



# *Celebrating the Endeavor*

Dedicating a tribute to educator,  
sailor and pioneer Marvin Creamer

Rowan University  
October 28, 2015

# CELEBRATING THE ENDEAVOR

## WELCOME

John Hasse '95, M'02  
*Chair,*  
*Department of*  
*Geography & Environment*

## REMARKS

Ali Houshmand  
*President*

## REFLECTIONS

Marvin Creamer '43

## FAREWELL

John Hasse



*Above: Safely harbored, Globe Star endured violent storms at sea, a broken tiller, doldrums and more.*

*Center: A rendering of Globe Star's hull.*

*Right: Captain Creamer returned in May 1984 to fanfare and welcomes from family, friends, GSC Geography colleagues and news media eager to tell the amazing story.*



# Sailing into history

A 1943 ALUMNUS OF GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE, MARVIN CREAMER IS A LIFELONG LEARNER AND EDUCATOR who started his career as a teacher and principal in Alloway Township. He served in the Army during World War II, then returned to civilian life as a teacher and principal in Newfield. He earned master's degrees in education (University of Pennsylvania) and geography (University of Wisconsin–Madison), and spent 29 years teaching and innovating at his alma mater in Glassboro—often not in a traditional classroom, and for six years, serving as director of public relations as well as professor. Traveling extensively by land and sea with his family, he brought experience and inspiration back to the classroom and everyone he met.

Although he would eventually make his biggest headlines for avoiding the use of technical instruments on his sailboat, the *Globe Star*, during his voyage, Marvin embraced opportunities to use technology and new approaches in education. In 1955, he took to the sky in an initiative funded by Exxon to teach geography from an airplane and produced two live television broadcasts about manufacturing in the Delaware Valley. Recognized by the GSC Alumni Association as the 1980 Distinguished Alumnus and named professor emeritus, he founded the Geography Department, earned numerous accolades from students and peers throughout his career—and dreamed for decades of sailing around the world without instruments.

On Dec. 21, 1982, Marv, then 67, set off from Cape May aboard the 36-foot sailboat, beginning a 510-day, 30,000-mile journey around the globe. In doing so, the Vineland native was looking to fulfill a dream he first had at 17.

He eschewed artificial navigational tools such as a compass or sextant, relying only on the stars, water currents and his vast knowledge of geography to find his way. He didn't even use a watch.

He encountered his share of bad weather and equipment breakdowns on the journey, but he persevered. On May 18, 1984, to great fanfare, he sailed triumphantly back to port.

Throughout his voyage, his scholarly knowledge of geography

was complemented by his experience as a sailor—and his hands-on knowledge of machinery, which was honed during his growing-up years working on internal combustion engines during the Depression. He had the smarts, the skills—and the chutzpah—to accomplish the unthinkable.

“I had to fly in the face of all of the criticism from people who told me that I was doing the impossible,” he said. “I had taken oceanography and every geography course in the book. I told people accomplishing the voyage was 95 percent possible. There were times I had to be extra careful not to be that five percent.”

The circumnavigation earned attention and praise worldwide. In 1985, the venerable Cruising Club of America presented Marvin its Blue Water Medal, considered the Pulitzer Prize of sailing.

## Still teaching

Rowan University has been privileged to welcome its legendary educator and seafarer to share his story with new audiences. He has met with geography classes and drawn standing-room-only crowds as he recounted his voyages. In Edelman Planetarium, he led students on a tour of the skies as they appeared during the circumnavigation, recreated with digital technology.

Marvin has donated to the Frank H. Stewart Room at Rowan's Campbell Library the extraordinarily detailed navigational logs of his trip and his vast collection of press clippings.

