

## ENDOWMENT BOOST

# A SPECIAL FONDNESS FOR RUTGERS' CAMDEN CAMPUS LEADS TO GIFT THAT WILL HELP MEET NEW CHALLENGES

**J**ack O'Malley may have majored in chemistry at Rutgers and earned a Ph.D. in that field at the University of Pennsylvania, but he has a strong sense of history, too. And it's the memory of being the first in his family to earn a college degree that became the inspiration for the Jack and Mary O'Malley Endowed Fund for Academic Excellence at Rutgers' Camden College of Arts and Sciences. This fall the first students will benefit from the \$100,000 endowment when four scholarships are awarded to entering Honors College freshmen on that campus.

After a successful career in the biomedical field, Dr. O'Malley says he and his wife, Mary, wanted to give a gift to "the place where it all began, Rutgers-Camden." Although circumstances led him to eventually complete his degree at Rutgers College on the New Brunswick campus, it was the camaraderie among the students and faculty of the smaller campus that stands out among his university experiences.

"The O'Malleys have been very generous in giving the college a great deal of latitude to use the funds as new priorities arise," comments Dean Margaret Marsh, CCAS'67, GSNB'69, GSNB'74. "Our campus is in a period of transformation. The O'Malley Fund, in particular, will allow us to meet new challenges and set new goals."

It was happenstance that brought Dr. O'Malley to Rutgers in 1951. Although a

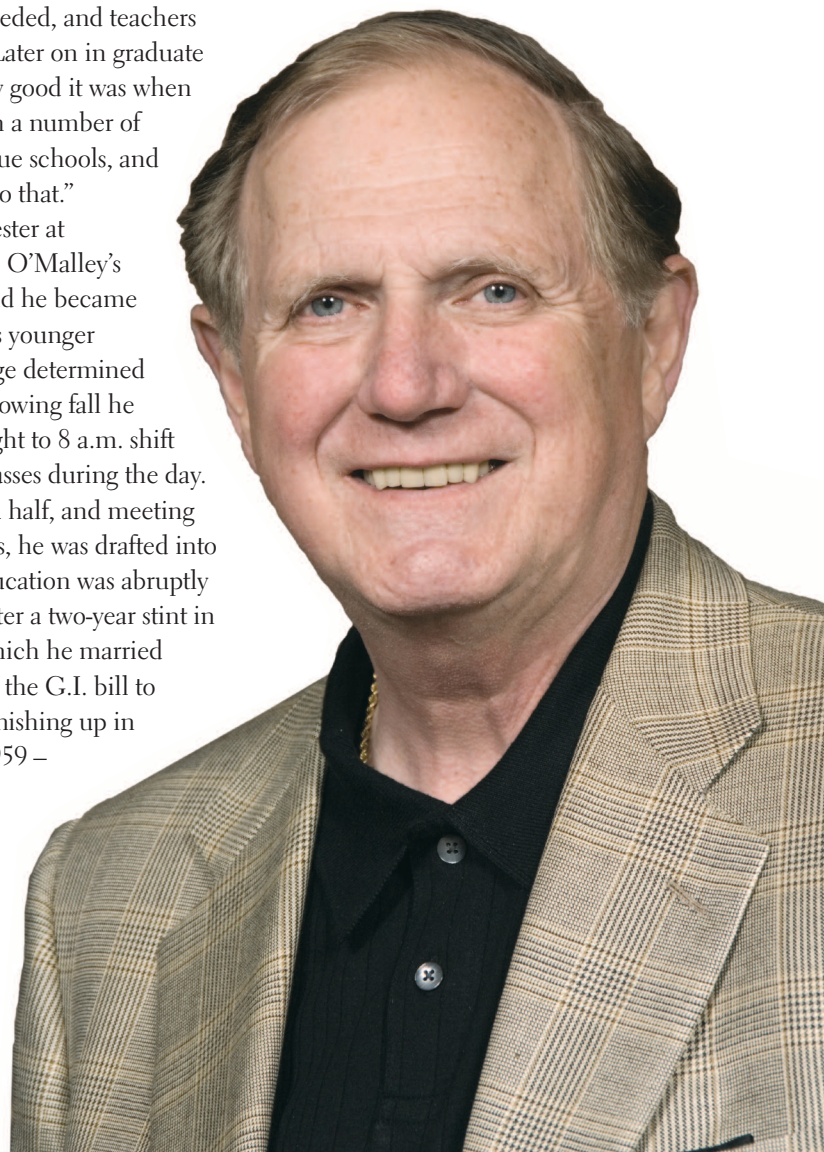
good student, he felt college was out of the question because his family could not afford it. At the time, Dr. O'Malley's mother was ill — his parents had separated when he was 4 years old — and he was living with his grandmother and younger brother. But after his senior year of high school, he received a call telling him of a four-year state scholarship with additional support from the Woodbury Exchange Club, and an opportunity was born.

"Once I was on campus and got a taste of what college was like, I knew it was for me. I found a small school where I got the help and support I needed, and teachers who were excellent. Later on in graduate school, I realized how good it was when I had to compete with a number of people from Ivy League schools, and I found that I could do that."

But after one semester at Rutgers-Camden, Dr. O'Malley's grandmother died, and he became the sole support of his younger brother. He left college determined to return, and the following fall he did, working a midnight to 8 a.m. shift so he could attend classes during the day. But, after a year and a half, and meeting Mary while at Rutgers, he was drafted into the Army, and his education was abruptly halted once again. After a two-year stint in the service, during which he married Mary, he returned on the G.I. bill to Rutgers, eventually finishing up in New Brunswick in 1959 —

earning his degree eight years after he first set foot on a Rutgers campus.

Establishing the endowment for Rutgers-Camden, Dr. O'Malley says, completes the circle and offers promise to others: "When I was a student, the people who were there with me were often the first members of their families to go to college. Their graduation started it all for them and for future generations of their family. Rutgers-Camden is still doing that for kids in South Jersey today. It is making a difference in the future of whole families, and I like that."



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— Jack O'Malley