

class notes

60s

Regina (Coda) Sutton '65 transcribes 17th and 18th century documents of those who fought during the American Revolution for the National Archives at Boston. Recently, she was designated archivist for the Lexington Field & Garden Club, the oldest in the nation. She also has overseen a 12-member book club for the last eight years. Sutton also set up the Dr. Richard D. Zahn Memorial Scholarship in Education, in memory of the former faculty member and administrator who taught at Glassboro State College from 1960 to 1988.

Carol (Maxwell) Cheek '66 taught English for six

years at the Department of Defense schools for American military dependents in Augsburg, Germany. In 1983, she received a master's degree from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. In 1992, she received a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. She spent 30 years teaching English in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District. She retired in 2012 and moved back to Boone in the Appalachian Mountains.

Richard Clarke '66 continues into his 26th year as musical director for the Hartford Saengerbund (or

Sängerbund) in Newington, Connecticut. Established in 1858, the organization is one of the nation's oldest German singing societies. In 2025, he directed the massed choir at the annual Sängerkfest held in Meriden, Connecticut, featuring singers from the German singing societies of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

70s

Michael Canaris '74 retired in 2003 after 27 years of service as a federal agent with the Office of Labor Racketeering, part of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General. He is active in a number of law enforcement organizations and received the 2024 Member of the Year Award given by the South Jersey Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 56 in West Berlin.

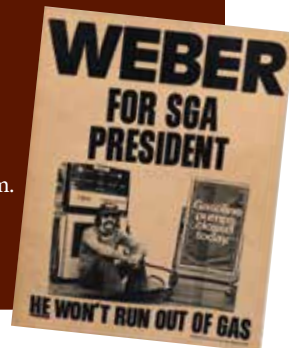
Susan "Sue" Chandler '73 is a longtime volunteer for The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. The charitable organization evaluates, tests, trains and qualifies owners and their dogs as therapy dog teams. Chandler's dog, Hana, earned the American Kennel Club's title, "Therapy Dog



After 52 years, that name rings a bell

Jeff Weber '75 attended a trade show in Orlando and noticed a vendor's name that sounded familiar. In 1974, during his successful run for SGA president, Weber, above left, purchased campaign posters and buttons from Aura Badge, a business in Clayton, just a few miles from the Glassboro campus. Could this be the same company? It was. Weber spoke with **Phil Barbaro '86**, Aura Badge CEO, and shared the story. Barbaro's family started the business that has been passed on

from generation to generation. Adding to the alma mater ties, his son **Andrew Barbaro '23** graduated with a degree in civil engineering. Now a semi-retired media consultant based in Delray Beach, Florida, Weber has a career in radio spanning 50 years, mostly in management and ownership of stations. Among his current clients is "The History of Rock 'n' Roll with Wink Martindale," the iconic syndicated radio program. Past clients include Shaquille O'Neal's internet hip-hop station, Shaq Fu Radio.



Too Fly Twelve together

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. chapter members from Rowan, Rutgers-Camden and Stockton University reunited for an afternoon of connection. From left: Darlene Wade, Stephanie Tonic, **Kathleen Brown Hawkins '85**, **Joyce Williams Sidibe '87**, **M'93**, Monique Clark McNair, **Danielle LaSure Bryant '87** and Angela Harvey.



Capturing the World Cup

With a hard-earned place on the sidelines, Don Mennig is at the center of the action

For photographer Don Mennig '91, covering the FIFA World Cup was the opportunity of a lifetime. "It's like the Mount Everest of sports photography," said Mennig, who photographed all five World Cup matches hosted at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field. "Standing in the middle of a stadium with 68,000 people gives you goosebumps. Everyone is singing, and it's a real experience that is very emotional."

Yet for Mennig, the story wasn't just on the field. "Anyone can take a good photo in good conditions," he said. "But capturing the moment, the faces, the reactions—that's the story I want to get right."

Photography has been part of Mennig's life since childhood. In second grade, he wrote a book report on photography, an early sign of a passion that would become a career. After high school, Glassboro State College stood out because it gave students immediate access to hands-on experiences.

"The opportunity to work at WGLS, The Whit and on video productions beginning with my freshman year was what drew me to GSC," Mennig said. Most programs didn't offer that kind of access until much later.

The experience paid off. Armed with a strong demo reel and portfolio, Mennig landed a job as a cameraman and producer shortly after graduation, while also working as a radio DJ.

Over the next three decades, he built a career spanning digital media, marketing, commercial photography and creative leadership. Through it all, one of his greatest takeaways from GSC has been the friendships.



"A core group of us still gets together several times a year," he said. "Their encouragement as I've grown as a photographer has been invaluable."

The World Cup also offered a reminder that growth never stops.

"The passion on the faces of the athletes and supporters elevated the World Cup beyond even my highest expectations," Mennig said.

For Mennig, curiosity remains the key to success. "Stay curious and hear others. Technology changes. People change. The world changes," he said. "Your work and creativity will improve dramatically if you listen with intent and never stop learning."

To learn more about Mennig's work, visit: donmennig.com



Alumni bookshelf

Adam Gustavson '96 is the author and illustrator of "The Aliens Do NOT Want To Go Home" (Charlesbridge), a picture book for ages 4-7.

including American singer-songwriter Syd Straw, as well as members of legendary New Jersey bands, including The Feelies, The Bongos, and The Cucumbers. All songs are available on Bandcamp, Spotify, Amazon, YouTube and Apple Music. In September, he opened for Ron Sexsmith at Montclair's Outpost In The Burbs, and later performed at Hoboken's 503 Social Club.

Catherine (Chrinko) Applegate '84 and fellow alumni gathered in Pennsylvania's Poconos Mountains in April 2026 to celebrate a wedding.

Distinguished." Hana is the only Skye terrier to reach this milestone. The pair have visited schools and assisted living facilities more than 400 times.

Wendy (Baral) Cooper

'73 participated in Rowan University's 11th annual Run for Rowan 5K race on April 25. She came in first for women over age 70.

Margaret "Margie"

Barham '79 was named among the 2026 Who's

Who in Health Care by South Jersey Biz. She is director of public relations and special projects for N.J. Health Hospice and Palliative Care.

80s



Gregg

Feistman '80

wrote a new book, "Raising Social Capital: Corporate

Advocacy and Impact in a Time of Social Change" (Routledge, 2026), with co-author Heather LaMarre. The book offers a roadmap on decision-making.

Brian W. Jones '81,

president and CEO of The First National Bank of Elmer, received the 2025 Advocacy in Action Award at the Maryville Integrated Care's Annual Recovery For Life Gala. Jones was recognized

for his philanthropic efforts and for supporting Maryville's mission to deliver substance use and mental health treatment to New Jersey residents.



Edward "Ed" Seifert '82

released three singles

within the first seven months of 2025. His May release, "Great Big World," featured 19 singers and players,

Deborah (Davis)

Ingersoll '85 was recently installed as the 2026-2028 president of New Jersey Alpha Delta Kappa, an organization of outstanding women educators. She also co-sponsors Rowan University's Alpha Delta Kappa Collegiate Club.



David Byrd

M'86 was named director of the Office of Central Services in



Engineering alumni honored

Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering inducted its third class into the Alumni Circle of Distinction, which recognizes engineering alumni for distinguished career accomplishments, contributions to the growth of the college and service to the community. To nominate someone for this prestigious honor, email Dan Drutz: drutz@rowan.edu.

Above, this year's inductees and University leadership: Chancellor Tony Lowman, Dean Giuseppe Palmese, Ken Gemmell '00, Margaret Hunter '02, Caitlin Terry '05, Kristin Phillippi '01, President Houshmand.

Prince George's County, Maryland, following a unanimous vote by the Prince George's County Council. He has more than two decades of leadership experience managing complex systems, large teams and high-impact public initiatives across federal, state and local government. He received Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association's 2026 Distinguished Achievement Citation, its highest honor.

Theresa Prescott '88, D.O.'94 is a psychiatrist and fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Her practice, Progressive Mind Center, is based in Vero Beach, Florida.

