

RowanMagazine

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY

FALL 2026



It's all about the why 20 | The ones who said yes 30



stay connected

food trucks and making memories in the Kids Zone featuring face painting, balloon art, inflatables and more.

Visit rowan.edu/homecoming to register.

Paul A. Hilton '83 Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, October 25 • 10 a.m.

Glassboro Campus

Join the Rowan University Black Alumni Network (RUBAN) for the annual Paul A. Hilton '83 Fellowship Breakfast. This cherished tradition brings together alumni, students and friends for a morning of community, celebration and paying tribute to RUBAN co-founder and Alumni Board member, Paul A. Hilton '83.

Visit go.rowan.edu/fellowship26 to register.

featured events

Problem-solving Like a Magician

Thursday, October 1 • 6:30 p.m.

Glassboro Campus

Professional magician and mentalist David Corsaro '98 blends the art of magic with powerful problem-solving techniques, offering a fresh perspective on tackling challenges creatively and effectively. This one-of-a-kind event is open to the entire Rowan community.

Visit go.rowan.edu/likeamagician to register.

Homecoming Celebration & Tailgate

Saturday, October 24 • 11 a.m.

Glassboro Campus

Join thousands of fellow Profs back in Glassboro for one of Rowan's biggest and most-anticipated traditions. Spend the day exploring the University Showcase, soaking in the energy of the Homecoming Tailgate, enjoying some of the region's best

save the date

Homecoming 2026

Monday, October 19–

Sunday, October 25

Rowan Alumni @ NJEA

Thursday, November 5

College of Education Celebration Breakfast

Saturday, March 6, 2027

12th Annual Run for Rowan 5K

Saturday, April 10, 2027

Golden Profs Reunion

Saturday, June 5, 2027



Scan here or visit alumni.rowan.edu/events for more information and a calendar of events

Introducing Rowan Regional Networks

These groups are designed to foster connection and engagement through career and professional development, social and experiential events, service opportunities and Rowan traditions like Homecoming and the Run for Rowan 5K. Stay informed through social media and the alumni calendar of events, and keep an eye on email invitations to network with Profs near you!

Volunteer!

We're building something new in Jersey and Philadelphia and we need your help keeping Rowan alumni and friends connected. Bring your passion, Prof pride and perspective to make an impact within your community. This low-stakes, high-impact volunteer opportunity helps create lasting connections so every alum can feel part of the Rowan community.

To learn more, visit go.rowan.edu/regionalnetworks or contact Ben Helms, Assistant Director of Volunteer Engagement, at 856-256-5550 or helms@rowan.edu.

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to stay up to date on alumni events and more!

@rowanalumni



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From modest to millions, thousands of individual gifts added up to exceed Rowan University's most recent fundraising goal. But why did people give? And how does it make a difference beyond the bottom line?

30 The ones who said yes

New Jersey's first veterinary school logged its inaugural year and lined up its pioneering community to lead all who follow at Rowan. Shreiber School's teaching hospital, emergency medicine, field services and primary care are keeping animals healthier—and students are part of it all.

by Kaitlin Adams LaSorsa '16, M'17

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ON THE COVER

Fundraising news often makes for impressive headlines. Knowing why donors decided to give adds even more value to the story.

Illustration by
Chris Gash

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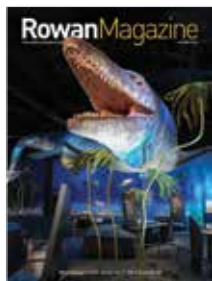
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Alumni survey says

Thanks to everyone who replied to the 2025 survey. Your answers are helping improve services, programming and events—and how we stay in touch through Rowan Magazine. It's great to know most grads say it's the most effective method of communication. Here's how a '15 grad put it:

"I'm not someone who uses social media much, so being able to receive an alumni magazine in the mail that I can flip through and see stories about students, alumni and faculty is very important to me. It's how I keep up with what's happening at Rowan."

Faith in science

Just finished reading articles about origins and dinosaurs ["Why dinosaurs still matter," Summer 2025]. I was deeply saddened and

angry. What a terrible thing you are teaching. Please consider God's Holy Word. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Please read the rest of Genesis 1. It is the only truth, not some man-made fiction about asteroids and other falsehoods about the dinosaurs who were destroyed in Noah's flood. Also, the Earth by biblical dating is only 5,000-10,000 years old, not 66 million.
James Dunn '81

Ed. note: Each reader is an important part of the conversation—whether it's kudos or criticism—we hope to have with our magazine audience. A guest lecture on campus this past spring challenged the idea of science and faith being incompatible. The visiting physicist echoed the comments of an alumnus and former

GSC math professor who said the more he learned about the mathematics of the universe, the more his faith grew. Rowan Magazine doesn't report from the philosophical perspective of scientists, mathematicians or

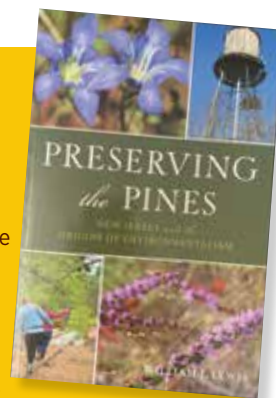
theologians. Because we're fortunate to be part of a flourishing academic community, we report on the noble and thorough work of understanding ourselves and our world, wherever that seeking leads.

OUR WILD, FRAGILE, PRECIOUS PINELANDS

In the early 1900s, college students from Glassboro began to follow their professors into New Jersey's beautiful, rugged, fragile Pine Barrens.

They joined a small, growing community of people determined to understand and preserve the Pinelands environment, culture and creatures. Now, a new book by William J. Lewis shares dozens of first-hand accounts from Glassboro State College students and others who helped protect and preserve 1.1 million acres of the Pinelands. It's a legacy we can be proud of and learn from.

Be one of the first three to email editor@rowan.edu and you'll receive a copy.



Drive with Rowan Pride
Purchase your Rowan University
New Jersey license plates today!



Official Rowan University license plates are coming soon and you can be part of the first wave. To launch with the NJMVC, 500 completed applications are needed. Be one of the first Profs to represent Rowan on the road!

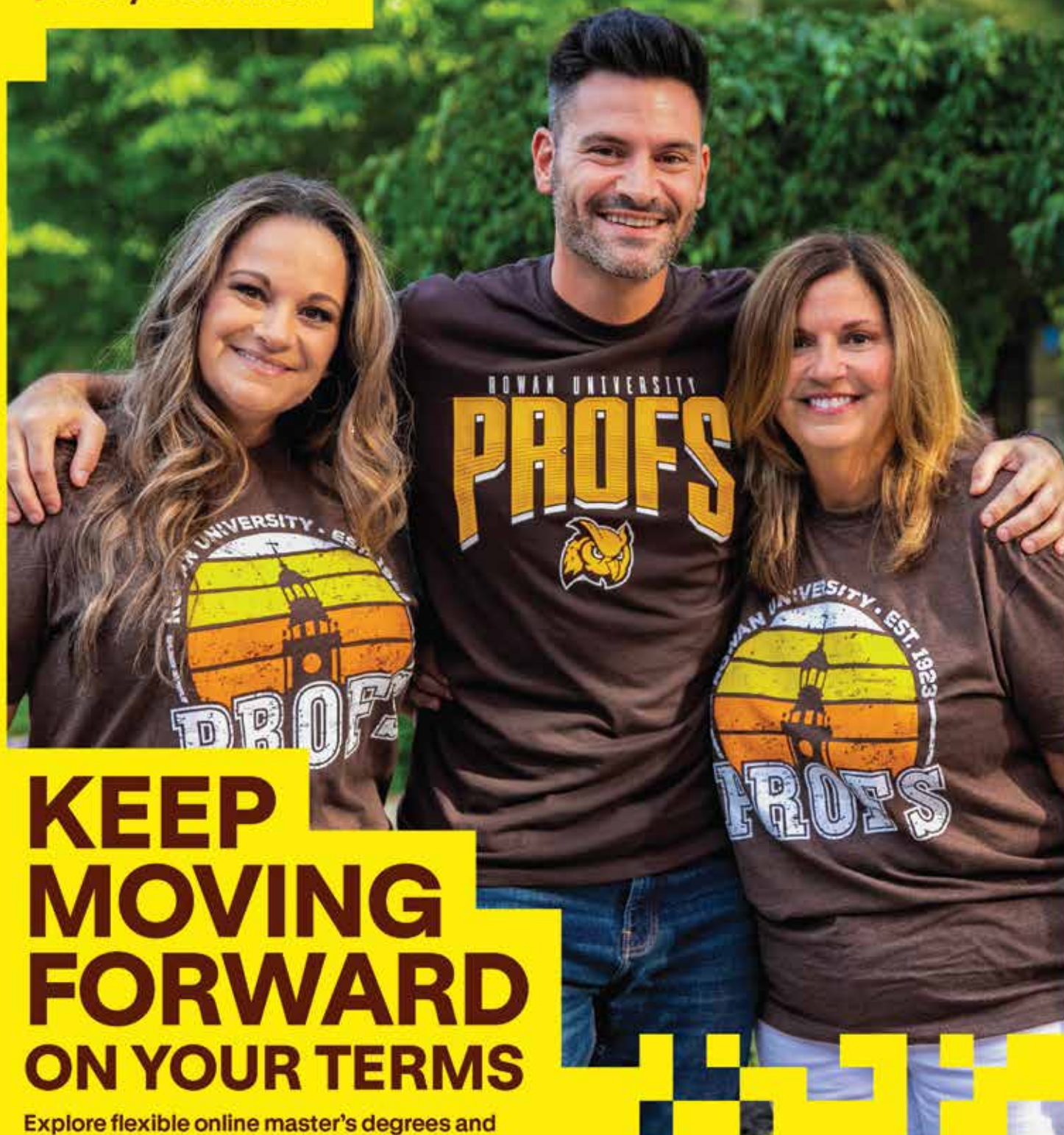
Design for illustrative purposes. Standard license plates cost \$75.



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Rowan University

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campus news



Suited for success

WHEN ANTHONY J. “TONY” GALVIN ’89 returned to Rowan, he saw a reflection of his own college experience in today’s ambitious students—talented and driven, but sometimes lacking professional attire. His \$500,000 gift helps ensure they can show up confident and ready to succeed.

Students who attended the launch of the Galvin Dress for Success Program and Professional Closet last fall were smart, driven and ready to chase their dreams. They had everything they needed to succeed—except, in some cases, a great suit.

Galvin, a graduate of Rowan’s Rohrer College of Business (RCB) and a member of the Rowan University Foundation Board, has a long history of supporting Rowan’s business students. He recently committed \$500,000 as part of “Forging Forward: The Campaign for Rowan University,” an initiative to support students, innovation and impact.

Galvin knows firsthand how a polished appearance can affect opportunity, so his gift included \$150,000 to ensure that RCB students have access to professional attire for interviews, internships and first jobs.

“This type of investment has a direct, real-time impact on students who are in a similar situation as I was,” said Galvin, the first in his family to attend college. “When people are dressed well, it makes them feel good. It makes them feel successful.”

The program began in 2023 as a simple concept: 50 suits for 50 students to celebrate RCB’s 50th anniversary. But funding was uncertain—until Galvin wrote a check for \$15,000.

“Making a good first impression is always important,” Galvin said at the time. “If you’re going into a traditional path—maybe work for a public company—you need to look and act the part.”

Finance and accounting major Mosharaf Khan, one of the first recipients of a J. Crew outfit funded by Galvin three years ago, proudly wore his blue suit to the ribbon cutting.

“What a lot of people don’t realize is the effect Tony Galvin has had beyond the financial,” Khan said. “He talks to us, mentors us, and we’re so appreciative.”

Galvin’s commitment to Rowan runs deep. A Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and member of the RCB Dean’s Advisory Council, he retired from the retail outlet industry after leadership roles at Coach,

Above: Sukhmun Bains and Samantha Tamtama visit the Galvin Professional Closet in Business Hall, which offers business apparel and accessories thanks to Tony Galvin’s leadership gift to establish the resource for students.

