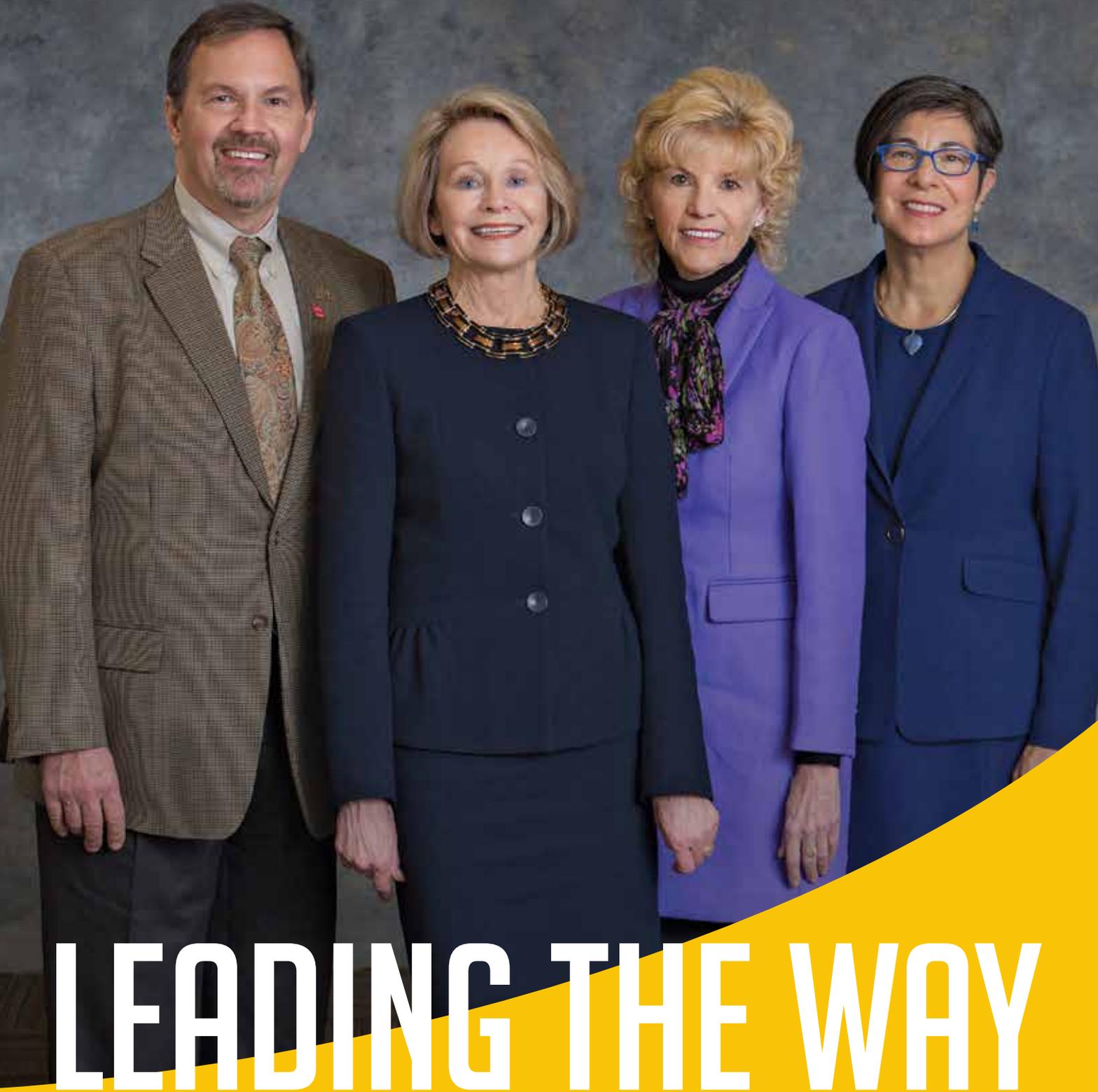


# RowanMagazine

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY

FALL 2019

Rising: \$3M for pet therapy  
Research: \$14.5M for polymer tech



# LEADING THE WAY

Rising possibilities 40

Under 40 and overachieving 16 | State of addiction, state of healing 32 | Then and now 54

# alumni.rowan.edu alumni events

## RISING TOGETHER

Join us as we go “Beyond the ‘Boro” to bring the Rowan experience to you with a special series of regional events celebrating *RISING: The Campaign for Rowan University*.

Reconnect, reminisce and engage with the ever-rising network of Rowan alumni, leaders and volunteers. Hear what’s next at Rowan from President Ali Houshmand as he shares his vision and explore opportunities to take an active role in the institution’s future!

Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Attire is business casual.

SPACE IS LIMITED—**REGISTER TODAY!**  
[ALUMNI.ROWAN.EDU/RISINGTOGETHER](http://ALUMNI.ROWAN.EDU/RISINGTOGETHER)

**RED BANK, NJ**  
Thursday, November 14  
6 p.m. | Oyster Point Hotel

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
Tuesday, February 4  
6 p.m. | Four Seasons

**NEW YORK CITY, NY**  
Thursday, March 26  
6 p.m. | Location TBD

**MOUNT LAUREL, NJ**  
Thursday, April 23  
6 p.m. | Aloft Hotel



## save the date

### RowanGIVES Day

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Join the Rowan community to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy for the sixth annual RowanGIVES Day.  
[rowan.edu/rowangives](http://rowan.edu/rowangives)

**Rowan SOM 2019  
Alumni Reunion**  
Saturday, November 16, 2019

**Run for Rowan 5K**  
Saturday, April 18, 2020

**Spring Alumni Dig Day**  
Saturday, May 2, 2020

**Rowan Reunion at Bar-A**  
Saturday, July 25, 2020

## stay connected

### Events and reunion committees

Contact the Office of Alumni Engagement if you have an idea for an alumni program or event or if you are interested in serving on a class reunion committee.

### Additional events

We offer more activities and services year-round than we can fit on this page. Visit [alumni.rowan.edu/events](http://alumni.rowan.edu/events) for updates and more information to help you keep in touch with friends and make new connections.

### Update your info

Each month the Office of Alumni Engagement sends an e-newsletter to update alumni on all things Rowan. If you’re not receiving Rowan Alumni e-mails, please contact [alumniupdate@rowan.edu](mailto:alumniupdate@rowan.edu) or visit [alumni.rowan.edu/update](http://alumni.rowan.edu/update) to update your contact information.

### Social media

Contests, breaking news, Rowan Alumni Snapchat takeovers, event announcements, alumni profiles and more. Join the conversation.

[@rowanalumni](https://www.facebook.com/rowanalumni)    

[@rowanuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/rowanuniversity) 

**Office of Alumni Engagement**  
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# contents

Fall 2019 Vol. XXIV, No. 1



## features

### 16 Under 40 and overachieving

Profiles of 30 young alumni rising in their professions and in their ability to influence, inspire and innovate

by Marie Alonso '90, Diane Donofrio Angelucci '81, Barbara Baals, Krystle Dodge '11, M'11, Megan Kiger, Steve Levine '87, M'07, Patricia Quigley '78, M'03 and Allie Volpe '13

### 32 State of addiction, state of healing

Rowan physicians help pioneer effective, compassionate care in opioid battle  
by Krystle Dodge '11, M'11

COVER STORY

### 40 Rising possibilities

The campaign for Rowan University makes a case for rising to the challenge

### 54 Then and now

Photographic time travel between 1969 and 2019

## departments

2 Mailbox

4 Big Picture

6 Campus News

14 Initiatives

60 Class Notes

84 Afterwords

#### ON THE COVER

Rising Campaign co-chairs Larry Salva '77, HD'13, Ginny Rowan Smith, Linda Rohrer HD'06 and Jean Edelman '81. With decades dedicated to leadership at Rowan and in business, the four head the effort to raise \$120 million for students, facilities and research.

PHOTO: KEVIN MONKO

#### ROWAN MAGAZINE

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editor@rowan.edu or Rowan Magazine, 201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028

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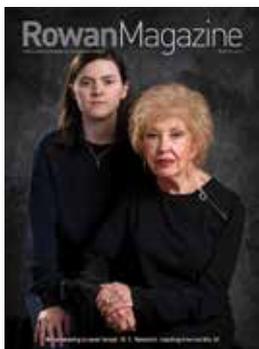
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#### CONTENT

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### Vital topic, special interest

I read with special interest “Remembering to Never Forget” regarding Holocaust survivors. My father was a World War II first lieutenant in the 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion who very seldom spoke of his war experience. Before his passing he happened to mention to a cousin of mine that he was part of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp in April 1945.

After researching this I realized why those memories were often too painful to recall. There was death everywhere, and many were abandoned to die in the boxcars that delivered more victims. Dachau was a model for future camps and was also known for the brutal experiments conducted on the prisoners. It angers me so when ignorant people deny the existence of these atrocities.

Thank you for this important article. Sadly, as you point out, these horrors continue to this day throughout the world.

Michael Kissel '71

*Ed. note: The Rowan Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies has a*

*full slate for the fall, including museum trips, film screenings, book discussions, lectures and memorial programs, many of them open to alumni and the public. To learn more, please visit: rowan.edu/rchgs*

### Coverage slip?

Recently received and reviewed the spring edition. Did not see any coverage of the 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame event. The event was held in October and was very well done. I had expected coverage in the spring edition of *Rowan Magazine*. The sports PR people did a great job with this event. Perhaps we will see coverage in your next edition. Thank you for your time and consideration.

William G. Madden

*Ed. note: Sorry to keep you waiting—see photos from the Hall of Fame induction on p. 68.*

### Undercover kudos

*Rowan Magazine* came today. Unlike [the magazine from] my other alma mater, it actually focused on alumni. Keep up the good work!

*Name withheld by request*

## Enjoy more local treasures

Take a free fall tour through three small Glassboro museums offering fascinating exhibits that bring to life the history of industry in South Jersey.

### RCA Heritage Museum



In Rowan’s Campbell Library, enjoy sounds and sights from the communication, entertainment and engineering giant’s South Jersey roots and global successes, including Victorolas and televisions, WWII encryption technology and NASA communication devices. Info and schedule: [rowan.edu/rcaheritage](http://rowan.edu/rcaheritage)

### Heritage Glass Museum

On High St., the Heritage Glass Museum displays the story of South Jersey’s glass industry, from raw materials to rare glass artwork. Info and schedule: [heritageglassmuseum.com](http://heritageglassmuseum.com)



### Hollybush Mansion

Come to the Glassboro campus for a free, guided one-hour tour of Rowan’s historic mansion. Visit the first-floor rooms to learn about

- Whitney family history in Victorian art, decor and artifacts
- the local glass industry with Whitney Glassworks products
- the 1967 Johnson-Kosygin Summit in photos and memorabilia

Wednesday, November 6, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, December 7, 11 a.m.  
Tuesday, January 21, 6 p.m.  
Monday, February 10, 6 p.m.

To register for one of these dates, please call 856-256-5400 or visit:

[alumni.rowan.edu/hollybushtours](http://alumni.rowan.edu/hollybushtours)

For video, audio and photos, visit: [rowan.edu/hollybush](http://rowan.edu/hollybush)



# Graduate Studies

## Online & On-campus



If you are seeking to grow your career and need additional credentials, now is an exciting time to further your Rowan education. The University is achieving impressive growth in size, academics, and reputation. Equally impressive is the commitment to keep Rowan accessible and affordable. The graduate programs are challenging but achievable for working professionals. Courses are offered online or in the evenings, and are taught by faculty who understand that adult students need to balance work, school, and family commitments. A variety of graduate programs are available for a variety of career paths including:

- Behavior Analysis
- Bioinformatics
- Business Administration
- Computer Science
- Counseling
- Criminal Justice
- Data Analytics
- Education
- Engineering
- Finance
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Nursing
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Strategic Communication
- Theatre Arts Administration
- Wellness
- Writing

**Apply Today!** | [RowanU.com/Programs](https://www.rowan.edu/programs)

## Optical explosion

On a perfect late summer evening, a blazing, booming fireworks finale helped kick off the fall semester at the Glassboro campus. Rowan Athletics and Rowan After Hours sponsored the seventh annual pyro show, painting the sky near James Hall with more than 600 exploding shells. Just east of Engineering Hall, students took in the attraction around Optiks, the public art celebration of a more cerebral—and enduring—enlightenment.

PHOTO BY KEVIN MONKO







Career Advancement Director Bob Bullard and President Ali Houshmand welcomed Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver to dedicate the Career Resource Library now named for the alumna. She found a strong start for her career 50 years ago at Rowan and invested to help students and alumni build their careers.

Advancement Director Robert Bullard '06, M'09 in the atrium of Savitz Hall for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate her gift.

The Office of Career Advancement serves more than 2,000 students and alumni each semester through career management programming, services and events. Its expanded career library features updated computers and other

## Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver's gift gives to generations of students

A LEGEND IN COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION, KOPENHAVER GOT HER START AT ROWAN WHEN IT WAS KNOWN AS GSC. NOW, SHE'S HELPING STUDENTS AND ALUMNI GET THEIR OWN START—OR A FRESH START—WITH MORE CAREER RESOURCES.

Glassboro State College made a big impression on then-undergraduate Lillian Lodge '62.

In turn, the alumna, now Dr. Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, made a huge impression on her alma mater when she invested \$300,000 in its students and graduates, her second major gift to Rowan in less than 10 years.

Rowan enshrined that gift in June by naming its Savitz Hall career center the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Career Resource Library.

"It's another wonderful day," beamed Rowan President Ali Houshmand as he introduced the guest of honor. "Once again, one of our successful alumni is giving back, providing opportunities for our students."

The valedictorian of her class, Kopenhaver has enjoyed a career as a journalist and educator in New Jersey and Florida where, for more than 46 years, she has been a faculty member at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. Today Kopenhaver is dean emeritus and professor in the School of Communication & Journalism at FIU and is executive director of its Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication.

A standing room-only crowd of well-wishers joined Kopenhaver, Houshmand and Office of Career

technology and can accommodate additional visitors, guest speakers and larger events, thanks to the Kopenhaver gift.

"For me, a lifelong career began here," Kopenhaver said. "I am delighted to help support future generations of graduates."

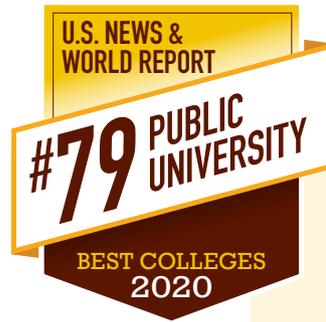
Kopenhaver marveled at the University's development, which began to accelerate with Henry Rowan's transformative \$100 million gift in 1992. Since then, the institution grew in ways that were previously unimaginable—much of that growth the result of Houshmand's commitment to focus on high quality undergraduate education while expanding research and driving the regional economy.

"Ali has a wonderful vision for higher education and I wanted to be a part of it," Kopenhaver said.

Rowan's 2005 Distinguished Alumna, Kopenhaver also donated funds in 2012 to establish the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for Alumni Engagement in Shpeen Hall.

Joining her college friend for the June dedication, Barbara Sherlock O'Breza '62 of Cherry Hill said she was editor of *The Whit* when Kopenhaver was writing for it and the two remained friends through the years and careers that followed.

"I'm so very proud of her," O'Breza said.



## BEST COLLEGE, BEST FOR VETS AND MORE

In its "Best Colleges 2020" special edition, U.S. News & World Report ranked Rowan #79 among public universities and #166 among all national universities, five places higher than for 2019.

The numbers were impressive in other categories, too: #21 for Undergraduate Engineering (two places higher than last year), #120 for Best Value, #260 for Undergraduate Business and #121 for Best Colleges for Veterans.

# Rowan leads \$14.5M Army study to develop cold spray technology

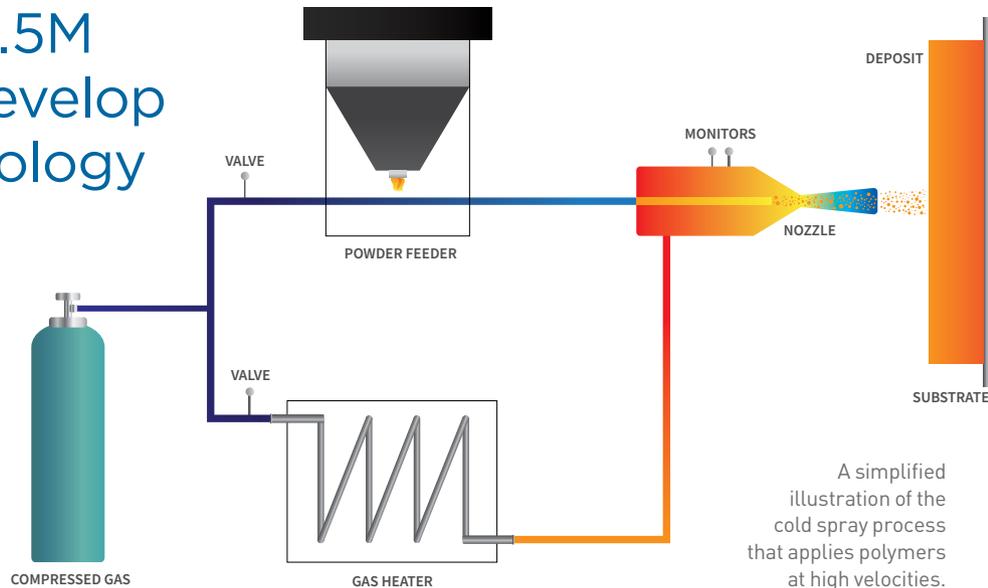
Rowan researchers are leading a \$14.5 million Department of Defense/Army Research Lab project to develop new materials and new additive manufacturing processes to modernize the Army and ensure our men and women in uniform are well-supported, especially in remote locations.

Ultimately, the research may develop technology that can transfer to civilian and commercial uses, including biomedical, transportation and aviation.

The research team led by Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Joseph Stanzione will develop materials using advanced "cold-spray" technologies with a wide array of potential applications.

The project will include research in the use of polymers, synthetic materials and advanced composite materials and systems designated by the Army.

"This marks the largest research award made to Rowan," said President Ali Houshmand. "When we began our research mission a few short years ago, this is what we envisioned...research that impacts our neighbors, while serving the common good."



Stanzione will lead the project from the Cold-Spray Additive Manufacturing Lab at the Henry M Rowan College of Engineering and the Sustainable Materials Research Lab at the South Jersey Tech Park.

Joining Stanzione will be Francis 'Mac' Haas, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; William Riddell, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering; Ratneshwar Jha, professor and department head of mechanical engineering; a project manager; three post-doctoral researchers; 10 graduate students; and some two dozen undergraduate students.

Researchers believe the layered, high particle application of cold spray technology enables rapid cure and adhesion of materials for fast and efficient production of high performance composite parts or the repair of parts.

"We will work to make materials more quickly, to make them better and easier to repair offsite and, importantly, onsite in the field," Stanzione said. "That includes everything from parts for tanks and jeeps to tools and helmets."

Rowan researchers, in collaboration with counterparts from Drexel University, Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will work with PPG, a global supplier of paints, coatings and specialty materials based in Pittsburgh, to create the new materials and ways to process them.

At the grant announcement, Provost Tony Lowman, project team leaders Mac Haas, Will Riddell, Joe Stanzione, Ratan Jha, and Rowan College of Engineering Interim Dean Stephanie Farrell.

Illustration: sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214860417302993



# Coffee, tea, beer and wine: Greener and cleaner with Rowan innovation



Grapes and grains, tea leaves and coffee beans make for some of the world’s favorite drinks. Rowan innovators are making beverages better for a thirsty world.

## CLEANER COFFEE

If you like your joe green, a Rowan chemical engineering team might just be your cup of, well, coffee.

Drs. Mariano J. Savelski and C. Stewart Slater are working for the third year with a team of students under a \$250,000 Pollution Prevention grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on a project for Nestlé USA.

Their goal is to help the international food and beverage giant reduce waste, recover excess water and save energy in manufacturing coffee. The group in part is developing strategies to use less fresh water and more water recovered from waste streams in their factory operations, such as in cooling towers, at the corporation’s factory in Freehold.

Christian M. Wisniewski ’16, MS ’18 worked on the project in its first and second years and now is an environmental engineer with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. “This project provided Nestle with some unique approaches to making their facility more sustainable.”

Since the start of the project three years ago, two graduate students and 15 undergraduate students have worked on the Nestlé research.

## FROM FERMENTING TO BIOFUEL

When Rowan alumna Sarah Bauer hits microbreweries and wineries, she’s not eyeing the beverages.

Bauer, assistant professor of civil & environmental engineering in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, covets the waste created during brewing and fermenting.

With Engineering Clinic teams, Bauer is exploring whether that discard—including grains, hops and lees—can be transformed into liquid biocrude. The researchers saw encouraging results from recent work.

Through a process called hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL), student teams are processing waste from Auburn Road Vineyard, Pilesgrove; Death of the Fox Brewing Co., Clarksboro; and Kelly Green Brewing Co., Pitman. The end-product is liquid biocrude, a synthetic energy source. Though the team is working on a small scale, the work is essential to optimizing the HTL process and finding environmentally friendly ways to use what is usually cast aside.

“Our goal is to take waste that would otherwise be seen as an environmental or economic liability and create a useable, environmentally friendly product,” Bauer said.

## TOPOS TEA-M DREAM

Kayvon Jahanbakhsh ’19 and Mike Lombardo ’18 envision a world where tea—their own brand of cold-steeped, caffeine-free, polyphenol-rich tea—is the beverage of choice for all.

“A vision of people enjoying tea while doing what they love rests at the cornerstone of everything we do,” Jahanbakhsh says of Topos Teas, the company he and Lombardo founded as students in the Rohrer College of Business.

In the two years since they drew up a business plan for Topos, Jahanbakhsh and Lombardo have landed their tea in eight Whole Foods stores, Rastelli Market Fresh in Marlton, and Honeygrow’s Minigrow in New York City.

As they plan for more growth, they’re now scouting production facilities along the East Coast.

Topos is made through a 10-hour, cold-steeped process that gives the tea a “full-body feel,” Jahanbakhsh says. “It’s fresh. It’s clean. And it’s made from very simple ingredients: tea imported from South Africa, honey, mango, or ginger and lime juice.”

## ROWAN AND NERD STREET GAMERS LAUNCH ESPORTS PROGRAM

Rowan University and Nerd Street Gamers, the national network of esports facilities and events dedicated to powering competitive opportunities for gamers, announced in September a partnership to develop one of the region's largest collegiate esports gaming and academic programs.

Nerd Street Gamers will invest more than \$1 million in the construction and development of a gaming facility on Rowan Boulevard that will include a broadcast studio and other amenities.

Rowan will work with Nerd Street Gamers to develop curricula relating to the esports industry, establish internship opportunities and create club and varsity-level teams.

"Esports has evolved well beyond playing games. The most important aspect for Rowan is its academic component," said Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand. "It will offer our students hands-on training—via internships—and knowledge in a variety of fields that will prepare them to become leaders in technology, engineering, business, computer programming and even broadcasting as it applies to this emerging industry."

Rowan's Board of Trustees voted Sept. 11 to allocate \$230,000 this academic year to purchase memberships for students to the Nerd Street Gamers network and provide them access to their gaming equipment free of charge.

Headquartered in Philadelphia, Nerd Street Gamers is an esports network that serves semi-professional, amateur and competitive gamers by creating environments for live competitions and tournaments.

According to Deloitte Consulting, there will be 600 million esports participants and fans worldwide by 2020. Tournaments are televised nationally and regularly sell out the country's largest arenas.

"The esports industry encompasses elements of computer science, communication and business," said Rowan Provost Tony Lowman. "This partnership allows Rowan the opportunity to develop this even further and translate curriculum into practice."



At the signing ceremony in India, Gov. Phil Murphy, NRDC Chairman and Managing Director Dr. H. Purushotham, Vice President for Research Beena Sukumaran and NJEDA CEO Tim Sullivan celebrate the historic agreement.

## Rowan partners with Indian development organization for discovery and invention

In a first-of-its-type collaboration, Rowan University partnered in September with India's National Research Development Corporation and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to enhance technological innovation, industrial research and economic development.

With implications that could extend from the Garden State halfway around the world, the NRDC will open an office at the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University, where it seeks to commercialize about 3,000 U.S. patents held by Indian research labs and universities.

"Rowan and the NRDC will help usher in the next generation of discovery and invention," said Gov. Phil Murphy of the historic agreement.

That agreement, signed in New Delhi during a recent economic development mission, will enable Rowan, the NRDC and the NJEDA to develop technologies jointly for the global market, according to Beena Sukumaran, vice president for Research at Rowan.

"Rowan University prides itself on taking innovative ideas all the way from the classroom to practical applications," said Sukumaran. "We are thrilled to welcome innovative Indian startup companies to the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University, where they will have access to our facilities, faculty, students and other resources that will help them grow."

In addition to the partnership with NRDC, Rowan has entered into agreements with three other Indian entities to collaborate on research and innovation. Rowan will work with Amity Universities and Institutions, India's leading private research institution; Aditya Educational Institutions, which includes 50 educational institutions specializing in engineering, business, pharmacy, nursing, forensic science and other disciplines; and IIT-Gandhinagar, a leading national institution.

Rowan and Amity will work on joint research, projects and publications, as well as on student internship opportunities and other collaborations.

The parties signed Memorandums of Understanding in India.

"India can be one of our leading partners in New Jersey's reemerging dominance in the global innovation economy," Murphy said, "and New Jersey can be a leading partner in India's continued economic rise."

## Students and alumnae stand out



TOP: Amy Ribinsky, Elizabeth Bealer, Cheyanne Marion, Kaitlyn Gaffney, BOTTOM: Katie Patterson, Imani Pressley, Roma Anjali Padalkar

Seven Rowan University students and recent alumnae have secured some of the nation's most prestigious scholarships and fellowships.

Junior biomedical engineering major Elizabeth Bealer received a Goldwater Scholarship, which supports academically talented, research-driven undergraduates studying natural science, mathematics and engineering.

Bealer, who is pursuing a Thomas N. Bantivoglio Honors Concentration in the Honors College, plans to earn a doctorate in biomedical engineering with a concentration in tissue regenerative engineering.