Andrew Ludman '89 retired in January 2025 after 34 ½ years of teaching K-2 health and physical education at Middle Township Elementary School #1 in Cape May Court House. He coached high school basketball for 30 years, high school baseball for 14 years, high school football for four years and middle school baseball for five years. His wife, Lisa, retired from teaching in July 2025. Their retirement plans include RV-style traveling and enjoying their families. Their son, Drew, is a career firefighter and their daughter, Dakota, will begin a career in the field.

Stephan Szardenings '89 was inducted on

ROWAN UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

October

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

I ♥ GSC

Visit alumni.rowan.edu/2026homecoming to register today.

Nov. 2, 2025, into the Morris County United States Bowling Congress (USBC) New Jersey Bowling Hall of Fame for superior performance. The USBC is the national governing body of bowling as recognized by the United States Olympic Committee. He has been bowling for 50 years, including 22 years in Morris County.

90s

Michael Pento '90 is president and founder of Pento Portfolio Strategies, a registered investment advisory firm that provides money management services and research for individual and institutional clients. Author of "The Coming Bond Market Collapse" (Wiley, 2013), Pento is a regular guest on CNBC, CNN, Bloomberg, FOX and other international media outlets. He also writes a financial column for Forbes, contributes to thestreet.com, and blogs for the Huffington Post.

Kathleen Corbalis M'91 of Linwood was inducted into the 2025 Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of her work as founder and chair of the South Jersey chapter of Women Fighting Hunger, a volunteer group that supports the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. She also serves as scholarships vice president for the Public Relations Council of Greater Atlantic City, which provides scholarships to communication majors. Corbalis retired in 2013 after a 30-year career as executive director of college relations at Atlantic Cape Community College.



Anthony "Tony" Pinizzotto '91 has been promoted to executive creative director after 10 years at Fremantle, a multinational television production and distribution company celebrating and shaping the legacy of game shows.



Business on tap

Rohrer College of Business alumni gathered for an evening at Bonesaw Brewery, including Dan Unger '21, Sarah Moschini '22, Sydney Holt '22 and Maksim Berlenbach '22.



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IRA Charitable Rollover

If you're 70½ years or older, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) provide a unique opportunity to fulfill your philanthropic goals while optimizing your retirement account strategy. You can make direct donations from your IRA to a qualified charity such as Rowan University and gain significant advantages for your tax obligations.

Why consider a QCD?

- Tax savings
- Simplified charitable giving
- Meeting RMD obligations

For your personalized proposal and rate, or for more information, please contact:

Rob Lightfoot, CAP®
Associate Director of Development
and Manager, Planned Giving
lightfootr@rowan.edu
856-256-4592



go.rowan.edu/plannedgiving

Rich Bostwick '92

was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Honor at Washington Township High School in June 2025. A physical education teacher and 20-year coach, Bostwick has coached boys' indoor and outdoor track and cross country at the school, leading teams to group and individual conference, county, sectional and state championships. At Rowan, Bostwick was an All-American in cross country and track and field. He belongs to halls of fame at Rowan, Gloucester County and Vineland High School.

Gary Gagnon '92, M'95, M'97 is a fractional vice president of sales at Sales Xceleration.

A Certified Sales Operating Management System™ expert, Gagnon specializes in driving sustainable revenue growth for small to mid-sized businesses.

John Genovese '92

worked on Season 23 of Bravo TV's "Top Chef" as a culinary associate producer. His other recent projects include the Michelle Pfeiffer Apple TV series, "Margot's Got Money Trouble," the Netflix series "The Ultimatum: Marry or Move On" and a Netflix documentary series about chef Gordon Ramsay. He previously worked as a design assistant on Season 9 of Netflix's "Queer Eye," which won the 2025 Emmy Award for



Breakfast for educators

The College of Education welcomed guests to its annual Celebration Breakfast in March, honoring four distinguished alumni: Kayla Bowe '22, M'23, Diane Mazzei '69, M'80, Thomas Santo M'92 and Josh Schneider M'18.

1. Jocelynn Mattingly-Blackwell, Zalphia Wilson-Hill M'90, Ed.D.'10, Elijah Blackwell M'21.
2. Tom Gallia '66, M'67, M'70 Peter Romeo M'23.
3. Denise Gavigan M'99, Diane Mazzei '69, M'80, Debra Quinn '88, Tara Piccione M'93, Tammy Monahan '88, M'01, Kim Kell '87, M'96.



Athletics Hall of Fame celebrates new inductees

The Shirley O'Day/Joy Solomen Athletics Hall of Fame welcomed former student athletes last fall.

1. 1993 Softball team, BACK: Sue Shilling-Ottenberg '93, Sam Pacitto '96, Melissa Comparri '94, Cindy (Coker) Burkett '96, Peggy Ann Coker '98, Nicole Staiano '95, Head Coach Kim Franchi, Former Athletic Director and Coach Joy Solomen '69, M'75, FRONT: Alexis Shug '97, Joy (Pittner) Malko '97, Barbara Kuntz Block '96.
2. Clinton Tabb '03, Jamie Elias '02, John Yurkow '01, Tony Racioppi '04, Sandy Duda '96, Abby Singley Adams '05.
3. 1998 Field Hockey team, BACK: Athletic Director Shawn Tucker, Sheena Marston '99, Stephanie Andre '99, Michelle Bilbow Gasparovic '01, Kate Madden Stauffer '00, Sharon Cheeseman '99, Kelly Engelbart '01, Lisa Der Pilbosian Brennan '04, Tracy Bart '02, Joleen Jaworski '99, Julie Thornton '99, Assistant Coach Mary Marino, Coach Penny Kempf, Assistant Coach Michelle Andre '99. FRONT: Chrissy Ludlam Santiago '02, Christine McGuigan '01, Erin Grelle Small '00, Teresa D'Aversa Johnson '99, Amy Malony Wiltsey '01, Dana Reynolds '99, Megan Smick Sheppard '01.



Outstanding Structured Reality Program.

Claudia Abate '93 was named a Cooperative for Humanity Global Ambassador by the Peace Innovation Initiative. She is founder and executive director of the Foundation for Post Conflict Development, which works to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in the areas related to maternal health and youth empowerment.



Namrata Patel '93 is a bestselling Indian-American author based in Boston. Her writing explores diaspora, dual-cultural



All in the alumni-employee family

Former classmates and current colleagues enjoyed gathering at Shpeen Hall when Alumni Engagement hosted lunch for employees who are GSC/Rowan alumni. As the University grows, it counts 800+ alumni among its professional ranks, making our alma mater the largest employer of its graduates.

identity and family connections. Having lived in countries around the world, Patel brings a global perspective to her characters. Her fourth novel, "Your Next Life Is Now" (Lake Union Publishing),

was published in November 2025.

Anthony Minosse '95 was appointed chief of police in Gloucester Township after serving as deputy police chief since 2019. A lifelong

resident of the township, he joined the force as a police officer in 1995.

Tony Cattani '98, M'02 was named the 2025-26 National High School Principal of the Year by the National Principals

Association. The award honors principals who exemplify visionary leadership, student-centered innovation, and a relentless commitment to excellence in education. Cattani has served Mount Laurel



1



2



3



4

Gathering to remember and encourage

Rowan University Black Alumni Network held its annual Paul A. Hilton '83 Fellowship Breakfast, celebrating the legacy of the late, longtime alumni leader, mentor and friend. The scholarship named for him honors the promise of a new generation of students and leaders.

1. Domonique Wright, Molique Wright '25.
2. Raina Smith Littlejohn, Melanie Burney '89, Amanda Koon '78, Karen Nadine McClam, Deborah Spruill Barnes '80.
3. Winifred Still Davis '76, M'77, Lisa Westfield '95.
4. Jerrell Lathan '82, Jeanette (Brown) Young '85, Jennifer Brown-Pearson, Denise (Eldridge) Crayne '86, Michelle (Jones) Dabney '90, Terry Henry '80, Tim Mason '07, Alan Daniels, Avonda Green-Ransome '87.

class notes

students for 18 years as principal of Lenape High School. He hosts the Proud Principals Podcast, celebrating the work of school leaders.