Inc., and Chelsea Property Group, and was inducted into the Outlet Industry Hall of Fame in 2016.

Through the Anthony J. Galvin Foundation, he has long supported scholarships and youth programs. His funding established the Anthony J. Galvin Scholarship Fund within RCB in 2005, providing \$250,000 to support 28 scholarship recipients to date. His latest gift furthers that commitment, including support to outfit 30 students annually with new suits.

Rohrer College of Business students may access gently used professional clothing and accessories through the Galvin Professional Closet. So far, more than 100 students have benefited.

Elsewhere on campus, students from all colleges and schools can borrow or keep professional clothing from The Shop, Rowan's on-campus food pantry and resource center.

President Ali A. Houshmand, himself a first-generation college student, reflected on the importance of Galvin's gift.

"I still remember as an undergraduate putting on a suit and how much it boosted my confidence," Houshmand said. "Tony's been an amazing friend of the University. On behalf of our students, thank you so much."



AND THE WINNER IS: Everyone who visits Edelman Fossil Park & Museum

Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park & Museum of Rowan University keeps wowing visitors of all ages with full-scale dinosaur sculptures, live animal exhibits, indoor and outdoor hands-on adventures and more.

In its first year, EFM already has won six national and international awards for architecture—as well as a place in USA TODAY's 10 BEST Readers' Choice Awards competition.

To see how EFM is sharing more wonder about our world and ways to take better care of it, visit efm.org.

OUTTA' THIS WORLD: EXPERIMENT SENT SKYWARD

Could growing crystals in space lead to better drugs? Gerard Capellades, Ph.D., an assistant professor of chemical engineering in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, recently sent crystallization experiments into Earth's orbit aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Through this research, he hopes to better understand how microgravity (or very low gravity) affects the formation of crystals like those in tablets and powder-filled capsules, with an eye toward improving drug production.

While others have crystallized drugs in space before, previous experiments have focused on crystals made of one substance. By contrast, Capellades' experiments were conducted inside of Redwire's innovative, automated platform for growing high-quality protein crystals in microgravity called PIL-BOX (short for Pharmaceutical In-space Laboratory –



Lukas Shelton, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering, prepares an experiment for the International Space Station.

Bio-crystal Optimization eXperiments). Capellades' experiment was the first to incorporate an additive to this process.

"We aim to use microgravity to grow multicomponent alloys with controlled purity in a way that would not be possible on Earth," Capellades said.

For this latest investigation, Rowan University is working on behalf of Redwire

to advance mutual research opportunities. Redwire funded the study through a contract from the NASA In-Space Production Applications (InSPA) program. The experiments traveled to the ISS onboard the May 15 SpaceX CRS-34 commercial resupply mission. The results could lay the groundwork for improvements to medications made on Earth and to multicomponent crystals used in other fields.

Advances in space technology could make off-Earth production increasingly feasible in the future. Capellades foresees drug companies using space-grown crystals as seeds for better crystal growth on Earth in cases where the additive stabilizes a new crystal structure. Full, in-space production of crystalline alloys is more likely to make sense for high-value materials used only in tiny quantities—such as in certain semiconductors or laser optics.



EXPANDING NEW JERSEY'S PRIMARY CARE PIPELINE

New Jersey faces a shortage of primary care physicians, especially in rural and underserved communities, limiting access to care for vulnerable populations. To help address this gap, Millicent Channell, D.O., of Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine, above, has secured a three-year, \$3.9 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The funding supports "Pathways to Primary Care," an initiative to encourage students to pursue careers in primary care fields such as family medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine. The program provides scholarships covering half of in-state tuition for 54 medical students, along with academic support, research opportunities and MCAT preparation.

The grant will also ensure students gain hands-on experience through clinical rotations, physician shadowing and a new mobile Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine clinic supporting underserved communities. A planned 3+3 program will further accelerate training by allowing students to complete medical school in three years.

"We want to encourage people to meet the mission of primary care: forming long-term relationships with patients, preventing them from developing chronic diseases and keeping them from getting into acute crises with any chronic conditions they may have," Channell said.

By reducing financial barriers and increasing exposure to primary care practice, this grant-funded program aims to prepare more physicians to strengthen long-term patient care across the state.

REPAIRING DAMAGE IN MINUTES

Researchers advance composite repair

Rowan University researchers have developed a faster, more effective method for repairing damage in advanced composite materials—an innovation with potential applications in industries ranging from aerospace, automotive and maritime to energy production.

In a recent study, a multidisciplinary Rowan-led team explored the use of polymer cold spray, a process that deposits fine powders onto damaged surfaces without high heat, to restore strength in glass fiber-reinforced composites. These lightweight materials are widely used for their durability but can suffer hidden internal damage that weakens performance over time.

To explain how that damage spreads, researchers likened it to a zipper—once one fiber breaks, the failure can quickly cascade. To counter this, the team's approach works much

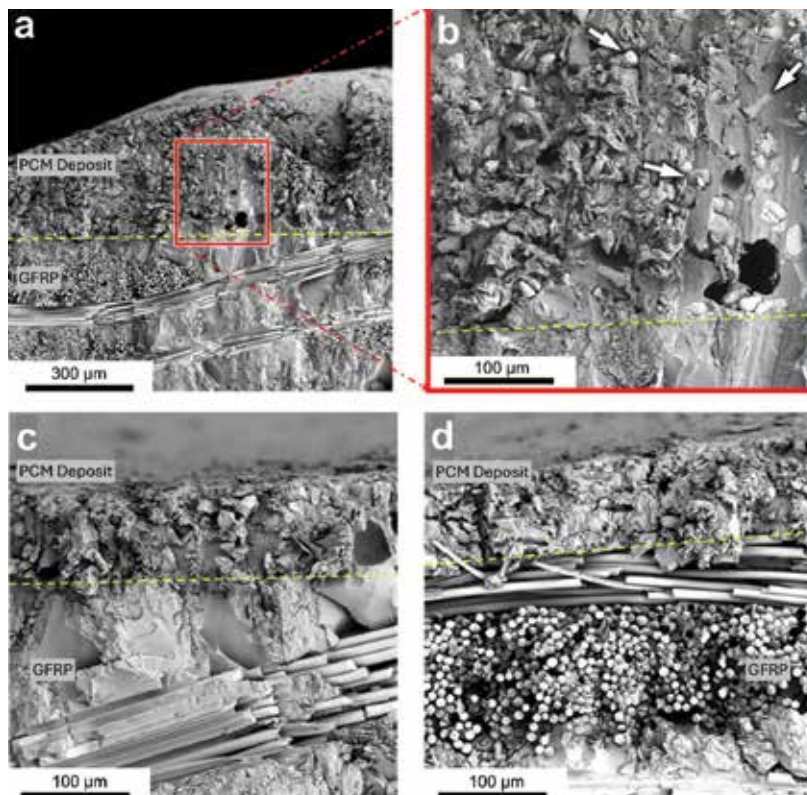
like a dental filling, sealing cracks and reinforcing weakened areas.

For shallow damage, the method restored up to 80% of a material's original strength—and about 40% in more severe cases. Just as important, the process is fast: repairs can be completed in about 30 minutes, compared with up to two days for traditional resin-based methods.

The work was led by Behrad Koohbor, Ph.D., Francis M. Haas, Ph.D., and Joseph F. Stanzione III, Ph.D., in Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, with significant contributions from students and the Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Institute. The team also collaborated with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, which funded the work.

The technology could extend the lifespan of wind turbine blades, aircraft components and other critical structures, making repairs quicker, more efficient and more practical in the field.

The research was sponsored by the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and was accomplished under Cooperative Agreement Number W911NF-19-2-0152. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect official U.S. Government policy. The U.S. Government is authorized to reproduce and distribute this material.



Microscope images show where sprayed material meets the fiberglass composite.

Source: Image courtesy of Anni et al., *Journal of Thermal Spray Technology* (2026). Used under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.



BIOPHYSICIST NAMED AAAS FELLOW

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the world's largest scientific societies, has elected Susy Kohout, Ph.D., a biophysicist and associate professor of biomedical sciences at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), as an incoming fellow.

Kohout, who joined CMSRU in August 2022, is recognized for her contributions to biophysics and cell biology, particularly her work on how cells use interconnected electrical and chemical signals. Her research has important implications for understanding cell migration, including how cancer spreads.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, her work centers on voltage-sensing phosphatase, or VSP, a unique protein that reads an electrical signal and changes a cell's chemistry in ways scientists are still working to understand. Kohout is investigating whether VSP plays a role in how cells move in response to electrical fields, which may help explain one of the mechanisms behind cancer metastasis. Her lab is exploring this connection in collaboration with researchers at the Camden Cancer Research Center to study melanoma and breast cancer.

This material is based upon work supported by the NSF under Award No. 2310489. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.

Art as prescribed

MILITARY VETERANS and active-duty service members find healing and connection through the transformative power of art thanks to a program offered by Rowan University's George Family Center for Healing Arts. The free initiative at WheatonArts in Millville invites participants to explore a range of glass art techniques, from glassblowing and fusing to stained glass and painting, during two-day weekend workshops.

"The goal is to bring military people together to promote wellness," said Morgan Yacoe, director of the George Family Center. "Glass is so tied to this region, and we wanted to honor that connection in a meaningful way."

Among the attendees was James George, M.D., a retired emergency room physician and celebrated painter who donated \$1 million in 2024 to establish the George Family Center. George, who turned to painting during his rehabilitation after a fall, observed

how glass fusing required a different mindset from his abstract acrylics.

"I don't make creative decisions until the very last second," he said. "That's when my mind picks colors and dictates what my hand will do."

Retired Navy Captain Kathy Henley of Cinnaminson, another participant, emphasized the emotional value of the experience. "Whenever you meet veterans, you meet family you never knew you had," she said. "You always have something in common."

The George Family Center is also home to an arts prescribing program, Artwise Rx. Available through Rowan Medicine and the Wellness Center, the program provides students and community members with free creative experiences to boost well-being.

For more information about the George Family Center, visit: sites.rowan.edu/healingarts

Veteran Christopher Charlow participates in a glass art workshop.



EXCELLENCE TIMES FIVE

Rowan University Police Department earned its fifth accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the leading national standard for public safety agencies. Rowan was the first college or university police department in New Jersey to achieve CALEA accreditation and has since gained accreditation from the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). Police Chief Rachel Baum said that the dual accreditation underscores the department's dedication to transparency, accountability and excellence.



The planetarium has been internationally recognized for its efforts to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all visitors.

SPACE FOR EVERYONE

Edelman Planetarium earns autism certification

The stars and planets are for everyone.

And for visitors of the Ric & Jean Edelman Planetarium, so are its astronomy programs and laser shows.

This year, the planetarium achieved designation as a Certified Autism Center by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. The designation is granted to organizations that have completed autism and sensory-sensitivity training, certification and a facilities review by the board. Funding for the project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Director Amy Barraclough said the planetarium now offers downloadable

sensory guides to help schools, groups and families understand what to expect during a visit. Visitors can also request sensory kits that include headphones to soften noise and fidget toys to occupy busy hands.

The goal, she said, is to make the planetarium “a place where everyone feels welcome and supported.”

“For us, this project is about fostering an environment where curiosity and learning are accessible to all,” Barraclough said. “Nothing should prevent someone from learning about the universe, and this designation helps every visitor experience the joys of discovery.”

LEARNING IN LONDON

In June, a group of students from Rita & Larry Salva School of Nursing & Health Professions traveled to Dagenham, London, for an internship with Urban Promise UK.

Led by associate professor Nicole Vaughn, Ph.D., the students participating in this study abroad experience worked closely with children aged 5–13, leading activities related to sports, reading and cooking. Before traveling abroad, students spent the spring semester developing lessons to use for the internship. Rowan’s internship program in Dagenham began in 2025, and Vaughn hopes to continue helping the community for years to come.

