Kathy Taylor DC’64 Returns to Douglass for a SUPER Celebration

Dr. Kathy C. Taylor, a 1964 graduate of Douglass College and member of the pioneering research laboratories team at General Motors, whose development of catalytic convertors helped diminish air pollution, returned to Douglass on October 6 as part of a celebration of women in STEM.

The evening began with poster presentations by 60 students on topics ranging from how to treat ocular damage after exposure to mustard gas to the effects of gold nanoparticles on melting gel.

Months of hard work prepared students to impress their fellow students, faculty, and Douglass alumnae. Over the summer, students completed research in laboratories and research areas all over the world through Project SUPER (Science for Undergraduates: A Program for Excellence in Research), Douglass’ comprehensive STEM-focused enrichment program that supports student participation in academic research. In the spring before their summer of research, they honed their research skills with the guidance of faculty mentors at Rutgers.

Before her speech, Dr. Taylor attended the poster session. “I was really impressed with quality of work, the maturity of students,” Dr. Taylor said. “You just wouldn’t think it was an undergrad poster session.”

Dr. Taylor’s accomplishments are many, making her an ideal speaker to encourage women just beginning their careers in STEM. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and a foreign fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. In 1989, she received the American Chemical Society’s Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal, which recognizes scientific accomplishment by women chemists.

During her speech, she spoke about her role in the groundbreaking use of catalysts for emission control and her 31-year career at General Motors. Her speech was without photos, charts or PowerPoint, yet had students on the edge of their seats. She satisfied the scientists in them with detailed descriptions of the process of developing the automotive-exhaust catalytic systems, but also touched on what life was like early on, as one of just a few women in a field dominated by men.

When she was first hired by GM, she said, the only other female Ph.D. in the research labs was on maternity leave. “I later learned that before giving me the offer, they asked around the department if anyone objected to them hiring a woman,” she said.

Dr. Taylor recalled her time at Douglass as formative, both in education and friendships; she extolled the achievements of her classmates, with whom she remains close.

“We had many outstanding women faculty members” she said. “Douglass would hire women.”

It was a special place, she said, and unique for its time.

Above: Douglass 1964 classmates, Annmarie Sabb, Phyllis Michelson, Kathy Taylor, and Zieva Konvisser, at the Project SUPER Research Symposium

Below: Project SUPER participant Amber Rawson DRC’20 explains her research to Eileen Poiani DC’65
Dean’s Message

Each fall, as our newest students plunge into life at Douglass, I’m struck by all that awaits them: knowledge, friendship and a community that will help shape the rest of their lives.

At Douglass, education does not start and stop at the classroom door. Our students are surrounded by it: in workshops that provide leadership training and professional development; through faculty and peer mentoring that supports their academic endeavors; during externships and research opportunities that help them discover what they can accomplish in this world; and in our Living-Learning Communities, where they continue conversations begun in class, support each other’s challenges and celebrate triumphs together.

At Douglass, education is amplified. There is nothing accidental about this. Research demonstrates the likelihood of success increases for students when they have access to educational residential programs, increased mentoring and community support. We supply all of this and more. In this newsletter, read about just a few of these efforts, including Project SUPER, a STEM-based program that provides students with the chance to participate in hands-on laboratory work. Or, the Douglass Externship Experience, which sends hundreds of students into businesses and non-profits to help define their academic and career goals. Many of these opportunities are made possible through the generous donations of our alumnae, women who know firsthand the power of a Douglass education.

At Douglass, students become leaders. This year, we mark the 50th anniversary of the Douglass Black Student Congress, the oldest and largest black women’s group at Rutgers. And, we celebrate our centennial with the strong examples set by our own esteemed graduates. In October, Douglass hosted visits from Dr. Susan Martin, ’64, a leading international expert in forced migration, and Dr. Kathy C. Taylor, ’64, who helped create the automotive catalytic conversion system that fights air pollution.

As we look to the past to celebrate 100 years, we will also celebrate the future that lies ahead for our students.

Who will they be after Douglass?
What will they do?

Dean Jacquelyn Litt, Ph.D.

