

**Dr. Richard H. Rush Library Dedication
By Kenneth P. Walker, Ph.D.
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Edison State College
11:00 a.m.**

It brings me great pleasure to dedicate this beautiful library in honor of a man whose genius for investments is exceeded only by his generosity of spirit and willingness to help scores of ambitious students achieve their dreams of an education, Dr. Richard H. Rush.

This is truly a day of celebration for Edison State College. We dedicate not only this building, we also begin a new chapter in our history. The Richard H. Rush Library represents, symbolically and literally, a dramatic change occurring in higher education toward more interactive, collaborative learning in which libraries and technology play an increasingly important and vital role. The familiar phrase, the library is the heart of the College, is never more true than it is here today.

One of the founders of modern library science was the famous Anthony Panizzi(born and educated in Italy), who became principal librarian of the British Museum in 1856. Twenty years before his elevation to this post, however, Panizzi had made his mark by the brilliance of his testimony (in June 1836) before a select committee of the House of Commons inquiring into the affairs of the Museum Library.

He informed the committee, “I want a poor student to have the same means of indulging his learned curiosity, of following his rational pursuits, of consulting the same authorities, of fathoming the most intricate inquiry, as the richest man in the kingdom, as far as books go, and I contend that government is bound to give him the most liberal and unlimited assistance in this respect.”

Although this quote is more than 150 years old, it comes full circle when we think of Dr. Richard Rush and his marvelous wife, Julia and their sincere sentiment toward assisting students, both young and old, in their pursuit of higher education.

Dr. Rush’s great uncle, Townsend Harris, who in 1847 founded the City College of New York to provide education to the city’s working people said, “Open the doors to all, let the children of the rich and the poor take their seats together and know of no distinction save that of industry, good conduct and intellect.”

I have been privileged to know Richard Rush for more than a decade. As a scholar, he exemplifies the highest standards of academic excellence, having earned a full Professorship and Department Chairmanship in Banking and Investments at The American University, Washington, D.C.

In more than a dozen books and hundreds of articles, he analyzed economic trends and forecast fluctuations in such markets as stocks, bonds, precious metals, stamps and fine art. He is, in every sense of the word, a true renaissance man, and Julia is a renaissance lady.

Richard and Julia, the library truly is the heart of a College, and the pulse of Edison State College quickened the moment the doors of this wonderful facility opened for student use. While named for Richard the gift was from both.

From your financial support to your gifts of books and artifacts, and from the example you have set with your lives, you can be assured that the thousands of students who pass through this great library will be forever enlightened by the flame of learning and will be inspired to go out and make a difference in their community, country and the world.

Because of the difference you two have made in the life of Edison State College and our students, it is with deep gratitude and appreciation that we dedicate the Richard H. Rush Library on this 12th day of November, 2008, to the present and future generations of students who will use it to increase their knowledge and change their lives for the Better.

Thank you and may God Bless You.