Seniors Katie Patterson and Cheyanne Marion began year-long Boren Awards for International Study. Through Boren, students study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests. Recipients are required to work for the federal government for a year after completion of the program.

Patterson, a modern languages & linguistics major, is studying in China. Marion, an international studies major, is studying in Jordan.

Since 2016, Rowan has had five Boren awardees.

Two recent students landed hyper competitive Fulbright Awards. Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine student Roma Anjali Padalkar is the school's first Fulbright-Fogarty Fellow in Public Health. She'll work in Uganda analyzing the effectiveness of education on the care of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Meanwhile, Imani Pressley '18, who earned degrees in liberal studies and early childhood education, will complete an 11-month Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan.

Twenty-five Rowan students have landed Fulbrights since 2001.

Two 2019 summa cum laude alumnae, Amy Ribinsky, who earned degrees in international studies and communication studies, and Kaitlyn Gaffney, who earned a bachelor's in writing arts, entered the Teaching Assistant Program in France, a seven-month immersion in which students teach English to elementary and secondary students. In addition to their undergraduate degrees, both pursued Honors concentrations and French minors.

## EMS SQUAD IS #1

Rowan University's EMS squad, which last year celebrated its 40th anniversary, is among the best campus rescue crews in America for emergency management and disaster preparedness, according to the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation.

The squad was the only collegiate unit in the nation to receive a Gold award for emergency management and disaster preparedness during the organization's annual conference in Pittsburgh.



## LACOVARA JOINS LEGENDS IN RECEIVING EXPLORERS CLUB MEDAL

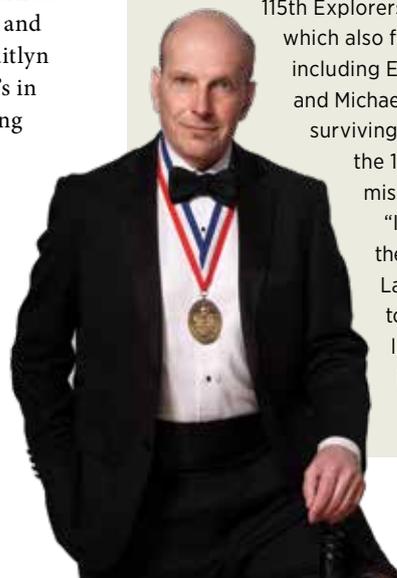
In March, Kenneth Lacovara '84, dean of the School of Earth & Environment, director of Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University and discoverer of *Dreadnoughtus schrani*, the largest fossilized dinosaur ever unearthed, received the Explorers Club Medal during a celebration in Manhattan.

The medal, the greatest honor bestowed by the world-renowned Explorers Club, recognizes "extraordinary contributions directly in the field of exploration, scientific research, or to the welfare of humanity."

In receiving the award, Lacovara joined a group that includes some of the greatest explorers and scientists in modern history, such as mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, primatologist Jane Goodall, anthropologist Thor Heyerdahl, film director and deep-ocean pioneer James Cameron and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

The club honored Lacovara during the 115th Explorers Club Annual Dinner, which also feted explorers including Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, the last surviving astronauts from the 1969 Apollo 11 moon mission.

"I'm honored to be in their company," said Lacovara. "I'm humbled to be added to the list of recipients that includes so many of my childhood heroes."

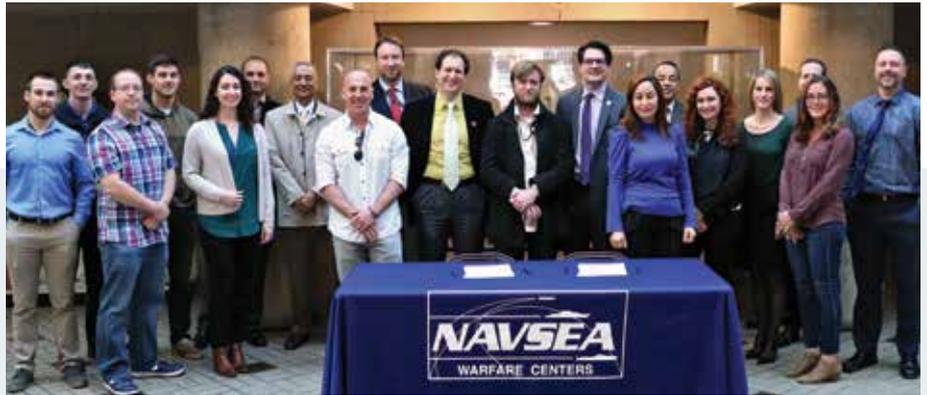


## For new tech, Navy nods to Rowan engineers

It will now be easier for Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering students to follow in the footsteps of five dozen of their predecessors and land a position with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division (NSWCPD).

A new Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) the college has with the Navy will open doors for students to further their education and gain hands-on experience while serving as a pipeline for the Navy to hire graduates equipped to meet the professional demands of the NSWCPD.

Under the new agreement, Rowan Engineering can tap into the organization's scientific and engineering



Rowan Engineering alumni, faculty and staff assemble for the signing ceremony between NAVSEA and the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering.

capabilities, inviting subject matter experts to develop and assist in teaching science and engineering courses at the University. Additionally, NSWCPD can loan specialized equipment to Rowan to enable engineering teams to collaborate in addressing Navy-specific challenges.

Many of the 61 Rowan engineers the command hired during the past three years attended the signing of the partnership agreement in Philadelphia in the spring.

With a nod to the Rowan graduates turned Navy employees, Commanding Officer Capt. Francis Spencer III said,

“It is appropriate to honor that fact as we sign the Education Partnership Agreement this morning. [This] is a growing organization and Rowan will be very important in that.”

Rowan joins five other schools with such agreements and the new partnership builds on an existing one through the Naval Engineering Education Consortium, a Warfare Center-wide initiative providing students with hands-on research experience in addressing specific Navy technology needs.

## STUDENTS START NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH WITH DANISH UTILITY

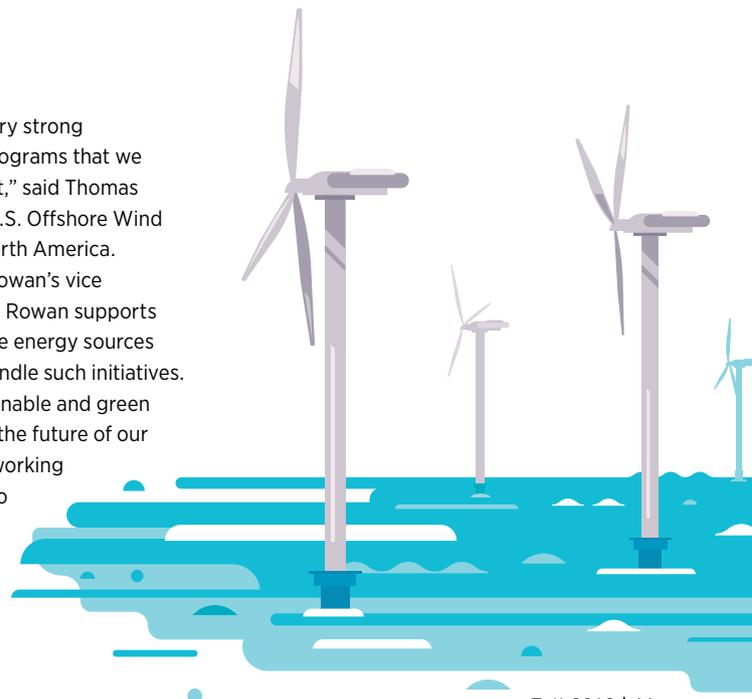
There will be no tilting at windmills at Rowan University—but there might be some designing them.

This spring, Rowan signed an agreement with Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind for the company to support innovative offshore wind engineering clinics for students and collaborate with them on research. This is a first for the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, College of Science & Mathematics and School of Earth and Environment.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities recently approved the Denmark-based power company's application for its Ocean Wind project to develop New Jersey's first offshore wind farm, located 15 miles off the coast of Atlantic City.

“Rowan University has very strong engineering and science programs that we are very pleased to support,” said Thomas Brostrøm, CEO of Ørsted U.S. Offshore Wind and president of Ørsted North America.

Dr. Beena Sukumaran, Rowan's vice president for research, said Rowan supports developing more alternative energy sources and has the expertise to handle such initiatives. “Helping build a more sustainable and green power grid is important to the future of our state. We look forward to working with Ørsted and the state to drive research in the area of offshore wind and supply the workforce they need.”



## Rowan Medicine expands to RCSJ



Marking the start of construction for the new clinical and education facility: SOM Dean Tom Cavalieri, Dr. George Scott, Senate President Steve Sweeney, President Ali Houshmand, Dr. Jennifer LeComte, Louis Evangelista, Dr. Wendy Aita and Dr. Linda Boyd.

After a decade of steady growth that included a doubling of its class size, the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford is adding a campus at Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) in Sewell.

Officials from the University, SOM and RCSJ, along with members of the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders and N.J. Senate President Steve Sweeney, celebrated the expansion with a ceremonial groundbreaking Sept. 13.

“What we are doing is pioneering,” Sweeney said. “There is no other place in the state where a community college has built a medical school on its campus. The partnerships we’ve created with Rowan University, Rowan College of South Jersey, the county, and the state will benefit not only our students, but the entire region.”

Scheduled to open in 2021, the two-story, 56,454 square-foot building will expand clinical services and educational opportunities for the South Jersey region.

The first floor will be the new home for the Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center, which began providing services earlier this year in another facility, and will offer Rowan Medicine services in family medicine, pediatrics, osteopathic manipulative medicine and pain management.

The second floor will house SOM’s new education facilities in a dramatic expansion of the nationally acclaimed medical school.

“This groundbreaking ushers in greatly needed health care opportunities for New Jersey,” said SOM Dean Thomas Cavalieri. “It presents opportunities to transform health care and improve the quality of life for the residents of South Jersey.”



Jaden Sinondon, Kyle Perez, Jessica Pratt and Kelly Sullivan celebrate their victory in the KPMG/ Essent Intercollegiate Ethics Case Competition with Accounting & Finance Professor Bill McGrath, who served as their coach.

### ACCOUNTING TEAM OUT-ETHICS REGION'S B-SCHOOLS

With teamwork, practice and a little help from some great philosophers, four accounting majors took first place in the KPMG/Essent Intercollegiate Ethics Case Competition at Saint Joseph’s University.

Sophomores Kyle Perez, Jessica Pratt, Jaden Sinondon and Kelly Sullivan won the invitation-only event sponsored by Big Four accounting firm KPMG and Essent US Holdings, Inc.

Challenged with a graduate business school case that highlighted an ethical

business dilemma, the Rohrer College of Business team presented its solution to a distinguished panel of judges.

The group put in more than 40 hours preparing to compete, reviewing business ethics cases and reading Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

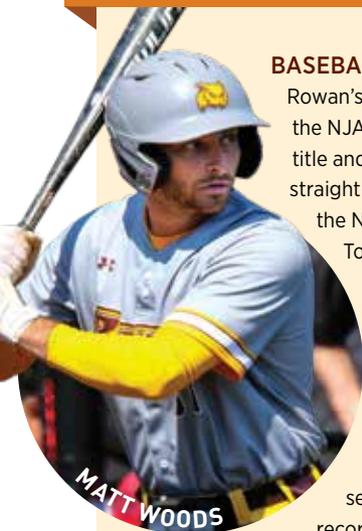
The Rohrer team bested competitors from Saint Joseph’s, Villanova, Temple, LaSalle and Drexel universities.

## Profs post more winning seasons and earn top conference honor

Rowan's athletic program won the NJAC Cup for overall excellence for the third time in four seasons. The Profs totaled 133 points out of a possible 146 in the 21 sports sponsored by the 10-team conference.



After beating MIT 7-6, the Profs softball team celebrated another powerful post-season appearance.



MATT WOODS

### BASEBALL

Rowan's baseball team won the NJAC regular-season title and made its second straight appearance in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Senior Matt Woods was named to the All-America second team after an impressive season in which he hit .421 and set the school records for most runs scored and total bases.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team won its first NJAC title since 1999, and its 11th overall, under third-year head coach Joe Crispin. The Profs earned a bid to the NCAA Championship Tournament and reached the Second Round while Crispin was named the Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team posted its fifth straight winning season with a 15-11 record under coach Gabby Lisella. She then announced her retirement from coaching in September 2019 to devote more time to her duties as an administrator after guiding the Profs to winning records in 13 of 19 seasons. Assistant coach and former Rowan men's basketball player Demetrius Poles was named the interim head coach for the 2019-20 season.

### SOFTBALL

The Profs reached the NCAA Championship Tournament for the ninth consecutive year and the 17th time in 23 seasons under coach Kim Wilson. Rowan won the Cambridge Regional and advanced to the Super Regional for the third time in the last four years, while compiling a season record of 33-15.

### SWIMMING & DIVING

The men's swimming and diving team earned its third straight NJAC Championship, and the 16th title in the program's history. Sophomore Kevin Gillooly garnered All-America honors with finishes in the 50 and 100 freestyle events at the NCAA Championships. The Profs' 200 and 400 medley relay teams also received honorable mention All-America.

Rowan won its second consecutive Metropolitan Championship in women's swimming and diving while Brad Bowser was named the Coach of the Year in the Mets and the NJAC. Junior Carlee Timmins earned honorable mention All-America in the 1650 freestyle and earned top swimmer honors in the NJAC and at the Metropolitan Championships.

### TRACK & FIELD

The men's track program continued its dominance of the NJAC by winning its fifth consecutive outdoor title, and coach Dustin Dimit was named the region's Coach of the Year. Two student-athletes joined the list of Prof All-Americans as Tyler Garland earned the status in the 100m hurdles and Dan McAleavey did the same in the javelin. Earlier in the year, the Profs also won their fifth straight NJAC indoor championship with Dimit earning conference Coach of the Year honors.

Rowan's women's track team had another successful season under coach Derek "Ringo" Adamson by capturing its second straight NJAC outdoor title and adding more All-America honors to the program's history. The 4x100 relay team garnered All-America honors for the second year in a row, as did junior Danielle Cross in the 100-meter hurdles, while senior Aspen McMillan received her first recognition in the same event. During the indoor season, senior Michelle Macauley earned All-America honors in the long jump with McMillan doing so in the 60-meter hurdles.



KEVIN GILLOOLY

CARLEE TIMMINS

# Pet therapy program finds a forever home at Rowan, thanks to one of dogs' best friends

Because of Gerry Shreiber's most recent gift, certified therapy dogs will bring the benefits of pet companionship to the Rowan community.

**G**erald B. Shreiber loves animals, particularly dogs and horses. But goats, waterfowl, burros and cats also have found a home on his farm. He drives hundreds of miles to bring rescues home to his family or to others. He spent vacations at a wolf sanctuary with his son (a veterinarian) to learn more about dogs' ancestors. He's even been known to suffer a bee sting while trying to liberate the insect from his office rather than swat it as an intruder.

If a creature crawls, canters or cuddles, Shreiber's respect for it guarantees his generosity, whether he's welcoming it into his family or donating to support animal-friendly efforts provided by others.

But dogs hold a special place in his heart and life. Sharing the joy and power of friendship with them is at the center of the entrepreneur's most recent gift to Rowan University: a \$3 million endowment to bring certified therapy dogs to campus to help students, especially those struggling with stress and anxiety.

The gift enables the University to expand—and continue perpetually—a popular program that has been an occasional part of Rowan's wellness services. Starting this fall, the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program of Rowan University will ensure that furry friends provide support and companionship throughout each academic year on a regular basis.

## A cause close to heart and home

"I've loved dogs all my life and I've had dogs all my life," said Shreiber, whose four current rescues follow dozens of canine cousins in the Shreiber family during the past several decades. Beyond his affection for dogs, he knows firsthand the benefits of time spent with them. He notes that studies show being around them can reduce anxiety, increase confidence and even help lower blood pressure.

The dogs in the Rowan program will be available to students in the Wellness Center as well as through programs across campus, such as those that support veterans, students with disabilities, students on the autism spectrum and even student athletes and medical students who experience high levels of stress.

The Gloucester county resident is eager to see the dogs provide companionship and comfort to students in need. "I've seen the emotional lift in kids and adults when therapy dogs come in. This [Rowan program] is structured. They'll do it right and it's close enough for me to visit."

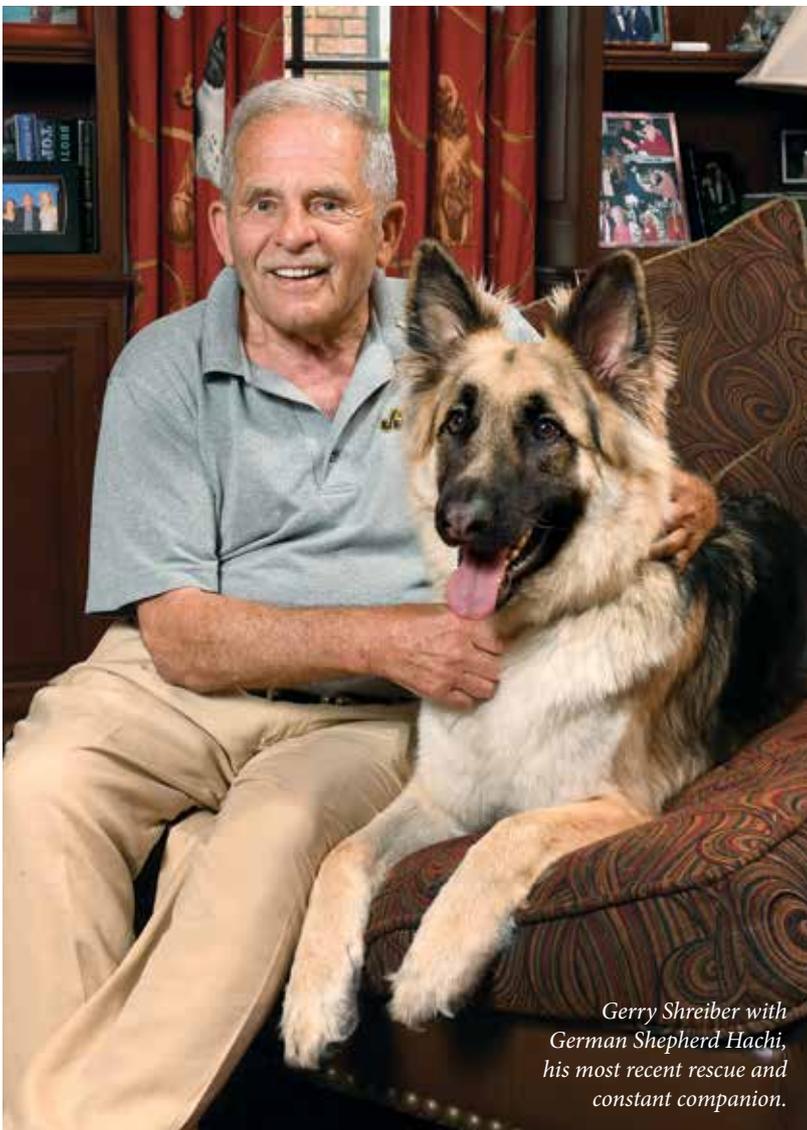
## Dog therapy program integrates with well-being

As part of Rowan's comprehensive well-being programming and resources, the endowed center will be housed in a 744-square-foot facility in Winans Hall set to open in November with a full-time coordinator and resources to maintain five certified therapy dogs.

"Pet therapy will play an important role in fostering a culture of well-being on campus," said Scott Woodside, director for the Wellness Center. "Our Paws for a Break program has been very successful and the potential for opportunities for research, student support and collaboration is limitless."

The program expansion ties in well with the Student Affairs THRIVE well-being initiative, which emphasizes six components of wellness: physical, social, emotional, financial, a sense of purpose and being part of an inclusive community.

That commitment reinforces other well-established efforts designed to boost student wellness, including exercise and recreational activities, programming through the Wellness Center's Healthy Campus Initiatives, an array of traditional therapeutic options and widespread opportunities for campus involvement and volunteerism.



*Gerry Shreiber with German Shepherd Hachi, his most recent rescue and constant companion.*

### Creating opportunities for success

Describing his life as “a fairy tale, a dream,” Shreiber looks back on a humble home and hardworking family. Always a voracious reader, he found the spark for his entrepreneurial spirit and financial success in books that he read as a teen. “I knew we were poor and I didn’t like it,” he said. “But I knew I was going to be successful and help people one day.”

Unable to attend college, he began his career as a mechanical apprentice and moved into production and sales management. In 1971, he bought a bankrupt soft pretzel company with eight employees and \$400,000 in annual sales. That company, which today is J&J Snack Foods, has more than 4,000 employees and more than \$1 billion in annual sales from such leading brands as SUPERPRETZEL, ICEE, and Minute Maid Soft Frozen Lemonade. J&J Snack Foods has made the Forbes list of 200 Best Small Companies seven times.

Shreiber’s work ethic and dream to help others drive him and his philanthropic decisions. He knows talented young people who didn’t have the opportunity to pursue higher education. He’s determined to help provide for others like them.

“I got lucky. I built a nice, big business,” he said. “It’s a small price to pay [to support worthy causes]. I get a lot of personal pride out of that.”

Shreiber’s recent gift was not the first to the University. In 2014 he established the Gerald B. Shreiber Scholarship to support entrepreneurship students in the William G. Rohrer College of Business. To date, he has contributed \$300,000, from which 30 students have received awards.

Endowing the pet therapy program at Rowan especially pleases him. “I can think of nothing better,” he said, “than to support our students as they strive for education, complemented by therapy dogs.” ■



# *under forty & over- achieving*

**ALUMNI RISE  
TO CREATE,  
DISCOVER, SOLVE  
PROBLEMS AND  
SERVE OTHERS**

Just a few years beyond earning their degrees, Rowan grads are going wherever dreams, drive, talent and technology can take them.

Nominated by peers and professors and in order as random as their stories, 30 under-40 alumni tell about what they've accomplished so far.



# John Costantino

26 | B.S. Computer Science '14 | CTO and Co-Founder, Manolin



Would you believe it all started with oysters?

John Costantino had a job he loved when he and his roommate, Tony Chen, took a life-changing trip to Virginia Beach, Va. They went to golf and enjoy the local seafood. They wound up touring an oyster farm and learning about the problems that plague the aquaculture industry.

Computer science and fish farming might not seem to have much in common. Yet computers are the most effective way to analyze all the complex data points—like appetites, exercise and diseases—gathered from different sources.

With that in mind, Costantino and Chen spent their spare time for the next two years developing a system that would track and explain the seemingly unpredictable threats to aquaculture harvests. That system would become their software analytics company, Manolin.

After a weekend trip to the international aquaculture hub of Bergen, Norway, they knew they had to relocate overseas to establish Manolin's place in the industry.

"I said goodbye to my life in D.C., told my parents I was moving and hopped on a plane to Norway

with nothing but my laptop and a suitcase.

"I knew nothing about building a company, I was just a person who found an interest in farming fish," Costantino says. "We were told it was a stupid idea and there is no need to improve how fish and oysters are farmed. I'm glad we stayed stubborn."

Eventually, the young company began making waves, winning awards in the aquaculture industry and beyond. "These awards really help bring credibility to the problems that the aquaculture sector faces," says Costantino, who sees sustainably farmed aquaculture as essential to feeding the world's growing population.

Life after Rowan hasn't followed Costantino's "safe" plans of working for a tech giant like Google. Instead, it's exceeded his ambitions.

"I don't think I could have guessed that I would have taken the path I did in a million years. The whole journey so far has been fun, stressful, filled with so many unexpected turns of events... and I honestly wouldn't change a thing about it."

PHOTO BY DINA CHEN

## AYANNA LYONS

25 | B.A. Public Relations '16 | Division Manager, Petey Greene Program

"I hate the word 'help,'" Ayanna Lyons says. "We're not 'helping,' we're 'in service together.'" If anyone knows about service, it's Lyons, who has done life-changing work in service—first with AmeriCorps NCCC and now as division manager of the Petey Greene Program, which provides tutoring to incarcerated individuals.

"There's nobody else that does what Petey Greene does," Lyons says. The program isn't politically or religiously motivated. It doesn't discriminate based on age or crime.

"If you want to make a difference, you need a passion for criminal justice more than you need a background in criminal justice," Lyons says. "We're combating stigma. When we talk about incarceration as an otherness, something

taboo, children with incarcerated parents and formerly incarcerated people feel otherly, not supported.

"Two things can coexist," says Lyons. "A person can commit a bad crime but should still get an education. People do bad things, but we shouldn't lock people up for the rest of their lives if they can be rehabilitated.

"Rowan is still preparing me for this work by connecting me with undergrads and faculty. As a grad student, I learned about Dr. Sandra Joy's Youth Empowerment Program for students with an incarcerated parent and was able to connect with undergrads."

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY





## Eileen Oni

31 | B.S. Biological Sciences '10  
Legislative and Reporting Program Analyst,  
The National Institute of General Medicine Sciences

When Eileen Oni fell in love with biology, bench science—experimental laboratory research—interested her. “I had a real desire to know how things worked.”

As a Ph.D. student, she discovered a new calling: science policy, or “making sure we train scientists in the best way,” Oni says. “How can we do things better to make science the best enterprise it can be?”

After graduating, she served as AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellow at the National Science Foundation. In April, Oni began working for the National Institute of General Medicine Sciences, a funding agency under the National Institutes of Health.

“Just because something operates a certain way doesn’t mean that’s the only way it can be. There’s always room for improvement,” Oni says. Working in science policy, she’s “at the forefront of using data to make informed decisions that help us fund the best science and support scientists.”

Bench scientists ask, what experiments do I need to prove or refute a hypothesis? Policy uses similar skillsets, like synthesizing data. “How can we support scientists better and make sure we develop and support the programs that are the best?”

“Rowan was definitely a launchpad that translated [into my work in science policy],” she says. “I was fortunate to get research experience at Rowan labs.”

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

## ANDREW CAMPBELL

29 | B.S. Entrepreneurship '12  
Managing Director, Moonduck Studios & Agency



Esports fans know Andrew Campbell's broadcast persona: Zyori.