Urban Promise UK is an outgrowth of Urban Promise International, which started in Camden, New Jersey, in 1988. Since then, the group has worked to rebuild under-resourced communities by providing academic and spiritual support to urban youth.



Freshman nursing student Abigail Forte works with children on a coloring page.



PRINT, PAVE, PROGRESS

Federal grant supports roads and 3D housing research

Congressman Donald Norcross, center, delivered \$1.9 million in Community Project Funding to Rowan University and Gloucester County this spring to support research on concrete 3D printed housing and roadway improvements at Rowan’s West Campus. The additive manufacturing research is led by Islam Mantawy, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering. “It’s about resiliency and affordability, particularly in housing,” Norcross said. “It’s a game changer.”



VIRTUA HEALTH COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER OPENS FOR DISCOVERY

Rowan University and Virtua Health celebrated the West Campus opening of Virtua Health College Research Center, a new facility designed to advance biomedical research and innovation in South Jersey.

The center, which boasts more than 20,000 square feet of space, houses multidisciplinary teams and features new institutes focused on orthopedic, neuromuscular, transplant and regenerative medicine research. It will also support the New Jersey Accelerator for Innovation in Medtech (NJ AIM), which is aimed at developing and commercializing cutting-edge medical technologies.

Leadership highlighted the center as another step in Rowan's growth and its partnership with Virtua Health, strengthening efforts to transform healthcare education and expand research in the region.

"The new research facility aligns ideas from basic science and early discovery with preclinical studies leading to clinical research for improved patient outcomes," said Dianne Langford, associate vice chancellor for Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences. "We are committed to building knowledge that produces solutions to real-world problems."

Officials emphasized the center's potential to drive economic growth as a regional hub for healthcare innovation, advanced manufacturing and workforce development.

NATIONAL NOTICE

A few key numbers tell what national ranking organizations see at Rowan—and what students, alumni and employers can count on when they look for quality and value at the University:

#1

FASTEST-GROWING PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN HIGHLY COMPETITIVE NORTHEAST AND TOP 10 NATIONALLY
Chronicle of Higher Education

TOP 50

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM
The Princeton Review

#92

AMONG PUBLIC NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

#114

BEST VALUE SCHOOLS

#122

BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS

#189

SOCIAL MOBILITY

U.S. News & World Report



Graduate student Cameron Wilburn, right, provides a crash course in the Zooniverse transcription platform for community volunteer and Harrison Township Historical Society member Robert Green.

TEAM TRANSCRIPTION

Side by side, campus and community volunteers helped preserve Black history during Rowan's fourth annual Douglass Day Transcribe-a-thon, part of a global event honoring abolitionist Frederick Douglass with more than 180 participating sites nationwide. Hosted by the Center for Digital Humanities Research, part of Ric Edelman College of Communication,

Humanities & Social Sciences, more than 50 participants armed with laptops gathered to transcribe records from the Colored Conventions movement spanning nearly 70 years of Black civic organizing. Volunteers transformed handwritten letters, newspapers and records into widely accessible resources for scholars, students and future generations, advancing awareness of often-overlooked histories.

Team and individual honors mark '25-'26 season

Profs head into new year powered by performance on national stage

The men's indoor track & field team led the way by winning the NCAA Division III Championship, marking the 12th national team title in the history of Rowan Athletics, and the school's first since field hockey won in 2002. Rowan placed 18th in the Division III Learfield Directors' Cup, which recognizes the overall excellence of athletics programs, and owns the distinction of being the second highest-ranked public institution in Division III. It also marks the second straight year that the Profs finished in the nation's top 20. The Profs claimed NJAC Championships in nine of 18 sports while winning the NJAC Cup for the sixth year in a row.

*National rankings follow in ()

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD (#1)

The Profs won the NCAA Division III Championship, which was also the first-ever indoor national championship for Rowan and the sixth all-time in the history of the men's track program. Seth Clevenger captured a pair of national titles in the 3,000 and 5,000 meters and the Profs saw 17 student-athletes collect All-America honors. The Profs won their 11th consecutive NJAC title with David Brown being named the NJAC Rookie of the Year. All told, 25 Profs were named All-Conference and total of 33 received All-Region honors. Dustin Dimit was the Regional Coach of the Year, Norm Tate was the region's Assistant Coach of the Year, and the Profs' staff was voted as the top in the NJAC.

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD (#2)

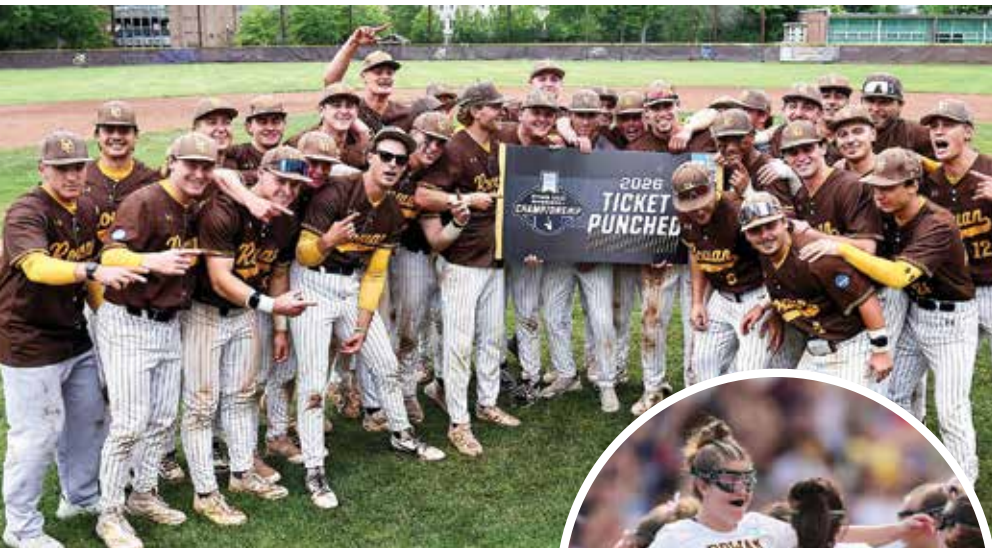
Rowan finished as the national runner-up in the NCAA Outdoor Championships, highlighted by individual national champions Damitrius Hester (Javelin) and David Brown (High Jump), and a total of 19 All-Americans. Additionally, Rowan brought home its 11th consecutive NJAC title and its fifth straight AARTFC Regional Championship. Hester was named the Regional Field Athlete of the Year, Evan Corcoran earned the Regional Track Athlete of the Year award and Dustin Dimit and staff received Coaching Staff of the Year awards in both the NJAC and the NCAA Metro Region.

BASEBALL (#4)

The NJAC champion Profs made their second straight appearance in the NCAA Division III World Series, earning the trip after winning the NCAA Super Regional, which they hosted on campus for the first time ever. Brayden Davis was one of the nation's top hitters and earned a host of honors, including All-America Second Team, ABCA Region Player of the Year and NJAC Player of the Year, Rowan's first honoree since 2015. Austin Kreyenhagen and Damon Suriani joined Davis on the All-Region Team while Joey Bogart, Mason Dorsey, Ian Murphy,



Men's Track & Field



Jason Schooley and Nick Watson joined the trio on the All-NJAC Team. Mike Dickson '02 recorded his 700th career coaching victory and was named the ABCA Region IV Coach of the Year, while he and his assistants picked up the NJAC Coaching Staff of the Year award.

SOFTBALL (#6)

The Profs won their third straight NJAC title and reached the NCAA Division III World Series for a program-record fourth consecutive season. Pitcher Emily McCutcheon earned a prestigious distinction with her selection to both the NFCA All-America Team and the CSC Academic All-America Team. The senior, who was dubbed the top player in both the NCAA Regionals and Super Regionals, led a school-record nine Profs receiving All-NJAC honors and was one of six to be named to the All-Region Team. Head coach Kim Wilson reached another milestone when she recorded her 1,000th victory at Rowan in 30 seasons with the Profs. Last year, the NFCA Hall of Fame coach surpassed 1,000 career wins, becoming the first woman in Division III to achieve the feat.

FIELD HOCKEY (#12)

The Profs won 12 of their final 15 games en route to claiming their fifth straight NJAC Championship and fifth consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. Senior Tess Herman became a two-time All-American and was the first Prof to earn the NJAC Defensive Player of the Year award twice. Sydney Kowalczyk was named the NJAC Rookie of the Year and Mia Foti, Gracie Merrick, Aurelia McManis and Mariah Juiliano joined Herman and Kowalczyk on the All-NJAC squad.



Elaina Corson

MEN'S SOCCER (#12)

Rowan won the NJAC title for the second year in a row and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Championship for the first time since 2019. Johnny Troiano closed out his career as one of the most decorated athletes in Rowan history being named to both the All-America and Academic All-America Teams for the second year in a row. A repeat awardee as the NJAC Offensive Player of the Year, he was also named the College Sports Communicators Academic All-America Men's Soccer Division III Team Member of the Year, becoming the first such honoree for Rowan Athletics. Troiano, also named the NJAC Male Athlete of the Year, was joined on the All-Region Team by Ryan Cleary, Davide Caputo, Gil Ferreira and Evan Schlotterbeck.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE (#16)

Rowan made back-to-back appearances in the NCAA Championship for the first time since 2013 and reached the NCAA Third Round for the second year in a row. Senior Elaina Corson solidified her place in Rowan history when she became the Profs' all-time leading scorer with 332 points and in goals with 273. Corson picked up IWLCAC All-America honors for the second time and was joined on the All-America Team by Madison Rothwein, who

Men's Baseball

also set school records for draw controls in a game and the season. Rothwein (NJAC Midfielder of the Year) and Leah Corkhill (NJAC Defensive Player of the Year) were joined on the All-Conference Team by Corson, Fiona Lockhart, Alexis Lowry and Jenna O'Neill.

WOMEN'S SOCCER (#18)

The Profs reached the NJAC title game and received their fourth consecutive bid to the NCAA Championship. Twin sisters Julianna and Olivia Giordano led the way and received All-America honors. Julianna was named to the All-America First Team and chosen as the NJAC Defensive Player of the Year with Olivia being selected to the All-America Third Team and the All-Conference squad. The duo earned All-Region honors along with MaKala Baker, Lianna SanFelice, and Sara Wiedeman.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Profs were the fifth seed in the NJAC Tournament and reached the NJAC Semifinals. Senior Taz Cantey was voted onto the All-Conference Second Team with Brycen Williams and Khalil Baker receiving Honorable Mention. Cantey was also recognized as South Jersey's Small College Player of the Year.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Profs finished with a 16-10 record for their second straight winning season and earned a berth as the third seed in the NJAC Tournament. Senior Charlotte Carlies and junior Haley Selmer received All-Conference honors while Carlies, Jes Mastriano, Jess McLaughlin, and Emily Poulas were chosen to the CSC Academic All-District Team.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Profs recorded a second-place finish in the NJAC and placed four runners on the All-Conference Team—Matthew Conway, Sean Hice, Colin Patterson and Elijah Whitaker. Conway finished seventh at the NCAA Regional meet



Softball



Gabriella Pagano

and repped Rowan in the NCAA Cross Country Championship.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Profs won their second straight NJAC title led by individual champion Gabriella Pagano. The senior was named the NJAC Runner of the Year and the Metro Region Athlete of the Year and was a repeat participant at the NCAA Cross Country Championships. Shedrick Elliott III and staff earned the Coaching Staff of the Year award with Pagano, Jezena Aponte, Juliana Sieminski, Shannon Stakelbeck and Ally Wernik being named to the All-Conference Team.

