

Paul Joseph Rizzo

Paul Rizzo is chair emeritus of Franklin Street Partners, a private investment management firm and trust company located in Chapel Hill. Coach Carl Snavely recruited Rizzo, a native of Clinton, New York, to Cornell on a football scholarship. When Snavely moved to Carolina in 1945, Rizzo followed. After a tour of duty in the United States Army, Rizzo lettered in football in four seasons on the legendary Carolina team that included Charlie Justice and Art Weiner, and was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece. He is remembered for scoring twice in the fourth quarter of the 1950 Cotton Bowl against Rice University, thereby preventing a shutout.

After graduating with a degree in accounting, Rizzo embarked on a business career that culminated in the position of vice chair of the board and chief financial officer of IBM. One day in 1987, after having reached IBM's mandatory retirement age of 60, Rizzo happened to be on a flight to Japan with Richard Jenrette, then a member of Carolina's Board of Trustees. Jenrette encouraged him to apply for the post of dean of the Kenan–Flagler Business School. Chancellor Christopher Fordham chose Rizzo for the job in a bold move that reached into the business community for an academic dean who had no previous experience in higher education leadership. Rizzo accepted the challenge with a goal of strengthening ties to North Carolina's business community and preparing Carolina's graduates for the increasing globalization of business.

Rizzo's administration initiated an era of phenomenal growth in Kenan–Flagler. He began with an executive education program that more than quadrupled in funding during his tenure. He energized the trustees and Kenan–Flagler's supporters by insisting that Carolina could and should compete with the best business schools in the nation. He pushed for a new building, advocated higher tuition for graduate students that would be retained by Kenan–Flagler to be used for building up its executive program, and de-emphasized the undergraduate program. At the end of his five-year term as dean, Rizzo had raised the Kenan–Flagler Business School to national stature.

His leadership roles at Carolina include membership on the Board of Visitors, the UNC Health Care System Board of Directors, the Educational Foundation Executive Committee and the UNC Board of Governors. Kenan–Flagler's Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center at Meadowmont is named in his honor. Rizzo's philanthropic work includes a leadership role in the Carolina First Campaign. He has been honored with the 1994 William Richardson Davie Award and the General Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Medal.

For outstanding accomplishments in business, higher education administration, and philanthropy the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Paul Joseph Rizzo the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.