Campbell became “intrigued by the competitive aspect of video games” during college. The industry wasn’t mainstream yet, but he thought at the time, “if I put in the investment hours to get experience now, it will all be worth it.”

From part time to full time to cofounding his own studio and talent representation agency, Campbell learned “esports is all about building a brand around yourself as a broadcaster.”

Among Campbell's biggest live events were November 2017's Midas Mode tournament and January 2018's Captains Draft 4 tournament. Based on those experiences and others, Campbell is writing a book, *The Zyori Story: Starting in Esports*, coming soon.

“People ask, ‘Why watch a video game tournament?’ Going to events and feeling the energy, it was the first thing in my life that 100 percent resonated with me.”

Moonduck Studios & Agency is among the biggest players in esports broadcasting for the popular multiplayer online battle arena game Dota 2, achieving \$1 million growth by its third year.

## MICHELLE CASSIDY

37 | B.S. Marketing '03  
Senior Community and  
Marketing Director, Yelp



Planning elite parties at luxury apartments and private dinners at hot new Philly restaurants—for Michelle Cassidy, it's all part of the job. “This actually is a dream job,” says Cassidy, senior community and marketing director of Yelp for Philadelphia.

A dream job, but a challenging one. Cassidy handles all Philadelphia Yelp marketing efforts and works directly with business owners. She forges partnerships with some of the most recognizable organizations in the area—from the Franklin Institute to Daybreaker morning dance parties.

“In my wildest dreams, I wouldn't have expected this,” says Cassidy, who began cultivating her leadership skills while serving as SGA secretary for four years. After starting out as a marketing coordinator at a CPA firm, “going from corporate to a young tech startup was like going from black-and-white to Technicolor.”

“I absolutely loved Rowan. I had a great education there and learned so much through the college experience. Professor Manuel Pontes was super influential, one of those people who left an impression on me. His lessons inspired me then and still inspire me today.”



# Ernie Holtzheimer

29 | B.S. Business Management & Entrepreneurship '12, MBA '13  
Corporate Attorney, Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP

Ernest Holtzheimer started as a biology major but shifted focus when he realized business interested him more than science. His business law courses taught him that what he really wanted was to be a corporate attorney. Now he does just that, working with professionals in private equity and commercial transactions at a well-respected Philadelphia firm.

“The law and trends in legal practice are always changing, and attorneys need to keep up. I enjoy learning, so this is one of my favorite parts of practicing law,” he says. When Holtzheimer talks about enjoying learning, he’s sincere. “I started reading books on business and investment topics for fun,” he says.

He chose to use a gap year between earning his bachelor’s degree and starting law school to earn his MBA through Rowan’s 4+1 program. This graduate-level business background equipped him with a foundation in business terminology and financial concepts.

Holtzheimer aspires to make partner someday, but he’s already making a difference. He holds leadership positions nationally and locally in professional organizations. “I am drawn to leadership roles because I think that if I am going to be involved in something, I really want to be in a position where I can make an impact,” he says. “I have a people-first mindset and believe that if people have a high morale, they will do their best work.”

Selected for the American Bar Association’s 40 Young Attorneys ‘On the Rise,’ among other professional awards, Holtzheimer remains modest. “What means the most to me is that people in my professional network have taken time out of their busy schedule to nominate me,” he says. “Without the support of my colleagues and friends, I would not be where I am today.

“Many of the opportunities I’ve been given have stemmed at least in part from the connections I’ve made with people from my time at Rowan, Drexel Law and the organizations I’ve become involved with.

“Rowan truly is a community, and students, alumni, faculty and staff need to recognize that. Rowan has provided me with a lot of friends and opportunities, and I believe it has done the same for many other people. So I encourage everyone to stay involved and to give back to the community that has served us so well.”

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY



# CHRISSEY BUTEAS

37 | B.A. Law & Justice '04  
Chief Government Affairs Officer,  
New Jersey Business & Industry Association

Applying the same grit and determination she displayed on Rowan’s 2002 national championship field hockey team, Christine Buteas tirelessly advocates for New Jersey businesses in the state’s capital.

The chief government affairs officer of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association works to help businesses create jobs, keep residents working and grow the economy.

She burnished her reputation as a leader and advocate in previous roles, serving as president and CEO of the Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey, vice president of Capital Impact Group and others.

“I believe it is important to have your voice heard when policy is being debated and implemented,” she says. “In my current role, making sure jobs are being created is very important.”

She continues to carry hard-won lessons from the hockey field into the business world. “They translate into being able to work with a team, being able to accept defeat but also celebrate victories, building perseverance and learning to push yourself beyond what you think your limits are,” says Buteas, who serves on Rowan’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“I am a big proponent of the role sports play in developing leadership skills,” she says. “Playing at Rowan taught me a lot about myself and about working as a team.”



## Anastasia Hendrickson

34 | B.A. Athletic Training '06  
Vice President, Legend Medical

Just three days after graduating, Anastasia Hendrickson began her career as a sales rep at Legend Medical. Thirteen years later, she's grown with the company—all the way to vice president.

Hendrickson, who majored in athletic training, didn't intend to go into sales. Yet it was precisely her experience with athletic training and physical therapy equipment that made her a prime candidate for the role with the young company. That same year, Hendrickson was promoted to sales director.

Being named VP was "really special," says Hendrickson. "I was promoted at the company's holiday dinner with more than 100 people cheering. That was a complete surprise."

Vice president isn't "just a fancier title." The prestige accompanying this demanding role doesn't exempt her from the less glamorous work. "All the little things lead to greatness," Hendrickson says, "but I still take out the trash if that's what needs to be done."

Hendrickson hopes her instructors aren't disappointed that she didn't take the 'direct' career path. "I do miss athletic training," she says. "I enjoyed what I learned. This is much different. I don't take care of athletes, but I do take care of a lot of employees—just in a different way. I want them to love the company as much as I do."

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

## SOLEY BERRIOS

28 | B.A. Radio, Television & Film '13  
Director of Family Support, Camden Enrollment, Inc.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in the City of Camden, Soley Berrios works and volunteers with several organizations whose collective mission is to help turn her beloved hometown around.

"I grew up in the city and it's very important to me," says Berrios, whose job as director of Family Support for Camden Enrollment Inc. positions her to make a direct, meaningful impact.

Her agency, created after the 2013 state takeover of the city's school district, helps educate parents about school programs so they can make informed choices about where to send their children.

"You need to be able to advocate for your children but sometimes people don't know," she says. "We have school profiles of all of the schools and our job is to provide information, not make recommendations."

But that's just one hat she wears. Berrios is also active with

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

Hopeworks 'N Camden, which helps young adults find jobs; is executive board secretary for Around the Way Girl Inc., an empowerment and education-oriented nonprofit for young women; serves on the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission; and is the youngest member of the Camden City Planning Board.

Though she loved the experience and education of her RTF degree, Berrios believes the career she's carving, in which she's involved every day in her own community, is perhaps more satisfying.

So...is elective office in her future?

"Maybe," she says. "Camden is small, and it can be a crazy place politically, but it's my home and I love it. There's so much work to be done here and public service is what I really want to do."



# Vin D'Anton

29 | B.A. Radio, Television & Film '13

Freelance documentary producer and archival producer

Vin D'Anton is a natural storyteller, and his goal is to tell stories on film—his style, his way.

He's off to a great start. An award-winning filmmaker and researcher, D'Anton has worked on Emmy- and Oscar-winning programs including episodes of ESPN's popular "30 for 30" series and the feature-length documentary, "O.J.: Made in America."

The ESPN Films miniseries examined the phenomena of race and celebrity in the United States through the prism of O. J. Simpson, from his rise as a football player to the film star, murder suspect and, ultimately, convict he became.

Produced as a five-part miniseries, the film won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2017 and D'Anton's extensive research featured prominently in the final product.

"At its heart, it was the story of race in America," D'Anton says.

Hired as a college intern by NFL Films in Mount Laurel, his diligence and tenacity, especially for digging up archival film footage, led to a position with ESPN's

Bristol, Conn., headquarters, where he worked his way up to the position of associate producer.

Assigned to "30 for 30," he helped the network win Emmy awards for the series itself in 2014 and for the 2015 episode "Of Miracles and Men," which told the story, from the Russian point of view, of the U.S. vs. U.S.S.R. 1980 Olympics men's hockey matchup.

Now, following an early career helping to tell the stories of legendary athletes, D'Anton has made a big play himself. He left the comfort, security and prestige of ESPN this year to forge a filmmaking career on his own.

"Since I was a kid I wanted to be a director, and now I'm going for it," he says.

Inspired at age 13 or 14 by the Martin Scorsese documentary "The Last Waltz" about the music group The Band, his first feature-length film will be a documentary about the Asbury Park music scene.

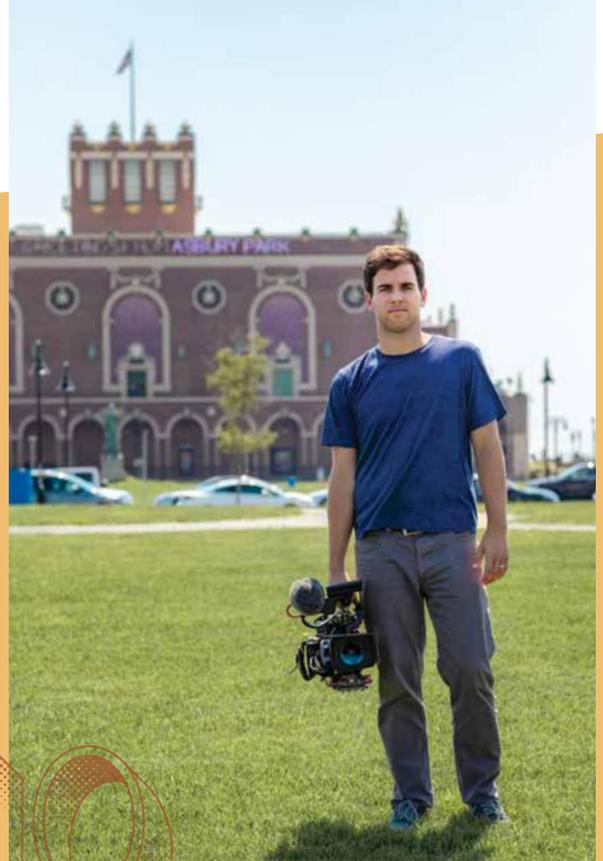


PHOTO BY VINNY DISTEFANO



Until it's finished, he'll maintain his day job, running a freelance film production and research business that keeps him very busy.

"I grew up a huge fan of Bruce Springsteen and, in a sense, he inspired me to make this movie," D'Anton says. "Asbury Park has come back in a big way and so has its music scene. And I'm going to tell that story."

## KAHYUN YOON-FLANNERY

38 | D.O. Osteopathic Medicine '11

Medical Director, Jefferson Health NJ Comprehensive Breast Center

By the close of 2019, an estimated 268,600 new invasive breast cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in the United States.

Kahyun "Kay" Yoon-Flannery faces this daunting expectation daily. As medical director at Jefferson Health NJ Comprehensive Breast Center, Yoon-Flannery oversees the center's breast care program, which supports women receiving care for an array of breast conditions, both benign and malignant.

She completed a breast surgical oncology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also certified in

hidden scar breast cancer surgery and is an American Society of Breast Surgeons member.

The Haddonfield resident, born in Korea, is also a newly published author with the release of *A Surgeon's Path: What To Expect After a General Surgery Residency*, as well as the mother of four children, ranging in age from 1 to 8. "Life is pretty hectic," she says. "I went through rigorous training but, at the same time, I never wanted to compromise the wish my husband and I shared for a big family. We are so thankful."



PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

# Steffanie Lerch

37 | B.A. Finance '03  
Financial Advisor, Eagle Wealth Strategies

Steffanie Lerch started her career at Eagle Wealth Strategies before she graduated. She earned her certified financial planner credential (CFP) before age 30, making her one of a few financial advisors to meet this milestone so early.

“As a student, I kept thinking it was about numbers, numbers, numbers,” Lerch says of the finance field. “In my internship I learned it wasn’t all about numbers. It came as a surprise, but the biggest part of my job is relationships, getting to know clients and their financial goals.”

Today, Lerch is a retirement income certified professional as well as a CFP. She credits her boss, a Rowan alumnus, for pushing her to pursue licenses and credentials at a young age.

Despite her career demands—and her personal life, juggling marriage and children—Lerch inspires students

as chair of Women United and president of the Rohrer College of Business Alumni Council. She organized the first Women’s Innovation and Inspiration Power Summit last October.

“Being president of the Rohrer College of Business Alumni Council has been fabulous,” she says, “We’ve done a lot of growing over the last 12 months and worked closely with the Center for Professional Development to intertwine the alumni-student relationship. I know others who struggled along the way, and that’s why I do what I do.”

“The faculty is there for the educational component, but alumni bring the real-life component—how to help students excel once they get out in the real world,” Lerch says.

How does she do it all? “I’m a worrier who used to plan weeks and months ahead, but now—especially as a working mom—I’ve learned to take each day at a time,” she says. “There’s less stress in my life that way.”



## GAVIN FARBER

33 | B.A. Journalism '08, M.A. Higher Education '10 | Academic Advisor,  
Center for Undergraduate Advising, Fox School of Business & Management, Temple University

Call him Madrich.

“The Hebrew word for mentor could be my new name,” Gavin Farber says, only half joking. After all, mentorship is Farber’s work...and his passion.

In addition to advising and mentoring Temple undergraduates—each semester, he serves 600 students who flock to him for his keen advising skills, sage advice, humor, willingness to listen and, he laughs, his ever evolving experimental “model hair”—Farber also has taken his work worldwide.

Through NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising, Farber leads a mentoring program for academic advisers, who, like him, are deeply committed to helping students succeed.

“I care tremendously about students and about practitioners as well,” says Farber, who frequently presents on mentorship topics with NACADA, most recently in Belgium.

Rowan’s 2018 Distinguished Young Alumnus, Farber credits dozens of Rowan professors, professional staff members, advisers and administrators for leading him to discover his life’s work.

In one way or another, he says, “mentoring has been part of my journey since my Rowan days.”



PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

## Jesse Eisenhart

36 | B.A. Advertising '06 | Senior Pastor, True North Church

It may seem as if there's a huge distance between the world of advertising and preaching the gospel, but Jesse Eisenhart knows it's shorter than some might think.

After earning his bachelor's degree in advertising from Rowan, Eisenhart received master's degrees in both practical theology and human service counseling at Regent University in Virginia.

Now pastoring the church his parents founded in 2006, he uses all of his education—even the study of advertising—to minister to a growing flock.

"Effective advertising must be strategic, and it must be geared toward a target audience," he says. "This is an environment where you strategically ask questions as you try to convey the benefit to people."

Eisenhart says there's an art form to communicating that transcends even the tightest tagline, the brightest billboard. His "market," in advertising terms, is limitless.

"For me, the demographic goes from ages 14 to 104," he says. "It includes every background, everyone."

For Eisenhart, a casual, straightforward approach to pastoring works best.

"(When I meet) someone who is completely unfamiliar with a church environment or the teachings of Jesus, that's what gets me excited," he says. "There's an art form in your body language and in your heart. People can tell when you're being sincere or when you're putting on a front."

His congregation, which had about 100 worshippers when his parents founded True North Church the year he graduated from Rowan, now averages more than 1,500 congregants every week over two campuses and is building a permanent home in Harrison Township.

Delivering sermons nearly every Sunday of the year, Eisenhart is clearly using his communication and theology degrees. But he's also using his master's in counseling as a volunteer for Rowan's football squad, for which he used to play.

"I earned a really great degree at Rowan and I developed leadership skills from great experiences on the football team," he says. "Now, if there's something bothering a player, something that's affecting their play and they need someone to talk to about it, I'm there to listen and encourage them."

## BRIGHID BURGIN HOEMPLER

29 | B.S. Chemical Engineering '12  
Americas Lubricants Technical Advisor,  
Exxon-Mobil Research & Engineering

Brigid Burgin Hoempler lives—quite well—in a couple of worlds.

The chemical engineering graduate professionally is all engineer. After starting her career for ExxonMobil in Paulsboro, she works for the multinational energy corporation in the Houston area, responsible for a technical team deploying automotive lubricants in North America.

The Mantua Township native and Army wife also is all volunteer. She's dedicated to encouraging young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. She works with military families nationally, connecting veterans to civilian communities, educating employers about hiring military spouses and coaching people to develop resiliency.

Hoempler gave a TED-style talk on military-spouse life at ExxonMobil and a lightning talk at the Society of Women Engineers. And she's recently added some honors to her already impressive list, including Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering's Medal of Excellence and the Chapel of Four Chaplains' Legion of Honor Award for service to all regardless of race or faith.

PHOTO BY MINDY HARMON





PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

## DONAVAN MCCARGO

38 | B.S. Marketing '03, Ed.D. '10  
Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students,  
Kutztown University

Donavan McCargo didn't wake up one day and decide to be a dean of students.

But he knows he's in the right place.

"I love being an advocate for students," says McCargo, who, at 33, became dean of students at Community College of Philadelphia, the city's largest public institution.

In 2017, he joined Kutztown, where he feels right at home serving the university's 8,300-plus students.

"My experiences at Rowan helped prepare me for the opportunity afforded to me at Kutztown," says McCargo, who worked at Rowan for eight years on the Camden and Glassboro campuses.

At Kutztown, McCargo oversees multiple offices—from New Student Orientation to the Student Government Association to Student Conduct...and well beyond.

"My goal is to see people through their success. In serving students, we have to use our power wisely. We need to benefit others."

A mentee of a host of Rowan administrators—"I owe all of them a debt of gratitude," he says—McCargo is pleased that more young professionals, like himself, are choosing careers in student affairs.

"I want to continue to build skill sets to expand my scope and my leadership. I'm excited to see ambitious young professionals climbing the ladder in our field."



## Muqaddas Ejaz

35 | B.A. History '00  
Grant Administrator, New Jersey Department of State

Muqaddas Ejaz knows that differences between people can be challenging—but she also believes that a diverse community can be united as one community, starting with her own South Jersey region.

For demonstrating how to bring some of the most diverse people together, the Cherry Hill resident earned the 2018 Camden County MLK Freedom Medal.

A respected community activist and outreach specialist, Ejaz, of Muslim faith, has worked with her Jewish counterparts as co-leader in the South Jersey Chapter of the Sisterhood of the Salaam Shalom. The group promotes peace, understanding and friendship.

"I am proud that I had the opportunity to establish the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom chapters in Cherry Hill with the help of my Jewish co-leaders, says Ejaz. "It provided a platform to many Jewish and Muslim sisters to learn about each other's faith, cultures and traditions while breaking the stereotypes in our understanding of each other. Our sisterhood sends out the message of peace to our respective communities and our families."

Ejaz also led the first Camden County S.U.R.E. (Students United for Respect & Equity) Summit and has designed, planned and led community events, seminars and cultural experiences for Camden County's diverse population.

Once an international classroom instructor for the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology & Anthropology, Ejaz works now on the Census 2020 Complete Count Commission. It's one more opportunity to help acknowledge diverse individuals—all neighbors, nonetheless.

# Christian Dalonzo

24 | B.F.A Graphic Design '17  
Human Interface Designer, Apple



Very few students can say they worked for Facebook while attending undergrad. Christian Dalonzo can.

Throughout his adolescence, Dalonzo quickly graduated from designing menus for family Thanksgivings to building websites. As a teen attending Gloucester County Institute of Technology, Dalonzo took his knowledge from the classroom and from his own research to build and share apps online. One app, an instant messenger program for Mac computers, caught a Facebook designer's eye.

"The funny part about this whole conversation was I was only 17 and in high school," Dalonzo says. "This designer at Facebook had no idea how old I was."

The discussion didn't end there. Dalonzo and the Facebook employee reconnected while Dalonzo was a Rowan freshman, which eventually led to his first internship at the social media platform's Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters. It was Dalonzo's first time out of the tristate area—"excluding Florida," the Sewell native says.

The summer after his freshman year, Dalonzo worked as an intern on the Messenger team, helping to give the platform's chat function a makeover. He returned the following summer for another internship on the same team.

During his junior and senior years, Dalonzo contracted for Facebook, again working on the Messenger team. He attended classes in the morning and afternoon and virtually attended meetings in the evenings, taking advantage of the three-hour time difference. After graduation in 2017, Dalonzo moved to California for good to work on the complete overhaul of Facebook Messenger, which launched in October 2018.

"Thinking about Facebook and having 1.3 billion people using the Messenger

app...it's not comprehensible," he says. "You hear that popping sound of someone receiving a message on Messenger. You overlook their phone and see the logo you and your team designed, that you put all that love and joy into...when you do get that glimpse of some person using something you've crafted and enjoying it, relying on it, there's something there."

Last November, Dalonzo departed Facebook to work as a Human Interface Designer at Apple—a role about which he can offer very few details. The gist, he says, is "solving problems," from new ideas to new features.



# EVY TOLENTINO

25 | B.A. Sociology '17 | Paralegal, Justice At Work

When prospective clients reach out to the nonprofit Justice At Work, which provides free legal services to low-wage workers in Pennsylvania, the person they'll often speak to first is Evy Tolentino.

During her two years at the organization, the Runnemede native has spoken with clients seeking aid with workplace discrimination, sexual assault, wage claims, housing issues and fraud, specifically immigration scams. Some of her duties include interviewing clients—often in Spanish—to understand the full scope of their concerns, drafting legal

correspondence to employers or landlords, compiling immigration applications or performing community outreach.

Tolentino's sociology background provided her with the skills to see humanity's bigger picture. "When somebody calls with an issue, it's important to not be judgmental and be empathetic and see things from their point of view so we can understand the issue and find the best way to help them," Tolentino says. "It's about really understanding that our life chances are affected by social status, our access to education. It helps us understand the issue at heart."





## Jonathan Guito

35 | B.S. Biological Science, B.A. Journalism '08  
Researcher, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

When Jonathan Guito began a fellowship with the CDC in 2014, his colleagues were battling the largest-ever Ebola epidemic. “It was all hands on deck,” Guito remembers. “Very brave people were sent to the areas hit hardest by the Ebola outbreak. They helped to set up a field lab and processed hundreds of samples per day.”

Now Guito is studying why animals can be infected with viruses, including Ebola virus and Marburg virus, but don’t get sick. What animal or animals transmit Ebola virus is still unknown. For Marburg virus, the Egyptian fruit bat is the culprit. “They’re tiny little bats that look almost like dogs,” Guito says. “They’re cute. They’re docile. But they can spread a deadly virus.” And there’s a colony of them in a CDC lab to help CDC learn more about how the animals carry the virus and spread it to people. Experimental infection and testing of Egyptian fruit bats under controlled laboratory conditions is the quickest and most effective means of learning more

about the natural history of Marburg virus and for developing effective prevention and therapeutic strategies.

When Guito suits up to go into a “hot lab” to work with deadly viruses, he knows the risk involved. “For many of these viruses, there’s no treatment,” he says. “You can’t screw up.”

To Guito, the risk is worth it if it can lead to effective treatments for some of these deadly diseases. “Knowing how bats don’t get sick will help us protect people—even if translating that knowledge into therapeutic use will take 10 to 15 years.

“What I’m doing now is like a dream job for sure, but it definitely wouldn’t have happened if it wasn’t for Rowan. Through studying journalism, I learned about writing and asking questions, and I got experience working with pigeons as a biology major, which prepared me for hands-on work with the bats.”

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

## ARCHANGE ANTOINE

37 | B.A. Law & Justice Studies '05  
Executive Director, Faith in New Jersey, Founder, Savvivors & Associates

Archange Antoine lives to serve his community. After graduating from Rowan, Antoine was employed as a social worker, mentoring children with mental and behavioral challenges and with young men coming out of prison. “I was their advocate in the school, community, congregation and in their courtroom,” Antoine says. “It was an amazing experience to see the power of advocacy work for the lives of people who need support the most.”

When one of his mentees lost his life to gun violence, Antoine shifted his focus from individual support to the community at large, looking to change the systemic issues that

plague New Jersey communities—like poverty, racial, immigrant and economic justice.

In 2008, Antoine founded Savvivors & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in political consulting, business development and community relations. It’s here that Antoine helps coach political leaders and community organizers for public appearances and speeches.

He also serves as the executive director of the nonprofit Faith In New Jersey, a network of faith-based leaders and communities looking to enact racial, economic, immigrant and social justice change at the local, state and federal level.



In both roles, Antoine advises those looking to run for office, community-minded clergy and businesses developing community programs.

“Every day, I want to inspire and motivate young people to get more involved in the public arena and learn in which ways they can shape their communities, through faith, advocacy, policy and politics,” he says.



## Maria Brasco

27 | B.A. Radio, Television & Film '15  
Social Media Producer, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show"

When Maria Brasco got the call offering her a job as a social media assistant on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" in 2015, she replied, "Can I scream?"

Three weeks later, the Washington Township, Gloucester County, native was living in Los Angeles.

For four years, Brasco has been on set daily at "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," identifying potentially viral moments to share on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Quickly working her way from social media assistant to producer, Brasco credits her success to her fearlessness and quick wit.

"One day soon after I started working, I saw Ellen riding around the lot on a bike," Brasco says. "I pulled out my phone and said, 'Smile!' and she played into the shot. I saw an opportunity and I wasn't scared."

The same instinct and gutsiness had gotten Brasco to L.A. through another opportunity. During her last semester before graduation, she noted a *Rowan Magazine* article on Ed Glavin '85, an executive producer on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." He would be returning to Glassboro to receive a distinguished

alumnus award that spring. To gain experience on camera, Brasco arranged to interview Glavin with the help of RTF friends.

The interview left an impression. After quitting her waitressing jobs at the end of the summer, Brasco emailed Glavin asking for career advice. He promptly responded, inquiring about her interests.

"My list was so long," she says. "I remember being torn about putting social media down—of course a 22-year-old loved social media—but the last thing I wrote was social media and how it can enhance TV."

Luckily, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" was looking for a social media assistant. By the end of September, she'd accepted the job.

Through Ellen's platform and impressive reach—the host is the eighth most-followed celebrity on Twitter, with more than 78 million followers—Brasco gets to see social media's positive impact firsthand.