The Power of Douglass: A Message from Chancellor Dutta

Dear Douglass Alumnae,

Congratulations to Douglass on almost 100 years of education! Since my arrival at Rutgers University--New Brunswick, I have had the pleasure of seeing first-hand how Douglass embodies the best in 21st century education. I have long held a deep admiration for institutions committed to civic engagement, inclusivity, and global awareness.

As an integral component of Rutgers--New Brunswick, Douglass leads in providing women undergraduates with the education and values necessary to thrive in the world today. From STEM programs supporting the pipeline of the next generation of science and technology leaders, to the global living-learning communities, to the Douglass Course, challenging students to deepen their understanding of the status of women in the United States and across the globe, Douglass signals the best in women’s education today.

Led by Dean Jacquelyn Litt, the power of Douglass lies in its accomplished students, dedicated alumnae, and exceptional educational opportunities. Meanwhile, Douglass is a vital contributor to the Rutgers--New Brunswick academic community, partnering with multi-disciplinary scholars and researchers throughout our comprehensive university of engineers, humanists, scientists and artists to name a few. We speak of Douglass students having “the best of both worlds”—a world class faculty at Rutgers-New Brunswick and a small women’s college experience at Douglass.

Douglass is already looking forward to the next 100 years; cultivating an environment where student success is paramount and possibilities are endless. New innovations, such as the BOLD Center for Career and Leadership Development at Douglass, prepare women students to be successful in their future endeavors, whether they are entering the workforce or continuing their education in graduate school. Douglass is fostering an environment where students discover strengths, embrace opportunities, and create life-long connections.

What an amazing time at Rutgers to celebrate 100 years of exceptional women’s education. I hope to see you all during this centennial year as we commemorate this momentous occasion.

With gratitude,
Deba Dutta
Chancellor, Rutgers University--New Brunswick
Hundreds of students filled the Kathleen W. Ludwig Global Village Learning Center on October 23rd for the opportunity to hear Susan Martin, DC ‘68, speak about refugees and forced migration at The Power of 100 Years: Douglass Centennial Event. Dr. Martin founded the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and wrote the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees guidelines on the protection of refugee women. She currently consults the World Bank on issues of migration.

The lecture was held in conjunction with the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and the Institute for Women’s Leadership. Dr. Martin is the 2017-2018 Blanche, Edith and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women’s Studies at Douglass College, a program that brings scholars to campus for one to two-week residencies.

In a wide-ranging talk, Dr. Martin discussed both progress gained and the many remaining challenges for displaced persons and refugees. She focused on issues specific to women, including sexual and gender violence, gender-friendly asylum practices and reproductive health.

She described moments from her own field visits to refugee camps in Somalia, Jordan and Cambodia and said she is frequently asked how she can keep going back.

“These refugees are so resilient,” she said. “If I can go and lend my voice in helping them, why would I not do it?”

Dr. Martin outlined a range of actions available to students wanting to make an impact, from writing to political representatives and donating to non-profits working with displaced persons to teaching English and volunteering with elderly refugees.

“Every little bit matters,” she said. “For every refugee that knows someone cares for them, it makes a difference.”

But her advice, above all, was to remain educated.

“You guys are young,” she said. “It’s going to fall in your laps to do something about this and I think the more you’re educated and the more you educate yourself about what’s happening with internationally displaced persons and refugees, the better this world will be.”
Alumna Spotlight: Joyce Goodman

Joyce Goodman graduated Douglass College in 1979 with a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in Microbiology. Seeking a career in research, Goodman landed a job at E.R. Squibb and Sons, overseeing the bacterial and fungal culture collection. It was lab work she loved, even - and despite - the times when a freezer would break in the middle of the night; she’d rush to the lab to transfer the samples and sleep on the freezer room floor until the temperatures were correct again. After eight years, she combined her passions for microbiology and math and moved into data management, working with doctors who ran clinical studies. She later became Director of Data Management in NJ at what was by then Bristol-Myers Squibb. When Goodman retired, she was head of Global Medical Coding and had spent 24 years at the company.