In 2013, colleagues, friends,

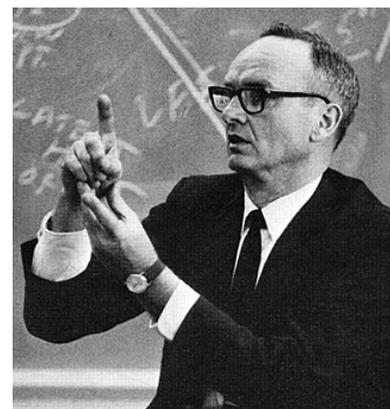
family, fellow sailors and students honored Marv and raised \$5,000 for the Marvin Creamer Scholarship for a student in the geography department who exemplifies intellectual curiosity and a spirit of adventure.

## The Endeavor monument

Today, the University community dedicates a tribute to Marvin Creamer the educator, scholar, adventurer and model of inspiration. Named Endeavor, the monument is shaped and scaled to recall *Globe Star* and is built of natural materials to create an outdoor classroom near the heart of campus and the home of the Geography Department that Creamer founded.

At the monument's center (where *Globe Star*'s mast would have been) rises a signpost with markers for destinations around the world. Ever the teacher, Marvin chose the locales and calculated the great circle distances to inspire and educate. The boulders that form *Globe Star*'s outline are in precise alignment with the shadows created by the post to function as a celestial sundial, to mark the cardinal directions and to indicate the summer and winter solstice and fall and spring equinox.

Marvin Creamer's epic endeavor demanded that he find his way by means no one had pushed to such limits. In the monument at his alma mater, that endeavor will forever enthrall, inspire and teach. ■



*A professor at GSC from 1948 to 1977, Creamer was as much a student as teacher, seeking knowledge to bring to his classroom and to apply to his dream of sailing around the world.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION

Globe Star's crew on each leg of the voyage: Marvin Creamer, captain, and  
Cape May to Cape Town: George Baldwin, Jeff Herdelin  
Cape Town to Hobart: Jeff Herdelin, Rick Kuzyk  
Hobart to Sydney: Jesse Edwards, Nick Gill  
Sydney to Whangaroa: Nick Gill  
Whangaroa to Stanley: Nick Gill, Robert Rout  
Stanley to Cape May: Edgar Gibson, David Lansdale, Robert Watson

Thanks to the "miracle-makers" who rigged and outfitted Globe Star in three weeks:  
Fred Bor, Mitch Brodtkin, Dick Burgin, Steve Carnahan, Harry Costill, Joe Flynn, Bob Kennedy, Phil Miller,  
Skip Moorhouse, Jim Palmer, Ken Pierce, Fred Schuchard, Dick Stenger and Leigh Weiss

Thanks to those who saw to a multitude of details:  
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Don Rogers, Dick Scott, Paul Trace, Ralph VanMeter, Bruce Watson, Doug Zee, Pat Zee and Bill Zycinsky

Thanks to Lee Houchins, who arranged satellite tracking,  
an air drop and provided position information.

### CREW MEMBERS WHO SAILED WITH MARVIN CREAMER 1973-1980

Richard Burgin, Kurt Creamer, Richard Creamer, Gary Doyle, Donald Farnelli, William Farnelli, Edgar Gibson,  
Kenneth Helfant, Ivar Jensen, Tony Muldoon, William Nichols, Ronald Schreier, Clifford Shafer and Edward Twardowski

### CREATING THE MONUMENT

Cindy Vitto, *Dean*, College of Humanities & Social Sciences,  
for her earnest fundraising and coordination efforts to bring this vision to fruition

John Hasse, *Chair*, Department of Geography & Environment,  
for guiding installation details

Eric Sprengle Sr. and Diana Pierce, WECOM, Inc.,  
for signpost production

John Collins, *Artist and Architect*, Collins Studio Works  
for design

José and Sandra Baez, Brida Stone, Inc.,  
for boulders and landscaping material

Arijit De, Kevin Muldoon and Ed Thompson, Facilities  
for project management

*The only instrument  
in use during the  
voyage, this  
custom-made  
hourglass measured  
the crew's watches.*