"Some people say, 'It's just social media,' but Ellen has such a powerful voice and she's been able to change a lot of things because of that," Brasco says. "To be a part of that impact on the world has been incredible."

## MICHAEL COLETTA

30 | B.S. Biochemistry '12, M.D. '16  
Emergency Medicine Physician, Grand Strand Health



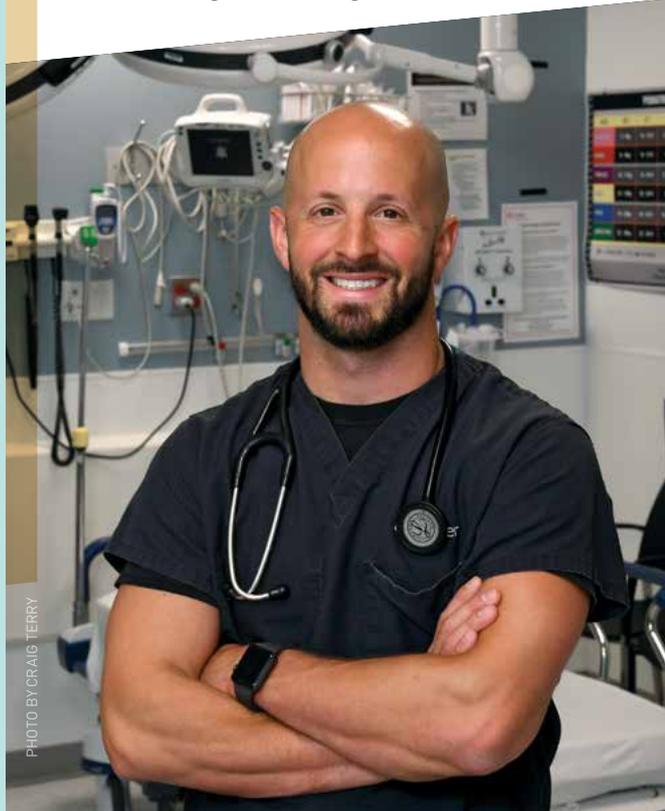
Dr. Michael Coletta considers himself "an adrenaline junkie." But instead of jumping out of planes, he works in the emergency room. He enjoys "the excitement of never knowing what's coming in" to the ER.

Part of the first class to graduate from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in 2016, Coletta spent the past three years in residency at Cooper University Hospital. "It was a great experience," he says of being part of that inaugural class, although "it was a little bit frightening, because we were pioneers."

Working in the emergency department, Coletta says, "you treat all problems and see all patients. You treat what you can treat in the moment." He loves finding answers for patients who are afraid. Some cases can be "rough or demoralizing, but the good outweighs the bad."

Despite the demands of residency, Coletta gives back to the Rowan community. "It was an honor to be asked to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors," he says. On the outreach committee, he focuses on how to get alumni involved.

The South Jersey native's next move was a big one—all the way to Grand Strand Health in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Coletta is in a familiar environment at the academic medical center, "but as a teacher, not a learner—although I'm a lifelong learner."



## LANGSTON CLEMENT

36 | B.S. Applied Math '05  
Cybersecurity Manager, Grant Thornton LLP

Langston Clement has spent more than 15 years in the information technology space—and six in the cybersecurity sector.

“I never thought about taking on cybersecurity as a career, or even thought I would have the opportunity to do so,” Clement says. “I remember taking a few computer science courses in college, but I knew programming wasn’t the route I wanted to take.

I was always into the hacker culture and as the years went on, there were more and more positions exploding in this new space.”

Recognizing amazing opportunities to support data security in the accelerated cybersecurity and social engineering field, Clement effectively built a career in all things “Internet of Things,” even working closely with the City of Philadelphia as a member of its cybersecurity team—defenders of the city’s digital infrastructure.

Today, Clement is directing some of his admittedly nerdy energy in a new direction—gaming. He recently launched the gaming hardware startup Robocandy.

“Robocandy’s first product will be a retro-futuristic arcade candy cabinet (with joysticks and arcade buttons) that will work with legacy and modern gaming consoles. It’s aimed toward the retro enthusiast and esports markets,” Clement says. “We’re hoping to release the product at the end of this year. Stay tuned!”



## Ashley Kalena

34 | B.A. Journalism '07  
Manager, YouTube Strategy,  
National Geographic Partners



Ashley Kalena’s first stop after graduating was the prestigious Newhouse School at Syracuse University, where she earned her master’s degree in broadcast journalism.

Hired soon after as a production assistant for the Travel Channel in Washington, D.C., she spent two years writing, researching and producing TV shows.

“Two shows I worked on were ‘Ultimate Spring Break’ and ‘America’s Scariest Halloween Attractions,’” Kalena recalls. “It wasn’t very journalistic, but it was fun and good experience.”

Armed with that experience, she moved on nine years ago to her next employer, National Geographic.

Hired as a digital content producer, her duties included working with YouTube videos. Kalena soon found that view count and subscribership were lower than they should have been. More concerning, she learned there was no plan to improve them.

“There was no one person in charge of the strategy, so I wrote up a plan of what I thought the strategy should be and they created a job for me,” she says.

Today, her position with National Geographic Partners, a joint venture between Disney and the National Geographic Society, is challenging Kalena in new and exciting ways. Some of that challenge involves dealing with 21st century pirates—groups or individuals who steal content from YouTube and try to monetize it.

“There’s so much for me to do,” she says. “It’s more than a full time job.”

Well established with Nat Geo, she’s excited about the company’s future.

“We’re about to launch (streaming service) Disney+ in the fall, so there are big things happening in our digital world,” she says.



# Matheus Fialho Fiuza

27 | B.A. Art, B.A. Theater Arts '14  
Art Director, Disney Parks Live Entertainment

There's nothing like an Italian sunrise, says Matheus Fialho Fiuza. He sees them all the time.

As the art director for Disney Parks Live Entertainment, Fiuza is known to work the overnight shift at Epcot right before a live production. Having designed the sets and effects, he enjoys seeing them unveiled to Walt Disney World guests.

"Italy at six o'clock in the morning is gorgeous," Fiuza says.

Since graduating from Rowan, the Rio De Janeiro-born, Cape Cod-raised Fiuza spent three years at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, where he was recruited right out of school. It was there that Fiuza, who primarily designed sets for theater productions, learned the intricacies of theme park entertainment design.



PHOTO BY KATE GARDINER

"Broadway does a show a night and sometimes a matinee," Fiuza says. "A theme park show happens five times a day, every single day. So everything has to be built to withstand that wear and tear and so it can do that five times a day and wow the crowds in the same exact way every single time."

At Disney, Fiuza works with a number of artistic teams to bring to life performances like Epcot's "Guardians of the Galaxy—Awesome Mix Live!" Between coordinating

with show directors to work through the physical space of the show and set to collaborating with lighting designers to illuminate the stage, Fiuza is a pro at seeing the big picture.

"The more I learn about my different directors and my creative director and my lighting designer and my video designer and my illustrators," he says, "I know how I can pitch an idea that will play to everyone's strengths."

## MEGAN HEBER

32 | B.M. Music Education, B.A. Education '08  
Executive Director, Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas

The power of music profoundly influenced Megan Heber. It's an experience she hopes to inspire in others.

Her passion carried her worldwide as part of the U.S. Navy Music Program from 2008 to 2013, where she performed for heads of state and other dignitaries.

That passion energizes her in her role with the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas. "Being able to help children discover the transformational power of creating music and beauty is a wonderful thing to do every single day of my life," Heber says.

This love also moved her to found Artrepreneurship, a business planning firm that will empower creatives to engage in their passions as they build sustainable careers.

"There's always the guiding motivation that exposure to music and the arts is a fundamental human right," she says. "Whatever I can do to ensure that every child, every adult, every person is given an opportunity to participate with the arts in a deep and meaningful way...that really drives me."

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA FREEMAN

27

# Daria Szkwarko

35 | D.O. Osteopathic Medicine '12  
Assistant Professor, Family Medicine  
Director, Global Health Faculty Development Fellowship  
Brown University

"I believe health care—globally—is a human right," says Daria Szkwarko.

But more than being convinced philosophically, Szkwarko acts on her belief. Her conviction and expertise have earned her invitations to speak internationally, work with family medicine colleagues in Kenya, and brought her to teach and provide clinical care to underserved communities in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

In each community she has come to serve, she begins with the same challenge: to better understand the culture and the individuals who are her colleagues and patients. That commitment to respect and sensitivity—to listening and learning first—helps make medical interventions more effective. "We have a lot of evidence-based guidelines on one end but then what is happening on the ground is completely different—how do we connect the two?"

She began to consider the question in a global context between her first and second year of medical school when she worked in Tanzania and witnessed the struggle of people with limited access to health care.

Between her third and fourth year, she was paired with a mentor, Dr. E. Jane Carter, from Brown University, in the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars Program, which took her to live in Eldoret, Kenya, for a year through the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare. There, she found her focus in tuberculosis prevention as she worked with a team of Kenyan health care providers to address the transmission of TB from adults to children in households.

Ultimately, the team's work resulted in a register to track children from exposure to completing preventive therapy that's now the Kenyan national guideline. Once again, Szkwarko points to relationships

and collaboration as key to what they accomplished.

"My favorite thing about global health is working with and learning from my Kenyan colleagues," she says.

Working in the U.S. and Kenya, Szkwarko considers intercultural communication and implicit bias training to be key components in global health education. Being invested in a community is critical, she says. "Global health shouldn't be about short-term experiences where people are dropping in and trying to do good. It should be about developing relationships and learning and listening to partners' needs."



PHOTO BY DAVID DEL POIO



## GARY BAKER

38 | B.A. Journalism '04 | Assistant Director, Greek Affairs, Rowan University

Gary Baker's work with Special Olympics began in 2009 when he volunteered at the Special Olympics Michigan Summer Games.

"They were held on the campus I worked at and my first assignment was announcing the winners of different races as the athletes received their medals and ribbons," he recalls. "I was immediately hooked."

Today, Baker shares his support for the Special Olympics with the entire University community.

Spearheading Rowan Unified Sports, a partnership between the University and Special Olympics of New Jersey (SONJ) in

spring 2012, Baker set out to encourage Rowan students to embrace inclusive sports.

Rowan Unified Sports—a model for colleges and universities across the United States—is the first of its kind in New Jersey and the nation, with nearly 100 SONJ athletes donning Unified uniforms to play soccer and basketball, side by side with Rowan teammates.

Baker could not be prouder. "Rowan Unified has reached what I imagined my greatest hopes were for it," he says. "Moving forward, I hope more colleges and universities emulate our celebration of inclusive sports."



PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY

## Bill Moen

32 | B.A. Political Science & Government '00  
Southern New Jersey Director for U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker



2001 turned out to be quite the year for Bill Moen.

An eighth grader at the time, he was part of the team that won the Flag Football Championships in Berlin, Germany, and he successfully campaigned for his first term as class president. Those experiences gave him the courage and confidence to pursue his dreams—no matter what it took.

While he had ambitions to be a professional baseball player, a lawyer, and even a state trooper, it was an introductory government class at Rowan that changed his path for good.

As the son and grandson of war veterans, Moen says he's always wanted to serve the people. "That class really helped me see my own potential.

I was raised wanting to help and connect people, and I believe that's what the government can and should do."

Formerly a Camden County freeholder, he understood that being accessible and honest with his community was key—a trait he learned in college when he met a man he knew he'd love to work for one day, U.S. Senator Cory Booker.

"I had the chance to meet Sen. Booker when I was at Rowan and he was mayor of Newark," says Moen. "He served as a huge inspiration to me during my last two years of school, so it's very special to be working with him now."

Striving to make a difference in as many ways as he can, Moen also volunteers as a baseball coach for Camden County youth and serves on the Rowan University Alumni Board of Directors.

As he passionately represents Sen. Booker and the seven southern New Jersey counties, Moen says seeing the impact close to home means the most to him. "I want to do right by the people of the community I was raised in," he says. "Because I often ask myself, 'If I didn't, then who would?'"

### PROFILES BY

**MARIE RANOIA ALONSO '90** is a digital marketing and content strategy specialist in New Jersey and has contributed insights on social media tactics to the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.

**DIANE DONOFRIO ANGIUCCI '81** is a South Jersey-based freelance writer whose work has appeared in numerous consumer and professional publications.

**BARBARA BAALS** is celebrating her 13th year as assistant director in Rowan's Office of Media & Public Relations.

**KRYSTLE DODGE '11, M'11,** is a freelance writer and lifelong South Jersey resident whose online and offline content has been published in the education, legal and lifestyle sectors.

**MEGAN KIGER** has been a writer and communications specialist for Rowan's Division of University Advancement since 2016.

**STEVE LEVINE '87, M'07** assistant director of media and public relations, recently celebrated his 12th year with Rowan. He was formerly a journalist in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

**PATRICIA QUIGLEY '78, M'03,** assistant director of Media & Public Relations, is an award-winning PR practitioner and journalist who has been published regionally, nationally and internationally.

**ALLIE VOLPE '13** is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Rolling Stone*, and more.

*Photos not credited were provided by the alumni.*



# STATE OF ADDICTION, STATE OF HEALING

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## ROWAN MEDICINE TAKES ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

by Krystle Dodge '11, M'11

The deadly opioid drug epidemic may seem an unsolvable problem, too complex and widespread to fix. But that hasn't deterred the NeuroMusculoskeletal Institute (NMI) at the School of Osteopathic Medicine, led by Richard T. Jermyn, D.O., from coming up with practical solutions to the problem.

Jermyn and his team of physicians, residents and medical students have helped patients in South Jersey and beyond overcome both chronic pain and substance-abuse disorders. The NMI's most recent efforts, focusing on education and training for doctors nationwide, could accomplish even more.

"The reality is that these training and mentorship programs allow us to train hundreds of people to do what we do. We will help lead the initiative that will save lives in a much bigger and better way," Jermyn said.

### **Delving into addiction medicine**

Jermyn didn't start out working in substance-abuse treatment when he began practicing medicine two decades ago. He worked in palliative care in the HIV community. His interest shifted to pain management because, as treatments for serious medical conditions improved, his patients were living longer—but they were living with chronic pain. He began to worry about the free-for-all prescribing practices doctors had embraced when it came to opioid painkillers—powerful drugs in the same class as heroin. And for more than 15 years, he has been educating doctors on proper prescribing.

In an era in which the opioid epidemic claims tens of thousands of American lives every year, it's hard to imagine a time when no one gave a second thought to prescribing these problematic painkillers. Yet, in the late 1990s, these drugs largely were considered unlikely to lead to addiction. Intent on letting no pain go untreated, doctors prescribed opioids like oxycodone with unparalleled frequency, Jermyn explained. It took years to become clear that these drugs are highly addictive. By then, for many patients, it was too late.

By developing opioid prescription guidelines, Jermyn helped pain management doctors screen patients for substance abuse signs. It was the right approach—but it wasn't enough.

A new problem arose: what to do with patients—a lot of patients—who developed substance use disorder? Their pain, stemming from serious ailments like fibromyalgia, HIV and traumatic brain injuries, was real. But so were the negative effects of opioid painkillers on their bodies and their lives.

### “I need help. Can you help me?”

Generally, pain management clinics terminate from the practice patients who develop substance use disorder. It isn't that these doctors don't care, but they can't enable substance abuse by continuing to prescribe the drugs and aren't trained to help patients end their addiction (a word that, Jermyn said, he doesn't like to use). To avoid contributing to a drug problem, well-intentioned doctors across the nation turn substance abusers out onto the street.

Many of these patients turn to illegal drugs like heroin or fentanyl to stave off the symptoms of opioid withdrawal. Powerful and incredibly dangerous, these drugs can stop withdrawal symptoms in the short-term. In the long run, though, they exacerbate users' worsening substance-abuse problem, or worse, end their lives.

This sad story occurs in pain management offices across the country. About three years ago, after working with the state to determine what to do with these troubled and troubling patients, Jermyn made the radical decision to stop discharging patients diagnosed with substance-use disorder. Instead, he would treat substance abusers the same way he had treated chronic pain patients for 23 years.

When Jermyn stopped turning patients away for dependency, his phone started ringing off the hook. The practice never advertised that it offered ambulatory detox services. Yet patients eager for help sought him out.

“I need help,” they would say. “Can you help me?”  
He could.

### “We have a responsibility as doctors to really meet the opioid crisis.”

Part of what makes Jermyn's work at the NMI so successful is the compassion he shows to patients with a substance-abuse history.

“One reason people don't get help is the medical community,” Jermyn said. “We had an idea what an ‘addict’ is—the dregs of society—but we were wrong.”

“It comes as a surprise to people that opioid addictions affect every ‘type’ of person in every aspect of life,” said Dr. Danielle Cooley, a Rowan Medicine physician who performs osteopathic manipulative medicine at the NMI. “Despite preconceived notions, addiction affects everybody.”

Since Jermyn started offering outpatient services through the NMI, he “has grown as a doctor and as a person.” One reality that's become clear during his decades of practice is that substance abusers aren't bad people. Rather, they're patients in pain who have developed a further medical problem.

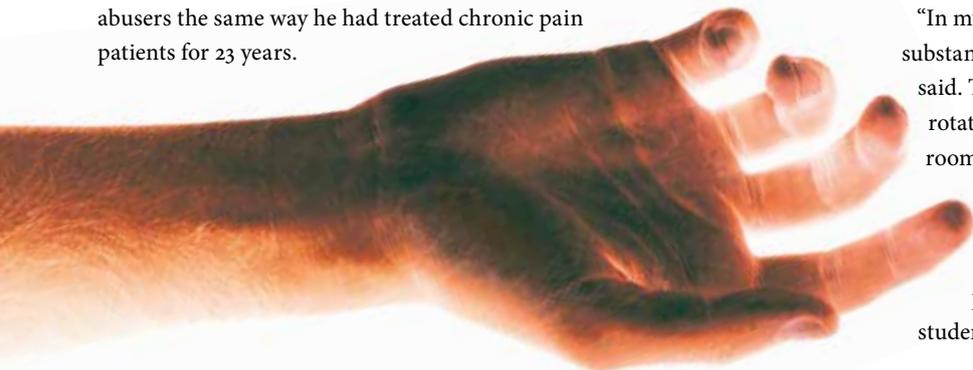
“This is a disease like none other,” Jermyn acknowledged—and yet it is a disease. Having a substance-abuse problem is little different from having diabetes or high blood pressure. Doctors' approaches to treating this medical problem should be as respectful to substance-abuse patients as they are to patients with any chronic medical condition, Jermyn believes.

“In my waiting room, you can't tell who is here for substance abuse and who is here for chronic pain,” Jermyn said. The residents and medical students on clinical rotations don't know when they walk into the exam room which “type” of patient they're about to see. They only find out once they open the patient's file.

Everyone is on equal footing. No one is judged.

“It was a surreal experience to see how candid patients were,” said Aaron Wu, a fourth-year SOM student planning a career in emergency or internal

**“WE HAD  
AN IDEA  
WHAT AN  
'ADDICT'  
IS—THE  
DREGS OF  
SOCIETY—  
BUT WE  
WERE  
WRONG.”**





*With the experience he's had with patient care in medical school, fourth-year student Duwayne Campbell approaches opioid relief more confidently. "Prior to medical school, I was intimidated by the opioid crisis," he said. Now, he looks forward to being a graduate of a pioneering program through which he has helped provide life-saving therapy that he can share as an emergency medicine physician.*

**"THIS IS A  
DISEASE LIKE  
NONE OTHER."**

medicine. "Patients ranged from the very hopeful, who have started a new chapter of their lives after having come to the NMI, to those who have an extensive pain/substance-abuse history and saw the NMI as their last hope. It was a sobering experience to listen to their stories."

"It's great to have someone in your home institution who cares so much about something I care about," said Neil Kalpesh, a fourth-year SOM student who calls tackling the opioid crisis "a personal goal of mine as a medical student." Kalpesh, whose advocacy contributed to the American Medical Association's recent decision to incorporate training in naloxone use into the Basic Life Support Certification Program, noted, "We come out to be well-rounded physicians. No matter our specialty, we have in our arsenal knowledge of how to manage patient pain."

### **How doctors can end the opioid epidemic**

What does it mean to treat patients with substance-abuse disorder? Ambulatory detox programs don't force patients to quit cold, throwing their body into instability. Rather, they use safe and responsible methods that have more success in long-term addiction recovery.

"We need more doctors to administer Suboxone," Jermyn said. Suboxone is a combination medication prescribed as a form of maintenance therapy for patients who have struggled with opioid addiction. By minimizing withdrawal symptoms without causing a high, Suboxone can be part of a multifaceted approach to detoxing

safely—and it doesn't have to be given in an inpatient rehab facility.

"Everybody talks about inpatient detox beds, but treating patients in their own community and support systems may be ideal," Jermyn said. In fact, temporarily getting away from the stressors and environments that lead to drug use can prove even more dangerous. When the recently detoxed person returns to the same environment where drug use occurred, the relapse risk is great, and the likelihood of an overdose is higher than ever, especially if the patient is not linked into a community program.

Treatment through Rowan's NMI takes a different approach: treatment in the community, surrounded by the same support system and the same stressors that make up the patient's life.

For pain patients, detoxing doesn't mean being doomed to a life of unmanaged pain. The NMI implements an array of therapies, from nerve block injections to osteopathic manipulative medicine and from physical therapy to music therapy, to give patients relief.

"Prior to medical school, I was intimidated by the opioid crisis," said SOM student Duwayne Campbell. "My greatest concern was, what are the alternatives, and how do I give opioids responsibly?"

What calmed Campbell's concern was discovering "the vast amount of options before getting to opioids," as well as seeing responsible prescribing practices in action. NMI

OPIOID 4.2M+  
PRESCRIPTIONS

3,118  
SUSPECTED  
OVERDOSE  
DEATHS

NALOXONE 16K+  
ADMINISTRATIONS

NEW JERSEY'S  
OPIOID STATS\*

\*Source: nj.gov/oag/njcares (2018 data, naloxone administrations includes law enforcement and emergency medical service responders)

of Iowa in Cedar Rapids. “Pain underlies everything I do. We have to treat pain, or we can’t treat function.” “The education I got on prescribing and tapering off opioids was invaluable,” Huber said. Over the course of his career, he has noted a “paradigm shift” in how doctors prescribe opioids—“from treating pain as the fifth vital sign to prescribing nothing stronger than Tylenol.” Despite the best intentions, this shift can have negative ramifications when doctors shy away from helping patients on opioids adjust the doses. “The training I received sets the groundwork for how we navigate through this system as the paradigm has shifted,” he said.

For chronic pain, opioids are the last resort. “You have to treat the whole person, including psychological and other factors that feed into the pain cycle,” said Huber. “Treating people with pain takes a team approach, and I don’t think that’s stressed enough across the continuum to help these patients.”

### A model program for NJ and beyond

The NMI is truly unique, and so is SOM. “We are the first in the nation with both pain and substance-abuse programs,” Jermyn said. “This combination doesn’t exist anywhere but here.”

“I get to brag that my school is at the forefront,” said Campbell, who plans to specialize in emergency medicine. “I’ll know what kind of outpatient services are available. Most medical students don’t know where to start.”

This fact isn’t just a point of pride. It also points to a real problem. “We think every medical school should have a program like this,” said Jermyn. “We want to be a model program of training on how to assess for pain and substance use.” To make that goal a reality, Jermyn is recruiting, mentoring and training community doctors to make the same impact on the lives of those addicted to opioids that the NMI is making already.

doctors make sure patients who are on opioids have the overdose reversal medication Naloxone and teach family members to identify overdose signs and administer the drug.

A big part of preventing addiction is changing the way pain is dealt with in the first place. “A lot of patients addicted to opioids—probably 75 percent—were first prescribed medications by a doctor,” said Cooley. “My goal in primary care is to prevent them from getting that prescription. When a patient is in pain, I focus on hands-on treatment through osteopathic manipulation, not pain meds. If it doesn’t work, that’s when I refer a patient to the NMI.”

Cooley, who graduated in 2007, was a student before the opioid crisis emerged. “Doctors were using opiates a lot but still developing protocols,” she remembered. Now, she said, the medical community sees a “need for treatment—for addiction and rehab programs that incorporate medication, psychiatric care and counseling.” To help fill this need, she recently underwent advanced training. “Not all of us could prescribe Suboxone, so I figured, why not get that extra training so I can?”

Every day, SOM alumnus Dr. James Huber ’14, draws on what he learned from his rotation at the NMI as he practices physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Physician’s Clinic

## CARE ON CAMPUS

New Jersey is looking to Rowan for improvements in training medical professionals statewide. So far, a lot of the opioid training for medical professionals has focused on primary care or specialist physicians, but these efforts aren't enough to end the crisis. Jermyn is developing training programs for health care workers in different functions. For example, the NMI received a grant funded in conjunction with the state to develop training for dentists' prescribing of opioid medications.

One developing educational program emphasizes training for doctors in hospital emergency departments. When a patient comes to the ER in the middle of the night, in the grip of withdrawal, how physicians treat that patient is crucial. Being turned away for "drug-seeking" behavior will only drive the patient to use again. If emergency department doctors are trained to induce patients on Suboxone—and to do it humanely, not judgmentally—and direct those patients to outpatient substance-abuse programs like those at the NMI, they may catch substance users at the time they are most open to giving up opioids for good.

Residents in the SOM emergency department already receive training in how to responsibly induce Suboxone treatment in the ER. The challenge is to spread these much-needed skills so that all doctors in all emergency departments across the country can guide substance-abuse patients to the recovery path.

Despite their many areas of focus, his research projects with the NMI share common goals. "The beauty of this is that it will eventually save lives in our community," Jermyn said, "and that's just a big deal." ■

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*Krystle Dodge B'11, M'11 wanted to be a writer since she was old enough to hold a pencil. She just celebrated the first anniversary of committing to freelance life full-time.*

Going to college to earn a degree can appear to be a routine ambition for the goal-minded, but according to the American College Health Association national estimates, seven to 12 percent of college-age students also admit to shouldering the burden of nonmedical use of opioids.

At the Rowan Wellness Center, professionals see the challenge that can threaten the bright futures of the next generation of leaders and innovators.