What was the impact of your Douglass experience? There was such an interest on the part of the college to involve the students. I did a senior honors research project under Dr. Evelyn Witkin, who later received a National Medal of Science. It was an incredible experience. At the end of year, I had to present the project to other students and faculty; that was an impressive moment for me. To have a group of distinguished faculty members listening to you present your findings has such an effect on your self-confidence. Those were the types of things available to students at Douglass, and I believe this is true even more so now.

What advice would you give to Douglass students? Take advantage of everything that’s there. You never know when something is going to strike a chord in you that gets you fired up. The only reason I ended up in Microbiology is because of one professor I had my first semester. It was hard to take notes with her because she talked so fast, trying to tell us everything; she loved her subject so much. She made class exciting. Once I had that experience, there was no question which direction I wanted to go. I fell in love with lab work. And one of the reasons I took that course was there were not many introductory classes left when I registered. This one wasn’t full. It was serendipitous.

What are the advantages of a Douglass education? Back then it was the quality of the faculty. Teachers make all the difference. When I was there, there were a great number of faculty I was very impressed with. I think another thing I would say, is that there’s a big emphasis on providing young women with the opportunity to see what’s out there, to see what they can do and to encourage them and help them get where they want to go.

You and your husband, Leslie Goodman, recently endowed a scholarship for students in Project SUPER that provides opportunities for STEM research. Why was that important to you? Science has always been my interest. I met Dean Jackie Litt a few years ago, and talking to her, hearing what her plans are for Douglass, got me very interested in what she wants to accomplish. Her excitement and her enthusiasm for the school, how she wants to make a difference for these young women, was exciting. It was difficult for me when Douglass was no longer Douglass College, as it was for a number of the alumnae. But just talking with her turned me around. And I wanted to be able to be in a position where I could make a difference for a student in that area.

“There’s a big emphasis on providing young women with the opportunity to see what’s out there…to encourage them and help them get where they want to go.”
The Douglass Black Student Congress: On the Cusp of 50 Years

The Douglass Black Students’ Congress was founded in 1968, a time of political activism around the country and on the Rutgers campus. As the group’s 50th anniversary approaches, current president Jessica Dufort, ’19, describes the DBSC as a “gem from our history.”

“A lot of black students in the ’60’s at Rutgers paved the way for a generation like mine,” she said.

The DBSC is the oldest and largest organization of black women at Rutgers. Hundreds of students have passed through its ranks since it was founded, gaining leadership skills in addition to a strong sense of community. The mission remains unchanged: to raise black consciousness within the college and create strong bonds through friendship and sisterhood.

The group organizes events throughout the year, from Black History Month activities to outreach in local high schools. There are celebratory cultural events like the Kwanzaa Ball, ‘Jazz ‘N Java,’ and monthly ‘Black Thoughts’ discussions, where students from across the university gather to grapple with topics like police brutality and freedom of speech.

Dufort discovered the group in her first year when she attended a Black Thoughts event about Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old black woman found dead in a Texas jail cell in 2015. The discussion was thoughtful and passionate; Dufort realized she’d found a home.

“There was a great level of maturity; you could just see the potential in the room,” she said. “I immediately thought, ‘I have to come back.’”

Michelle Jefferson, Associate Dean of Students at Rutgers, New Brunswick, is a 1990 graduate of Douglass College and alumnae of the DBSC. She remembers coffee house evenings each semester and diverse crowds, eager to learn about one another.

“It gave me a sense of sisterhood at Douglass,” she said of the DBSC.

The DBSC will mark its 50th anniversary at events throughout the spring, culminating with the ‘Jeans ‘N Stilettos Women Empowerment’ celebration.
Career bound: Douglass Students Pursue Externships

This fall, Rashika Agrawal, ’18, received an email she’d been hoping for since March and with it, a new title to add beside her name: Google Student Ambassador.

