Our new president: the story behind the man

By Dana Lynn Flatekval
Managing Editor

A sense of responsibility to his parents is what keeps Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, Rider's president elect, moving forward.

Rozanski, 56, a native of Poland whose parents survived the Holocaust, will come to Rider from the University of Guelph (pronounced “gwelf”) in Ontario, Canada, where he was considered to be talented and well-liked by many.

“I represent the fulfillment of my parent’s dreams and aspirations,” said Rozanski. “I’m the first in my family to get an elementary education, let alone a university degree. That education opened doors and was a promise of the future. I want others to have that same opportunity.”

Rozanski worked at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in Teaneck from 1986-1991 before going to the University of Guelph. At FDU, he served as dean of liberal arts, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Under Rozanski’s leadership, the University of Guelph has been recognized for the high quality of its students, faculty, academic programs, research and teaching. More than 100 University of Guelph faculty have received awards for excellence in teaching and research. The University was also ranked best overall for its caring university atmosphere.

Rozanski’s wife, Bonnie, is from New York City and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her graduate studies at Bryn Mawr, Adelphi and the University of Guelph.

According to Rozanski, his wife wished to return to the metropolitan area and be close to her family. “When I was asked to stay at the University of Guelph I decided not to,” said Rozanski. “The decision was based on many things, but mainly my wife. This was a family decision.”

Rozanski’s main goal was to find an institution that fit his needs and desires.

“I needed to find a university that would continue my aspirations and show my ability,” said Rozanski. “I looked for great success and found it here. We found each other.”

Rozanski is a member of the University’s Board of Governors and chair of the University Senate at Guelph. Outside of the University he serves as chair of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). Prior to that, he served as chair for COU’s Committee on Educational and Employment Equity and of its Committee on Government and Community Relations.

“I graduated from McGill University,” said Rozanski. “I received my Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania where I met my wife. Shortly, I began teaching there as a lecturer in American-East Asian Relations.”

Rozanski’s research and publications focus on Modern China and American-East Asian Relations. Among his publications are: An Instructor’s Guide to the History of the World, and The American-East Asian Relations Newsletter.

“I am glad I’m back in the states,” said Rozanski. “It’s a wonderful place and the food is great.”

Past Presidents & Their Accomplishments

Andrew Jackson Rider
- Founder and first president (October 1, 1866 — 1898)
- In a pioneering move, women were able to enroll at the business college

Franklin Benjamin Moore
- Second president (1898 — 1934)
- School of Education established after the New Jersey Department of Education requested that colleges create an education program
- Moved into own building in Trenton at the corner of East State and Carroll streets
- Officially changed its name to Rider College on Feb. 4, 1921
- First baccalaureate degrees awarded
- Athletics introduced

Franklin Frazee Moore
- Third president (1934 — 1969)
- Succeeded his father, Franklin Benjamin Moore, after untimely death
- During his presidency, male enrollment declined due to World War II
- Took leave of absence to serve in U.S. Navy
- Vice President J. Goodner Gill became acting president — Finances and enrollment were depleted so Gill asked New Jersey National Bank for a loan, which kept Rider from closing
- Rider College began relocating to Lawrence Road in 1956 after 99 years of being in Trenton
- Rider introduced liberal studies leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- In the Fall of 1962, Rider expanded into five schools adding the School of Liberal Arts & Science and Graduate School

Frank N. Elliott
- Fourth president (1969 — 1990)
- Evening School became the School for Continuing Studies in 1978.
- The School of Education was renamed the School of Education and Human Services
- Made it a point to be visible on campus and get to know the community

J. Barton Luedcke
- Fifth president (1990 — 2003)
- Rider College celebrated 125 years of existence
- Rider College merged with Westminster Choir College of Princeton
- New Jersey Board of Higher Education deemed Rider a teaching university, and the name was changed to Rider University on April 13, 1994
- Rider and Bell Atlantic announced a $5 million information technology infrastructure project that would benefit students in the future
- Rider renamed and dedicated the College of Business Administration building, built in 1988, in honor of Rider trustee and benefactor Anne Brossman Sweigard

The Rider News congratulates
Dr. Rozanski as
Rider’s Sixth President

Information courtesy of www.rider.edu
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