

# The Queens Guard Alumni Association Steps into a New Campus Mentoring Role

BY RANDY YOUNG RC '68

At the end of World War II, Rutgers announced it would take in all qualified veterans, and the influx of GIs swelled university enrollment nearly six-fold to 4,200 by the fall of 1947. In 1994, the Department of History established The Rutgers Oral History Archives to record the personal experiences of the men and women who served overseas and on the home front during World War II, as well as in the Korean and Vietnamese Wars.

The common thread between these events is the unwavering commitment by Rutgers over the years to support military

College Community, is aimed at providing current students who have served in the military with valuable support and guidance in the form of mentors who have also served their country.

Susan Schurman, dean of the University College Community and director of lifelong learning for the Division of Continuous Education said, "We are thrilled by the expression of support from so many Rutgers people who want to serve as mentors." Added Betsy Feliciano-Berrios, assistant dean of the University College Community, which serves the needs of adult, part-time and non-traditional students, "Many of our veterans really need assistance with transitioning from military to academic life. We want them to know there is a pool of people who are very interested in their success."

In the midst of that pool when the Volunteer Veteran Mentoring Program kicks off this fall will be The Queens Guard Alumni Association (QGAA), a constituent group of the Rutgers Alumni Association. "Since many of our alumni pursued military careers, we can offer unique guidance for relevant curriculum choices and career paths", says **Joseph Carlan RC '84**, QGAA president. "Many students are returning veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and could benefit from our members' advice, experiences and perspective as they resume their civilian lives."

## Expanding the QGAA Mission

The Queens Guard began as an extra-curricular activity for cadets of the Air Force ROTC program in 1957. It soon gained worldwide recognition, performing in the inaugural parades for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, as well as at major exhibitions



The Queens Guard marches in exhibition at the 1964 World's Fair in New York City. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE QUEENS GUARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

across the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Although the team ceased competing formally in 1993, The Queens Guard Alumni Association was formed in 2005, two years prior to its 50th anniversary. (To learn more, go to [www.queensguard-rutgers.org](http://www.queensguard-rutgers.org)).

The new collaboration with the mentoring program is QGAA's first commitment outside its mission of restoring the group's heritage on campus. "We intend to allocate more time to broader issues of special interest to our alumni within the larger Rutgers community," advises Carlan, "and mentoring student military veterans represents a meaningful first step."

The QGAA informed its members of the new Volunteer Veteran Mentoring Program on Veterans Day last November, and will continue to keep them updated as details of the initiative are rolled out by the university in the months ahead. Carlan anticipates ongoing support from QGAA's more than 600 members.

The mentoring program has been actively recruiting Rutgers faculty, alumni and friends of the university with military experience to serve as mentors. The response to date has been "fantastic," according to Feliciano-Berrios, with nearly 150 individuals from the New Brunswick, Newark and Camden campuses agreeing to participate. If you would like to become part of this worthwhile program, go to [http://ucc.rutgers.edu/vol\\_vet\\_mentors.shtml](http://ucc.rutgers.edu/vol_vet_mentors.shtml).

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Assistant Dean, University College Community

veterans and remember those alumni who have contributed to the rich history and diversity of the university.

That heritage is about to take another patriotic leap with the creation of the Volunteer Veteran Mentoring Program. This effort, developed by the University