Brian Kulak '98, M'12 has published two books with EduMatch Publishing: "Level Up Leadership: Advance Your EduGame" (2019) and "The Hot Seat: Real Teenage Answers to Life's Real(ly) Hard Questions" (2025).

Christina "Christy" O'Gaughan '98 was named one of the top 25 Women Chief Data and Analytics Officers of 2025 by Women We Admire. O'Gaughan is senior vice president and chief data officer of GE Healthcare.

00s



Tiffany Lowe Clayton D.O. '00 is vice chair of family medicine at the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine at Campbell University in Lillington, North Carolina. She's an obesity medicine specialist.

Andrew Hodlofski '00 was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve's Judge Advocate General's Corps. He serves as the team chief for the 214th Legal Operations Detachment in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is also an associate counsel with the U.S. Navy Office of General Counsel, with duties at Portsmouth



Forging friendships and the future together

From North to South Jersey, Forging Forward campaign events welcomed alumni and friends of the University to support a brighter future for Rowan students. (Read more about the campaign on p. 20.) The next step is strengthening these connections through Rowan Regional Networks across New Jersey and Philadelphia with opportunities for career development, social networking and service—continuing the momentum beyond the campaign (details, inside front cover).

1. Sanaz Shahi M'18, Ph.D.'25, Alexander J. Belli '19, Peter Killian.
2. Shivani Shah '19, M'19, Nisha Shah '23.
3. Kevin Lane '20, Gabriela Lane '19.
4. Debi Quinn '88, Calie Condo '08, Cindy Rubiano-Gomez '16, Sharon Szmaziasz '77, Diane Mazzei '69, M'80, Jon Vogel '11, La Netta Hammill '72, M'85, Ed.D. '01, Charles Pusloski '07, Lisa Westfield '95
5. Joseph Batory M'80, Patsy Watkins '24.
6. Jean Edelman '81, Ric Edelman '80, Farah Houshmand, President Ali Houshmand.
7. Tamra Smith '25, M'26, Nakia Smith.

Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

Allison Brewer '03

is excited to share that her daughter will follow her footsteps by attending Rowan. She is a freshman this fall.

Anita Gupta D.O. '03

is the 2025 recipient of the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists' Arnold P. Gold Humanism Award. The award was established to honor practicing healthcare professionals who best demonstrate the ideals of compassionate and respectful care for a patient's well-being.



Angela Speakman '03, founder of Elucidation

Strategies, spoke about best practices for moving cannabis discussions forward at the Wilmington TEDx in November 2025. Her talk was titled, "Cultivating Conversations: Cannabis, Clarity, and Communication."

Kimberly (Hornbach) Davis '04, M'07

was named among The Top 50 Women Leaders in Software Development for 2025 by the membership organization Women We Admire. She is federal vice president of capabilities and technical development for ASRC, a government services contractor serving U.S. civil, defense and intelligence agencies.

Sarah (Jones) Tobias '04, M'15 married Douglas Tobias in Mays Landing on June 21, 2025. She

From Rowan to a national stage

As a professional communicator, Troi Barnes provides a platform to help ensure others' voices are heard

Long before she enrolled at Rowan, Troi Barnes '17 was already part of the University community. Her mother, three-time alumna and current Vice Chancellor of Student Access & Pathway Programs Penny McPherson-Myers '92, M'05, Ed.D.'15 had returned to Rowan to lead programs for the Educational Opportunity Fund in 2011. At the time, Barnes spent summers tagging along with her mom at the Pre-College Institute. There, she met students and saw the opportunities afforded by the campus.

"It was this great, magical place where I would meet amazing friends and create lifelong memories," Barnes said.

When she enrolled as a student, Barnes planned to become an athletic trainer. She had been a football manager in high school, she loved sports and envisioned a career working alongside athletes. But after realizing that field wasn't the right fit, she switched to public relations and discovered a passion for communication.

At Rowan, she served as an Admissions Ambassador and a sorority leader, developing communication, public relations and organizational skills she still uses today.

After graduation, internships at NBC Sports Philadelphia, Philadelphia radio station WDAS and

communications agencies helped refine her interests. Along the way, she found herself increasingly drawn to telling stories that were overlooked or misunderstood—and she wanted to help tell those stories differently.

That passion eventually led her to the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), widely known as the nation's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Today, as the organization's director of media relations, Barnes helps translate complex legal issues into stories the public can understand, shaping communication around major civil rights and voting rights cases.

The work she does at LDF feels like a full-circle moment, she said. As a child, Barnes attended rallies and marches with her mother. Years later, she organizes voting rights events and national media campaigns of her own.

She's honored to do this work—and grateful for a career that both drives and fulfills her. Looking back, Barnes sees each of her past experiences as stepping stones to get where she is today. That's why she encourages students to embrace every opportunity.

"Every experience gives you another tool for your toolbox," Barnes said. "You never know when you're going to need it."

Troi Barnes speaks at a voting rights event she organized in front of the United States Supreme Court as the justices re-argue *Louisiana v. Callais*.

COURTESY OF THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND



class notes

is a school counselor at Delsea Regional High School in Franklinville. Her husband owns a business in Somers Point. Photo, right.

Caitlin Terry '05

is a civil engineer for Hydromissions International, a faith-based nonprofit that works to deliver sustainable water solutions and faith outreach across five continents.

Arielle (Botter)

Eirienne '06 is proud to announce the birth of her son, Finneas Cai.

Al Lewis '06

is superintendent of Glassboro Public Schools. Lewis previously served as superintendent for the Weymouth Township School District. Formerly a curriculum supervisor in Gloucester Township, he began his career teaching elementary school in Voorhees Township.

Joseph Lizza M'07, Ed.D.

'17 serves on the Council of Representatives for the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. He is senior director of Student Centers & Campus Activities at Rowan University.



Patrick Crowthers '08

is a special education teacher and behavior specialist who works with children with neurodevelopmental disorders, complex medical needs and genetic-based conditions such as autism spectrum



Weddings & Engagements

1. Sarah (Jones) Tobias '04, M'15 and Douglas Tobias; note, p. 47.
2. Christian Oberly '15 and Mellisa Robbins; note, p. 50.
3. Lindsey Dowling '21 and Thomas DeStasio '24, note, p. 55.
4. Austin Thompson '21 and Christina (Gentile) Thompson, note, p. 55.
5. Steven Spirn '18, M'20 and Alexa Marziliano; note, p. 54.
6. Phil Polacek '18, Mario DiSanto '18, Zoe Savas Gerbino '85, Gregory Gerbino '18 (groom), Mattia Colombo '18, Steven Savas '89; note, p. 54.
7. Jenna (Falco) Estacio '21 and Timothy Estacio '21; note, p. 48.

disorder. He received a master's degree from Rider University in May 2012.

Daniel Di Mond '08

and Jennifer Di Mond welcomed their first daughter, Parker Ann Di Mond, on February 20, 2025. Photo, p. 55.

Vaughn J. Crichlow M'09

was named dean of the School of Justice Studies at Roger Williams University. He formerly was director of research at the Institute for Municipal and Regional

Policy at the University of Connecticut, and associate dean for academic affairs and student services in the College of Social Work and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University.

Casandra (Smith) Kovar '09

welcomed a child, Penny Alexandra, a future Prof. Photo, p. 55.



Ellen Lewis '09, M'23 is author of her eighth book,

"Messages From Ben" (Metal Lunchbox Publishing, 2025). Described as an "escape room in a book," the interactive novel contains 15 unique codes that, if solved, change the story. She started the project in 2023 while working on her Master of Arts in writing.

counsel in the New Jersey finance practice of global law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP. He previously served as senior vice president and counsel for asset servicing at The Bank of New York Mellon.



Patricia "Patty" Raube-Keller Ed.D. '11

is director of Boston College's M.S. in sports administration and new M.S. in sports analytics in the Woods College of Advancing

10s

Ethan Buttner '10 has been appointed as

Studies. She teaches leaders to create more ethical sports programs to help athletes of all backgrounds thrive.