FOOTBALL

The Profs returned to post-season play for the first time since 2014 and recorded a 26-20 win over Utica in the ECAC Asa S. Bushnell Bowl, closing out the year with an 8-2-1 record. Giaini Derameaux was named an All-American by D3football.com and Anthony Henriquez garnered the NJAC Defensive Player of the Year award as they led the NJAC's top rushing defense. The duo was among 14 student-athletes named to the NJAC All-Conference Teams with Jaeden Everett, the Defensive Rookie of the Year, and Mordecai Ford, the Offensive Rookie of the Year, picking up marquee awards.

MEN'S SWIMMING

The Profs placed fourth at the NJAC Championship meet as junior Braden Sheehan led the way, earning four All-Conference honors and setting a program record in the 200 Individual Medley. The junior picked up two first-team selections

and was joined on the All-NJAC list by Julian Huynh, Joshua Oliveira, and Drew Westhoven.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Ella Pennington capped her outstanding Rowan career by earning an All-American honor, her seventh overall, with her fourth-place finish in the 100-meter backstroke at the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships. Kaitlyn Crouthamel also qualified in two events for the national meet to represent the Profs along with Pennington. Rowan placed third at the NJAC Championships with Pennington receiving All-NJAC honors in six events and Crouthamel earning All-Conference status in five events.

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

For the first time since 2016-17, the women's track team claimed the NJAC Indoor Championship, which was the sixth in the program's history. Denirah Jones received the conference's top rookie award and led a group of 14 Profs who earned All-NJAC recognition. Nyla Jones and Gabriella Pagano qualified for the NCAA Championships with Jones garnering All-America status in the 60m hurdles. Shedrick Elliott III and staff were named the NJAC Coaching Staff of the Year while assistant Eric DuBois '12 earned the Regional Assistant Coach of the Year award.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

The Profs won their first NJAC outdoor track championship since 2019 and the first under head coach Shedrick Elliott III. Nyla Jones was named the NJAC's Outstanding Athlete while she was joined by Gabriella Pagano and Ava Reardon in earning All-America honors at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Elliott was named the Regional Coach of the Year and the entire staff was named the NJAC Coaching Staff of the Year.

VOLLEYBALL

The Profs showed great resilience in a difficult season after the untimely passing of beloved head coach Deana Jespersen. Jespersen was honored posthumously as she and her staff were named the Joy Solomen NJAC

Coaching Staff of the Year after Rowan went 25-6 and earned the second seed in the NJAC Tournament. Jessica Smart won the conference's Rookie of the Year award and was joined on the All-Conference team by Raven Albrecht, Abby Chadwick, Vanessa Hutchinson, and Jena Kaul. Smart and Chadwick received AVCA All-America Honorable Mention, marking the first time in the program's history that the Profs had multiple All-Americans in the same year. Assistant coach Matt Verlinghieri, who guided the Profs after Jespersen's passing, was named the AVCA Division III Assistant Coach of the Year.

WELCOME BACK!

Two former Profs—Casey Burford '14 and Rob DePersia '19—have returned to Glassboro and are making their debut as Rowan head coaches in 2026–27.

Burford was named Rowan's head volleyball coach, returning to her alma mater after serving in the same role at Catholic University for the past two seasons. She brings years of experience at the Division I and Division III levels as an assistant coach, having also worked at Goucher College, Delaware State and Frostburg State.

Burford (nee Grasso) played at Rowan from 2010 to 2014 and was named the NJAC Defensive Player of the Year in 2013, while also serving as a team captain for two seasons.

DePersia, Rowan's new head men's basketball coach, returns to Glassboro after working at the Division I level for seven years. He spent a total of five seasons with the Villanova basketball program, including two with Naismith Hall of Fame coach Jay Wright, while also gaining experience at Fordham and New Haven.

A four-year starter and three-year captain for the Profs from 2015 to 2019, DePersia earned All-NJAC Honorable Mention in 2017 and 2019. He scored 1,004 points in his career and ranks second all-time in assists (498) and is among the Profs' career leaders in three-point field goals (93), free throws (309) and games played (104). In his senior year he and his twin brother, Nick, were double-digit scorers who helped the Profs to the 2019 NJAC Championship.



Field Hockey

PLAYING SMART

Rowan athletes aren't just winning on the field, they're scoring high in the classroom, too.

4.0  33

3.5  225

3.0+  325



Johnny Troiano

 =25 Student Athletes

5
NCAA Individual
Champions

48
All-Americans

2
Academic All-Americans

Making it happen

More than 5,500 graduates celebrated their achievements as Rowan honored distinguished leaders and challenged the Class of 2026 to shape the future.

Balloons, bouquets and beaming smiles abounded as more than 5,500 graduates and 47,000 guests celebrated at 14 ceremonies in a grand week of academic tradition.

The festivities began with Ph.D., Ed.D. and Ed.S. graduates, whose prolific research and scholarship continues to advance Rowan toward Carnegie R1 status. Twelve college and school ceremonies during five more days welcomed loved ones to share joy in their graduates' accomplishments.

Inductotherm Chairman and Rowan Trustee Virginia Rowan Smith brought the keynote address and received the Honorary Doctorate of Humanities (mid-page opposite, wearing white regalia hood). With key examples of people who made a difference, she encouraged everyone, "Don't wait for things to 'just happen.' Develop a 'Not yet' attitude and go ahead and make them happen."

At the University ceremony, Professor Emerita Toni Libro '60, M'67, Ph.D., accepted Distinguished Alumnus honors for her decades of achievements (top right, presented by Alumni Association President Lisa Westfield '95 and President Ali Houshmand).

For being chosen as 2025 National High School Principal of the Year, Lenape High School Principal Tony Cattani '98, M'02 received the Medal of Excellence in Alumni Achievement (bottom right, presented by Provost Voki Pophrastic and College of Education Dean Gaëtane Jean-Marie).



FOR MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS:
view.rowan.edu/commencement-2026





Celebrating 20 years of leadership

Rowan's seventh president marks a rare milestone in higher education—and keeps moving to make more possible

FOR TWO DECADES, ALI A. HOUSHMAND has served Rowan University with a bold belief in what's possible when institutions take smart, strategic risks. First as provost and now as president, he has shaped an era of remarkable growth—guided by his own journey from poverty to opportunity and his conviction that education can change lives.

Informed by data, driven by ideas

From Houshmand's first major initiative to expand access to Rowan's academic programs—creating what is now known as Rowan Online—to planning for Rowan's second century, his bold thinking is based in data and being inclined to defy whatever odds arise.

Early in his leadership, Houshmand committed to four strategic pillars from which every step forward would be made and measured: expand access, increase affordability, maintain quality and serve as an economic engine.

The result is breathtaking advances for the institution and unprecedented opportunities for individuals and organizations, including students, alumni and partners collaborating to help drive the region's economy.

The gains have been extraordinary as Rowan:

- became a top 100 public research university and one of only two in the nation granting M.D., D.O. and D.V.M. degrees
- rose to be ranked as the fastest-growing public research university in the Northeast and in the nation's top 10 since 2018
- doubled enrollment, employees and academic programs
- rapidly advanced from a Carnegie master's

institution to operating as an R1 university

- forged partnerships that are transforming higher education and expanding access to high-quality, affordable education.

Indeed, Houshmand has led a transformation of the institution comparable only to the broad growth and change more than 50 years ago during President Thomas E. Robinson's term. That historic perspective underscores Rowan's progress under Houshmand and confirms its potential to do more.

Full speed ahead

Rowan University has had only seven presidents in its 103-year history, each serving, on average, a decade and a half. The national average for university presidents is under six years.

Marking 20 years in Houshmand's leadership—six years as provost and 14 as president—is an exceptional institutional milestone as much as it is proof of Houshmand's pledge to make a critical difference in people's lives for generations to come.

Ultimately, every data point and goal links to a person who Houshmand believes Rowan University can—and should—help: a student facing obstacles as he did; an aspiring entrepreneur with an idea; the healthcare professionals, educators, artists and innovators who find Rowan not just a resource, but the essential catalyst for change in themselves and all they encounter.

President Houshmand's insight, vision and willingness to challenge convention continue to inspire Rowan's ambitious drive and growth. But just for a moment, we pause to celebrate 20 years of bold leadership and meaningful accomplishments and the future they make possible. ■

1 2017: Signing a jar of Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce at a local charitable event.

2 2023: Joining hundreds to start the University's Centennial celebration.

3 2019: Greeting families at Holly Pointe Commons during Welcome Weekend.

4 2019: Presiding over Commencement.

5 2019: Taking a test run during the Esports Xtreme Tournament.

6 2017: Eyeing the solar eclipse with guests at Science Hall.

7 2015: Cutting the ribbon on another new home for Rowan's expanding base in Glassboro.

8 2011: Celebrating with Board of Trustees Member Linda Rohrer support for William G. Rohrer College of Business.

9 2022: Officially welcoming the Class of 2026 for its first semester.



An architectural rendering of the pedestrian-friendly Wellness Village town center with services and amenities designed for well-being.

Building the future

Rowan's West Campus reimagines health, work and community

ROWAN UNIVERSITY IS ADVANCING AN ambitious vision for its West Campus that blends healthcare, advanced manufacturing and community living into a single, integrated district—one designed to expand opportunity across South Jersey while reshaping how people learn, work and age.

The \$690 million West Campus Development Project will rise on 220 acres at the intersection of routes 55 and 322 in Gloucester County. Developed in partnership with healthcare providers and private industry, the multiphase initiative is expected to generate more than 5,000 jobs, along with millions in annual tax revenue, reinforcing the University's growing role as an economic engine for the region.

"What we are proposing is transformational in scope and impact," President Ali A. Houshmand said. "It is a bold vision for the region, well beyond the 220 acres of our project, something that will spur growth throughout the county and South Jersey."

Healthy living, research and innovation

At the heart of the plan are two major components. South of Route 322, the Rowan University Wellness Village will bring together residential living, health services and lifelong learning in a walkable, intergenerational setting. Inspired by longevity research and "Blue Zone" principles, the village is designed to support healthy living through access to care, social engagement and recreation.

Healthcare will anchor the community through partnerships with Inspira Health, Rowan Medicine and United Methodist Communities, which will contribute expertise in senior living and intergenerational housing.

Plans for the Wellness Village include a community wellness institute, medical offices, residential options ranging from market-rate housing to assisted living, and amenities such as trails, retail and a hotel and conference center.

North of Route 322, the Rowan University Center for Manufacturing Innovation will focus on research, workforce development and industry collaboration. Anchored by established engineering research institutes, the center will provide shared facilities and flexible space where companies can move ideas from prototype to production more quickly.

"The Center for Manufacturing Innovation on Rowan's West Campus is about imagining what's possible when innovation, talent and industry converge," Chancellor Tony Lowman said.

Together, the two projects reflect Rowan's rapid growth and its expanding national profile, positioning the University—and South Jersey—at the forefront of health innovation, advanced manufacturing and community-centered design. ■

One mile from the Glassboro main campus, the West Campus Development Project is designed for 220 acres where routes 55 and 322 intersect.



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It's all about the **why**

In fundraising, “**How much?**” matters. Of course, “**To whom?**” matters, too. But whether the donation is \$25 or \$2 million, the big question is “**Why?**” Why give to a public institution? And why give at all?

HENRY ROWAN BELIEVED investing in education was the best way he could make a difference in people's lives.

Jean '81 and Ric '80 Edelman have spent decades creating opportunities for students to discover what they're capable of becoming.

Larry '77 and Rita Salva are making sure future healthcare professionals can pursue their calling without financial barriers.

The stories of Rowan's benefactors are different. Their motivation is remarkably similar.

Throughout the University, donors invest in students, faculty and programs because they believe in possibility. They understand how education changes lives, how discovery expands opportunity and how one act of generosity can influence people they may never meet.

The following pages tell the stories behind some of those gifts made through Forging Forward: The Campaign for Rowan University, the ambitious comprehensive campaign that spanned the past five years.

More importantly, the stories reveal the values that inspired donors' gifts, from modest to millions, giving back in order to give to the future—to new pathways, discoveries and growth.