"Rowan University is not immune to the opioid epidemic," said Scott Woodside, director for Student Health Services.

"The crisis affects a wide range of students who can fear shame, stigma, academic discipline and denial associated with opioid addiction. The good news is that we offer hope and evidence-based health care resources. They can talk confidentially with dedicated staff about their options and how to get help."

Rowan's Wellness Center provides substance abuse consultations, screenings and assessments, referrals, resources and off-campus coordination of services, outreach and educational services to the University community. "It's all part of an effort to reach those struggling with all forms of substance abuse and addiction throughout the University," said Woodside.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact:  
[rowan.edu/wellness](http://rowan.edu/wellness)  
[centers.rowanmedicine.com/nmi](http://centers.rowanmedicine.com/nmi)  
[jedfoundation.org](http://jedfoundation.org)  
800-662-HELP (4357)

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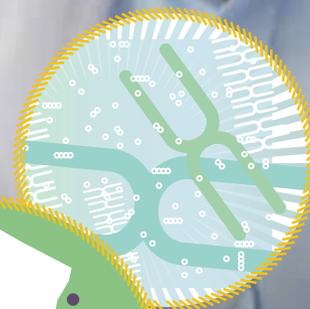
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RISING

THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
ROWAN UNIVERSITY

RISING

POSSIBLE

# IT'S OUR TIME TO RISE.

The launch of *Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University* comes at an extraordinary moment in the institution's history. With bold leadership and unwavering focus on student success, Rowan stands as an innovative leader in higher education, invigorated by the challenges that lie ahead.

The Rising campaign will provide the means to sustain the institution's continued growth, success and impact. It will shape the future of Rowan University and ensure that its rise continues, adding value to every Rowan degree, distinguishing each Rowan innovation and improving life for countless individuals within Rowan's ever-expanding reach.

# ILITIES

# RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

## CAMPAIGN GIFT HIGHLIGHTS FY2015–FY2019

Generous donors—alumni, friends, faculty, staff, parents, students, corporations and foundations—have collectively invested and partnered with the University to raise more than \$100 million since July 2014. From the largest gift made by Rowan alumni to the launch of RowanGIVES Day and other noteworthy initiatives, each milestone has helped the University rise to even greater heights of excellence.

### JULY 2014–JUNE 2015

\$22.4 million in new gifts and pledges  
Campaign total: \$22.4 million

#### JULY 2014: ROWAN ON THE RISE

The quiet phase of *Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University* begins, with a working goal of \$120 million.

#### DECEMBER 2014: LASTING LEGACY

The Henry M. Rowan Family Foundation commits \$15 million to establish an endowment exclusively for the College of Engineering and ensure that the name of Henry M. Rowan is forever associated with excellence in engineering education.



#### FEBRUARY 2015: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A DAY

Rowan's first annual day of giving—RowanGIVES Day—exceeds all goals, raising \$63,629 from 450 donors to support a variety of University programs and scholarships.

#### JUNE 2015: PAYING IT FORWARD

Give Something Back Foundation awards Rowan \$1 million to enable 50 economically disadvantaged but academically talented students to attend the University at no cost. The partnership is the first in New Jersey, with roots in GSB collaborations in Illinois.

### JULY 2015–JUNE 2016

\$15.8 million in new gifts and pledges  
Campaign total: \$38.2 million

#### AUGUST 2015: DOCTORS WITHOUT DEBT

An anonymous donor commits \$1 million to establish an endowment to provide loan cancellation and repayment assistance for new faculty hired in the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine Faculty Practice Program and/or in the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging to assist with funding a social worker position.

#### SEPTEMBER 2015: INVESTMENT INTEREST

Indel Inc. commits \$2 million to support the Inductotherm Scholarship Program. Created by Henry Rowan in 1992, the program provides financial support for undergraduate children of those employed by the Inductotherm companies.



#### OCTOBER 2015: HUMAN RESOURCES

The Rona Stern Staut Foundation and the Marc and Eva Stern Foundation together commit \$2.1 million to Cooper Medical School of Rowan University to launch a Center for Humanism and establish the Rona Stern Staut Research Professorship in Humanism and Bioethics, the school's first endowed professorship.

#### DECEMBER 2105: ROOM TO GROW

The New Jersey Health Foundation donates a parcel of land, valued at \$3.55 million and adjacent to the School of Osteopathic Medicine, to the University. The land provides a range of opportunities for the medical school as it works to meet the state's growing need for physicians.

#### JUNE 2016: HANDS-ON HEALTH

Inspira Health Network donates \$1 million to establish The Inspira Health Network Endowed Fund. The gift supports the costs of providing internship opportunities at Inspira Health Network facilities and locations across undergraduate and graduate disciplines, including nursing, nutrition, engineering and business.



RowanGIVES

Now a well-known Prof tradition, RowanGIVES Day—the University's annual 24-hour giving celebration—has generated over \$470,000 in support from more than 7,700 gifts since February 2015 to support a wide range of programs and initiatives across Rowan's campuses, making a big difference for the entire Rowan community.



**HOUSHMAND'S HAZARDOUS HOT SAUCE**

In 2017, President Houshmand combined his passion for cooking with his love of students to create a line of condiments—Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce. Sales of the hot sauce have generated more than \$30,000 to support the Student Emergency Scholarship Fund.

### JULY 2016–JUNE 2017

\$31.6 million in new gifts and pledges  
Campaign total: \$69.8 million

#### OCTOBER 2016: GROUNDBREAKING GIFT

Jean '81 and Ric Edelman '80 make history when they announce a \$25 million commitment to preserve and expand the Rowan University Fossil Park in Mantua Township. The gift—the second largest in University history and the largest given to Rowan by alumni—will transform STEM education through one-of-a-kind, hands-on discovery and world-class research at the Fossil Park.



### JULY 2017–JUNE 2018

\$15.0 million in new gifts and pledges  
Campaign total: \$84.8 million

#### SEPTEMBER 2017: BUSINESS CLASS

The William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation commits \$5 million to establish a permanent endowment within Rowan's William G. Rohrer College of Business to recruit, support and graduate honors business students.

#### NOVEMBER 2017: FUNDING FUTURES

The nonprofit organization Give Back (formerly Give Something Back Foundation) makes a second contribution of \$1 million to the University to fund scholarships for Pell Grant-eligible students who have faced economic hardships or other challenges such as the incarceration of a parent or foster care.



#### DECEMBER 2017: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

Joseph S. and Renee Zuritsky and Quality Koi Company Inc. donate a Koi farm, valued at \$1.025 million to the University. The Joseph S. Zuritsky Research Farm (Rowan Aquaponics) facility provides potential research and development opportunities to advance Rowan's mission including creation of a solar farm that will act as a productive sustainability venture.



#### JANUARY 2018: DINING DOLLARS

Gourmet Dining commits \$1 million to be used for the benefit of undergraduate students enrolled at the University. The fund will provide financial support to Rowan students with demonstrated economic need.

### JULY 2018–JUNE 2019

\$15.4 million in new gifts and pledges  
Campaign total: \$100.2 million

#### DECEMBER 2018: COMPASSION IN ACTION

An anonymous donor commits \$1 million to support the Center for Humanism Endowed Fund at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. The Center helps broaden research, education and faculty development programs focused on integrating aspects of humanism—compassion, empathy, communication and professionalism—into the medical education curriculum.



#### DECEMBER 2018: ELEVATING ENGINEERING

The Henry M. Rowan Family Foundation contributes \$2 million to support the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering. This generosity continues to advance engineering excellence at the University and insures the institution's ability to deliver world-class engineering education and research.

#### FEBRUARY 2019: PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

An anonymous donor pledges \$1 million to create an endowed scholarship fund to benefit students at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. The awards will provide financial support for disadvantaged medical school students from New Jersey.

#### APRIL 2019: GIVE RISE

The public phase of *Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University* launches, with more than \$93 million in new gifts and commitments received toward the \$120 million goal.



#### JUNE 2019: PAWS-ITIVE IMPACT

Gerald B. Shreiber pledges \$3 million to establish the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program at Rowan University. The gift will establish an endowment to create a self-sustaining program bringing certified therapy dogs to the Glassboro campus to enhance the health and well-being of the Rowan community.



#### JUNE 2019: STUDENT CENTERED

Gourmet Dining pledges \$2.1 million to support three initiatives: the Gourmet Dining Endowed Student Support Fund to benefit undergraduate students with economic need; the Gourmet Dining Endowed Veterans Medical School Scholarship Fund to benefit military veterans who are enrolled at RowanSOM or CMSRU; and support for the Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce fund to benefit the Student Emergency Scholarship Fund.



THE ARTS  
AT ROWAN

With more than \$577,000 in support raised since 2015, the Marie F. Rader Memorial Fund continues to celebrate the creative arts with a presenting series that brings exceptional performers—including Tony Bennett, Kristin Chenoweth and Art Garfunkel—to campus. The fund also bolsters academic programming for students in music, dance and theater.



# RISING FOR IMPACT

With President Ali Houshmand at the helm, Rowan University is rising to challenge the status quo and change the future of higher education to meet 21st century society's needs.

His unconventional, entrepreneurial approach to higher education has fundamentally shifted Rowan's capacity, efficiency and influence, earning national regard for the University, its bold leadership and the Rowan community. With each innovation, Houshmand remains focused on the power of education and the responsibility of a public university to make a difference in people's lives.

**"This campaign embodies who we are as a Rowan community."**

**—Ali Houshmand**

"We have to constantly be on the edge of creating and imparting knowledge," said Houshmand. "Our students and partners depend on this. We are stewards of a great public institution. To be relevant and effective, we must evolve and develop in strategic areas that create opportunities for people to advance as individuals and to improve society."

Houshmand's commitment as a higher education pioneer and his enthusiasm for the Rising campaign's goals are founded in the University's four strategic pillars—the guiding principles that direct the institution daily:

- increasing access
- providing high quality
- ensuring affordability
- serving as an economic engine for the region.

Motivated by the potential to improve opportunities for generations to come, Houshmand looks forward to seeing the Rising campaign accomplish its objectives.

"This campaign demonstrates who we are as a Rowan community," said Houshmand. "I am grateful and humbled for the support of donors who share our mission. Alumni and friends of Rowan are helping to transform students' lives, contribute to our region's well-being and create a more hopeful future. We are truly rising together."





“THERE’S SO MUCH  
MORE OF ROWAN’S  
STORY TO TELL. THIS  
CAMPAIGN GIVES US  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
TELL THAT STORY...  
AND THIS IS JUST  
THE BEGINNING.”

—Ali A. Houshmand

## CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW



**CHANGING  
STUDENT LIVES**



**SUPPORTING  
NEW DISCOVERIES**



**INSPIRED LEARNING AND  
LIVING ENVIRONMENTS**

## RISING TOGETHER

*Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University* is designed to propel the University into its second century of progress by ensuring rising possibilities through funding for three key areas:

- **changing students' lives**
- **supporting new discoveries**
- **providing inspired learning and living environments.**

“We have never done a campaign of this size and this magnitude before,” said President Ali Houshmand. “This is our opportunity to introduce Rowan University to the rest of the world.”

President Houshmand has created an ambitious vision for the University and has rallied the Rowan community to pursue it. The Rising campaign is providing the resources to fuel this journey.

### OUR NEXT CHAPTER

While the rapid growth of research and related partnerships have earned Rowan attention and support, the institution remains committed to a core mission:

providing affordable, accessible and high-quality undergraduate education.

Students benefit from world-class opportunities while being guided, challenged and inspired to embark on life-changing journeys. Some will begin careers immediately and others will continue with graduate education. All will have the advantage of Rowan's valued credentials and distinctive experience.

Thanks to generous supporters and our campaign leadership, the University has raised more than \$104 million toward the \$120 million goal to help develop the next generation of thinkers and leaders.

The pages ahead offer highlights of the Rising campaign so far and a reminder that when we join together, *we all rise*.

To learn more, please visit:

**ROWAN.EDU/RISING**

**87.19%**  
PROGRESS TOWARD  
\$120M GOAL

GIFTS OF \$1M+  
**21**

More than  
**\$104M**  
in new gifts and commitments  
raised and counting

MEDIAN GIFT  
AMOUNT  
**\$50**

**16,391**  
TOTAL UNIQUE DONORS

**31,241**  
campaign gifts



## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Our four Rising campaign co-chairs—Virginia Rowan Smith, Jean McMenamin Edelman '81, Larry Salva '77, HD'13 and Linda Rohrer HD'06—come to their roles from different paths and after decades supporting and serving Rowan University. Together, they've volunteered for years on the Board of Trustees, the Rowan University Foundation Board and College advisory boards. Their collective philanthropic support totals more than half the funds raised by the Rising campaign to date and has already made a profound impact throughout the University.

Together, the four leaders are helping to ensure access, opportunity and excellence for the next generation of Rowan scholars. Convinced by the difference they've seen their support make, they're eager to inspire others to find the same sense of purpose in giving. Here's a glimpse of each co-chair and why they're leading by example:

### ENHANCING AWARENESS

Virginia Rowan Smith firmly believes that education is the greatest gift one can provide. Although Smith has a strong emotional connection to the University that bears her family's name, she also has a tenacious desire to help build the University's reputation as a top institution in the state and nation.

"My father's gift was the catalyst that put our campus on the map, but now it's time to gather

the resources needed to fuel Rowan's continued rise and prestige," said Smith. "This campaign is allowing us to build awareness of the tremendous opportunities at the University."

The Rowans' pioneering philanthropy, through their family foundation as well as their corporate and personal contributions, has enabled the University to establish world-class academic programs.

In 2014, the Rowan Family Foundation

established a \$15 million endowment for the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, expanding opportunities for engineering education, research and innovation. In addition, through the creation and generous support of the Marie F. Rader Memorial Fund, Smith has revitalized performing arts education and outreach at the University and helped it emerge as a vibrant arts center for the region.

## INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES

Jean McMenamain Edelman '81 is passionate about creating opportunities for students. Her involvement at her alma mater lets her see firsthand how Rowan helps change lives.

"The Rising theme captures the idea that all things are possible," said Edelman. "I'd like to see us find the ability to open doors to as many students as possible, but we need resources to change lives. I don't want to see anyone left behind or forgotten."

Strong supporters of STEM education, she and her husband, Ric '80, made history in 2016 when they announced a \$25 million gift to transform the University's Fossil Park into a world-class destination for scientific discovery. Their landmark gift is the largest donation from alumni and the second largest in Rowan's history.

The couple have also provided generous support for the Edelman Planetarium to increase opportunities for K-12 science education and outreach in the region.

"The future of higher education is changing," noted Edelman. "Rowan is the future—we are the changemakers. This campaign will help us raise the University's level of visibility and help our reputation grow even stronger."

## CREATING IMPACT

Lawrence Salva '77, HD'13 is proud of all that Rowan has achieved and of just how far the institution has come since the days when he was a student.

"As a graduate, I see the growth at the University as phenomenal and gratifying," said Salva. "I've always felt an obligation to give back of my time, talent and treasure and I am so proud to be part of the rise of Rowan."

A longtime Rowan supporter, Salva and his wife, Rita, established an endowment to benefit students at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and have provided generous support for initiatives across the institution including scholarships for CMSRU, the School of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Communication & Creative Arts.

Salva believes the campaign will provide support for all of the initiatives that the University is trying to achieve and will create an environment where top students and faculty can thrive.

"In the next 10 years this University can become a leading national research university but it needs the resources to do it," he said. "Every gift counts—and together they create more access and have a big impact."

## CHANGING LIVES

Linda Rohrer HD'06 loves to see a personal return on her investment. Focused on South Jersey-based giving, she sees how her philanthropy is changing lives at Rowan each time she interacts with students.

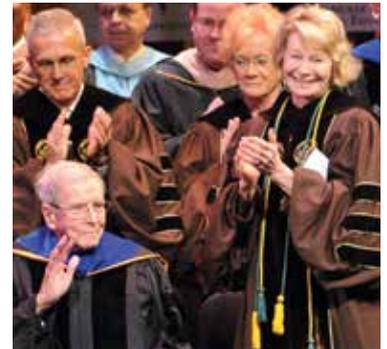
"When you make a gift, you make an impact," Rohrer said. Through the William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation she has made a tremendous impact on the University.

The Rohrer College of Business was named in honor of her late father with a \$10 million pledge in 2005. The Foundation's continued support of the College of Business has endowed a professorial chair, established the Rohrer Scholars program and created a scholarship program to attract honors students to the College.

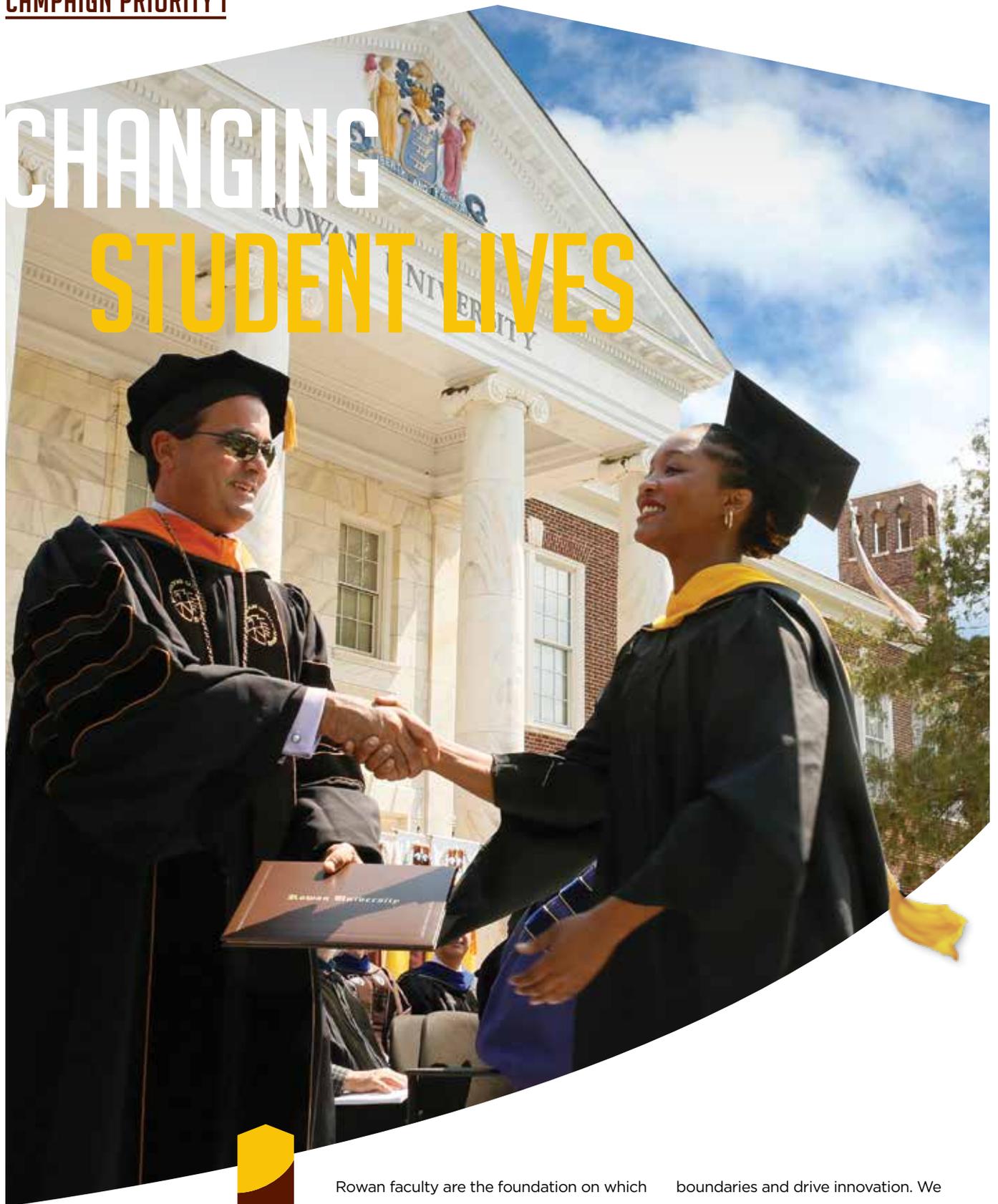
In addition, the Foundation established an Endowed Chair at the School of Osteopathic Medicine to fund research and teaching in geriatrics.

Rohrer is hopeful that the campaign will raise awareness of the University's remarkable accomplishments and is excited to see how alumni and friends demonstrate their support for its future.

"It's important for people to know that it takes investment to sustain growth and achievement," Rohrer said. "This campaign is a team effort. When we work together we will drive the success of Rowan University." ■



# CHANGING STUDENT LIVES



Rowan faculty are the foundation on which our strong programs, innovative research and student success are built. This campaign will ensure that the University can attract the best minds in research and inquiry and allow them to expand

boundaries and drive innovation. We are committed to investing in educators and scholars who are dedicated to solving real-world problems and changing lives—while guiding, challenging and inspiring our students.

# A FEW OF THE MANY WAYS YOUR SUPPORT IS CHANGING STUDENT LIVES

## EOF SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Supported by generous alumni and friends, the EOF Special Assistance Fund helps broaden the educational experience of the University's EOF student community by providing enhanced opportunities for personal growth and achievement.



"I am grateful and fortunate to be a recipient of the support provided by the EOF Special Assistance Fund. Over the years, this funding has been critical in filling the resource gap for many EOF students, allowing them to have a successful college experience. I was able to use the award to purchase my books for the semester, but other students have used it to complete graduate school applications, attend conferences and cover test fees.

The EOF Special Assistance Fund goes a long way in helping hard-working and determined students like me realize the dream of a Rowan degree."

—Mark Mosley '21

*Health Promotion & Wellness Management*

## CLARENCE W. MILLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Established in honor of longtime professor of music and founder of Rowan's Music Department and Concert Choir, the Clarence W. Miller Scholarship Fund provides annual awards to recognize the musical and academic achievements of music majors who participate in the concert choir.



"It's an honor to be a recipient of the Clarence W. Miller Scholarship. Music education majors like me have many expenses, including working with accompanists, finding transportation to performance venues and supplementing classroom materials. This award will provide the resources I need to enhance my higher-level education classes and practicum placements so that I can share my talents with the next generation of music makers.

This scholarship will also make a big difference by allowing me to take advantage of the abundant travel and performance opportunities available in Rowan's vocal music program."

—Sarah Robbins '21

*Music Education*

## MATTEO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Rowan alumna Kathleen Matteo '56 and her husband, George, the Matteo Family Scholarship recognizes the achievements of students who demonstrate leadership qualities. Since the 2003–2004 academic year, 29 recipients have benefitted from this generosity.



"Receiving the Matteo Family Scholarship not only makes college more affordable for me, but most importantly, motivates me to continue making an impact both inside the classroom and out. This generosity helps me to take advantage of the many opportunities Rowan offers and reminds me that what I am doing as a leader on campus is truly making a difference. The financial assistance I receive will only continue to benefit me as I work toward my master's degree in higher education."

—Anna Pietrzak '20

*Management and Human Resources Management  
Management Information Systems (minor)*

GIVING OUTCOMES

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN CHANGE  
A STUDENT'S LIFE, PLEASE VISIT [ROWAN.EDU/RISING](http://ROWAN.EDU/RISING)

# SUPPORTING NEW DISCOVERIES



Rowan faculty are the foundation on which our strong programs, innovative research and student success are built. This campaign will ensure that the University can attract the best minds in research and inquiry and allow them to expand

boundaries and drive innovation. We are committed to investing in educators and scholars who are dedicated to solving real-world problems and changing lives—while guiding, challenging and inspiring our students.

# A FEW OF THE MANY WAYS GIFTS TO ROWAN SUPPORT NEW DISCOVERIES

## CANAVAN RESEARCH

Donor support is assisting Dr. Paola Leone and her research team as they lead a worldwide collaboration with clinicians and experts in gene therapy to advance a treatment for Canavan Disease. Rowan researchers like Dr. Leone are making groundbreaking discoveries that will improve the quality of health care for the citizens of New Jersey and beyond.



“The environment at RowanSOM has given me a place to really grow and tackle the challenges that are part of my daily research routine. As I work to discover and develop much-needed treatments for conditions such as Canavan disease, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and traumatic brain injury, my goal is to do outstanding research that has the potential to change lives.

Because a lot of my work is externally funded, without those investments I wouldn’t have the environment that enables me to achieve my research goals, I wouldn’t have the assistance I need in the lab, and I wouldn’t have the resources and technology to do what I do.”

—Paola Leone, Ph.D.

*Professor of Cell Biology, Director of the Cell & Gene Therapy Center, RowanSOM*

## ROWAN CREATES

The Center for Research & Education in Advanced Transportation Engineering Systems (CREATES) conducts cutting edge, applied and readily implementable research in transportation engineering. Two generous industry partners, the Earle Companies and American Asphalt, have created Fellowship Programs to provide hands-on experience for students.



“CREATES allows undergraduate students to gain experience working with engineering professionals and other students in a state-of-the-art laboratory setting with deadlines, protocol and real-life problem solving.

The funding for CREATES fellowships has made it possible for students like me to get their foot in the door as candidates for exceptional engineering positions and internships. More and more, companies are looking for candidates with real-world experience. Without CREATES, many great future engineers would be overlooked, and for that, I’m grateful to have been awarded this opportunity.”

—Jenna Wyshinski '21

*Civil & Environmental Engineering*

## W.W. SMITH CHARITABLE TRUST

Funding from the W.W. Smith Charitable Trust will support Dr. James Holaska as he conducts a one-year project focused on breast cancer cell invasion and migration, to uncover novel therapeutic targets for metastasis. Dr. Holaska is helping build CMSRU’s research capabilities and providing opportunities for its students to pursue medically relevant scholarly projects.



“During cancer metastasis, the cell nucleus changes from a rigid structure, like a tiny golf ball, to a more ‘squishy’ structure, like a water balloon. These changes allow the cells to enter the bloodstream and metastasize. My research focuses on understanding how nuclear structure is altered during metastasis to allow cancer cells to enter and exit blood vessels.