John Schieda '11 is director of growth for Rizco, a New Jersey-based, brand-led marketing agency.

Gemma Peebles Fiduk '13 is a major in the New York Army National Guard and leads the 105th Airlift Wing's 105th Civil Engineer Squadron in Newburgh, New York. She serves as base civil engineer and squadron commander, responsible for infrastructure projects and rapid runway repair. She also oversees the base fire department and emergency management team.

Kimberly Gunn '13 was promoted to technical customer success manager in cybersecurity at KnowBe4. She consults with midmarket to enterprise-level customers to improve their cybersecurity culture and training programs.

Gina (Grasty) Crawford '14 welcomed a little future Prof on August 17, 2025: Sofia Alexandra Crawford.

Christopher Heilig Ed.D '14 retired as superintendent at Rancocas Valley Regional High School on Jan 1. Heilig led the district for a decade.

James Kavanagh '14 was promoted to sergeant in Point Pleasant Borough. A graduate of the Ocean County Police Academy, he joined the borough's



Historic moment for academic community

The launch of Ric Edelman College of Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences brought together alumni, faculty and friends to commemorate the merged academic community.

department in 2004. He formerly worked for the Transportation Safety Administration. He is active in PBA Local #158, holding leadership roles including state delegate.

Jason Love M'14 is author of the independently

published book, "A Pizza Journey with Family and Friends." Available on Amazon, the book highlights his journey to more than 200 pizzerias throughout New Jersey, New York City and Philadelphia. He plans to continue to visit more

pizzerias in search of the perfect slice of pizza.

Alyssa Cowling '15 and husband, Scott, welcomed a baby girl in December 2025. Photo, p. 55.

Dana Kirschner D.O. '15 is program

MARIE RADER SERIES

The Life & Liberty Season

 **Rowan University**
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS



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2



director of the UPMC Williamsport Family Medicine Residency Program in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. A specialist in family medicine and obstetrics, Kirschner was among 23 physicians named to Pennsylvania Medical Society's 2025 Top Physicians Under 40 list.

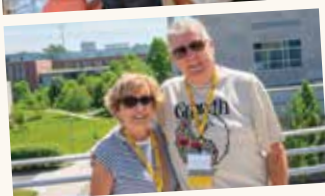
Leslie Martinelli '15 released her first novel in June 2026, a paranormal murder mystery titled "SUBURBAN STATION" (Mountain Laurel Publishing). The book is available through Amazon.

Christian Oberly '15 is engaged to be married to Mellisa Robbins, a graduate of Moore College of Art & Design. Their wedding is set for October 17. **Robert**

Running for fun and for first-gen students

On campus and virtually, 496 runners from seven states participated in the 11th Annual Run for Rowan 5K to support the First-Generation Task Force's Flying First initiative. The run raised more than \$17,000 to help offset costs for students' textbooks, programming and more. Run with us next time: April 10, 2027.

1. Chevalle (Washington) Phillips '89 and Anthony Phillips '84.
2. Lauwinda Cherilus '23, M'26.
3. Sydney Ramos '22, Elizabeth DeJesus, Natalia Fazio.



SAVE THE DATE

Golden Profs Reunion

Saturday, June 5, 2027
Glassboro campus

Graduates from 1977 and prior are invited to an exclusive celebration at Rowan University's Glassboro campus. This reunion includes a special series of events, including a welcome reception, campus shuttle tours, faculty lectures, a luncheon honoring the 2027 Lifetime Service Award recipient, a mixer paying special tribute to the Class of 1977 and more!

Oszust '15 will serve as a groomsman. Photo, p. 48.

Donna Fahey M'16 was named among the 2026 Who's Who in Health Care by South Jersey Biz. She is senior director of Samaritan's Boccolini Institute for Education,

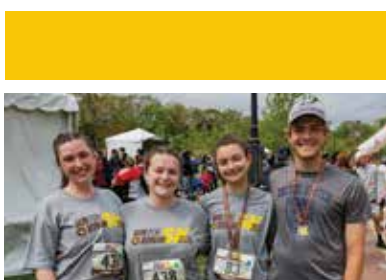
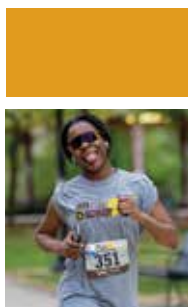
Research and Innovation. She also is a member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Association, American Nurses Association, American Holistic Nurses Association and the New Jersey State Nursing Association.



Honoring decades of service

The Black Alumni Network's annual Homecoming Kick-Off welcomed generations of graduates and honored Angie Pollard '95 for her decades of service at her alma mater, especially to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Pre-College Summer Institute (PCI) and the EOF/MAP program.

1. Jennifer Webb-McRae '91, Ramona Tribbet '00, Tracy Brown '93.
2. Kiara Gilbert '19, Angie Pollard '95, Troi Barnes '17.
3. Cianna Weathers '25, DeeAnn Scott '26, Shayonna Prescott '26.



RUN FOR ROWAN 5K

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, April 10, 2027

Rowan University Alumni Association and Rowan Campus Recreation Center invite the community to run for Rowan students during our 12th Annual Run for Rowan 5K! Virtual and in-person options for runners and sponsors will be available.

Proceeds will benefit Flying First, Rowan University's First-Generation Task Force supporting academic success for first-gen students.

BEYOND THE BROWN & GOLD

PULLED FROM THE PODCAST:

Stories worth sharing

The “Beyond the Brown & Gold” podcast delivers a dose of nostalgia and alma mater pride by highlighting the lives and memories of Glassboro State College and Rowan University alumni.

Produced by Rowan University’s own award-winning radio station, Rowan Radio 89.7 WGLS-FM, the podcast recently won honors in three 2025 competitions: a Platinum Hermes Creative Award, a Broadcast Education Association “Best of” award winner and a Communicator Crystal Award of Distinction.

Chanelle Rene '99

on creative reinvention, resiliency and art

Chanelle Rene discusses her winding path from biochemistry and broadcasting studies to a career in communication, wellness, e-commerce and, finally, full-time visual art. She explains how classes and internships shaped her skills (including advice she received from a Rowan professor), and led to unexpected pivots.

Rene describes teaching herself painting during the pandemic, creating portraits, murals and public installations, and designing the New Jersey Devils’ 2024–25 Black History Celebration jersey. She shares lessons on resilience, entrepreneurship and pursuing creative passions at any age.

Ed Delesky '18, MD'22

on the life of a medical student and becoming a physician

From studying biochemistry and serving as an admissions ambassador to competing as a student-athlete, Ed Delesky built a strong foundation at Rowan University before pursuing a career in medicine. A graduate of both Rowan University and Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, he now serves as a family medicine physician with Cooper University Hospital and as an assistant professor of family medicine.



>> Claudia Abate '93

on working for the United Nations and traveling the world

From Glassboro to the global stage, Claudia Abate joined the podcast to share how a childhood dream of working for the United Nations became a reality.

Now a trusted advisor to heads of state and governments, Abate has worked alongside global leaders and earned a nomination for the Seoul Peace Prize. She currently leads the Foundation for Post Conflict Development, advancing efforts in fragile and conflict-affected countries.



<<

Jon J. Vogel '11

on entrepreneurship, serving on the Rowan Alumni Board and connecting with students

Jon J. “JJ” Vogel—entrepreneur, marketer, philanthropist and educator—joined the podcast to reflect on his professional journey and connection to Rowan University. A graduate of Rowan’s entrepreneurship program, Vogel also earned an MBA in marketing from Drexel University.

Vogel is the co-founder and principal of 215 Marketing, an award-winning Philadelphia-based agency recognized nationally by Inc. 5000, Adweek and the Philadelphia Business Journal. During the conversation, he discussed his experiences as a Rowan student, the path that led him into entrepreneurship, his service on the Rowan University Alumni Association Board of Directors and the personal passions that shape his life beyond work.



