

BUILDING A LEGACY

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(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2006)

The Conway family pledges \$2 million to *Designing the Future: The Campaign for Rivier College*



Photos by Peter Finger

Rivier College Trustee William Conway, his wife, Jane, (*pictured above*) and their family have pledged \$2 million to Rivier College to expand Regina Library. “The Conway family is committed to helping Rivier College improve the education of its students,” Mr. Conway says. This is the largest cash pledge in the history of the College.

The Conway family’s contribution will be used to build a 10,000 square-foot addition to Regina Library. Rivier President William Farrell says that the gift will allow the College to strengthen and develop the excellent learning environment that has characterized Rivier for more than 70 years. “Libraries are rapidly evolving as centers of learning, teaching, research and communication. This gift will ensure that our library is an active and vibrant center of knowledge on our campus,” he says.

The library expansion will be used for student study space, additional computers and electronic resources. “One of the great demands students have on this campus is gathering space,” says Farrell. The addition will offer students a place to study, to work on projects together, and access electronic resources. Students will also be able to take advantage of the library’s wireless internet access.

As part of the expansion, the rest of the library structure will be updated to comply with building codes. Built in 1958, the library houses 100,000 volumes and provides electronic access to licensed databases and journals in virtually every academic subject. The library is also home to one of the College’s electronic classrooms, providing 18 workstations for instructional use.

The Conways have been generous in meeting the needs of the Nashua community, making a gift to the city in 2002 to support the construction of an ice arena. The family wanted to promote education and learning as well as recreation. “There was a very real need at the library at Rivier,” says Mr. Conway. The project offered the family an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the academic community.



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–*President William Farrell*

William Conway has served on Rivier’s Board of Trustees since November 2002. At Commencement 2002, the College awarded him an honorary doctor of business administration in recognition of his dedication to improving business practices and management styles. Conway earned a bachelor of engineering at the United States Naval Academy and became an officer, serving aboard Navy destroyers for five years.

William joined Nashua Corporation as an engineer in 1954 and held various management positions, becoming president in 1969 and chairman in 1979. He was the first American CEO of a Fortune 500 company to work with Dr. W. Edwards Deming, a pioneer of the quality movement credited with turning around the Japanese economy following World War II.

In 1983, Conway retired from Nashua Corporation and founded Conway Management Company, a management consulting firm. He developed The Right Way To Manage© based on Deming's principles of continuous process improvement and quality control, which at one time formed the foundation for Rivier's M.B.A. program. He has authored two books, *The Quality Secret: The Right Way To Manage©* and *Winning The War On Waste: Changing The Way We Work* and coauthored a book on improving productivity.

The Conways have lived in Nashua since 1954, occupying a home less than a mile from the College for many years. In 1981, their daughter Catherine Conway Eames earned a bachelor's in management at Rivier. She later served on Rivier's Advisory Board.

The Greater Nashua Charitable Foundation recognized William and Jane Conway with a humanitarian award in 2003, stating that they taught their five children to give back to the community, and all but one still live in and support many nonprofit organizations in the area. Conway has often said "You have to try to lead by example—not by what you say, but by what you do." He hopes that his actions set an example for members of the community.

The Conway family pledge came at an exciting time for Rivier's first capital campaign, *Designing the Future*, says Director of Development and Alumni Relations Mary Ann Oppenheimer. "We have passed the 87 percent mark in the campaign, and with the generous support of the Conway family, we can now see our goal within reach and expect to surpass it," she says.

"I'm impressed by the fact that the whole family has come forward to support the College, and they have come forward in a way that's integral to the heart of Rivier's educational mission," says Farrell. "It demonstrates the premium and the value this family places on education." ■

* **JENNIFER LISKOW** works as a Public Relations and Web Writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications and teaches in Rivier's Professional Communications program. Jenn earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features, and essays published. In her free time, Jenn enjoys practicing yoga, ten-pin bowling, and listening to live music with her husband, Tim.