Students are at the heart of Rowan's philanthropy—both as recipients and as part of the staff who invite donors to give. Opposite, Advancement Relations specialists gather to help launch the Forging Forward campaign.





...because legacies are built on life lessons

JOHN MORTIMER reached for the phone with apprehension.

Thousands of miles away from Inductotherm's headquarters in New Jersey, Mortimer, the company's young chief engineer in Australia, had made an expensive mistake on an ambitious project. His new approach hadn't worked, and fixing the problem would cost the fledgling company six figures—a costly sum in the early 1970s.

Mortimer called the company's founder, Henry Rowan, to accept responsibility and to offer his resignation.

His boss's response surprised him.

"What?" Rowan exclaimed. "You mean you're quitting after I've just spent \$100,000 on your education?"

Rowan knew how costly the error was, but he also saw in John Mortimer the making of a leader who would learn from the mistake and who would act with integrity as part of Inductotherm's engineering executive team. Mortimer went on to become president and CEO of the worldwide Inductotherm Group and helped shape the future of the global metals industry.

The most recent gift from the Henry M. Rowan Family Foundation honors the confidence Henry Rowan had in Mortimer to realize his potential, and it is a tribute to Mortimer's capacity to rise to challenge after challenge. This \$3 million commitment creates the John H. Mortimer Endowed Chair in Engineering. Endowed chairs ensure academic excellence by attracting and retaining distinguished scholars with the vision and ability to enhance the quality of teaching, research and service.

Virginia Rowan Smith, daughter of the Inductotherm founder and the Inductotherm Group chairman since 2016, learned from her father and Mortimer as they directed the thriving company's growth around the world from the company's headquarters in Rancocas. Inductotherm's success enabled her parents to make the historic \$100 million gift in 1992—the catalyst for all Rowan University is today—and to establish its respected engineering school, named for her father. Smith recalled her dad's high regard for education and how the opportunity to make a profound difference in higher education was what motivated him.



"My dad believed that education is the most critical factor for individuals to achieve their potential," said Smith, a longtime member of the University's Board of Trustees. "He valued people who worked hard, had high standards and didn't settle for 'good enough'. Our family is immensely pleased to establish this endowed chair and to name it for John Mortimer. He shared Dad's professional and personal values, the essentials in building our company's strong reputation. Every faculty member and student—far beyond the engineering school—can learn from John's example."

Mortimer served on the advisory board for the engineering school while he was an Inductotherm executive, working to help recruit its founding faculty and to develop the curriculum to dovetail with industry standards and practices. He demonstrated the highest ideals of leadership and a deep appreciation for education. He retired from the company in 2010, but his business acumen continues to influence its engineering and business philosophy.

He learned of the endowed chair named for him in January. "This gesture means more to me than I can adequately express," Mortimer said. "This chair represents an investment in students, faculty and innovation, and will help to ensure future engineers are well-prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. I'm deeply honored by this recognition."



Virginia Rowan Smith presents John Mortimer a certificate acknowledging the endowed chair named in his honor.

WHY GIVE?

To be able to help those who may not have the means, but have the talent, drive, mission and clarity to become the best they can be? That's why we do it.

—STEPHANIE GEORGE LENCHINSKY '78
AND WILLIAM LENCHINSKY '77

The new faculty position will be filled after a national search. “This is the first endowed chair in engineering at the University,” said Giuseppe Palmese, dean of the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering. “It is an extraordinary opportunity to embody the legacy of John Mortimer and the Rowan family for generations to come.”

The endowment is the most recent in the Rowan and Smith family's longstanding history of philanthropy at the engineering college and the University. Their support includes engineering scholarships and academic programs, as well as the Marie Rader Presenting Series, now in its 18th season.

“I look forward to being part of the welcome we extend to the new endowed chair,” said Smith. “John Mortimer remains a great model of professional integrity and accomplishment within Inductotherm. I am pleased and proud to know that his example of personal character and leadership will influence our Rowan engineering faculty and students in perpetuity.”

...because first-generation hopefuls need first-generation advocates

RITA AND LARRY SALVA understand the transformative power of education because they have lived it. Their experiences as first-generation college students shaped successful careers and inspired a lifelong commitment to helping Rowan students create their own futures.

For decades, the Salvass have supported scholarships and programs benefiting aspiring physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, researchers, engineers, filmmakers and broadcasters. Their philanthropy reflects a belief that



The new home of nursing education at Rowan welcomed students for fall 2026 on the West Campus.

WHY GIVE?

We're very grateful for the relationships we built, from our relationship together to those with our professors, mentors and friends. Our paths began at Rowan, and we want to support those journeys for current students and what they can become.

—HOWARD '00 AND RACHEL '00 BECKWITH

talented students should have access to the same opportunities that helped launch their own careers.

"In order to succeed," Larry Salva said, "you need the right chance...the right door to open for you."

Larry Salva worked his way through Glassboro State College with the help of financial aid while serving in student leadership roles and excelling academically. He went on to a distinguished career in accounting and finance, including leadership positions with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission and Comcast Corporation, where he retired as executive vice president and chief accounting officer. Throughout his career, he remained deeply engaged with his alma mater and today serves as vice chair of Rowan's Board of Trustees.

After earning her degrees, Rita Salva built an accomplished career in dental hygiene and higher education. As an educator and advocate for community health, she continues to teach future health professionals and serves on the advisory board of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

Together, the Salvass have dedicated their philanthropy to opening doors for students pursuing careers that improve lives and strengthen communities. In recognition of their leadership, service and generosity, Rowan awarded them Honorary Doctor of Humanities degrees in 2013.

In 2023, Rowan acknowledged the Salvass once more by naming the Rita & Larry Salva School of Nursing & Health Professions, part of the Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences.

"Rita and I are honored to have a school at Rowan University bearing our names, especially a school that educates healthcare professionals in the compassionate care of others," Salva said during the first White Coat Ceremony at the newly named school. "As Rita and I are both first-generation college students and college graduates, we are particularly mindful of the cost of higher education. So, we wanted to help those who might not otherwise pursue a career in healthcare due to their inability to handle the financial burden."



...because science inspires a world of opportunity

EACH TIME JEAN AND RIC EDELMAN have decided to support their alma mater, they've publicly shared part of their college student origin story. "We were just two kids from South Jersey," Jean has recalled. And Ric has said repeatedly, "Everything we've accomplished is a direct result of our education at Glassboro State College."

What the entrepreneurial Edelmanns have accomplished has made it possible for them to support their alma mater with extraordinary generosity for 46 years, demonstrating their



facility opened more than 20 years ago. Since that time, they have also made major gifts to ensure that the planetarium continues to offer state-of-the-art productions and outstanding education programs.

The Edelmans' most recent gift included support for the restoration of a model of NASA's Apollo lunar lander, acquired from Marshall Space Flight Center through NASA's Artifact Program. It sits just outside the planetarium. And soon, a Mars Viking lander model also will become part of the permanent exhibits at Science Hall.

The Edelmans' philanthropic focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and math education grows from their knowledge of what makes our country the world's financial leader. "If the United States is going to maintain its leadership in the global economy, we need more engineers, scientists and mathematicians," said Ric. "That means we need to get schoolchildren excited about science—and there's no better way to do that than to give them the opportunity to stare at the stars or dig for fossils."

Center: At Edelman Planetarium, visitors of all ages explore the universe. The Edelmans' enthusiasm for science education inspires much of their philanthropy.

...because challenge and rigor build stronger students

IN 2022, VENTURE CAPITALIST John H. Martinson pledged \$5 million to expand and enhance Rowan's honors curriculum. The following fall, with 224 students, the largest-ever honors class entered Rowan University, joining roughly 400 continuing honors students in a college growing and thriving thanks to Martinson's gift.

Named John H. Martinson Honors College, the program reflects the ideals of a successful and generous business executive who believes in both honors education and Rowan's distinctive mission.

Honors students like Joseph Rozier, below right, present their research findings to guests at the Martinson Summer Scholars poster session on July 29. Twenty-two honors students received financial support this summer to focus on research projects.

personal and professional interests as well as their philanthropic creativity and practicality.

They've provided "kids" just like them with scholarships and opportunities to flourish at Rowan. They enrich the lives of thousands of people each year through experiential science at the Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park & Museum. They both devote time to their alma mater to help it achieve its mission of preparing the next generation to succeed.

One of their favorite projects is the planetarium that bears their names at Science Hall. The couple's commitment to STEAM education is the basis for their efforts to nurture everyone's wonder and understanding of the universe. The couple's gifts ensure that all students who visit the planetarium on school field trips do so at no charge—it's one of the first pledges Ric and Jean made when the



FORGING FORWARD by the numbers

As of the campaign's close on June 30, friends of Rowan University supported scholarships, academic programs, infrastructure and technology advances, research and more. (See additional coverage of gifts by Tony Galvin '89 and James George, M.D., on p. 4 and p. 7, respectively, plus photos of campaign events on p. 46.)

NEW GIFTS, PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS RAISED

\$244,748,280

TOTAL UNIQUE DONORS

15,459

TOTAL CAMPAIGN GIFTS

65,479

GIFTS OF MORE THAN \$1M

23

MEDIAN GIFT AMOUNT

\$50

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED FROM GIFTS OF \$100 OR LESS

\$1,106,702

ALUMNI DONOR PARTICIPATION

39%

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN AND ITS IMPACT

**ROWAN.EDU/
FORGING-FORWARD**

"I'm certainly impressed with the leadership, faculty and students of the Honors College," said Martinson, chairman of Martinson Ventures. "I'm eager to accelerate that progress."

Like honors colleges throughout the nation, Rowan's brings together academically motivated students across disciplines, offering interdisciplinary courses, enhanced classes, priority registration and honors housing. It stands out, however, for fostering a diverse community of "citizen scholars" committed to civic engagement, leadership and service beyond the classroom.

Martinson is a strong supporter of that approach. His gift expanded paid research opportunities, spring break service trips at no cost to students and study abroad experiences, while also helping launch initiatives like the Martinson Summer Scholars Program, where students gain hands-on research experience across fields from biomedical engineering to sociology.

"In the John H. Martinson Honors College, we look for incredibly well-rounded scholars who give back to the community," said Dean Lee Talley. "We want to cultivate citizen scholars. Mr. Martinson appreciates the strength of that. His gift broadens and deepens absolutely everything we do."

For students like James Flocco, a dual major in geographical information systems and philosophy, Martinson Honors College opens doors to meaningful research and personal growth. Through a project examining food security initiatives in New Jersey, he developed critical research and time-management skills. "This experience pushed me out of my comfort zone," Flocco said. "It can help you cross bridges you would otherwise not have the opportunity to."

Martinson also supported the creation of Rowan's marching band, the Pride of the Profs, further enriching campus life and student engagement.

His gift for high-achieving students builds on a legacy of support, following the 2004 contribution

from Thomas N. Bantivoglio that provided \$1 million to expand honors education and programming.

...because even prehistoric adventures start with parking

WHEN SCHOOL BUSES filled with excited students pull up at Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park & Museum of Rowan University (EFM) and when guests of all ages scramble out of their family vehicles, their tires stop in parking lots sponsored by AAA South Jersey.

In October 2025, the region's well-known travelers advocacy organization committed \$774,000 to EFM to establish the AAA South Jersey Improved Parking Infrastructure Fund. This generous investment is already supporting the expansion of parking facilities to accommodate the museum's growing popularity and its increasing numbers of visitors.

The gift ensures that parking will remain free for school field trip buses, families enjoying the playground and guests exploring the nature trails. The partnership also includes exclusive discounts on AAA services for Rowan students and employees, as well as discounted EFM admission for AAA members.

AAA South Jersey President and CEO David Antrilli considers it a priority for the organization to strengthen its partnership with Rowan. "We're proud to make this landmark gift and support what Edelman Fossil Park & Museum is doing, starting with welcoming visitors to the EFM grounds," Antrilli said. "This investment reflects AAA South Jersey's commitment to expand access to education and recreation and to promote one of South Jersey's premier destinations."



