worthy of bearing his name.

Dr. Anthony Lowman
Dean

You can read more about Mr. Rowan at http://www.rowan.edu/henryrowan.