>>

Rasheed Daniel '00

on creating a TV production, relationship building and being a dad

Rasheed J. Daniel is the CEO and founder of TeamSheed Productions, an independent Black-owned company committed to advancing inclusion in the television industry. In this conversation, Daniel reflects on his memorable days at Rowan University and the lasting impact Dr. William H. Myers had on his life and career journey.

He also shares how he broke into the television



<<



>>

industry, discusses the challenges of creating reality television and talks about the values he hopes to pass on to his children. As part of TeamSheed Productions, Daniel co-created the music competition series “Deb’s House,” which he also highlights in the discussion.

Chris D’Angelo ’07, M’10
on alumni engagement, forging forward
and his love for TV

Family, mentorship and a deep love for Rowan are at the heart of Chris D’Angelo’s story. D’Angelo, Rowan University’s director of alumni engagement, reflects on how following in his twin sister’s footsteps led him to Rowan, how he met his wife on campus and how his passion for building community grew into a lifelong career.

D’Angelo also shares the impact of the mentors who helped shape his journey, discusses Rowan’s newest philanthropic and engagement initiative “Forging Forward: The Campaign for Rowan University” and talks about how his love of comedy and TV inspired him to pursue a second master’s degree in television studies at Rowan.

Danielle Roberts ’11
on being an anti-career coach, hustle culture
and “Severance”

Danielle Roberts, also known as the Anti-Career Coach, draws on her diverse professional experiences



>> to explore how people work and how workplace culture shapes careers. A TEDx speaker and social media strategist, she is passionate about humanizing the workplace and reimagining the future of work.

Roberts reflects on her time at Rowan University, both as a student and former employee, and shares insights on today’s workforce—touching on topics from the hit show “Severance” to the realities of hustle culture.



Brian Kulak ’98, M’12
on “The Hot Seat,” connecting with
students and education

Educator and author Brian Kulak joins the podcast to talk about turning a classroom concept into his new book, “The Hot Seat.”

Kulak is joined by former student Kaylee Collins as they reflect on the impact of open, honest dialogue in education. He also shares what works (and what doesn’t) when connecting with students—and gets a taste of the hot seat himself when the podcast hosts flip the script.



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Join “Beyond the Brown & Gold” hosts Rob Lightfoot ’00, M’01, MBA’26 and Jessica Kanady ’08, M’15 as they sit down with graduates spanning the decades and learn more about their unique college experiences, career paths, life lessons and more! Available now on your favorite streaming service including Apple Podcasts, iHeart and Podbean.



class notes

Amy (Coyle) Jimenez '16 had her first child in July 2025. His name is Henry Michael Jimenez and he is the light of her life.



Ryan Siragusa '16 is a detective for the Arizona

Department of Public Safety in the Vehicle Crimes Unit, specializing in collision reconstruction. He credits Rowan University for the skills that have helped him thrive in his career.

Brittany Toole '17 welcomed a baby boy,

Nathan Henry, in August 2025. Photo, p. 55.

Jillian (Reimers) DeRosa '17 welcomed a second baby girl, Gemma Louise DeRosa. Photo, p. 55.

Christina (Elko) McClernan '18 and **Robert McClernan '18** welcomed baby Oliver in November 2025. Photo, p. 55.

Gregory Gerbino '18 married Nellie Dubin on March 13, 2025, in the Coconut Grove neighborhood of Miami, Florida, surrounded by Rowan friends and family. Photo, p. 48.

Megan Hilbert '18 bought Eclipse Brewing in Merchantville, after the brewery's founders retired. She has owned and operated Red's Rolling Restaurant trucks since 2018.

Natalie Page '18, Ph.D.'24 is a scientist for Lila Sciences, a biotech startup based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The company calls itself the world's first scientific superintelligence platform and autonomous lab for life, chemistry and materials science.

Steven Spirn '18, M'20 proposed to Alexa Marziliano on October 18, 2025, near their home in Lanoka Harbor, Lacey Township. They have known each other since middle school. Photo, p.48.

Kari Brown '19 received the 2026 Excellence in Mentorship Award from Rowan University's Autism PATH (Preparation and Achievement in the Transition to Hire) Program, an initiative that helps neurodivergent students and alumni navigate the

transition to meaningful employment. She also received the Counseling in Educational Settings (CES) Perseverance Award from Rowan University's Zeta Pi Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international counseling honor society for graduate students.

Charity Herndon '19, an author and lifelong book lover, recently opened a permanent home in Bordentown for her independent bookstore called Austen's Shelf. Previewed by WHYY, the store's opening weekend featured



Time for another picture-perfect Homecoming

Snapshots show just a bit of the festivities and fun the Rowan alumni family enjoyed at last year's annual gathering. Smile at more memories in photos and videos at view.rowan.edu/homecoming-2025 and come for this year's Homecoming full of #RowanPROUD activities, scheduled for Oct. 24 (see details on inside front cover). See you there!

1. Andre Thomas '08, John Davis, Magnum Phelps, Anias Hughes, Elliott Lumpkin, Alexander Bright '00, M'24, Tairu Gardrie '97, Anthony Ray Phillips '83, Roy Wesley Jr. '90, Marc Alan Wilson '20.

2. Robert Holwitt '77, Karen (Morris) Holwitt '76, Joe Lizza M'07, Ed.D.'17, Heather (Holwitt) Lizza M'10, Branden Lizza.

3. Stephanie (Ackerman) Gonzalez '12, M'15 and Ernesto Gonzalez.

4. Hope Campbell '26, Jeshaya Green '23, Armani Smith '23, Ka'Juan Garrett '25, Sherri Buford-Ford '82. Front: Leila Underwood.

5. Scarlett Johnson, Ashley Johnson '14, Colton Johnson.

6. Lauren Ishmael '79, Gail Cushnie-Bell '79, Carol Phillips '79.



Rowan kids

1. Giada and Gemma Louise, daughters of Jillian (Reimers) DeRosa '17. Note, p. 54.
2. Nathan Henry, son of Brittany Toole '17. Note, p. 54.
3. Penny Alexandra, child of Casandra (Smith) Kovar '09. Note, p. 48.
4. Parker Ann, daughter of Daniel '08 and Jennifer Di Mond. Note, p. 48.
5. Leo August, son of Felix Wurmbach '14 and Maria Brasco Wurmbach '15.
6. Baby girl, daughter of Scott and Alyssa Cowling '15. Note, p. 49.
7. Liam, son of Deanna (Holzer) '22 and Lucas Marnin '22. Note, p. 60.
8. Oliver, son of Christina (Elko) '18 and Robert McClernan '18. Note, p. 54.

a Regency-themed celebration inspired by Jane Austen's era. The Woolwich resident launched a mobile version of the Jane Austen-inspired business last year.

20s

Eric Abeiku Ackom

'20 is pursuing an MBA at Washington University's Olin Business School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was elected president of the Graduate Business Student Association. He previously worked as a critical care emergency medicine technician at Virtua Health.



Christopher Perrone Jr. '20

has joined the Camden County Prosecutor's Office as a detective. Perrone previously served as an officer and detective for the Audubon Police Department.



Lawrence "Larry" Birch '21

serves on the Board of Directors for both the Vineland Chamber of Commerce and the Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County, where he's passionate about supporting local businesses and youth in the community. He continues to grow his work in financial planning.

Lindsey Dowling '21 and **Thomas DeStasio '24** engaged to be married in October 2027.

Jenna (Falco) Esacio '21 and **Timothy Estacio '21** were married on May 16, 2026. Photo, p. 48.

Brooke (Garfinkel) Rutkowski M'21 directed the Aspire Performing Arts Company's production of "Into the Woods JR." in Montville in July 2025.

Austin Thompson '21 married Christina Gentile in May 2026. They met at Rowan in their junior year and became friends through the Phi Sigma Pi national honor fraternity, where Christina served as vice president. Austin credits Rowan for the chance to meet his lifelong partner and love of his life. Photo, p. 48.