Visitors arrive at Edelman Fossil Park & Museum, with parking lots supported by AAA South Jersey as part of its commitment to education and recreation in the region.

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

People have invested in me. My brother told me, 'You have people who believe in you. Make them proud of you.' I'm focused on being successful.

—DENIS ABAINE,
SENIOR HISTORY MAJOR

...because financial literacy empowers people

MANAGING WEALTH MAY sound like it's for the "one percent," but everyone faces daily choices about money—how to earn it, spend it and invest it. With 40 extraordinarily successful years of guiding more than 1 million people every day in their efforts to achieve financial independence, Edelman Financial Engines is bringing its skills and experience to Rowan to establish the School of Financial Planning within Rohrer College of Business.

In April, the University announced a \$10 million commitment to establish the school, powered by Edelman Financial Engines. The school is designed to address the nation's growing shortage of financial planning professionals by offering undergraduate and graduate degrees with an emphasis on preparing students to attain the Certified Financial Planner® (CFP®) professional designation.

"Expanding access to high-quality financial advice starts with investing in the people who deliver it," said Ralph Haberli, CEO and president of Edelman Financial Engines. "We have championed greater access to financial education, literacy and guidance for four decades, and we are committed to further advancing this mission by building a strong and diverse pipeline of talent prepared to guide investors at every stage of their financial journey."

As an independent wealth management firm, Edelman Financial Engines has helped people from coast to coast navigate their financial lives—from their first paycheck through retirement, supported by an independent, fiduciary planner model that puts clients' best interests first. The firm's landmark gift will help create the next generation of financial planners.

Rohrer College of Business Executive-in-Residence and University Distinguished Lecturer Ric Edelman will serve as the school's founding head. At the April



ceremony that announced the formation of the school, he addressed the need for new financial advisors.

"Today, there are more Certified Financial Planners® over age 70 than under age 30," Edelman said, noting that 38 percent of advisors are expected to retire within the next decade, leaving a substantial service gap for American families.

Edelman, a nationally recognized leader in financial planning, founded the company in 1986 with his wife, Jean, a Rowan trustee and, as an undergrad, the University's first woman elected as SGA president. As founding head, Ric will work with Rohrer College faculty to develop curriculum and teach classes. Programs will include degree programs, certificates and executive education.

"Financial planning is one of the most meaningful careers," Edelman said, "and through the new Rowan University School of Financial Planning, we intend to produce the industry's largest pipeline of CFP®-ready professionals."

Rohrer College of Business Dean Matthew Sarkees noted the distinction of the commitment. "We are forming a first-of-its-kind East Coast financial education ecosystem," he said at the announcement. "The significance of starting this school with Ric and Jean Edelman as expert, passionate advocates for financial education can't be overstated."

Beginning this fall, the school will offer its first courses on personal financial planning, investments, and insurance and risk management. The curriculum will combine technical training with communication skills while building strong industry partnerships to support student development and career pathways.

Celebrating the historic Edelman Financial Engines gift that launched Rowan's new School of Financial Planning are, from left, Rohrer College of Business Dean Matthew Sarkees, Rowan University President Ali Houshmand, Rowan University Board of Trustees member Jean Edelman, School of Financial Planning Founding Head Ric Edelman and Edelman Financial Engines CEO and President Ralph Haberli.

...because robust technology supports advanced discovery and practice

Students will benefit from hands-on experience with supercomputing systems that power global research.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS RAPIDLY transforming the modern world—and global tech leaders are helping universities keep up.

Donated by HPE in partnership with SHI International, a high-performance computing cluster valued at more than \$6.4 million will give Rowan students and faculty access to research-grade computing resources that are increasingly essential to teaching, discovery and workforce preparation. The HPE system will support coursework, student research and faculty-led projects that depend on large-scale modeling, simulation, artificial intelligence, data analysis and scientific computing.

For students, the gift creates direct experience with advanced infrastructure in fields where computation is central to discovery and practice. Computer science, data science and mathematics

students will be able to work with large-scale parallel computing, GPU acceleration and AI workflows. Students in engineering, physics, chemistry, biology, the humanities and other disciplines will be able to connect classroom theory to computational experimentation, from materials and molecular modeling to complex systems analysis.

“This gift changes what we can ask our students to imagine, build and test,” said Voki Pophristic, Ph.D., Rowan University provost. “Access to high-performance computing will transform how students learn and how researchers pursue discovery. It allows us to bring advanced computation into the curriculum, expand faculty research capacity and prepare graduates for fields where data, modeling and artificial intelligence are fundamental tools.”

...because tomorrow's healthcare depends on today's students

IN 2022, ROWAN AND VIRTUA HEALTH launched Virtua Health College of Medicine & Life Sciences of Rowan University, creating a first-of-its-kind academic health partnership dedicated to educating the next generation of physicians, nurses and allied health professionals while advancing research and patient care across the region.

With \$85 million donated by Virtua Health and \$140 million dedicated to the initiative by the University, the partnership quickly accelerated Rowan's ability to address one of New Jersey's most-pressing challenges: a growing shortage of healthcare professionals. New academic programs, expanded clinical training opportunities and increased graduate medical education capacity are helping create a stronger workforce pipeline for South Jersey and beyond.

“Rowan and Virtua share a vision of improving lives through education, innovation and compassionate care,” said President Ali A. Houshmand. “Together, we are building opportunities for students while helping meet critical healthcare needs throughout our communities.”

Among the most visible examples of that shared commitment is the new home of the Rowan-Virtua School of Translational Biomedical Engineering & Sciences on Rowan's West Campus. The facility, which opened in the spring, expands the University's capacity to advance technologies, discoveries and innovative therapies in areas including transplant, regenerative medicine, neuromuscular and orthopedic research.

For Virtua Health, the institutional partnership represents an investment not only in Rowan students, but also in the health and well-being of the communities both organizations serve.

“By training highly skilled and compassionate nurses and allied health professionals, we are addressing a critical healthcare need and improving

Accepting a Rowan University Medal of Excellence, Dennis W. Pullin, president and CEO of Virtua Health, participates in 2022 Commencement ceremonies with then-Provost Tony Lowman, left, and President Ali Houshmand.





Families find high-quality primary care for pets at the teaching hospital, with specialty and urgent care among the available services at Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine.

the quality of life for countless individuals,” said Virtua Health President and CEO Dennis Pullin.

The collaboration has also expanded opportunities for working healthcare professionals. Through programs such as tuition benefits for Virtua Health employees pursuing advanced nursing education at Rowan, the partnership supports lifelong learning while helping experienced clinicians advance their careers.

From medical student rotations and residency programs to translational research initiatives and innovative new degree offerings, the Rowan-Virtua relationship continues to demonstrate the power of strategic philanthropy and partnership.

...because we need compassion for all creatures, great and small

A RENOWNED ENTREPRENEUR, philanthropist and longtime supporter of animal welfare, the late Gerald B. Shreiber built J&J Snack Foods into an international success story. Yet friends and colleagues often noted that his greatest passion was animals.

From caring for stray dogs as a child in South Jersey to supporting animal welfare initiatives throughout his life, Shreiber’s compassion shaped his legacy. He and his wife, Melanie, welcomed rescue animals to their home and farm, reflecting their shared joy in making room for animals in the family.

Shreiber’s \$30 million donation to establish the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine (SSVM) is a landmark achievement not just for Rowan University, but for New Jersey. His extraordinary investment is helping address a critical national shortage of veterinarians while expanding educational opportunities for students across the state.

“Animals help all of us live richer, fuller, more active lives,” Shreiber said when announcing the gift in 2023. “They have enriched my life tremendously.”

Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine is a centerpiece of Rowan’s rapidly growing West Campus. Designed to educate future veterinarians, researchers and animal health professionals, the school represents a major step forward for New Jersey, which previously relied on

out-of-state programs to train aspiring veterinarians.

Importantly, Shreiber’s philanthropy provides lasting scholarship support for veterinary students, helping reduce financial barriers and encouraging graduates to build their careers in New Jersey. The investment directly supports efforts to address workforce shortages affecting companion animal care, livestock health and public health initiatives throughout the region.

“This really is a capstone gift and a game changer for our students,” said Founding Dean

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

To those who may not understand the power of giving back, look at all the students at this institution who are able to heal and change lives. Some of us are only able to do so after receiving financial help.

—GABRIELLE GEORGES D.O.’25

Matthew Edson, D.V.M. “It will allow us to provide substantial, perpetual scholarship support for aspiring veterinarians for generations to come.”

Shreiber was a longtime investor in Rowan students and their success. In 2012, he began his support with Rohrer College of Business and later established the Gerald B. Shreiber Scholarship for entrepreneurship students. In 2019, he expanded his support with a \$3 million gift to create the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program, one of the University’s premier wellness initiatives.

For decades to come, Shreiber’s legacy of generosity will create opportunity and improve life as it supports animal, human and environmental health.

Read more about Shreiber, who passed away in May, and the school named for him, in this issue, p. 35. ■



From the inaugural stethoscope ceremony to surgery for canine cataracts, from primary care for parakeets to field visits at farms and shelters, from final exams to research projects, each historic “first” at **Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine** happened because students, faculty and supporters stepped up.

This is a glimpse of the pioneers' historic first year.



Above one of the teaching hospital's operating rooms, students fill the gallery to observe surgery conducted by veterinarians and staff at Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine.



The ones who said

yes'

In the dog days of summer 2025,

anticipation electrified Rowan's West Campus. As construction crews moved out of the impressive, new structure, students from around the country assembled at Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine.

Faculty and staff lined the walkway leading into the 167,000 square-foot building to greet the 75 members of the Class of 2029, the first class of New Jersey's first veterinary school. Within a few weeks, the school's teaching hospital opened to provide primary care, urgent care and specialty services to the public, from family pets to large and exotic animals.

For the students, the reality of their opportunity at Shreiber resonated, especially in the early days. During the inaugural Welcome Week stethoscope ceremony, they received the instrument they would use during the next four years.

"It was almost the opposite of graduation," said student Caliann Moore, reflecting on the moment she heard her name called, crossed the stage and shook hands with Shreiber School Founding Dean Matthew Edson. "A solid beginning point that made everything feel more real."

While ceremonies and formalities signaled early milestones, it was the quieter moments that revealed the budding culture and community at Shreiber School. The palpable jitters in crowded study rooms on the Sunday before an exam as students compared notes and learned from each other. A visit from Shadow, Edson's golden retriever and the unofficial class mascot. The giggles shared between professor and students over Cheese, the doodle of a cow on the skill lab's white board, where they scribble a new joke or pun each week.

From lighthearted serendipities to more serious endeavors, students, faculty and staff knew their success

must be collective. They were acutely aware they were not simply starting a veterinary school—they were helping shape one.

Maya Quinn found her classmates came together determined to create an environment of inclusion, encouragement and a shared sense of purpose.

“We recognize that we are not each other’s competition. We are each other’s future colleagues,” said Quinn.

She also noted school leaders seeking feedback to improve the overall student experience, starting impromptu conversations and installing suggestion boxes throughout the building.

Moore, too, found the faculty eager to help students succeed as they moved through the challenging curriculum. She recalled classmates suggesting videos to accompany anatomy lab presentations to reinforce the lectures and learning. By the next class period—and each one that followed—their professor had a video to pair with the presentation.

Ready on day one

Amina Mason, a student from Philadelphia, was excited about hands-on experiences built into the first-year curriculum.

“Large animals, turtles, exotics, dogs, cats... it feels like I’ve already encountered plenty of species in year one,” said Mason. “That exposure is so key as we prepare for the future. It made me feel more secure.”

Combining research, evidence-based approaches and hands-on training, the Shreiber curriculum is designed to develop veterinarians prepared for the rigors of the profession and to care for patients across the spectrum of veterinary medicine. Clinical

“We recognize that we are not each other’s competition. We are each other’s future colleagues.”

experiences begin early with rotations between lectures, observations and hands-on experiences through more than 70 partnerships with wildlife refuges, farms, zoos, animal shelters and more throughout the region.