The job, serving as a student representative for Google products, is a direct result of Agrawal’s participation in Douglass’s Externship Experience, a program of Douglass’s BOLD Center. Agrawal was one of 140 students who gained work experience last year through the program, which links students and mentors at companies and non-profits ranging from Verizon Wireless and Tiffany & Co. to the United Nations. Externships take place each January and March and last up to two weeks.

Leslie Danehy, Assistant Dean and Executive Director of the BOLD Center at Douglass, said the externships lead to paid internships for roughly 25 percent of students and are critical for students as they map their future.

“We want professional experiences to clarify academic and career goals,” Danehy said.

More than 50 percent of students are matched with a Douglass alumnae. Tara Kousha,’12, an education product marketing manager at Google, served as Agrawal’s mentor. She volunteers for the program as a means of giving back.

“In large part, I was able to pursue this work because of all of the internships, externships, and research opportunities I found through Douglass and Rutgers,” Kousha said.

Three Douglass students, including Agrawal, spent a week at Google in March. While listening to employees brainstorm ideas for promoting Google Cloud Platform, it occurred to Agrawal that students would be the best people to do so. She wrote a proposal suggesting that the Google Student Ambassador Program be used to promote the platform and presented it to Google before she left.

Now, she and fellow Douglass extern, Amruta Abhyankar, ’18, are busy planning training sessions and hackathons that they hope will introduce new users to the product.

Agrawal draws a direct line between her successful proposal and the resources and support provided by the BOLD Center at Douglass.

“One thing leads to another,” she said. “Having such empowering women within Douglass who are working with and for students every single day, it’s amazing.”
Giving to Douglass

Thank you for fueling the power of a Douglass education. Financial support from alumnae amplifies students’ education, supports women in STEM, empowers critical thinkers, provides externships and internships, and offers opportunities for academic excellence through scholarships.

Today, to support the college and her students, please send your gifts to Douglass directly, or give online at douglass.rutgers.edu/give, as the AADC no longer raises funds for Douglass. Giving through Douglass ensures that your gift goes directly to the College. Gifts should be made payable to Douglass Residential College.*

Your support of students and programs is vital. You can make a real difference for Douglass students this year by designating your gift to any of the programs listed below by December 30, 2017.

*Please note: Rutgers University Foundation will process your gift and gift receipt and ensure that your gift is given to Douglass.

| Where the Need is Greatest-Douglass Excellence Fund |
| Douglass Student Scholarship Support |
| Educating Women Global Leaders at Douglass |
| Advancing Women in STEM at Douglass |
| The BOLD Center – Leadership and Career Development for Women at Douglass |

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions about giving to Douglass to support our students and programs.

Thank you!

Maureen M. Mollahan
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Why Every Douglass Woman Needs an Estate Plan

While planning for the distribution of your estate need not be a burdensome task, failure to plan can lead to unnecessary negative consequences for your loved ones:

- Distribution of assets to unintended people.
- Excessive and unnecessary tax liabilities.
- Forced sale of assets at sacrifice prices to raise funds to pay inheritance taxes and other estate liabilities.

Get our complimentary Estate-Planning Guide for Women 2017 to learn about the six crucial action items that every woman, regardless of her circumstances, needs in her estate plan. Douglass is also glad to talk with you about remembering the College and Douglass students in your estate plan.

Request your complimentary copy today:
- Call the Douglass Development Office at 848.932.3181
- E-mail douglass@echo.rutgers.edu
- Visit www.rutgers.giftplans.org/DouglassWomen

Ray and Sharyn Suarez, DC’80
“I would encourage other alumnae to plan a gift to Douglass as a way to say thank you for its part in shaping our lives,” said Sharyn.
Zahra Bukhari DRC’18

Admittedly, I was not keen on joining Douglass, the women’s college within Rutgers. At the time, my best friend was heavily involved in student life on campus, whereas I was the stereotypical rebellious artist. I imagined at Douglass I would be forced to spend a majority of my time with female acquaintances and classmates. I did not want to be confined to this social group. Still, reluctantly, I joined.