Niko Bezanis '22 of Philadelphia is a Fulbright U.S. Student – Royal College of Surgeons Ireland Award recipient for 2026–2027. Approved by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the award allows Bezanis to pursue a fully funded Ph.D., focused on the psychiatric neuroscience of addiction and the capacity of psychedelic medicine to produce measurable clinical outcomes.

Jacquelyn DeLorenzo '22 is the owner of Molly's Matcha, an online tea business based in Hasbrouck Heights. The company is named after her late Boston terrier.



Taylor Madison '22

is a senior associate at the public relations firm AKCG, where she



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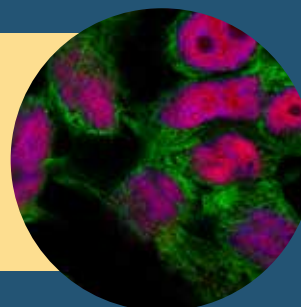
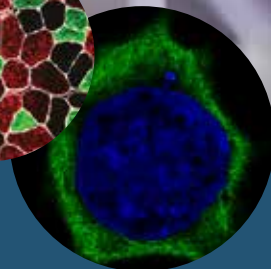
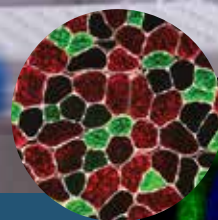
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Representing a span of six decades of alumni accomplishment, the annual Alumni Awards honorees exhibit the best of what the Rowan community can inspire and achieve in service to others and their professions.

4 UNDER 40 AWARDS



Manuela Jimenez
Ed.D.'24

Focused on mentoring students and educators while advancing literacy and equitable leadership,

Manuela Jimenez has dedicated her career to service. Working with the Perth Amboy Board of Education, she has supported students and teachers in a variety of roles, including supervising Saturday Academy enrichment programs, mentoring novice teachers pursuing certification and advising high school students in their transition to higher education. Her work emphasizes culturally responsive teaching and leadership development and she contributes to the field through scholarship and research. She remains actively engaged in service through Rowan and her community.



Manisha Koneru '18,
M.D.'24

Through Rowan University's 7-Year B.S./M.D. program, Manisha Koneru earned her medical

degree from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in 2024 with Distinction in Research. Now a research scientist at Cooper University Health Care's Cooper Neurological Institute, she is also training clinically in neurology. Koneru has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, received international recognition for her work and has mentored over 60 trainees in neuroscience research, contributing to clinical trials and advancing the field as an early-career physician-scientist.



Michael Likogiannis '20

A graduate of Rohrer College of Business, Michael Likogiannis earned dual degrees in finance and accounting and quickly

launched a career at Bank of America. After working in the Global Mergers & Acquisitions group on technology-sector deals exceeding \$9 billion in total value, he

transitioned into corporate strategy and now focuses on investments in fintech and financial infrastructure. Likogiannis remains actively engaged with Rowan, mentoring students, serving on the Rowan Innovation Venture Fund screening committee and supporting the next generation of finance professionals.



Sarah McClure '22

Building on her Rowan University degrees in international studies and political science, Sarah McClure has developed a career in public service and advocacy. She serves as legislative liaison for the New Jersey Department of Human Services, working on policy across a range of social issues. During her junior year at Rowan, she created "Project Period" to help students facing period poverty—and today, she continues this work statewide through Flow Forward NJ, a nonprofit she founded in 2023. McClure's work expands access to essential resources and advances policy initiatives, reflecting her commitment to community impact.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD



Amelia Gonzalez M'23

With a career defined by leadership, service and adaptability, Amelia Gonzalez has experience spanning marketing,

hospitality management and contract administration. She works with Comcast Business while also serving as a warrant officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard. Gonzalez has held key leadership roles, including platoon sergeant, where she led training operations, mentored soldiers and supported large-scale missions, and she remains committed to supporting her community through both her civilian and military service.

GLOBAL IMPACT AWARD



Karina Rehaviah '01

Karina Rehaviah is a Brazilian entrepreneur whose career spans more than 25 years across global organizations including

Unilever, Nike, Red Bull and the United Nations Foundation. In 2008, she founded Brazil's first online marketplace for artisans, earning national recognition, and later launched Ollo, a talent platform that grew rapidly and was acquired in 2022. Rehaviah is now recognized as a leading voice on the future of work, championing the role of independent talent in driving innovation and global business success.

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD



Joseph Batory M'70

During his tenure as superintendent of the Upper Darby School District from 1984 to 1999, Joseph Batory led a

diverse district of more than 12,000 students and earned recognition for innovation and student achievement, including six National Blue Ribbon school awards. Upon his retirement, he was honored at the national and state levels, including the American Association of School Administrators' Lifetime Distinguished Service Award. Batory has remained deeply committed to education and service, funding scholarships for students, supporting Rowan University initiatives and helping raise nearly \$3 million through the Upper Darby Arts and Education Foundation to support teachers and community programs.

Nominate someone for 2027 recognition:
go.rowan.edu/alumniawards



Celebrating Res Life's role

The Residential Learning & University Housing Reunion Breakfast welcomed former undergraduate staff, graduate assistants and professionals back on Homecoming weekend. More than 60 alumni attended, with class years spanning multiple decades of community-building.

contributes to media relations and community engagement efforts for senior living, education and associations. She was elected vice president for communications for the Philadelphia Public

Relations Association, where she has been a member since 2023. She volunteers on the association's college relations committee.

Danielle Mancinelli '22

recently began a new position as human resources director for Carida Insurance. She also is an advocate and volunteer for the American Diabetes Association in the Greater Philadelphia

area, where she serves on the planning committee for the association's annual Step Out Walk. She credits her Rowan education with providing the foundation that helped shape her career success.

Deanna (Holzer) Marnin '22 and **Lucas Marnin '22** met at Rowan in 2020. They married in 2025, and welcomed their little boy, Liam, in 2026. Photo, p. 55.



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Fifty-plus years since graduating and still golden

The Class of 1976 was officially welcomed into the Golden Profs family during the Golden Profs Reunion, joining fellow alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Together, these distinguished graduates represent generations of alumni whose lifelong friendships, cherished memories and enduring connection continue to strengthen the University's legacy. Next year's event is scheduled for June 5, 2027 (see details on inside front cover).

1. Ann Ryan '76, Kathy (Duane) Galdieri '76, Pamela Ovens Wolf '76, Marie (Panepinto) Campisi '76, Ginny Morales Reilly '76
2. Kay Gibson '76, Bob Havens '76, Joe Giammona '74, Larry Larsen '76, Ann (Carney) Mayo '76, Linda Taper Vacca D'Amico '76, Nicholas Hart '76
3. Pat (Walker) Hickman '73, M'75 and Lifetime Service Award recipient Joseph Batory M'70.

4. Peter Contini '66, M'71, Leslie O. Summiel '73

5. Front: Debra Martin '76, Doug Montone '76, Susan (Flora) Monotone '76, George Jackson '76, Bruce Lee Gallanter '76, Diane Cosentino '76, Allison (Brown) Munch '76, Robin Pomeroy '76, M'96, Barbara (Raciti) Camarillo '76, Andrew Eng '76, Janice (Ott) Lopez '76, Deb Prickitt '76, Middle: Sharon Harrington '76, Susan Marra '76, Marie (Panepinto) Campisi '76, Kathy (Duane) Galdieri '76, Ginny Morales Reilly '76, Pamela Ovens Wolf '76, Pat Duda '76, Sara (Piper) Kopiacz '76, Barbara (Morgan) Kloss '76, Bobbie Breder '76, Peggy (Dougherty) Phillips '76, Joan Schnorbus '76, Ann (Carney) Mayo '76, M'83, Linda (Taper) Vacca D'Amico '76, Kay Gibson '76, Karol (Kierspe) D'Huyvetters '76, Kathy Reynolds Manning '76, Susan (Smith) Anderson '76. Top Row: Dan Kelly '76, John Masucci '76, Janice Lavrovsky '76, Ann Ryan '76, L. Scott Magann '76, Margaret (McBride) Rosenberg '76, Mike Dmochowski '76, Bob Havens '76, Jerry Thiel '76, Larry Larsen '76, Ed Ewing '76, M'02, Nicholas Hart '76.

class notes



Rocco Evangelista '23 is an associate with The Stellantis Group, a private equity company in New York City.