“Our program is designed to ensure our graduates leave with the experience and preparation to confidently enter practice and make an impact on day one,” said Edson.

With its focus on experiential learning, the curriculum helps ensure the school delivers on the state’s investment in it. The southern New Jersey legislative delegation championed its development, which helped secure a state investment of \$75 million toward construction of the \$150 million academic and clinical facility. As New Jersey’s only veterinary school, it creates an in-state pathway for aspiring veterinarians, helping to keep trained professionals in New Jersey while attracting students from across the country.

“Shreiber School represents the very best of Rowan’s mission,” said President Ali A. Houshmand. “We are preparing the next generation of veterinary professionals while expanding access to care, supporting New Jersey’s agricultural and animal care industries and strengthening the economic vitality of our state. Shreiber School is more than an academic program; it is an investment in New Jersey’s future.”

Serving communities, inspiring futures

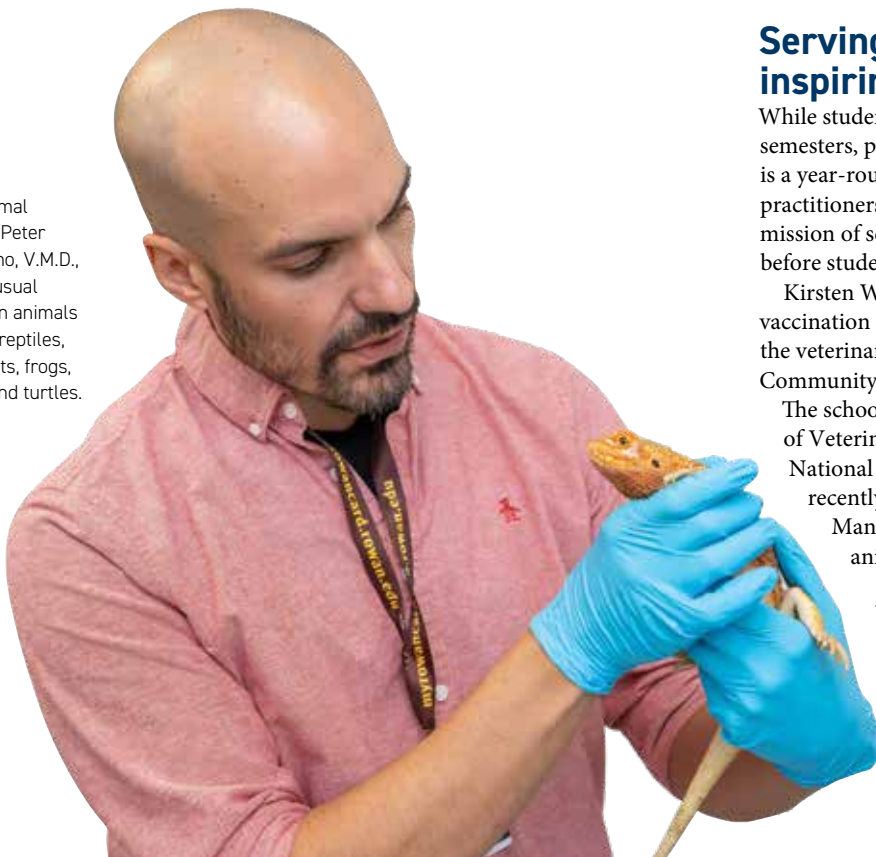
While students report to classes during fall and spring semesters, providing professional care for animals is a year-round commitment at Rowan. In fact, practitioners were hard at work fulfilling the school’s mission of service and community engagement long before students enrolled.

Kirsten White, DVM, and her team started hosting vaccination clinics for companion animals on board the veterinary school’s mobile Shelter Medicine & Community Engagement Unit.

The school teamed up with the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists for the annual National Service Animal Eye Exam event. Most recently, veterinary ophthalmologist Laura Mancuso provided free eye exams for working animals and service dogs.

The Large Animal Field Service Team began making field calls before classes began and soon was taking veterinary students on location to deliver care to horses, cows and other large animals. Moore, born and raised in

Exotic animal specialist Peter DiGeronimo, V.M.D., treats unusual companion animals including reptiles, rats, ferrets, frogs, toucans and turtles.



Gloucester County, said engaging with people on farm calls throughout South Jersey has been rewarding. “The fact that Shreiber School is local makes people excited. We are changing veterinary medicine in our area,” Moore said.

Beyond providing veterinary care to underserved urban and rural areas, the school also emphasizes the importance of STEM education while priming New Jersey’s veterinary student pipeline. One of Shreiber’s education outreach programs is PAWS Farm Educational Center in Mount Laurel. Year-round, it provides programming for grades pre-K through 12, including weekend events and summer camp sessions,

helping to foster career exploration and fuel interest in veterinary medicine.

Celebrating the start

To commemorate the school’s opening, the Rowan community gathered for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony in October 2025. The school’s benefactor and namesake joined a standing-room-only crowd and greeted students and guests.

Business leader and longtime Rowan friend Gerald B. Shreiber pledged \$30 million to support the school and student scholarships, helping address

No foot, no horse

Redefining evidence-based equine care

The 18th century proverb “no foot, no horse” points to a long-recognized link between hoof health and overall equine well-being. Yet scientific research has not kept pace.

Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine is changing that, led by Patrick Reilly, an assistant professor and expert farrier with 35 years of blacksmithing and equine foot management.

As advances in transportation replaced the horse’s role in American life, scientific studies in farriery—the shoeing and managing of horses’ feet—stalled. For over a century, farriers were not part of veterinary education, leading to limited research where it matters most, the hoof.

With just 157 studies in 50 years, farriery research lags far behind other equine studies. Shreiber School is working to rebuild that foundation through hands-on training and research that merges traditional craft with technology.

Reilly’s research focuses on laminitis, a disease in which the horse’s hoof becomes unstable. The painful condition is the



second leading cause of death among horses.

Through a Morris Animal Foundation grant and in collaboration with the University of Calgary, Reilly is using artificial intelligence to monitor gait symmetry and identify subtle changes in movement. A group of researchers across North America will use smartphone video to evaluate gait changes after trimming and shoeing, building a database to identify early signs of lameness to improve care.

Reilly is also collaborating with the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority to improve horseshoe

specifications and inspections. With the help of Rowan engineering students, he is developing a diagnostic platform horses can stand on to accurately assess horseshoes safely and consistently.

“We fault people in farriery for being non-academic and not having accredited degrees,” said Reilly, “but we also have zero institutions in the U.S. that offer farriery as an accredited degree.” It’s both a gap and an opportunity to build a profession grounded in research and education. Anchored at Shreiber School, Reilly aims to create a global hub for equine foot research and training.

Veterinarian Kirsten White, left, and BS/DVM student Ciara Robinson work aboard the Shelter Medicine & Community Engagement Mobile Unit to care for underserved pet populations throughout the region. The custom-built 40-foot Freightliner vehicle is outfitted with a three-table surgical suite, recovery cages and exam space.



affordability in veterinary education. He passed away a few days after the inaugural class finished its first year. (See more about Shreiber on p. 29 and 35.)

The ribbon-cutting also signaled the opening of the teaching hospital. Another regional first, it provides services to the public with a team of primary care, emergency and specialty veterinarians including ophthalmology, exotics, cardiology, neurology and dentistry/oral surgery. Connected to the academic facilities, the hospital provides core experiential learning opportunities, bolstered by an open-door policy for students.

Mason, who plans to pursue specialty veterinary medicine after completing her D.V.M., took full advantage. During her first year, she shadowed Shreiber's cardiology, exotics and ophthalmology

specialties, even making it inside an operating room to watch cataract surgery on a dog.

"Before vet school, I felt like asking to shadow a specialist was like asking for their kidney...but they personally invited us to come down and see what they do," said Mason.

We said 'yes'

Representing 16 states, and with more than a third of students identifying as first-generation, the school's students come from diverse backgrounds and have different reasons for attending but share a common goal.

"The people who are here are willing to take a chance on something," said Moore of her fellow classmates and Shreiber faculty and staff. "We said 'yes' without even seeing a building...that brings together a certain kind of people."

In a year full of "firsts," students accompanied faculty on farm calls throughout South Jersey for routine wellness exams on horses and other large animals such as goats and dairy cows. Others shadowed specialists in the hospital, observing diagnostic procedures and treatment. They volunteered to bring care to underserved areas. Each experience exposed students to the breadth of the profession while reinforcing classroom instruction.

During the final two weeks of each academic semester, students participated in focused electives on topics including animal welfare, research, specialty rotations in the hospital, and honeybee medicine. Moore likes to think of them as "side quests" and used

The Shreiber School's Large Animal Field Service was Rowan's first mobile veterinary outreach. The service travels throughout South Jersey to provide on-site primary care for horses, cows, llamas, goats and other animals.



her electives as an opportunity to supplement the traditional coursework.

The most popular elective according to students was the veterinary business and practice management class taught by Edson. Students learned what it takes to operate a veterinary practice, like hiring staff, filing taxes, purchasing equipment, and maintaining regulatory compliance. As a certified veterinary practice manager and the founder and owner of Rancocas Veterinary Associates, Edson teaches from his many years as a practitioner and business owner and it resonates with students.

“He’s unique in that he has not been in academia since day one,” said Moore, noting that Edson will

often drop into study rooms and give a crash course in whatever students are working on. “As an administrator, he’s not locked away in an office you never see.”

Affirming One Health

Through those experiences, Moore and her classmates began to see the broader role veterinarians play in society. That perspective is grounded in the One Health concept, a globally recognized approach that recognizes the interconnection of human, animal and environmental health. It is reflected in everything: the school’s community outreach, its academic offerings and its expanding research portfolio.

And all the while, those hands-on opportunities continued. During the inaugural Veterinary Summer Scholars Program, selected students paired with faculty mentors and conducted hypothesis-driven research across a variety of topics from microplastics to lead exposure in bald eagles. The program culminated with presentations at the National Veterinary Summer Scholars Symposium in North Carolina.

“One of the greatest investments we can make in the future of veterinary medicine is providing aspiring



Gerry Shreiber and Hachi, a beloved rescue that Shreiber adopted to join his family, which always included at least four dogs.

Farewell to a friend

At the brief ceremony when veterinary students unveiled the donors’ portrait early this year, Gerry and Melanie Shreiber beamed with emotion in the front row. It was one of the last visits Gerry Shreiber, who passed away in May, would make to the University where he invested generously, not just with financial gifts, but by acting on his sense of purpose and kindness.

Shreiber, the legendary entrepreneur and lifelong friend of animals, supported business scholarships at Rowan, as well as the University’s pet therapy program. He gave of his time to meet students and share his experience with them, warmly encouraging and astutely advising.

In 2023, the University awarded him an honorary doctorate in veterinary medicine.

“Gerry’s legacy will live on in everyone educated because of his generosity,” said President Ali Houshmand. “Our world is better because of Gerry Shreiber.”

“Large animals, turtles, exotics, dogs, cats... it feels like I’ve already encountered plenty of species in year one, that exposure is so key as we prepare for the future.”

veterinarians with opportunities to discover,” said Omar Tliba, associate dean for research and graduate studies at Shreiber School. “By engaging our D.V.M. students in research early in their education, we are preparing veterinarians who will not only provide exceptional patient care but also drive discoveries that advance animal and human health.”

Few universities are better positioned to lead and continue that work. The School’s second cohort began in August with 90 students in the D.V.M. program and 10 in the master’s degree track. With the veterinary school, two medical schools and strong programs in engineering, science and mathematics, Rowan’s professionals and aspiring practitioners are addressing complex challenges that affect communities locally and globally, from mosquito-borne diseases to avian influenza.