Fast forward to sophomore year, I started to realize the artwork I created expressed a feminist perspective. I began to formulate opinions and share them during critiques and class discussions, while the visual narratives of my work explored the female gaze. That same year, after attending the Douglass Leadership Retreat as a member of the Global Village, I heard about the existence of the Douglass Governing Council. With my growing interest in identity politics and Islamic feminism, I joined DGC as the Secretary hoping to culminate those interests into forms of community engagement. After a year of work and dedication to the DGC mission, I was elected President for the next two years and worked collaboratively with a team of energetic and diverse women in listening to students and collaborating with DRC administration.

We do not choose to be leaders but when we have the ability to incite change, we therefore have the responsibility to do just that. Being a part of DRC has granted me countless opportunities to project a voice that is distinctively my own. With this ability, I therefore felt a responsibility to serve the student body and place women’s voices at the forefront of this University. The most significant part of my experience has been the individuals who are willing to listen and share their own stories. My involvement in DRC has sparked a fire inside me to continue working to portray a perspective that is unapologetic and raw and that will hopefully influence others to do the same.
The Power of 100 Years: Douglass Centennial Events
Douglass' Global Village Stories: Alumnae Remember a Transformative History
Monday, January 29, 2018 • 7:15 p.m. - 8:35 p.m.
Kathleen W. Ludwig Global Village Living Learning Center
In honor of the celebration of Douglass' Centennial, the Global Village Stories features a panel of alumnae who tell the story of this unique and thought-provoking living learning community as it has evolved over several decades.

Douglass at the RAC: A Celebration of Douglass Athletes
Sunday, February 4, 2018
12:00 p.m. Douglass Reception
2:00 p.m. Game
Rutgers Athletic Center, Livingston Campus
Join us for the annual celebration of the "moving up" of the classes. Today, our ceremony includes: student awards, the distribution of class charms, the ceremonial walking of Sacred Path by torchlight, and participation in the Old Pinecone Tradition.

Douglass Centennial Book Launch
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 • 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Kathleen W. Ludwig Global Village Living Learning Center
The Douglass Century: The Transformation of the Women's College at Rutgers University
By Rutgers' faculty Kayo Denda, Mary Hawkesworth, and Fernanda Perrone. Published by Rutgers University Press.
Come meet the authors, alumnae, faculty and Douglass faculty as they share reflections on Douglass' history. Join us and get a free copy.

Douglass Centennial Spotlight – “Women Rising to Leadership.”
Wendy Cai Lee DC'96 interviews Susan Chira, Senior Correspondent of The New York Times
Saturday, March 31, 2018 • 11:30 a.m.
Kathleen W. Ludwig Global Village Living Learning Center
Douglass Alumna Wendy Cai Lee discusses opportunities and barriers to women in top leadership positions with Susan Chira, Senior Correspondent and Editor at The New York Times.

Douglass Global Summit – “Forced Migration, Gender, and Global Allies”
Featuring Laurie Chair Susan Martin, Ph.D., DC'88 and Angelides Lecturer Jasmina Dervisevic-Cesic
Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Kathleen W. Ludwig Global Village Living Learning Center
Join us for a day to examine problems and solutions to the mass migrations of populations across the globe, with a particular focus on women's lives. Experts and Douglass students will present their work on protecting and developing policy for the improvement of women's status.

Rutgers Day
Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Douglass Campus, College Ave Campus, Busch Campus
Special Events:
Tea with the Dean
Young Alumnae Happy Hour
Stay tuned for details!

99th Annual Sacred Path
Sunday, April 29, 2018 • 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Voorhees Chapel, Sacred Path
Join us for the annual celebration of the "moving up" of the classes. Today, our ceremony includes: student awards, the distribution of class charms, the ceremonial walking of Sacred Path by torchlight, and participation in the Old Pinecone Tradition.

Douglass Convocation
Saturday, May 12, 2018 • 10:00 a.m.
Antilles Field, Douglass Campus
The 97th Annual Douglass Convocation on Antilles Field celebrates the achievements of Douglass' graduating students. Share in the excitement as graduates join loved ones and friends, Rutgers and Douglass leaders, and student speakers to celebrate their accomplishments.

douglass.rutgers.edu/100-years