Melissa Spirn '23 graduated with honors from the University

of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law in May. In August, she began clerking for the Honorable Heidi W. Currier, deputy presiding judge for administration of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division.

Amanda Coltri Ed.D. '24 has joined the board of directors at Digital Collegium, a professional development network for higher ed digital professionals. She is director of digital strategy and engagement at Bryn Mawr College.



Steven Hardy Ed.D. '24 is vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of South Carolina Upstate. He joined the university in June from Passaic County Community College, where he was vice

president for finance and administrative services.



Lauren Heraux '24 served as a 2025-2026 watershed ambassador with the New Jersey AmeriCorps program, operated by the state Department of



Inspired by Dr. King, encouraged by new voices and insights

Neurosurgeon, author and former NFL player Dr. Myron Rolle joined ABC News anchor Rick Williams for a dialogue at the 40th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast and Day of Service (photo 6). As always, the University's event focused on community engagement and scholarship support, bringing together more than 250 students, alumni, employees and friends.

1. Taj'a Morton '07 and Michael Morton '96.
2. Kenold Gosier M'22 and Myron Rolle.
3. Penny E. McPherson Myers '92, M'05, EdD'15 and Michael Buckman Jr. '25.
4. Kha' Sadler and Michael Tharp '28.
5. Steven Weinstein and Noah Weinstein '12.



Building New Jersey's new innovation generation

Three alumni combine deep Rowan roots, mentorship and capital to help entrepreneurs turn big ideas into lasting marketplace impact

When entrepreneurs set out to build transformative companies, they need tactical guidance, connections and real capital. For Rowan University graduates Michael Connallon Jr. '00, Shawn Hill '98 and Ernest "Ernie" Holtzheimer '12, M '13, becoming those champions has evolved into a personal mission.

Today, their high-caliber professional careers have converged back in Glassboro where, in 2025, the Rowan Foundation appointed Garden State Venture Partners (GSVP) to lead the Rowan Innovation Venture Fund (RIVF). Only an estimated 5% of higher-education institutions nationwide house a fund the magnitude of RIVF, with \$25 million under management. While the fund serves as a vital bridge between academic research breakthroughs and marketplace execution, GSVP aims to leverage it to accelerate the innovation ecosystem and cement the Garden State as a premier hub for sustainable enterprise growth.

Coming home to pay it forward

The collective strength of GSVP relies entirely on the diverse, institutional backgrounds of the partners, but their motivation stems from a shared desire to support the community that launched their own journeys.

Connallon offers 25 years of global financial services experience, including 14 years as an executive director at JPMorgan Chase in New York and Hong Kong advising institutional investors on capital deployment. He also held leadership roles at Goldman Sachs in New York and co-headed the firm's treasury and financing business in London.

"Rowan gave us the foundation to navigate some of the most complex financial environments in the world," Connallon reflects. "Coming back to invest our global experience directly into New Jersey's brightest minds feels like a natural evolution. We want



Michael Connallon Jr. '00, Ernie Holtzheimer '12, M'13 and Shawn Hill '98 at Business Hall, where they often work with students on the Glassboro campus.

the next generation of founders to know they don't have to leave home to change the world."

Holtzheimer anchors the team's legal framework as a corporate and securities attorney and partner at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, advising on M&A transactions valued over \$2.5 billion. His history with the RIVF runs deep; he was a key contributor at its inception in 2014 and has served as its managing director since 2020.

"Watching this ecosystem grow from a single idea into a powerhouse has been incredible," says Holtzheimer. "For me, it's about providing the legal and strategic guardrails that early-stage founders rarely have access to, giving them the confidence to scale rapidly."

Hill brings over two decades of venture experience. He previously served as a partner at Moderne Ventures, helping manage a portfolio of over 100 companies with more than \$600 million in assets under management. He also co-founded August Hill, a global venture advisory firm, following corporate strategy roles at DocuSign and Constellation Software.

"Venture capital is ultimately a people business," Hill notes. "It's about spotting the grit and resilience in a founder before anyone else does. Working alongside students lets us cultivate that raw talent right here on campus."

Right partners, right time

Rowan's emphasis on experiential learning mirrors the qualities GSVP seeks in founders, and the partners are deeply woven into the university community. Connallon is the former vice chair and treasurer of the Rowan University Foundation Board. Holtzheimer helps shape local talent directly as an adjunct professor and member of the Rohrer College of Business Entrepreneurship Advisory Council. Hill works to consciously transform Rowan into a national leader in research commercialization, instructing the popular AccelerateRU program each summer.

Ultimately, the partners are proving that transformative ideas do not require Silicon Valley validation—they simply need the right local partners, with the foresight to back them early, to carry them onto the global stage.

class notes

Environmental Protection. She was responsible for monitoring waterways and fostering environmental stewardship within the Cape May watersheds.

Benjamin “Ben” Hudes ’25 and his partner, Dora Govorko, opened Calico Cat Café, South Jersey’s first cat cafe, in October 2025. The Oaklyn coffee spot offers cats and kittens for cuddling sessions and adoption, with more than 260 adoptions so far.

Emily Klassen ’25 was named a 2025 finalist in the AXA Art Prize competition, a prestigious national student art competition.

James Brandon Lewis Ph.D. ’25 performed with The Messthetics in May in a Pittsburgh concert that combined modern jazz and punk rock.



Ultimate Frisbee, lifelong friends

Kevin Harper ’77 shared this shot from the ultimate reunion held in Cape May. The GSC team formed in 1975 with a strong start that led to the men’s team winning a world record 54 games straight and taking national titles in 1979 and 1980.



Nicholas Mayor ’24 joined the Morristown Bureau of Police as an officer.



Mazie Mulford ’25 served as a 2025-2026 watershed ambassador with the

New Jersey AmeriCorps program, operated by the state Department of Environmental Protection. She was responsible for monitoring waterways and fostering environmental stewardship within the Maurice, Cohansey and Salem River watersheds.

Patrick Shaw ’25 is a fitness manager for the Marjorie & Lewis Katz Jewish Community Center in Margate. He helps members focus on strength training, cardio routines and one-on-one workouts.

Christina Zelin ’26 was

spotlighted by Sports Video Group in the media outlet’s “SVG Students To Watch” feature shortly after she graduated. She works as an associate producer on videoboard shows for the Philadelphia Phillies, and as a freelance videographer.

Our sympathies

- Charles Robinson ’41
Grace B. Bass Robbins ’43
Alice MacPherson Crockford ’50, M’66
Milton W. Hinton ’50, M’54
George Butrus ’54
Ruth Burgener ’57
Renate Wender Thayer ’57
Carolyn W. Williams Greenidge ’58
Mariella Holton Gosnell ’60
Beverly Corey Mawe ’61
George W. Curry ’62, M’69
Cyril Dunn ’62
Mary M. Kurtz ’62
Patricia McMerty ’62
Richard Klimek ’63
Carol Smith Saggau ’63
Adelyne Covi M’64
Anthony J. Magliocco ’64
M. Jane Newcomb Liddle ’65
Donna Lowther ’65
William Jolley ’67, M’75
Richard Bell M’68
Judith Mobus Flynn ’69
Joseph Graff ’69
Lucille R. Race Marano ’69
Judy Mathis ’69
Coleman Pont ’69
Robert Scholl ’69
MaryAnn E. Savino ’69