The Shreiber school’s first cohort, its faculty and staff established the school’s foundation in collaboration, service and innovation. Because the Class of 2029 enrolled in a program without precedent, they will graduate as trailblazers for all who follow—encouraging more to say ‘yes.’ ■

A big worry of parents

It's wise to be concerned about college. Candid questions and clear guidance can point the way around typical pitfalls.

BY RIC EDELMAN '80

IT'S CLEAR THAT COLLEGE DEGREES OFFER the opportunity for a happy life. But it's also clear that happiness has eluded a great many people. So, should your children and grandchildren go to college or not?

Well, in 2015, almost 60% of Americans said college

was a "great deal." But only 36% say that today. Half the people in this country say having a college degree is less important than it was 20 years ago. Nearly half of workers say college didn't teach them the skills they need for their jobs—and employers agree: 40% of them say college graduates are not prepared to enter the workforce.



Where and why?

College can be the best possible path for a teen. But that path can be treacherous, and you need to help your kids not walk that path safely and successfully, but to help your teens figure out if they ought to walk that path in the first place.

“This book has just one purpose: to give you and your teenagers the specific information you both need so that the student’s post-high school experience helps them enjoy a long, rewarding and happy life. And, above all, this book will help make sure that college doesn’t ruin their life.”

After all, if getting a good job is the primary reason for going to college, your children need to know that there are hundreds of fulfilling, financially rewarding and emotionally enriching careers that don’t require a college degree.

The average U.S. worker with a college degree earns a good salary. But so do commercial pilots, police detectives, nuclear technicians, power dispatchers,

transportation managers, elevator installers and radiation therapists. There are hundreds more well-paying occupations, none of which require a college degree.

So, you and your children must answer this question: Should college be the goal? If so, make sure you and your kids set the right goal—and “go to college” isn’t it. That’s because students achieve that goal the day they set foot on campus as freshmen.

A better plan

Instead, you and your teens need a more precise goal: To graduate from college in four years, debt-free, on the dean’s list, with a degree that lets your teen have a career in the field they want to work in.

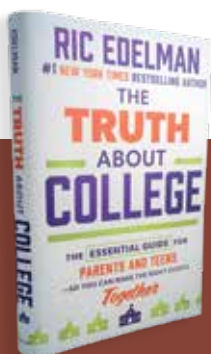
The average graduate now takes six years to get a degree—and those two extra years amount to a loss of \$1 million over their career. Seventy percent of last year’s graduates left school with an average debt of nearly \$42,000—which causes them to delay buying a home, getting married and having children. By failing to graduate on the dean’s list, they fail to gain all the knowledge their professors taught, putting them at a competitive disadvantage in the job market. And finally, they must focus on entering a career in the field they want to work in. This is important because there’s a lot more to life than just making money.

You’ll be providing huge value to your teens by talking with them about their path. By helping them choose it wisely and navigate it successfully, they’ll achieve the happiness you wish for them.



Ric Edelman

Ric Edelman '80 and his wife, Jean '81, founded the nation's largest financial planning firm, now serving 1.4 million families with \$320 billion in assets under management. Ric was ranked three times as the nation's No.1 Independent Financial Advisor by Barron's. He holds two patents for financial product innovation, is in two industry Halls of Fame and is recipient of three Lifetime Achievement Awards.



Ric's new book, *The Truth About College*, is a #1 Amazon bestseller. Drawing on four decades of financial planning experience, Ric developed a no-nonsense guide to help parents and teens plan for college—and for other options. Email editor@rowan.edu for a chance to win one of three copies.



WATCH

Ric's PBS TV special based on “The Truth About College,” releases nationally in December.



“We have been defying definition at this University for years—and you ain’t seen nothing yet!”

—PRESIDENT ALI HOUSHMAND

Students returned from winter break to find Defy Definition beanies ready for them to wear and to share on social media.



The Division of Marketing & Communication and more than 20 colleges and programs hosted high-energy, hands-on exhibits at the launch, all designed to immerse everyone in the experience of defying definition—the Rowan way.

MORE THAN A

MOTTO



More than a decade of record-breaking enrollments show Rowan is serving more students in person and online. Now, with a targeted, multiyear national brand campaign, the University is getting the word out that it meets ambitious people wherever they are and keeps them moving forward.

A super-sized, paint-by-number Prof mascot mural, a live podcast, food trucks, giveaways and more drew hundreds of students, employees and friends of the University to Defy Definition...Live!, the official launch in April of the institution's new brand campaign.

Built on five pillars—take smart risks, do work that matters, roll up your sleeves, thrive on your terms and show up for each other—the campaign aims to highlight Rowan's distinct culture and momentum through individual stories.

Students said the message resonated; they identified with the campaign's emphasis on collaboration and pushing beyond expectations. Sophomore finance major Connor Galvin summed it up: "Step out of the box. Don't let people define you."

The on-campus debut complemented campaign messages in regional and national media, including ads during the Grammy Awards, Winter Olympics and World Cup, as well as transit panels and billboards throughout the busy Northeast corridor's roadways, railways and airports.

President Ali Houshmand said the University has defied definition for years, pointing to its rapid rise toward R1 status—the highest level of research classification in U.S. higher education. Doubled enrollment, new schools, programs and the strength of partnerships and fundraising prove Rowan has transformed itself and expectations for public higher education.



The campaign includes promo items and ads, above, on a digital billboard boat near Ocean City, as well as in Philadelphia airline terminals and on banners towed by planes along Jersey beaches.

Share how your Rowan story defies definition:
defydefinition@rowan.edu

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.

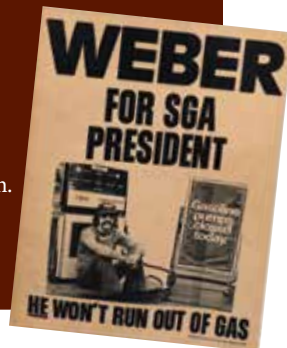
Susan "Sue" Chandler '73 is a longtime volunteer for The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. The charitable organization evaluates, tests, trains and qualifies owners and their dogs as therapy dog teams. Chandler's dog, Hana, earned the American Kennel Club's title, "Therapy Dog



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.

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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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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.

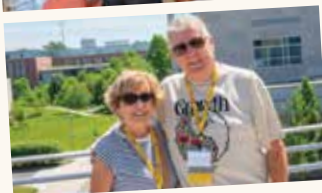
Leslie Martinelli '15 released her first novel in June 2026, a paranormal murder mystery titled "SUBURBAN STATION" (Mountain Laurel Publishing). The book is available through Amazon.

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,

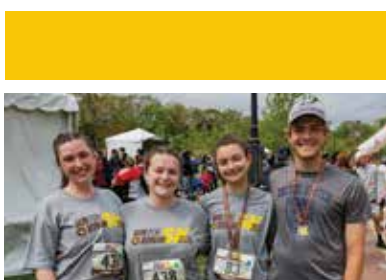
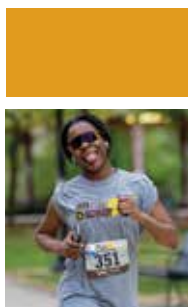
Research and Innovation. She also is a member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing Association, American Nurses Association, American Holistic Nurses Association and the New Jersey State Nursing Association.



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



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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



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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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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
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 Mornault ’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.

Calling an audible

When college football fell through, an undergraduate's backup plan came from hidden talents that would take him away from Glassboro as a student and bring him back to teach. If only he'd had an iPhone to capture the polka.

Professor emeritus William Kushner earned his Ph.D. in rhetoric and public address from Indiana University. As a high school teacher, he was named Outstanding Young Educator by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce in 1967. At Glassboro State College, he established the required course in public speaking for all undergraduates and played eight roles on the Glassboro/Rowan stage opposite students. A professor of communication studies, he also served as chair for the Department of Speech/Theatre/Dance.

Kushner still avidly follows Rowan Athletics teams and stays up into the wee hours for live coverage because of the time difference from his home in Israel.

In 1950 I was a freshman and the youngest starting player on the Glassboro football team. Somehow, the College managed to put together the team with a handful of GIs returning from World War II.

In the fall of my sophomore year, I was elected vice president of the Men's Athletic Association. A week later, Director of Physical Education Roland Esbjornson announced that due to the Korean War, the fledgling football program would be cancelled.

The Whit published a picture of me confronting the director with a petition signed by students requesting the reinstatement of football. Our petition failed.

With football cancelled, the future looked bleak. Everyone at the College enrolled in one education program or another; all destined to teach. However, I also had dreamed of becoming a football coach.

During that semester, one class piqued my interest: Miss Elizabeth Tohill's speech class. Apparently seeing some potential in me, Miss Tohill cast me in two one-act plays.

I can visualize the moment when I sat opposite Miss Elizabeth Tohill after a class as she said, "Bill, you are talented. Unfortunately, we do not have a major in speech and theatre, but Montclair State College started one. I believe you should transfer. I

know the chairman. Let me give him a call. And, oh," she said with a smile, "they still have a football team."

That call changed my life. For a number of reasons, I never again played football. However, thanks to Miss Elizabeth Tohill, I left Glassboro and eventually came back to teach for 29 wonderful years.

But I'm getting ahead of the rest of the story: Before I took Miss Tohill's advice in 1952, it was time for the annual Sophomore Dance during the spring. Miss Evelyn Reed was the class advisor and the dean of women. Members of the sophomore class thought it would be appropriate if Dean Reed had an escort for the dance. For reasons that I cannot recall, I was chosen to be Dean Reed's escort.

The class bought a corsage, arranged for a ride and even took us to an ice cream parlor in Collingswood after the dance. Much to everyone's surprise, Dean Evelyn Reed was an excellent dancer. We did a foxtrot, moved to a Lindy Hop and stepped into a polka. A former physical education instructor, she made me look good on the dance floor. Much to my surprise, we were the hit of the evening. I regret that we didn't have iPhones in 1952.

Afterward, I walked Dean Reed back to Oak Hall. A number of my classmates, so I was told, waited to see if I would kiss the dean good night. I was not so bold.

By fall, I was on my way to earn a bachelor's degree in speech and theatre and 20 years later, my teaching experience and a Ph.D. qualified me to return to Glassboro as a faculty member.

By then, Dean Reed had retired, but lived nearby. My classmates had talked about that Sophomore Dance for years. I called Dean Reed. We reminisced, we laughed, but I didn't get to visit her before she passed away.

I was among a few former students to return to join the faculty. It was possible for me because Miss Tohill set the standard for all of us in education: "Your duty as a teacher is not to lecture, but to assist each of your students to achieve his or her potential."

Miss Elizabeth Tohill was also gone when I returned in 1970. But I walked into the dark auditorium now named for her. The only illumination came from the red exit signs. I stood at the back and whispered, "Thank you, Elizabeth Tohill." ■



Wearing #34 in second row, middle, Kushner helped his team tally a 4-2 season before the Korean War suspended college football at Glassboro.

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Getting carded in a new century

For thousands of students who needed to track down a book at Rowan's libraries through much of the 20th century, the hunt started at stout card catalogs. Thumbing through a narrow drawer of index cards put them on the trail toward the right stack, the right shelf, the right book—or at least somewhere close.

The tactile task required a working knowledge of the Dewey decimal system and the library's floor plan. And if the card catalog didn't give up its secrets easily, savvy library staff could lead the way.

Digital catalog systems replaced cards and drawers when the Keith & Shirley Campbell Library opened in 1995, marking a new era for Rowan's central repository

of learning and discovery. After a two-year renovation, Campbell reopened this summer, redesigned to support a new generation of technology and a flexible information infrastructure for what comes next.

New features abound, making the library a more welcoming, inclusive and adaptable hub for learning, research and

student life. Each resource links traditional methods with advanced technologies and a 21st century universe of information to explore.

Today, vintage card catalogs charm the nostalgic eye—and library visitors' thumbs tap touchpads for new digital connections to discovery.

Learn more: go.rowan.edu/libraryupdate