At CMSRU, our extensive knowledge regarding the structure of the nucleus makes us uniquely qualified for studying how nuclear changes drive metastasis. The W.W. Smith Charitable Trust gave us the opportunity to embark on this new field of study for which we have made important findings. This support will generate the data needed to successfully compete for a National Institute of Health R01 award to study how changes in nuclear architecture regulate tumor growth and metastasis.”

—James Holaska, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences, CMSRU*

GIVING OUTCOMES

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN INVEST IN  
NEW DISCOVERIES, PLEASE VISIT [ROWAN.EDU/RISING](http://ROWAN.EDU/RISING)

# INSPIRED LEARNING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENTS



A dynamic, inviting and well-designed campus helps transform the ways we can meet the educational needs of 21st century learners. This campaign will attract resources to recruit and retain exceptional faculty members and create spaces that

foster collaboration, research excellence and experiential learning. By providing environments where students and faculty can thrive, we can allow them to better themselves, their disciplines and their communities.

# A FEW OF THE MANY WAYS YOUR SUPPORT CREATES INSPIRED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

## **BANTIVOGLIO HONORS CONCENTRATION**

Continued funding by Thomas N. Bantivoglio for Rowan's Thomas N. Bantivoglio Honors Concentration fosters a diverse community of citizen scholars by cultivating curiosity and integrity in and outside the classroom. Open to talented students in every major and college, the program helps students become accomplished independent thinkers, researchers and leaders.



"I am incredibly grateful for the funding that established and maintains the Honors Concentration because it's been a valuable enhancement to my Rowan education. The Whitney Center is an amazing resource that not only allows opportunities like priority registration, but serves as a place that Honors students can get together and collaborate or find a quiet place to study.

I am able to integrate the Honors Concentration and all the requirements that come with it very well into my curriculum. I truly appreciate how much Rowan keeps the student experience at the center of its initiatives."

—**Brandon Hickson '22**  
*Biomedical Engineering*

## **THE RAQUEL A. BRUNO MUSIC LIBRARY AT WGLS-FM**

Multi-media business woman and radio, television & film graduate Raquel Bruno '93 had such a great experience working at Rowan Radio WGLS-FM that she donated \$25,000 to the station's music library. By giving back to the program that gave her so much, she hopes to help current and future Rowan students develop their own professional skills and connections as they work toward bright futures in the RTF industry.



"The generous gift from Raquel Bruno '93 helps preserve the station's music library and also develops our current Top 40/mainstream music additions. It's important that the Raquel A. Bruno Music Library serves as a reminder of music's rich history and what it means to our station.

Many students, alumni and visitors are surprised by the quality, quantity and range of music within the library and all of its hidden gems. Our station members understand the library's importance to not only develop their own knowledge, but also to give our listeners a memorable experience every time they tune in to Rowan Radio."

—**Derek Jones '01, M'02**  
*Station Manager, Rowan Radio WGLS-FM*

## **LILLIAN LODGE KOPENHAVER CAREER RESOURCE LIBRARY**

Thanks to the generosity of 1962 alumna Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, the Career Resource Library will enhance the Office of Career Advancement's ability to help students and alumni develop skills for lifelong professional development, job satisfaction and job readiness as they build connections and find opportunities.



"Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver knows the value of education and career counseling. Her endowment to create the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Career Resource Library is giving the University the means to assist students and alumni with their professional development needs in innovative and diverse ways. Significant enhancements to technology resources, knowledge-sharing initiatives, events, guest lectures and a career-based speakers series are just some of the ways the University is building a space that will realize Dr. Kopenhaver's desire to assist students as they pursue their employment goals."

—**Bob Bullard '06, M'09**  
*Director, Office of Career Advancement*

**GIVING OUTCOMES**

TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN CREATE  
INSPIRED ENVIRONMENTS, PLEASE VISIT **ROWAN.EDU/RISING**

# 1969 THEN & NOW 2019

The time machine that takes us all for a ride has taken some sharp turns and steep climbs since 1969

The legendary cultural chaos and progress of '69 can overshadow memories of everyday life 50 years ago, even if it's just the tip of the global history iceberg.

In the U.S., the moon landing, Woodstock, Stonewall and Vietnam War dominated the news, framing everyday discussions and decisions. Beyond our borders, the Beatles performed their finale and Biafra and Northern Ireland made tragic headlines.

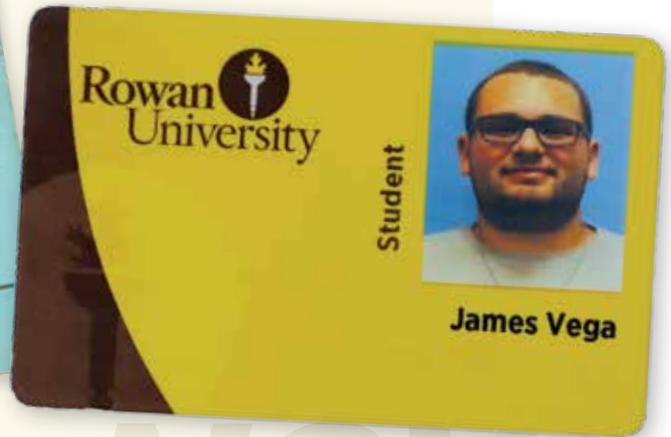
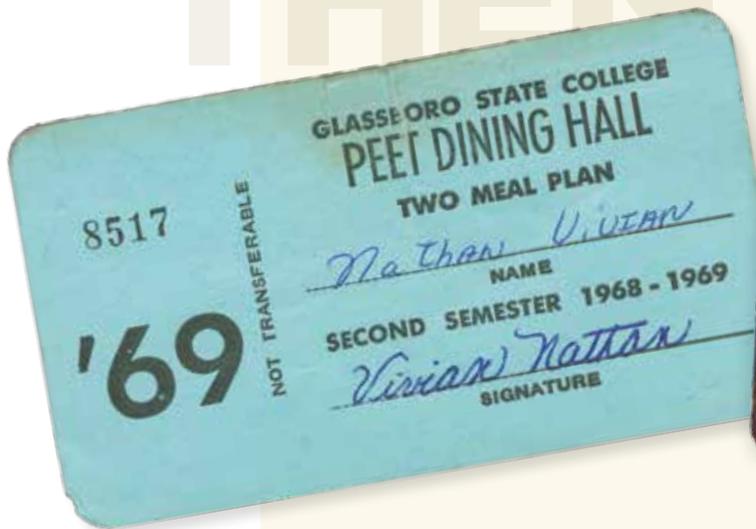
With 50-year-old yearbook photos (from actual film and darkroom chemicals), we recall the way things were on the campus that 3,939 students called their own, when Rowan University was Glassboro State College and GSC's sole purpose was to educate teachers.

*The Oak's* editors took what they called a "radical" step to omit the college's 324 faculty from the yearbook and "concern itself only with the students and their activities outside the classroom." With that audacious departure from the norm, they left us with a 240-page diary of student life that seems at once familiar and foreign.

Wistful for then? Grateful for now? Maybe these photos can allow for a little of both.



# THEN



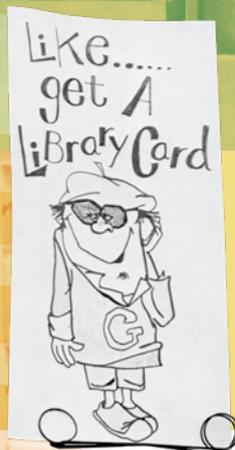
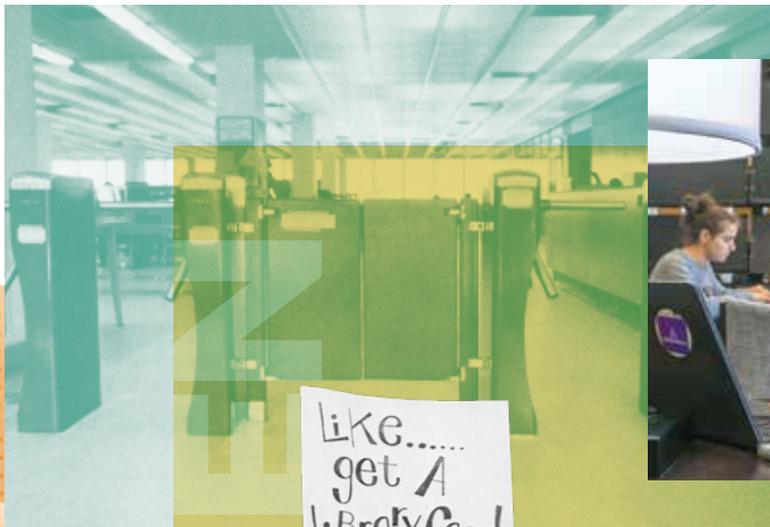
# NOW

Who's hungry? All students except commuting seniors had to eat on campus 50 years ago and a two-meal-a-day plan for a semester would set student diners back \$198. The card allowed for some special dietary requests, but it was a one-trick pony, good only for food service.

Today, the reloadable RowanCard gives students purchasing power for campus cuisine: meals, late-night snacks, vegetarian, Kosher, stir-fry, boardwalk fries and more, plus (plastic) cash on hand for off-campus

pizza delivery, Chinese buffet, burger joints, sushi, upscale Italian and dozens of other options, including grocery stores and coffee shops.

Fueled up healthy or fortified with junk food, students can swipe their RowanCard to buy textbooks, entertainment (axe-throwing, anyone?), eyeglasses, massages, comic books, haircuts, new tires and an appointment with an orthopedist. The list goes on, of course, making the card more than just a college ID.

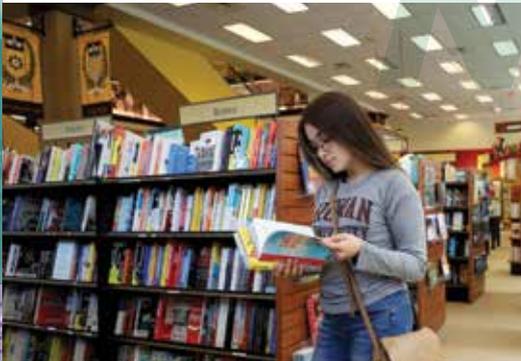


Like.....somebody sketched a poster to promote card-carrying for library privileges in '69, back when the books were in Savitz Hall, photocopying was free and the Dewey Decimal System ruled the racks.

Card catalogs are long gone, but

2019 library patrons in Campbell can check out bound books, as well as e-books, that they track down through the online library search system. They can use Campbell lab computers or campus WiFi to connect their laptops and print from their phones for a dime per page.

# NOW



Buying textbooks in 1969 added about \$100 to students' annual expenses and required a visit to Memorial Hall, but offered little in the way of window shopping or modern retail therapy.

Hardbacks and blue books are still on bookstore shelves, but now Barnes &

Noble serves campus and community from the heart of Rowan Boulevard. The draw includes a Starbucks Cafe, textbook rentals and e-books, Rowan-branded apparel, *New York Times* bestsellers, laptops, boutique beef jerky and temporary tattoos sporting the Prof mascot, of course.



# NOW



Fifty years ago, a square meal and a snack came from two GSC options: Winans Hall (now home of the Wellness Center) and Memorial Hall (now the tech hub). In Memorial, the Snack Bar's sound track came from a juke box filled with vinyl hits including "Sweet Caroline," "A Boy Named Sue," "Bad Moon Rising" and "I Can't

Get Next to You." Wandering into Rowan eateries today guarantees options at more than a dozen locations on the main campus, plus a food truck and Einstein Bros. Bagels. And the music menu: a mash-up of the music that matters from WGLS and earbuds full of Spotify and Pandora faves.



For decades, hitch-hiking or posting flyers on bulletin boards to get to Philadelphia for a show or go home for the weekend made travel possible for many of the carless on campus (“Need a ride to Neptune Thursday night. Will share gas.”). Now, after years of old-school

carpooling, 2019 ride-sharing—without the benefit of a helpful suitemate’s wheels—means Uber or Lyft. With a couple swipes at the app, students call a car and driver for a ride, the digital alternative to inking a destination in Magic Marker on the back of a pizza box.



NOW

The first nine feature pages of the '69 *Oak* splurged on the only color photos in the book—big, photojournalistic-style images documenting the life of a Kindergarten-Primary major during her student teaching days, “the high-water mark of our four years here,” the yearbook said. Mary Reeves '69 represented all GSC’s future teachers in the last year that all Glassboro students would be education majors, testing their “potential as teachers,” as the story put it.

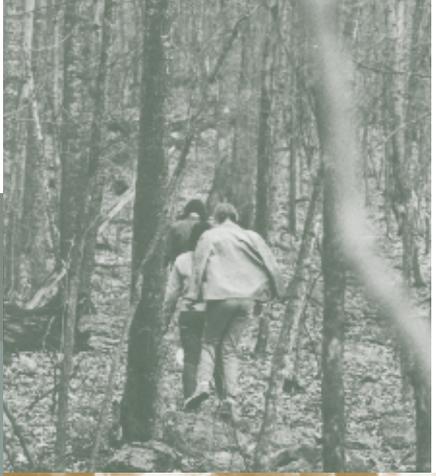
In 2019, Rowan enrolls more than 19,500

students in seven colleges and five schools. Education majors still do student teaching, but with the advantage of 21st century technology that helps them practice teaching techniques on a virtual classroom of child avatars. The computer-generated kids squirm in their seats and ask their flesh-and-blood teacher for help, only sometimes raising their hands. The high-tech resource supplements Rowan’s hallmark curriculum, preparing teachers for the challenges of teaching in today’s classrooms.



TEACHERS

# THEN

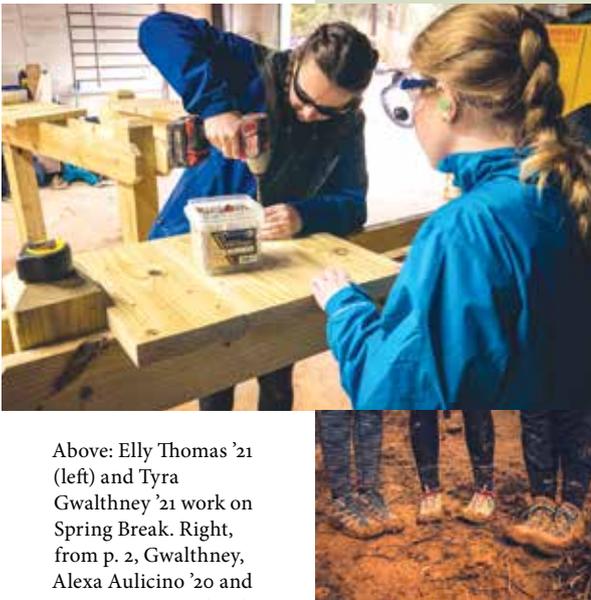


Every GSC junior—all were education majors pre-1970—spent a week in the wilds of Stokes State Forest in Sussex County. The idea: put aspiring teachers in the wilderness to learn how to instruct their future students about science, how to solve problems, build rapport and serve their community. Junior math education majors did all that in the course of their spring week 50 years ago

when they planned and built a footbridge across a previously uncrossable stream in the woods.

This year, bridge-building continued with students on an Alternative Spring Break trip to work on trail maintenance in Virginia's Natural Bridge State Park. Elly Thomas (left) and Tyra Gwalthney made the mid-March trek—and made a difference for hikers and themselves.

Below: Giselle Onofre '19, Angel Cabrera Salinas '21, Gianna Figueroa '21, Tyra Gwalthney '21, Alexa Aulicino '20, Kalie VanDewater '20, Tom Vancak '21, Health & Exercise Science Professor Shari Willis, Elly Thomas, '21 and Frank Forte '21.



Above: Elly Thomas '21 (left) and Tyra Gwalthney '21 work on Spring Break. Right, from p. 2, Gwalthney, Alexa Aulicino '20 and Gianna Figueroa '21 show off their muddy Merrells.



WESLEY TRIMBLE/AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

# NOW

**HOUSHMAND'S  
HAZARDOUS  
HOT SAUCE**

# WINTER IS COMING

**WARM IT UP WITH HOT SAUCE  
AND GEAR FOR A GOOD CAUSE.**



Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce tastes good. It also does good: all profits fund the Rowan University Student Emergency Scholarship, providing critical support to students who encounter unanticipated setbacks that would derail their education. **Your purchase will help make a difference.**

**BUY A JAR.  
HELP A STUDENT.  
VISIT TODAY:**

Also available at Barnes & Noble on Rowan Boulevard.

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# class notes

## 40s

**Barbara Nardelli Dacy '48** retired after teaching 40 years in a one-room schoolhouse. She takes yoga classes and plays Candy Crush on her Apple iPad.

## 50s

**Robert Gerardi '55** retired in 2005 after 57 years in education. He keeps busy selling vintage sheet music on eBay in 50 states and 47 foreign countries.

## 60s

**Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver '62** was named one of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Trailblazers in Diversity. Kopenhaver is dean emeritus and professor and executive director of the Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University, School of Communication and Journalism. She was also inducted into the university's Presidential Society for her dedication



### Rowan-proud, eight-strong

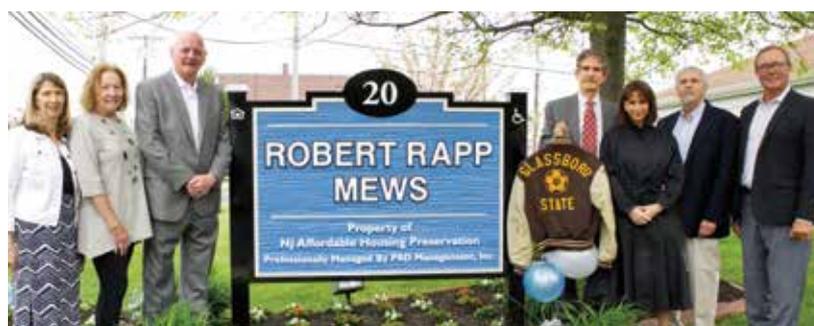
**Rod Taylor '68, Michael Taylor '06 and Amy Taylor '02** take in another Profs gridiron game. Note, p. 61.

and sustained support. She is considered one of the university's founders and is the founder of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her gift to Rowan established the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Career Resource Library at Savitz Hall. Story, p. 6.

**Mary C. Lamey '63, M'83** and **Richard Klimek '63** became engaged on Christmas Eve. They have been spending time together since connecting at their 50th class reunion in 2013.

 **Calvin Iszard '66, M'68** teaches online college courses. He lives in central Florida.

**Catherine E. Hlavin Kelly '67** taught for 43 years in Morris Plains, half of them teaching grades 1-4 and half teaching computer applications in grades 3-8. She also wrote the school district's computer curriculum. She and her husband, Bill, have been married for 40 years and have six children and 10



### Honoring a friend and leader

GSC friends **Barbara Crumley Oldt '82, Marjorie K. Larson Dauber '72, Joseph V. Dauber '72, Russell F. Altersitz '76, Avé Borneo Altersitz '77, M'95, Robert J. Van Stratton '72 and Robert J. Oldt '82** gathered to remember friend and community leader **Robert Rapp '72**. Note, p. 67.

grandchildren. She was elected in 2018 to the Morris Plains Borough Council for a three-year term and is the corresponding secretary for the Morris Plains Republican Club. She was the Morris Plains Education Association's recording secretary and a volunteer for Cub Scouts, Little League, swim team and hockey.

**Rod Taylor '68** retired from teaching science at Delran High School. Eight of his family members are GSC-Rowan graduates. They and Rod, who played on then-GSC's 1964 football team, often attend the Rowan games.

**Gerrie Woolley Venner '70** and **Rusty Venner '70** have lived in North Carolina since 2005. Their nine grandchildren keep them very busy. They enjoy golf and vacation trips with all their children's families.

**Karlene Barber Babij '71** and **Denise Salto '71** cruised the Panama Canal. During the two-week cruise, Denise, an active lifetime dancer,

was invited to perform with the entertainment staff and wowed the audience. Karlene and Denise were roommates in Mimosa when it opened in 1967. They also are friends with **Donna Marcantonio Burkey '71**. Photo, p. 62.

**Frank McGayhey '71** married **Paula Tighe McGayhey '70** in 1982. They have three children. Frank retired after 36½

years at the Fort Dix Education Center and the Fort Monmouth Directorate for Readiness. He also taught U.S. history at Burlington County College.

**Kathleen Woodruff Wickham '71**, a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi, served as chair of the Americas/ chair of the humanities at the University of

## 70s

**Eric Jones '70** has developed a middle school math program that has been adopted by school systems in Florida, Oregon, and New Jersey. His career included working on the "Mike Douglas" and "Evening Magazine" TV shows. He lives in Spring Lake.



### EOF/MAP alumni stay connected and encourage a new generation

More than 40 alumni eager to reconnect with each other and give back to today's students attended the ASCEND EOF/RISE Student Leadership Conference and Alumni Mixer.

FRONT: Kimberly Clark '89, Ethel Jones '92, Tywana Hamilton-West '03, Lisa Westfield '98, Angie Pollard '96, Milan Ahye '11, La Keshia Bryant '04, Lisa Micheletti '11, Syreeta Primas '99  
 MIDDLE: Andy Montanez '12, Nydreema McDuffie '19, Beatrice Carey '13, Joseph Rodriguez '13, Anne Rebecca '16, Cameron Hudson '15, Yaniris Patton-Cintron '16, Samantha Noguera '13, Shareda Cunningham '02, Hatef Alavi '09  
 BACK: Ish Wara '19, Ryan Nichols '19, Kevin Harris '84, Francisco Morales '99, Belsy Calzada '14, JT Mills '92, M'94, EdD'09, Larry Blake '00, Malcom Owens '12, Ousmane Sall '17, David Shanks '09, Jamar Morton '07, Samuel Jay '14, M'18, Minelson Louis-Baptise '16, Erica Nelms '14, Tevin King '12, M'18, Troi Barnes '17, Kiara Gilbert '16.

Rennes in France during the spring semester. Dr. Wickham lectured on various journalism issues. She also lectured at New York University in Prague during her semester abroad.

**Wendy Baral Cooper '72, M'74** participated in the Run for Rowan 5K in April. With a time of 36:27, she came in first in her age group, 60-69-year-old females, and can't wait to run again in 2020.

**Carolann Leiko Gallo '72, M'92** and her husband, **Dennis Gallo '68, M'71**, retired from education and spend the winters in Florida and summers in North Cape May. They have one son and three grandchildren. Carolann taught in Mantua Township for 39 years at many grade levels. She continues to take part in Delta

Kappa Gamma activities. Dennis retired after 42 years in education; 20 teaching mathematics at Kingsway Regional High School and 22 as K-12 district math/science supervisor in the Buena Regional School District. He keeps busy restoring older boats and houses.

**James Di Gennaro '72** retired after 44 years at Washington Township High School teaching and counseling and 25 years as an adjunct oral communication instructor at Rowan College at Gloucester County. Jim was also the high school drama director and staged and directed 81 productions. One of his fondest memories was "Pirates of Penzance," which included his two children in the cast.

**John Lucas '72** is enjoying retirement after teaching



**A Mimosa Hall toast**

**Karlene Barber Babij, Denise Salto and Donna Marcantonio Burkey, all '71**, celebrate friendship started at GSC. Note, p. 61.

multiply disabled students ages 5-21 for the past 47 years. He plans to travel and visit his four children scattered around the U.S.

**Noelle Sickels '73** has published a memoir, *Searching for Armando*, about her mother and two fathers in post-World War II in New Jersey and Greenwich Village. The book is available on Amazon.

**Diane Weinberg '73** works part time as a legal secretary and as a business manager for a professional organizer but spends much of her time volunteering at various food pantries in South Jersey, mostly at TOUCH NJ Food Pantry in Camden. Her website, [MovingToMusic.com](http://MovingToMusic.com), lists food pantries for those who may need one or who want to volunteer.

**Robert Hood '74** retired as warden of the United States Supermax Penitentiary in Colorado. He is a national security consultant for various companies.

**Jeanine Frisby LaRue '74** received the 2019 Woman as Agent of Change Award from the American Association of University Women of New Jersey.

**Duane Shilling '74** was inducted into the New Jersey Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in June. He spent most of his coaching career at Buena Regional High School.

**Dorothy Knauss Van Horn '74, M'77** retired after 45 years in education, the last 21 as superintendent in Brookfield. In 2017, Dr. Van Horn received the Legacy of Caring Award from ASAH, a nonprofit organization of New Jersey private schools and agencies which provides highly specialized services to infants, children and young adults with disabilities.

**Bill Buck '75** operates Bill Buck Design in Wilmington, Del., where he works as a studio artist and provides theatre design, management and technology services. His



**Yoga at your alma mater**

Yoga enthusiasts and newcomers enjoyed a vinyasa-style class outside Bunce Hall in June. Alumni Board member Gina Lemanowicz Pusloski '03 led the serene 60-minute session, Poses with Profs, now a springtime tradition.

FRONT: Gina Lemanowicz Pusloski '03. MIDDLE: Ai McLaughlin '05, Lisa Smalley '13, Alicia Smith '09, Lisa Loomis, Sam Wagner '14, M'16, Katherine Manieri '18, Holly Atkinson '19, Melissa Martinique '19, Venise Grossmann '86. BACK: Becky Johnson Hood '04, M'14, Anthony Marino '02, M'03, Derek Jones '01, M'03, Charles Pusloski '07, Chelsey Scotten, Courtney Adams, Dana Carroll Alcavage '13, M'15.



# **RUN FOR** **ROWAN** **5K**

**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020**

Check in: 8:30 a.m. | Start time: 10 a.m.

Chamberlain Student Center Patio, Rowan University

- Proceeds benefit Flying First, supporting first-generation college students
- Registration opens on Monday, January 6

[alumni.rowan.edu/runforrowan](http://alumni.rowan.edu/runforrowan)  
[alumni.rowan.edu/5ksponsor](http://alumni.rowan.edu/5ksponsor)



INTRODUCING

# ROWAN RISING

## PODCAST

Discover the newly launched **Rowan Rising podcast** to celebrate *RISING: The Campaign for Rowan University*.

Listeners can look forward to two exclusive interviews each month with members of the Rowan community. Hosted by Vice President for University Advancement R.J. Tallarida, episodes are thought-provoking, inspiring and fun, while highlighting each guest's unique accomplishments and rise to success.

From students and faculty to community leaders and President Houshmand himself, these podcasts offer new and exciting insights into our collective Rowan story.