Alice M. McCall Payne ’69
Rebecca Berger Traub ’69
Philip Zuba ’69, M’82
John MacLennan ’70
Roger Pullen ’70, M’75
Gayle George Webb ’70
Carl Rickershauser M’71
Janielle Sherkey Corby ’72
Dennis D’Andrea ’72
Charles Greenhill ’72
Ruth Fajerman Hoffman ’72
Sharon McMahon ’72
Kathryn Walker Owens ’72
Kathleen M. Shuster Bradley ’73
Barbara C. Daviz Bond ’73, M’91
Rosemary C. Scaffidi Eikamp ’73
Dennis Feltz ’73
Jean Helmbrecht ’73
Jane Phillips ’73
John Bender ’74
Fred Manders M’74, M’84
Patricia Oczkowski McFadden ’74
Arthur Swanson ’74
Deborah Ballinger Williams ’74
Larry Barlett ’75
Brian Bassett ’75
Ruth Coulter ’75
Marianita T. Barbato Faviano ’75
Gary Bennett M’76

Harold Hulst ’76
Maureen Callan Jones ’76, M’88
Michael Nicotra ’76
Gale Gallucci Steelman ’76
Mary Stenson ’76
Terri Block Hall ’77
Carole Beisley Lamken ’77
Dorothy Sakaguchi ’77
Virginia E. Smith ’77
Anna K. Stockton ’77
John Bunting ’78, M’97
Brendon Donlin ’78
Peter Gallione ’78
Charles W. Gill ’78
Elaine M. Chadwick Morris ’78
Robert Roesch ’78
Thomas J. Ryder ’78
Edward Adkins ’79
Gene S. Caven ’79
Maryellen Douches-McCormack ’79
Dorothy J. Mancini ’79
Edward Ritter Jr. ’80
Michele Macaluso Spino ’80
Jacquelyn Iannello ’81
Sharon Krogh ’81
Joan M. Norris ’81
Eugene Terzano ’81
Carlton Porter ’82
James F. O’Donnell ’82

Wendy Fama ’83
Mary Fishburn ’83
Gary Momeault ’84
Dennis J. Tamarri ’84
Cally Jakuc ’85
Leslie Anderson Motz M’85
Robert Perusini ’85
Geraldine Butler ’86, M’95
Joyce Eaton ’86
Stacy Erickson ’87
Pilar M. Roettger Santianna ’87
Glenn Thorpe ’87
Carol Brown ’90
Patrice Fauver ’90
Barbara Ripley ’90
Spring Libutti ’90
Louis Korth M’92
Daniel Lockwood ’92
Rosalind Austin ’93
James Gorman D’93
Charles Roman D’93
Denise Saia ’94, M’94
Joseph McGee ’94, M’12
Jay R. Miller ’94
Stephen C. Kreck ’95
Kimberly Kornett Vella ’95
Diane Alcantara ’96
Kathryn Miraglia ’97
Debra Walker ’97

Donald L. Davis ’05
Stephen Sabatini M’04
Behn Cherenack ’07
Ryan J. Amaral ’16
Kristen Whyte M’17
Daniel Collins M’19
Robert Duffy D’19
Youssef Nissan ’23
- Faculty & friends**
Kenneth Albone
Edwin Avril
James Barth
Rose Glassberg
Erin Herberg
Deana Jespersen
Michael Lim
Cindy S. Lynch ’75, M’77
Michael Miller
Helen Robinette
Joseph Robinette
Tyrone R. Taylor ’87, M’98, Ed.D’12
Jillian Threadgill
Gregory Potter Sr.
Robert D. Lynch

Remembrances

Fond eulogies of campus friends offered by AFT colleagues and Rowan friends

Rose Glassberg

Secondary Education and English

Rose Glassberg, 96, of Voorhees, died December 28, 2025. Glassberg was born on Nov. 19, 1929, in Philadelphia and grew up during the Great Depression. She became the first in her family to attend college, earning her bachelor's degree from West Chester University, her Master of Arts from Middlebury College, and her Ph.D. from Temple University.

Glassberg taught English at Germantown High School for 11 years before joining the Department of English at then Glassboro State College in 1964. In 1975, at her request, she transferred to the Department of Secondary Education to reorganize the program in English education. She continued to teach one course yearly in the English Department while teaching in and updating the English education program and supervising student teachers.

In 1973, she was elected president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 2373, which had won the right to be the bargaining agent for the eight New Jersey state colleges. She led the local for 18 years until her retirement as professor emerita in 1991. She then was elected president in 1993 of the AFT Local 2373 Retirees Chapter and served for 25 years.

During her long and productive service as chapter president, Glassberg endeared herself to the membership in numerous ways, including handwritten notes to each person; annual summer parties; and her marmalade and lemon curd donated for sale at scholarship fundraisers each December.

Glassberg earned many awards for her years of involvement in labor causes. As one who emphasized the empowerment of unity, she made sure to sign her minutes, notes and letters with the postscript, "In Unity."

An opera buff, Glassberg also loved classical music, bridge, reading and politics. She enjoyed leading sessions devoted to the short story at Lion's Gate, her residence since 2020.

Glassberg is survived by her nieces and nephew, their children and grandchildren. Services were held in December 2025 at Platt Memorial Chapels in Cherry Hill. The family requested donations in her name be made

to the AFT Retirees Scholarship Fund, the Rowan University Foundation or the Jewish Federation of South Jersey.

A memorial service will be held on campus Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 3 p.m. at Pfleeger Concert Hall.

Michael Miller

Chemistry & Biochemistry

Michael David Miller, 77, of Glassboro, died at his home on Jan. 22, 2026. Miller taught chemistry at Glassboro State from 1974 to 1979, then worked in the groundwater remediation division at Mobil Oil, later Exxon Mobil. After retiring from industry, he returned to teach chemistry at Rowan from 2003 to 2017. He earned a Bachelor of Science in 1970 and a Ph.D. in 1974 at the University of Kentucky.

Miller made much-appreciated contributions to his department at Rowan. He especially enjoyed teaching freshman chemistry and he developed extensive curricular materials that are still in use. He also established an award presented yearly to an outstanding senior, the Michael Miller Award for Excellence in Chemistry or Biochemistry.

In addition to his dedication as a teacher, Miller was active in the community, volunteering with Boy and Girl Scouts and coaching sports. Both family and colleagues fondly remember his warmth and good humor.

He is survived by his children, Scott (wife Clarissa), Dana, Lara (husband Jonathan White), Kimberly (husband Braeden Prescott), and eight grandchildren. His wife, Eileen VanderWerf Miller, also survived him but died on June 6. A celebration of their lives was held on June 20 in the Science Hall Atrium.

Patrick Westcott

Teacher Education

Patrick Morris Westcott, 77, of Bloomington, Minnesota, died in July 2025 after a short illness. He was an associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, teaching classes in early childhood, elementary education, and subject matter education. He joined

Rowan faculty in 2003. In 2010, he was honored with the Lindback Award for his outstanding teaching.

After graduating with a B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota, he went on to earn master's degrees from the University of Connecticut and Fairleigh Dickinson University before completing his Ed.D. at Teachers College, Columbia University. A native of Minnesota, Westcott lived for some time in Florida after his retirement, before returning to Minnesota where he resided at the time of his death. He was predeceased by his partner, John Alexander.

A celebration of life service was held on July 27, 2025, at the Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, where he had sung with the choir and served on the board of trustees. He is survived by family including three brothers, nephews and nieces.

Hal Vogel

Public Relations & Advertising

Hal Vogel, 82, of Willingboro, died Nov. 13, 2025. He taught at Rowan from 1984 until 2005, when he retired as professor emeritus.

Vogel held a B.A. from Temple University, an M.A. from William Paterson College, and a Ph.D. from Antioch University. He was a prominent researcher on the collection and study of postage stamps. He published numerous articles and several books in the field, and in 2022 was honored by the Americal Philatelic Society with its Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research.

His career at Rowan included service on the University Senate and as a department chair, recognition on the Wall of Fame for excellence in teaching, and inspirer of the Hal Vogel Award for Excellence in Advertising.

A veteran of U.S. Army Special Forces, he served during the Vietnam War and continued in the Army Reserve until retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2003.

He is survived by his wife, Nobu Uezu Vogel; his daughter, Lydia Leporte; niece, Maren Gilbert; and several grandchildren. Services were held Nov. 21 at the Tilghman Funeral Home in Maple Shade and on Nov. 25, at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, Virginia.