### TUNE IN TODAY!

Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud, Stitcher and Podbean.

artwork was selected for a juried show and exhibited at the Delaware Contemporary Gallery in Wilmington. He retired in 2015 as head of the James Madison University theatre department. Buck, who earned an MFA at the Yale School of Drama, previously taught at the University of South Carolina and Mount Holyoke College.

**John Carrino '75** has a daughter majoring in environmental engineering at the University of Florida, where she is a marching band member. His youngest daughter has visited Europe twice.

**Fred Lentz '75** retired from IBM and lives in Pittsgrove with his wife of 38 years, Vivian, a daughter and a granddaughter. For many years, he has served as president of the South Jersey Bass Club Association as well as his fishing club, the South Jersey Hawg Hunters.



**Jeff Weber '75** is general manager of six radio

stations in Albany, N.Y. Previously, he was general sales manager of two FM stations in Charleston, S.C. He has also held sales management positions in Baltimore and Indianapolis and was vice president and later president of a national media company based in Stamford, Conn., that owned a radio network and several stations.

**MaryLynne Montesano Perkins '76** has four grandchildren. Photo, p. 75.

**Barbara Leobold von dem Hagen '76** retired in 2018 after almost 40 years as a teacher of the handicapped and a speech and language specialist in Bloomsbury and Hawthorne.

**Tom Weaver '76** retired after 42 years at Cherry Hill High School East as an English and drama teacher and theater director. Weaver, who planned to major in physical education at GSC, switched to theater when a professor in an elective course told him he could teach theater for a living. Weaver, who took over as director in 2008, was honored by Music Theatre International in 2017 for the department's production of "Ragtime." He was involved in 200 productions during his career at the school. He plans to spend more time with his family and is considering writing a one-act play about Benjamin Franklin meeting William Shakespeare.

**David Weinberg '76** retired after working for 34 years at the United States Postal Service, where he served as customer service supervisor for the last 14 years. David works out at a fitness center five days a week and has been a fitness center member for 35 years. He also has participated in the Spring Lake Five

Mile Run for several years, including in 2019.

**Marvin B. Gordy '77** is the percussionist with Opium Moon, which won a 2019 Grammy in the Best New Age Album category. Gordy is an acclaimed drummer, percussionist and educator whose credits include albums by well-known recording artists, films, TV series, video games and live performances and tours. He also leads drum circles and educational clinics, independently as well as for Yamaha Education Division, where he serves as a clinician and education consultant.



**Golfing for the Gridiron: more than 30 years for Brown & Gold boosters**  
Football alumni teed off at Seaview Resort & Spa in Galloway in July at the 31st Brown & Gold Gridiron Golf Tournament, welcoming former team members from more than five decades.

1. John Havers, Dino Hall '82, Mike Petuskey '81, Steve Murray '89
2. Ken Mathis '78, Matt McArrow, John DeBouter '80, Bill Banks '79
3. Ryan Dolan, Brette Cox '14, Kyle Cox



# AN ANNUAL SOUTH JERSEY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

Featuring Rowan University's Musical Theatre, Dance, Choirs, Orchestra, and the Atlantic Brass Band!

**DECEMBER 14TH**  
**PFLEEGER CONCERT HALL**  
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He has a master's degree from California Institute of the Arts.

**Lin Lloyd '77** retired after 41 years in the Toms River Regional School District, the last 25 as high school social studies supervisor.



**Peggy Gentile Van Meter '78** retired in 2012 after teaching history for over 34 years at Cumberland Regional High School. From 2006-2017, she was an adjunct history professor at Cumberland County College. She has a master's degree

in Holocaust and genocide education from Stockton University. She is serving a two-year term as governor of the North Atlantic Region of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Since joining the organization in 2006, Peggy has held several board positions at the regional level. She is a member of Soroptimist International of Cumberland County. That group honored her in 2015 with their Soroptimist of the Year award for her hard work and dedication. She also is a member of Lions International.



**Not so far from GSC**

'83 grads Scot Merkle, Keith Minter and Andy Leahy salute summer. Note, p. 68.

**80s**



**Charlene Hodinka '80** retired after teaching sixth grade science, social studies and language arts for 32½ years in Bridgeton.



**Nancy Stott Trauger '80** was the mezzo-soprano soloist in two performances of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" in April 2018 with the Wayne Oratorio Society in Wayne, Pa. In April 2017, she was the mezzo-soprano soloist with the Rowan University Orchestra and Concert Choir in a performance of Verdi's "Requiem," celebrating professor Salvatore Scarpa's 25 years as the orchestra's conductor. While at Rowan, Nancy played French horn in the orchestra. She has a master's degree in opera performance from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

**Nancy Bode Vanni '80** retired after teaching

kindergarten and first grade for 35 years, 31 in Hasbrouck and four in Monroe Township, Gloucester County.



**Joel Gordon '81** is the Plantation, Fla., Fire Department's deputy chief of administration. He also serves as the public information officer and built the department's portion of the city website. He is also responsible for development and operation of the city's AM radio station and serves as the lead public information officer during emergency management situations. Gordon, who has been with the department for 22 years, has a master's degree from Columbia Southern University. He is a certified paramedic, registered nurse and a fire instructor. He and his wife, Sheri, have two children and one grandchild.

**Catherine Morgan Heberley '81** retired from Temple University in January. She has



**RowanGIVES Day marks another milestone**

Rowan held its fifth annual RowanGIVES Day in March, a 24-hour event focused on philanthropy. Student staff helped host activities in Chamberlain Student Center, while alumni participated online and at regional events, exceeding participation goals and raising a grand total of \$127,650 for scholarships, research projects and more.

1. Drew Tinnin Ed.D. '16, Mariah Francisco '16, M'18
2. Kristen Stansfield '21, Grace Coulthurst '21
3. Rafael Gonzalez '20, Olivia Molinari '21
4. Marissa Ciocco '19, Camryn Hadley '21, Sarah Niles '21



### Road trip

**Laura Curran Pappas '84** her son, Tyler, in Colorado. Note, p. 68.

a master's degree from The College of New Jersey and an Ed.D. from Temple.



**Brian W. Jones '81**, president and CEO of the First

National Bank of Elmer, serves on the Boy Scouts of America's Northeast Region Board. One of four BSA administrative regions, it covers 58 councils, 11 states, northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Trans-Atlantic Council and serves over 300,000 Scouts. He is also BSA Area 5's vice president of finance.

**Patricia McCabe Kaufman '81, M'87, M'95** teaches academic support and enrichment at Keith Country Day School in Rockford, Ill. She attended the Teachers College Writer's Workshop at Columbia University in summer 2018.

**Catherine Snyder Stuart '81** retired from the Hillside School District.

**Barbara Crumley Oldt '82, Marjorie Larson Dauber '72, Joseph V. Dauber '72, Russell F. Altersitz '76, Avé Borneo Altersitz '77, M'95, Robert J. Van Stratton '72 and Robert J. Oldt '82** gathered on May 3 for the unveiling of a new Robert Rapp Mews sign. The sign honors the late **Robert Rapp '72**, who was a varsity athlete at GSC. Rapp was a teacher for several years and a children's home director. He later worked for the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America for many years, retiring in 2016. Photo, p. 60.

**Roxanne Wilcox '82** is a Child Development Center Board member in Woodbury.

**Laurie Facciarossa Brewer '83** is the New Jersey long-term care ombudsman, protecting the rights of older New Jersey citizens living in long-term care facilities. Her husband, **Mark R. Brewer '83**, retired in 2016 from Monroe Township, Gloucester County, after 32 years of teaching history in middle school. They live in Pitman and have two children.



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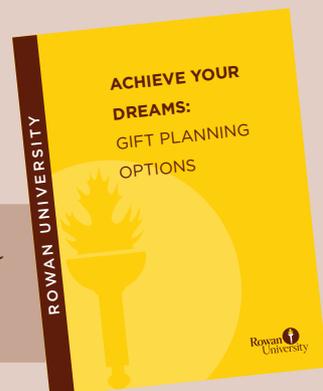
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for more information*



**Scot Merkle '83, Keith Minter '83 and Andy Leahy '83** attended the Rock, Ribs, and Ridges event at the Sussex County Fair Grounds.



**Thomas Skevin '83** represents the New Jersey Hall of Fame through his work with Princeton Strategic Communications, where he is the senior writer and media relations specialist. He also contributes as a writer and photographer to *NJArts.net*. His remembrance of Tom Petty earned a first-place features award in 2018

from the Garden State Journalists Association. Previously, he worked for 26 years at *The Record of Bergen County*. Tom and his daughter reside in Sussex County, and he can be reached at [tskevin@live.com](mailto:tskevin@live.com).

**Melanie L. Burney '84** was named a Woman of Achievement in Communications/Media by the National Coalition of Black Women's Southern New Jersey Chapter. She also was honored by the Camden County Chapter of the NAACP as a visionary leader for her work in journalism



**Film's finest**

**Jack Swiker '04, Adam Bradshaw '11, Ed Bauman '11** and five more alumni made a film that made it to Cannes. Note, p. 74.

covering issues of importance to the black community. Burney is a general assignment reporter with *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

**Laura Curran Pappas '84** and her family traveled to Colorado Springs in June to support their son who took part in the 97th running of the



**Athletics Hall of Fame inducts new class**

Athletes and coaches celebrated individual and team accomplishments in Profs competition at the annual event.

1. Doug Rillo, Mark Giampetti, Michael Marcantonio '83, Joe Procopio '83, Don DeJoseph '80, Brendan Rosenberg '92, Matt McArow '79, Frank Albano '79, Ralph Wendell '80, Bud Goebel '19, Dave Evangelist '81, Jesse Briglia '79.
2. Ben Lynch '53, Chris Martin '82, Bob Pedrick, Toure Sealey, Amy-Brooke Mauger '98, Dr. John Giannini, Tiffany Harris-Greene '98, Ryan Cochrane, Rob Scott '81, Antwan Dasher, Lamonte Harvin, Joe Cassidy, Neil Biscaldi, Brian Bouchard '00, Osco Williams '97, Demetrius Poles '14.

3. FRONT: Tereze Kunkel '03, Sarah Wood Lloyd '07, Steph Doherty Radisch '06, Rhonda Bennett '06, Becky Peterson '14, Angela Ruggiero. MIDDLE: Sue Donaldson, Mary Marino '78, Sue Connor Zaccagnino '94, Lindsay Hanson Delaney '03, Erin Grelle Small '00, Joy Solomen '69, Susie Massara '08, Renee Phelps Toliver '03, Moriahn Holmstrom '02, Jenna Lombardo Adams '10, Jackie Massara Cooper '04, Jammie Hicks '03. BACK: Kate Madden Stauffer '00, Melissa DeClementi '97, Lauren Small Pallies '97, Penny Kempf, Michelle Andre '99, Kelly Rose '04, Michelle Thornton '04, Shayne Bennett Gismonde '07.
4. Thor Harris and Tiffany Harris-Greene '98 (son and daughter of football player Mario Albert Harris), Sue Johnson '74, MaryKate Stauffer '00, Penny Kempf, Jess Babice Cuba '12, Mike Dickinson '02.

## Writing for a wonderful life

You have to love words to be the author of 50 books. But it's more than that for Wendy Sooy Pfeffer '50.

"I've had words in my life all of my life," says Pfeffer, an award-winning author who has written 49 children's books and one adult book that focuses on—what else?—writing children's books. "I have always wanted to be a writer and was writing stories in college.

"I like the research it takes to write a non-fiction book. I research every detail. But I'm also a teacher."

Young children are the beneficiaries of Pfeffer's talents and meticulousness. Her works, which have been published by three of the Big 5 trade book publishers in New York City—Simon and Schuster, Harper Collins, and Penguin (now Penguin Random House)—are mostly nonfiction and science oriented.

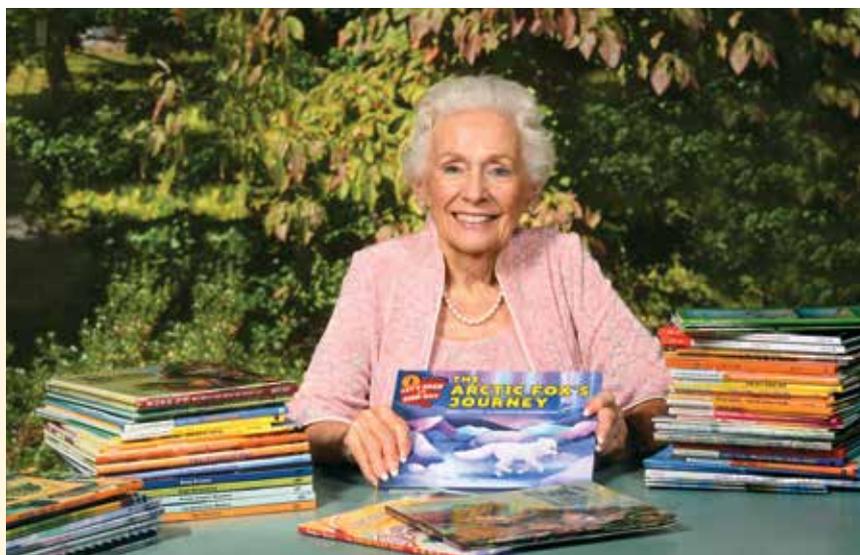
They introduce subjects as diverse as the winter solstice, the life of a log, how tadpoles become frogs, the spring equinox, worms, humpback whales, the summer solstice, hermit crabs, what it's like to be a fish and other topics for children in preschool through fifth grade.

Pfeffer studied elementary education at then-Glassboro State Teachers College, where she was editor of the 1950 yearbook and president of the Association for Childhood Education.

Professor Ora Lee Everts taught students and was principal of the on-campus Demonstration School.

"She was a stellar mentor," Pfeffer says. "She inspired her college students to do the right thing for children."

To that end, Pfeffer began her career as a first-grade teacher in Pitman. After marrying, she and her husband, Tom, an aeronautical engineer, moved to Pennington. Pfeffer founded the Pennington Presbyterian Nursery School, which served over 150 children each year. After directing and teaching there for many years, she



*As a teacher, Wendy Pfeffer found her young students to be naturally curious about the world around them. Retired from teaching, she focused on writing science books for children. Her second career as an author produced 50 children's books and many awards so far.*

retired to write full time. The school is still going strong today.

It was through teaching that she realized children were curious about the science around them. She concentrated on writing science-oriented themes.

"I knew which books were needed for young children," says Pfeffer, a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature, the Author's Guild and two Writer's Workshops.

"When I write, I always start with what children already know and then teach them what they don't know.

"I add activities in my books. They encourage children to do something or make something, always to do more."

A sought-after classroom speaker who leads presentations and teaches writing in elementary schools, as well as adult writing workshops, Pfeffer has won numerous awards, including the John Burroughs Nature Books for Young Readers Award, the Giverny Award for the Best Children's Science Book and the Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children Award from the National Science Teachers Association.

Recently, she donated her collection of her writing archives—six boxes brimming with manuscripts, editors' notes and illustrations from her book illustrators—to the University Archives & Special Collections at Rowan's Campbell Library. The collection gives writers, illustrators and those

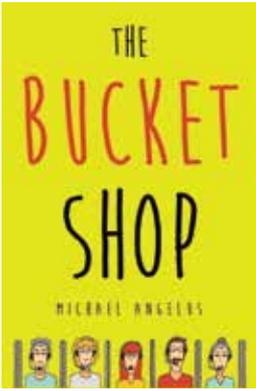
interested in book publishing an insider look into a prolific, 30-year writing career.

"Someone interested in children's literature can trace her work from idea to publication. They can see every book proof stage, every correspondence, every evolution of the artists' renderings," says Sara Borden, head of Archival Collections & Services at Campbell Library. "It's a great resource for someone looking to do what she does. Children's books are very difficult to write. Wendy is so good at it."

The passion to write—to create, to educate, to entertain—is still as strong as ever, says Pfeffer, whose books have been translated into Chinese, Spanish and Korean. She just marked her 90th birthday with the publication of her newest children's book, *The Arctic Fox's Journey* from the Harper Collins "Let's Read and Find Out Science" series.

"Oh, it was such a thrill when I got *The Arctic Fox's Journey* in the mail...such a thrill," Pfeffer says. "It's a beautiful book. I actually have 14 more books ready to go. I'm going to make sure they're really good. I have a lot of ideas.

"I tell you—I don't feel old at all. I guess it's because I'm having a wonderful life, writing and enjoying my amazing family."



**Book in the bucket**

Michael Corcione '94 has a new book under a new name, note, p. 67.

Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. Photo, p. 67.

**Brian Kass '85** appeared on the MSG Network in a short documentary about the 334 Game, a New Jersey Devils hockey contest that was held the day of a massive snowstorm in 1987 when only 300+ fans, showed up. It was also on YouTube.



**Chrisie Martelli Scott '85** is Virtua's senior vice president

and chief marketing officer. She is responsible for strategic marketing, communications and public relations. Previously, she was Virtua's vice president for strategic marketing. Before joining Virtua in 2018, she served as the chief marketing officer for Hackensack Meridian Health. She earned an MBA in marketing at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is board president of the Juvenile Diabetes

Research Foundation Metro New Jersey and Rockland County Chapter and a member of the Healthcare Executive Forum, a peer-voted, executive-level group that fosters accelerated learning.

**Helen Jenkins Castro '86** earned a master's degree in communication and media at Rutgers University in May. She is the senior manuscript editor for the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, based at Rutgers. Helen lives with her daughter and her mother in Avenel. She loves to travel and quilt in her free time.



**Martin C. Levin '86**, CPA, is president of the

Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Levin is managing partner at RLB Certified Public Accountants in Allentown, Pa., where



**Re-orienting at Rowan**

Veteran educators and proud alumni **John Agoston '92** and **Dawn Kehoe Agoston '91** with their daughter, **Carly**. Note, p. 71.

he leads the firm's audit and business valuation groups. He is also an adjunct professor of accounting at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa., a past president of PICPA's Lehigh Valley Chapter, a statewide CPA-PAC Committee member, a Pennsylvania CPA Foundation board member, treasurer of the Carson Kaye Foundation and a Kutztown University Accounting Curriculum Advisory Board member. He has

an MBA in finance from DeSales University.

**Joan House Wilkins '86** lives in Camp Hill, Pa.

**William Beatty '87** returned to New Jersey after working in Switzerland for 2½ years.



**Tom Jacobs '89** reports on the insurance industry for

S&P GlobalMarket Intelligence in Charlottesville, Va. He spent the past 10 years as a copy editor and sports reporter for *The News Leader* of Staunton, Va., where he lives with his wife, **Maryann Treppiedi Jacobs '97**, and their two children.



**Rohrer MIS alumni connect with students**

Alumni got a warm welcome from the Management Information Systems (MIS) Club at a spring dinner designed to introduce students to the graduates and establish professional relationships between them.

BACK: Scott Jusko '04, Patrick Williams '16, Robert Blair '12, Joshua Thomas '14, Kyle Saul '13, Nick Jastrebski '10, Nicole Zeck '18, Michael Balabon '19, Will Miller '13, John Pollack '18, Matthew Yates '08, Stephen O'Toole '85  
FRONT: Stephen Shockley '17, James Batistick '16, Joseph Sasdelli '10, Gregory Scillitani '17, Angela Miller '13, Arianne Bascara '18, Hayley Owens '17, Bob Palmer '88

**90s**

**Oliver Hubbard '90** created and sang his first gospel/rhythm and blues song, "I Came from This." The song is available on CD and a video is on YouTube under his name. Oliver has sung for the past six

years with the Central Jersey Community Choir, which won the McDonald Gospelfest for five years in a row. For the past 13 years, Oliver has worked as an assistant teacher in Plainfield.

**Dawn Kehoe Agoston '91** and **John Agoston '92** attended Rowan Orientation for the Class of 2023 with their daughter. Dawn and John, both teachers for 25+ years, are proud Carly chose the College of Education. Photo, p. 70.

**Jana Spence Whitney '91** is coordinator of disability support at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and volunteers with the Lynchburg YMCA's sexual assault response program. She earned a master's degree in human services counseling at Liberty in 2017.

**Lynda Hinkle Zurlo '91** married Ryan Zurlo in June. Photo, this page.

**Rick Alcantara M'92** has a son, Justin Alcantara, who is a Rowan freshman.

**Harry Bittner '92** is an assistant professor at Mercer County Community College where he coordinates the electronics engineering technology and heating, refrigeration and air conditioning programs. He earned a master's degree in education from the University of New England in 2018.

**Beth Harper Harbaugh '93** is an educational aide in an autistic

classroom at Timmons Elementary School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



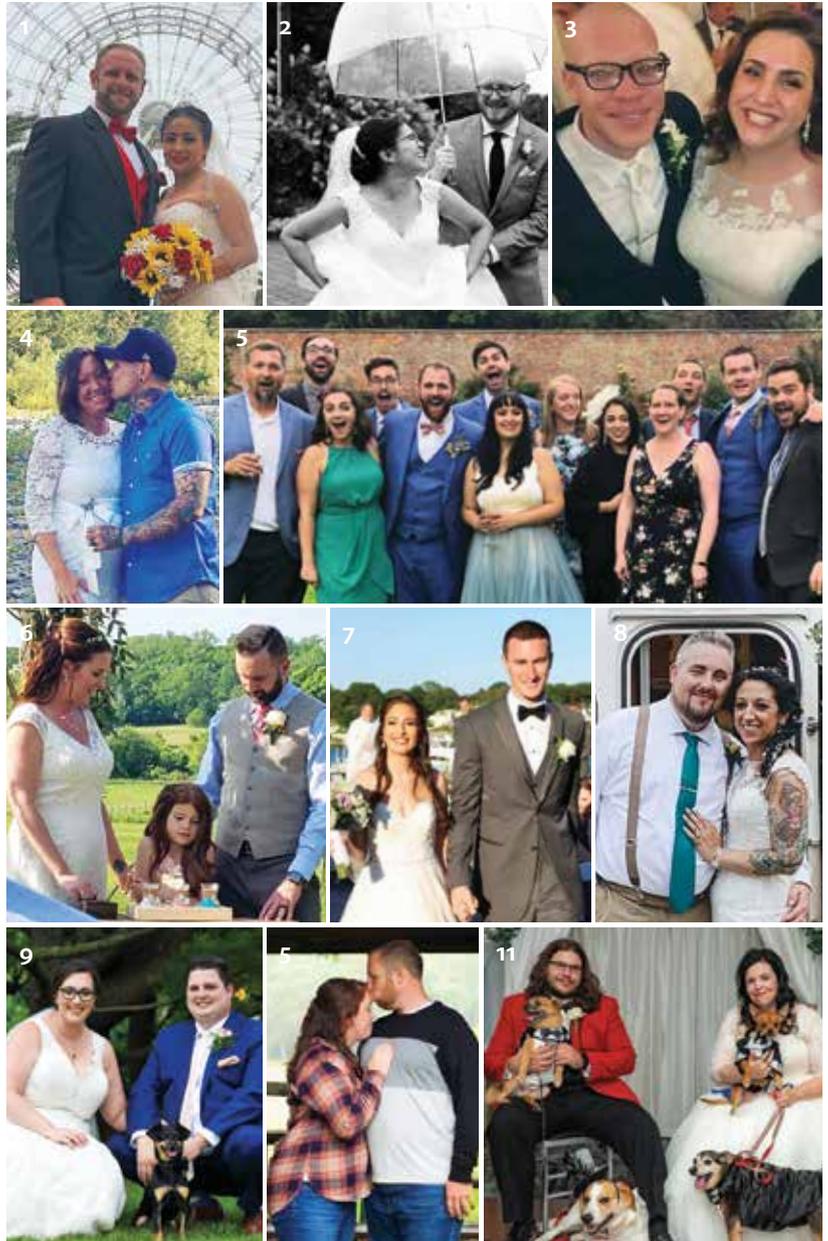
**Greg Harris '93** and his family moved from Delran

to Los Angeles two years ago. They live in the Santa Clarita Valley area and love it.

**Sue Shilling Ottenberg '93** hosts "Everything Special Needs," a radio talk show that invites parents, professionals and individuals in special needs situations to share their stories.

The show airs on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. on 1360 WNJC-AM and on Thursdays from 5-5:30 p.m. on Rowan's 89.7 WGLS-FM. Shilling created the show based on her experience in radio and in raising her 9-year-old daughter, who has autism and is considered nonverbal. Sue and her husband, Howard, and her daughter live in Cherry Hill.

**April Carty-Sipp '93**, the National Association of Broadcasters senior vice president for television and radio, is a board of directors member of the Library of American Broadcasting, which is dedicated to the preservation and access of broadcasting's history. Partnering with the University of Maryland Libraries, LAB is the nation's most extensive collection of broadcast history, policy and tradition. Before joining NAB, she was vice president and director of



### Weddings & engagements

1. Edward Dowdell '07 and Dulce Estrada; note, p. 75.
2. Erica Feliciano Dixon '09 and Kevin Dixon '09; note, p. 76.
3. Gabriele Ward Diaby '14, M'15, Ed.S.'17 and Oumar; note, p. 80.
4. Jamie Grafe Lidberg '06 and Caleb Lidberg; note, p. 75.
5. Adam Chazen '08 and Kate McLaughlin with Constantine Alexakos M'03, Brian Pacek '11, Ashley Zazzarino '10, Paul Russo '12, Thomas Finer '08, Kate McLaughlin, Cindy Lewandowski Finer '08, M'13, Susie Mariduena Barrett '08, Rosie Braude Esposito '08, M'09, Tommy Oceanak '09, Jeff Reeves '08, Adam Bradshaw '11. Note, p. 76.
6. Josh Brenner '06 and Janelle; note, p. 75.
7. Kacie Capozzoli Miller '16 and Ryan Miller '16; note, p. 81.
8. Jon Bouchard '08, M'10 and Maria Ianiro Bouchard; note, p. 75.
9. Sabrina LoBue Selvaggio '12, M'15 and Jason Selvaggio '11; note, p. 79.
10. Alyssa Hart '15 and Scott Cowling Jr.; note, p. 80.
11. Lynda Hinkle Zurlo '91 and Ryan Zurlo; note, this page.

programming at WPVI-6 in Philadelphia. Before that, she held senior management positions at Comcast/NBCUniversal, and NBC Regional Sports Networks. She is a Rowan University Foundation Board of Directors member and previously served on the Rowan University Alumni Executive Board.

**Michael Corcione '94** published a book, *The Bucket Shop*, under the

pseudonym Michael Angelus. The book is about a recent college graduate with extra-large student loan debt who shows up for his job as a rookie sales rep with nothing at all to prepare him for life at a call center. It's available on Amazon.

**Lisa May Weiss '95** and **Michael Weiss '95** have a son who is an Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest rank. Michael

is a software developer with OSISOft in Philadelphia, and Lisa is the executive director of the Southern New Jersey Chapter of the Appraisal Institute. They also have another son.

**Kathie Steinberg Rose '96** married Keith Rose in July 2017.

**William Cowen '97, M'99** is an associate professor at Villanova University and the longtime

director of the public relations program.

**Jennifer Schafhauser Gilbreath '97** is a senior editor with the American Psychiatric Association in Washington, D.C., a position she held from 1999 to 2003.



**Brian Kulak '98, M'12** is a K-5 building administrator in Collingswood. His first book, *Level Up Leadership: Advance Your EduGame*, was published in January.

**Edward Targonski '98** earned an MBA at West Texas A&M University in May.

**Cosmo F. Terrigno '98** is headmaster of Woodland Country Day School in Bridgeton. He is also an adjunct professor at Cumberland County College and a member of the college's Adjunct Advisory Board. He has served on numerous accreditation teams for both the Middle States Association of Elementary Schools and the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. Terrigno is also secretary of the Hug-a-Bear Foundation, which helps children deal with trauma. He earned a master's degree at Villanova University and an educational specialist degree at Seton Hall University.

**Richard Williams '98** was named 2019 New Jersey Football Coaches Association's South Jersey Assistant Coach



**Rohrer accounting community gathers at Business Hall**

The accounting program hosted its third annual Celebrating Success Dinner with alumni, students, faculty, staff and corporate partners. The Accounting Advisory Board honored Kevin Basden '03 and Advisory Board member Leonard Gatti.

1. Thomas Girone, Susan Haggerty, Steven Gessner, Lisa Nessler '20, Amanda Meserall '08, Mackenzie Cunningham '17, Allyson Gallagher '17
2. Mark Errera '16, Deandre Turchi '14, Dan Errera '12
3. Donna Gatti, Leonard Gatti, Larry Salva '77, Rita Salva
4. Ricardo Gomes '17, Michael Addeo '14, Justin Ondrejka '12, Robert Bigelow
5. Jennifer Leisey Sykes '03, Christopher BoWell '12, Nancy Brenner, Annamarie Snitcher, John Cini '18
6. Amanda Meserall '08, Jerry Maginnis, Susan Haggerty



### Run for Rowan 5K raises funds for first-generation students

Runners and walkers from throughout the Rowan community made their steps count for Flying First, an initiative that supports first-generation college students at Rowan University. More than 4,000 Rowan students this year are the first in their family to attend college.

1. Mark Pares M'19, Mireillie Pares '19.
2. FRONT: Yusuf Mehta, Munira Mehta, Tehsin Aurangabadwalla.  
BACK: Sanaa Mehta, Shiraz Mehta.
3. Ciara Sikking '20, Chelsea Haines M'17, Carly Jorgenson '19, Julie Tarrant '20.
4. Jeanine Wedler Dowd '00, M'03, Stevie Hannah, Erin Barney Hannah, Amy Ruymann, Ron Braxton, Stephanie Mosher, Desiree Saraceno M'19, Aly Wedell Baker '12.
5. BACK: Sam Kuciej '19, Jacqueline Aimino '18, Ian McKane '18, Lauren O'Connor.  
FRONT: Patricia Hurley '18, Shauna Hurley.
6. Laura Litrenta Bruhn '99, Tobi Bruhn '98, M'99, Ed.D.'16, Elizabeth Bruhn.
7. Kathy Lange Damiri '89, Peter Damiri '89.
8. CLOCKWISE, FROM PROF: Gina Lemanowicz Pusloski '03, Louis Joyce '72, M'77, Suzanne Smalley Beers '02, Angelique Hilton '15, Anthony Phillips '84.



**Coach wins**

**Richard Williams '98** earned honors from the state Coaches Association. Note, p. 68.

of the Year. He is the offensive line coach at Willingboro High School. Photo, this page.

**Anthony Fitzpatrick '99** is principal of Thomas Edison Elementary and Strawbridge Elementary in Haddon Township.

**00s**



**John Sadak '00, M'03** called his first major league baseball

game, serving as a play-by-play announcer for the New York Mets on WCBS-AM 880 on June 8 at Citi Field. He also called his first NBA games this past season, serving as the TV play-by-play voice for the Chicago Bulls on both WGN-TV and NBC Sports Chicago. Previously, he spent multiple seasons as an NFL announcer for Westwood One radio

and still calls the men's NCAA Tournament early rounds and the women's Final Four for the network, along with the Army-Navy football game.



**Lori Wagoner Donovan M'01** has a stepdaughter,

**Emily Donovan '19**, who donated a kidney to save Lori's life. Lori and Walter Donovan Sr. married in 2010. She also has a stepson. They live in Penns Grove.

**Christopher Hahn '01** published *Sin Made Flesh: The Parable of the Vampire*. Set in 1639 Prussia during the Thirty Years War, the story explores Christian themes within the context of the horror and historical fiction genres in the same way that C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* created allegories of faith within the realm of the fantasy genre. It's available on Amazon.

**Kenneth Whelan '02, M'10** is chief operating officer of Engineered Security Systems, headquartered in Towaco, with offices in Washington, D.C., Chicago and California.

**Susan Glynn Robinson '03** published *When Poke Awoke*, a children's picture book about a hedgehog who learns that being a friend means being true to yourself. The book features rich vocabulary, alliteration, 100+ action words and vibrant images. It's available on Amazon. Photo, p. 75.

**Cheryl Kurn Sacks '03** announces the December birth of Emma. Photo, p. 75.

**David Burruezo '04** and a friend operate Spartan Screenprinting, an award-winning, custom apparel business that offers screen printing and embroidery.

**Denise Kovalevich M'04** owns and operates Dink

Publicity, a boutique PR and marketing agency that focuses on the music/entertainment, restaurant and business sectors. The firm celebrated its fifth anniversary by adding several high-profile bands and artists. For more information, visit [dinkpublicity.com](http://dinkpublicity.com).

**Jack Swiker '04, Adam Bradshaw '11** and **Ed Bauman '11** attended the Cannes Film Festival for a special screening of their award-winning short, "Silence." Swiker directed the film and Bradshaw and Bauman were producers. The short won first place at the 2018 Los Angeles 48 Hour Film Project and was one of 14 project films screened at Cannes. Other alumni who worked on the film are **Jake Chusid '12**, producer; **Tommy Oceanak '09**, director of photography; **Evan Hage '10**, digital imaging technician; **Monique Stout '13**, producer's assistant; and **Christopher Litton '08**, set decorator. Photo, p. 68.

**Angel Aristone '05** is executive vice president of communications for iHeart Media. Previously, she was vice president of communications. Before joining iHeart Media, she was the director of communications with Six Flags. Aristone serves on Rowan's Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has a master's degree from Seton Hall University and is a mentor in Seton Hall's Communication Honors Associates Mentoring



**Engineering celebrates excellence and achievement**

The Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering welcomed alumni and friends to campus for a reception in May. The event honored the graduating class, alumni and the 2019 Medal of Excellence for Alumni Achievement recipient, Noah Gedrimas '12.

Ratan Jha (department head, mechanical engineering), Jacob Cullen '18, Anthony Marino '02, M'03 (chair, Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering Alumni Advisory Council), Noah Gedrimas '12, Jeffrey Miles '02, Tony Lowman (provost), Stephanie Farrell (interim dean)



**Picture a friend**

Susan Glynn Robinson '03 published a picture book. Note, p. 74.

Program. She also serves on the Make-A-Wish New Jersey Chapter's Corporate Council Advisory Board.



**Benjamin Daniel M'05** is director of communications for the Hope Center for College, Community and Justice. The center aims to help students remove barriers to college success.

**John O'Kane '05**, who covers high school wrestling as a correspondent for *The Press of Atlantic City*, received the **John Vogeding '62** Memorial Award from the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. The award recognizes excellence in journalism for contributions to the sport of wrestling. The award is named after the late John Vogeding, longtime wrestling writer for the former *Gloucester County Times* and the *Courier Post*. O'Kane has covered

wrestling for the newspaper since 2005. He helped to increase coverage of the sport by starting individual high school wrestling rankings. He has also appeared often on ESPN Radio in South Jersey to promote the sport. O'Kane, a special education teacher in Galloway Township, has coached the middle school wrestling team for nine years. O'Kane and his wife, Jennifer, live in Galloway and have four children.

**Josh Brenner '06** married Janelle on May 18, 2019. Photo, p. 71.

**Zachary Hayworth '06** is a certified sports agent and advises professional athletes. He earned a master's degree from Duke University in 2018.

**Jamie Grafe Lidberg '06** and her husband, Caleb, married in Alaska in June. They live in Alabama. Photo, p. 71.

**Anthony Magaraci '06** is president of Trinity Packaging Supply, which received an *Inc. Magazine* 2019 Best Workplaces award. The firm also received the award in 2018. Trinity, headquartered in Voorhees, is a wholesale supplier of packaging and shipping supplies with 26 employees and a second location in Newport Beach, Calif.

**Katherine Riepe Scheponik '06, M'07** and her husband, Tom Scheponik, welcomed their second child, Marlo, in October 2018.

She and her family live in Philadelphia, where Katherine is an occupational therapist with Penn Medicine and MossRehab. Photo, this page.

**Edward Dowdell '07** married Dulce Estrada in

March outside Orlando, Fla. Photo, p. 71.

**Jon Bouchard '08, M'10** married Maria Ianiro Bouchard at the Estate at Eagle Lake in Chesterfield. Jon's nephew, **Jacob Snodgrass '23**, served as a groomsman and his



**Rowan babies**

- Mia, daughter of **Thuy Vo '10** Nguyen Ton; note, p. 79
- Marlo, daughter of Tom and **Katherine Riepe Scheponik '06, M'07**; note, this page.
- Leo, son of **Jessica Ortuso Kanady '08, M'15** and **Brian Kanady '08**; note, p. 76.
- Anna, granddaughter of **MaryLynne Montesano Perkins '76**; note, p. 64.
- Dylan, son of Lonnie and **Lauren Gregg Tegen '13**. Note, p. 80.
- Zachary, son of **Emily Ruggieri Clayton '11** and **Robert Clayton '09**. Note, p. 79.
- Emma, daughter of **Cheryl Kurn Sacks '03** and **Ryan Sacks**; note, p. 74.
- Blane, son of **Jennifer Besthoff Berezansky '13, M'15** and **Joseph Berezansky '11, M'18**; note, p. 80.
- Henry, son of **Jason Nothdurft '12** and **Rachel Sprock Nothdurft**; note, p. 79.

## class notes

brother-in-law, **Matthew Snodgrass '95**, officiated. Photo, p. 71.

**Adam Chazen '08** married Kate McLaughlin on June 29 at Garthmyl Hall in Montgomery, United Kingdom. Chazen, a visual effects producer and seven-time Emmy winner, met his wife in Northern Ireland during production

of HBO's "Game of Thrones." The wedding party included **Thomas Finer '08**, **Jeff Reeves '08** and **Paul Russo '12** and Rowan guests included **Constantine Alexakos M'03**, **Brian Pacek '11**, **Ashley Zazzarino '10**, **Cindy Lewandowski Finer '08**, **M'13**, **Susie Mariduena Barrett '08**, **Rosie Braude Esposito '08**, **M'09**, **Tommy**

**Oceanak '09** and **Adam Bradshaw '11**. Photo, p. 71.

**Jessica Ortuso Kanady '08**, **M'15** and **Brian Kanady '08** announce the January 27 birth of Leo. Photo, p. 75.

**Erica Feliciano Dixon '09** and **Kevin Dixon '09** were married in September 2018 at the Sussex County Fairgrounds Conservatory. Photo, p. 71.

**Kate Gamble '09** is the content strategist for the Consumer Finance Institute at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Previously, she was the marketing director for a local law firm. Kate also serves on the Rowan University Alumni Board of Directors and is a member of the Rowan University MA in



### Bar A reunion brings grads together again

Graduates spanning classes from more than four decades at Glassboro State and Rowan gathered at Bar-A in Lake Como for the annual alumni night out at the shore.

1. Alexis Emery '19, Liz Lopresti '19, Steph Cardoza '19, Marisa Rios '19
2. Matthew Petosa '16, Madison Crane '19
3. Keith Molloy '85, Tom Skevin '83, Kathy Kunze Molloy '83, M'85, Steve McRae '84
4. George Carfi, Janice Goman Carfi '78, Karen Petillo Larned '78, Rich Larned, Kathy Stiefbold Van Benschoten '78

5. BACK: Jake Ebner '19, Sebastian Moreno, Joe Cirrincione '18, MIDDLE: Nick Ganas, Nick Reagan '19, Darius Yogi Anderson '19, Danny Scaramella '17, FRONT: Michael Murphy, Jake Pisano '19, Erica Pisano '19, Jeizel Hernandez '19, Edisson Ramos '17
6. Arianne Bascara '18, Amber Busher '18, Brian Satterlee '18, Rose-Ann Rosario '19
7. Jennifer Margiloff '16, M'18, Nicole Podraza '16
8. Adelyn Simeone '18, Madison Agostini '19, Laura Graziano '18, Emma Stark '18

## Running on passion and pride

Suzanne Smalley Beers '02 vividly remembers the fateful day that she received a dreaded call from her doctor that changed her life: "You have cancer." She was 23 years old, barely a year out of college.

"We think it's lymphoma," she recalled her doctor telling her. She was devastated, unsure what it meant or how the diagnosis in July 2003 would drastically change her perspective on life.

"It felt like it came out of nowhere," she said.

Beers learned a week later that she had Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the part of the immune system called the lymphatic system. She began six months of chemotherapy treatment that did not require radiation or surgery. Her hair and eye brows fell out. She remained upbeat and found solace in dancing with friends on weekends.

By February 2004, her cancer was in remission. It would take another year before she felt like her old self.

It would not only change her life, but also inspire her to seek a new career path. Sixteen years later, as she described in her Facebook profile, she is a wife, mother, runner, cancer survivor and so much more.

Beers, who holds dual bachelor's degrees in communication/public relations and music, landed her first job—with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Peter Nero and the Philly Pops in customer service—when she was diagnosed. She later moved into health care fundraising at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital and eventually the Fox Chase Cancer Center where she could pursue her passion: helping others in the fight against cancer.

"It's just trying to help stop cancer from taking so many amazing people out of this world," Beers said. "My goal has always been to make an impact. This is the way I thought I could do it."

Today, she is the director of development at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center in



*At Homecoming 2018, Suzanne Smalley Beers, her husband, Kale, and twins JD and Kimmie were right at home. Suzanne's family ties weave through education and career at her alma mater.*

Philadelphia, part of the Thomas Jefferson University Health System, where she raises funds for cutting-edge cancer research. She solicits large gifts from donors who share her desire to assist with treatment, research and support. She serves as vice chair for the National Association of Cancer Center Development Officers, comprised of fundraisers from across the country and Canada.

"I'm a very mission-driven person. To do a career that I believe strongly in and raise money for a cause and an institution—that's really important," she said.

She has demonstrated the same commitment on the Rowan University Alumni Board of Directors, where she is completing her eighth and final year. Now, immediate past president, she served as president from 2017 to June 2019. She has been a staunch advocate, promoting the University and generating alumni support.

"The entire Rowan community could be inspired by her journey," said Chris D'Angelo '07, M '10, director of Alumni Engagement. "I don't think she takes anything for granted. She knows what matters and she digs in to get it done."

Beers grew up in Washington Township, Gloucester County, and says enrolling in a school in her back yard was the right decision. Her father, Jim, stressed the importance of education. Her sister, Lisa, '13, followed at Rowan as an accounting major. Her mother, Janet, is the administrative assistant for Interim Athletic Director John Giannini.

She has fond memories of campus days with the Rowan Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Rowan Radio (where she was the rock music director), and the Public Relations Student Society of America. Rowan is also where she became an avid runner.

Also important to Beers is family. She met her husband, Kale, a fellow runner, in 2006 at a race in Philadelphia. She was reluctant initially to share her brush with cancer with him. What if the cancer came back? Or she couldn't have children?

The couple hit it off and enjoyed running marathons. He dismissed her health concerns and they married in April 2010. Suzanne gave birth in 2014 to twins Kimmie and James David (JD) through vitro fertilization.

"She is a completely amazing person, all-around," said Kale, director of athletic development at La Salle University. "She's an outstanding human being."

Kale helped transform Beers from an amateur runner into a serious competitor to pursue her dream to run a marathon. She has completed Philadelphia's 10-mile Broad Street Run six times.

Beers said Kale's involvement at his alma mater inspired her to get involved at Rowan. With two small children, she found time to juggle the demands of serving on the board.

"My intentions were to share how great my education was. I was just really proud of that," she said.

—Melanie Burney '84



**New dad and grad**

Rebekah Marine Paster '10 and Jared Paster DO'19 celebrate with little Jackson. Note, p. 79.

Strategic Communication Advisory Committee.

**Erin Gordon '09** is a goalie on the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay electric wheelchair hockey team. Two other Rowan student team members are forwards Lea Donaghy and Alex Pitts. The team won the 2019 Power-hockey Canada Cup by defeating the Toronto Toros 4-3. In 2018, they won the North American Powerhockey Cup. The team, which started in 2003, was adopted by the Flyers in 2017, becoming the first power hockey team affiliated with an NHL team. The nonprofit Philadelphia PowerPlay was founded to provide an athletic and social environment for people who use power wheelchairs

in their daily lives. For more information, visit [PhildaelphiaPowerPlay.com](http://PhildaelphiaPowerPlay.com).

**Susan Huaccamayta '09** is a bilingual civil rights investigator for the state Division on Civil Rights. She mainly investigates violations of the state's Law Against Discrimination and the Family Leave Act. She is also a real estate agent in Atlantic City and serves on the board of the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County.

children's socks, shoes, stockings and other clothing to keep them from falling. Dolbier, who studied business at Rowan, got the inspiration for Sticky Feet from her daughters' struggles to stay upright as they tried to walk. She got help and encouragement from her sister-in-law, Lauren Vicari, and her husband, Jeff, a finance and accounting major in college who runs a roofing business. Products are sold on [stickyfeetshop.com](http://stickyfeetshop.com). She also maintains an Instagram page, [@stickyfeetshop](https://www.instagram.com/stickyfeetshop).

**Stephanie McAllister Downey '10** and **Sean Downey '10** announce the May 13 birth of Fiona.

**Krystle Ellis Lockman '10**, her husband and a partner, opened Axe & Arrow Brewing, a microbrewery, in April in Glassboro.

**Kae Lani Kennedy Palmisano '10**, a food and travel editor with *USA Today's* travel publication, *10Best*, will host "Check, Please!" on WHY-TV starting in January. For each episode, three local residents pick a favorite restaurant and are assigned each other's choices. After dining anonymously, they appear on the show to discuss their experiences. The show will include visits to area restaurants Bing Bing Dim Sum, Vernick, Little Fish, Sate Kompar, Hardena, Zeppoli, Victor Café and Vedge.

# 10s

**Lauren Gibbins Dolbier '10** created and markets Sticky Feet, adhesive soles that can be ironed onto the bottom of

# HOW TO HELP

**RISING: The Campaign for Rowan University is an opportunity for Rowan alumni, friends, faculty, staff and students to rise together to shape the future of our beloved institution! Here are some practical ways you can help:**



**ATTEND** Join us at one of our regional campaign celebrations. Connect with fellow Profs, hear about the future of your alma mater directly from President Houshmand and discover more ways to **take an active role in Rowan's continued growth**. See page 60 for more information.



**FOLLOW** Connect with us on social media to keep tabs on university news, campaign updates and alumni programs and services. **Share these updates, along with your Rowan story, using #RISEwithRowan and #RowanRISING.**



**VOLUNTEER** Without the passion, pride and care that alumni have for Rowan—and the skills, experiences and talents that volunteers bring—the University would not continue to thrive for generations of students. **Visit [alumni.rowan.edu/help](http://alumni.rowan.edu/help) to explore volunteer opportunities.**



**GIVE** Gifts of all sizes will help achieve the campaign goal and further develop a culture of philanthropy at Rowan University. **Make a tax-deductible donation today by visiting [go.rowan.edu/SupportRowan](http://go.rowan.edu/SupportRowan).** To learn about planned giving options, contact Brittany Petrella at 856-256-5419 or [petrella@rowan.edu](mailto:petrella@rowan.edu).

**Rebekah Marine Paster '10** and **Jared Paster DO'19** married in April 2018 and welcomed their first child, Jackson, in March. Rebekah, known as the “Bionic Model,” was born without a right forearm below the elbow and uses a high-tech prosthetic arm that mimics muscle movements. Rebekah, who was featured in “40 Under 40” in *Rowan Magazine's* summer 2016 issue and received the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award in September, appeared on a taped episode of “Say Yes to the Dress” just before her son was born. Jared is in an emergency medicine residency. Photo, p. 78.

**Thuy Vo '10** and **Nguyen Ton** welcomed Mia on March 12. Photo, p. 75.

**Emily Ruggieri Clayton '11** and **Robert Clayton '09** welcomed their first child, Zachary, on March 19. Photo, p. 75.



**Michael Ricardo DO'11** is an assistant professor

in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Rowan SOM. Previously, he was a faculty member in the department of OB/GYN at Drexel University College of Medicine. He completed an OB/GYN residency in Long Island and a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. His wife, Maria, is a pediatric dentist and an associate professor at Temple University.

**Cori Tucker '11** (Alpha Epsilon Pi) and **Felipe Olguin '11** (Sigma Pi) got engaged this summer in Italy. They met in spring 2008 when they joined their Greek organizations. They plan to wed in November.



**Matt Nelson '12** is an announcer for the Harlem Globetrotters. He has traveled to 24 states and two Canadian provinces. He also fills in as a public address announcer for the Lakewood BlueClaws, an affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, and for the Somerset Patriots of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball.

**Jason Nothdurft '12** and his wife, Dr. Rachel Sprock Nothdurft, announce the April 12 birth of Henry Photo, p. 75.

**Sabrina LoBue Selvaggio '12, M'15** and **Jason Selvaggio '11** were married in Basking Ridge in June. Photo, p. 71.



**Alec Zierten '12** works in a program management position at Google where he is responsible for forecasting global demand and supply. Previously, he worked for six years at Johnson and Johnson in various roles.

**Jennifer Besthoff Berezansky '13, M'15** and **Joseph Berezansky '11, M'18** welcomed their first child, Blane, in December. Photo, p. 75.



## ISABELLA KNAPP '20

Elementary Education and Literacy Studies,  
Teachers for Students with Disabilities Endorsement

## CHANGING A STUDENT'S LIFE

**Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University is an opportunity for alumni and friends to help ensure rising possibilities for Rowan students.**

As a sophomore, Isabella Knapp '20 was chosen as the second recipient for The Clifford V. Presser and Jane Gullet Presser '47 Endowed Scholarship Fund—and it changed her life forever.

She received much more than financial support from her scholarship donor, Jane Presser '47—she gained a mentor and a friend. After receiving the award, Knapp's thank you letter to Presser ignited a unique friendship. Although 50 years span between the two, letters and visits keep them connected, along with the impact Presser's gift has had on Knapp's time as a student.

***“Without such a heavy financial burden on my shoulders, I was able to work fewer hours and be more present in campus activities that I love like Rowan Unified Sports. My scholarship gave me the time I needed to have a true Rowan experience, and also a special person I am very grateful to know.”***

Knapp will graduate in May 2020 and plans to begin her teaching career in a special education classroom. She also looks forward to returning to Rowan to earn her master's degree with an area of specialization that will allow her to positively impact as many students as possible.

*For more information about how your support can change the lives of Rowan students like Isabella, or to make a gift online, please visit:*

**GO.ROWAN.EDU/SUPPORTROWAN**



**Performance plan**

Janay Hair '14 at work in Taos, New Mexico. Note, this page.

**Jennifer Wallen Borisenko '13** and **Max Borisenko '13** announce the June 21 birth of Andrew.

**Kimberly Jones '13** teaches in a Bridgeton elementary school.

**Melissa Giunta Northup '13** was named the 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year at Martin Luther King Elementary School in Edison Township. Photo, p. 81.

**Harold Reign '13** is a supply chain supervisor for Cornerstone Building Brands, a manufacturer of exterior building products.

**Meghan Sickler '13** was named Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year at the Grice Middle School in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. Photo, p. 81.

**Lauren Gregg Tegen '13** and her husband,

Lonnie, announce the April 29 birth of Dylan. Photo, p. 75.

**Gabriele Ward Diaby '14, M'15, Ed.S.'17** is a school psychologist in Tenafly. She and her husband, Oumar, married in 2018. Photo, p. 71.

**Janay Hair '14** lives in Taos, N.M., where she is working on a 10-year plan to improve the community's performing arts program. Her first effort was in May, acting in a play, "Brilliant Traces," written by Cindy Lou Johnson. The play is about an intensive encounter between two people during a blizzard in the wilds of Alaska. She hopes to begin hosting auditioned community vocal ensembles by the end of the year. Photo, this page.

**Christopher Massari '15** joined the international soccer organization,



**Alumnae field trip**

Hallie Wilmes, Erin Anderson and Nicole Velez, all '18, capture a moment in Utah. Note, p. 81.

EDP, as content manager for the marketing team.

**Alyssa Hart '15** will marry her best friend, Scott Cowling Jr., in November. Photo, p. 71.

**Sena Pottackal '15** received a 2019 New York Women in Communications scholarship and internship in May. At the time she received the award, Pottackal, who is blind, was a graduate student in

the NYU School of Professional Studies completing the PR and corporate communications master's degree program. The annual scholarships go to graduating high school seniors, undergraduates and graduate students who achieve academic excellence in their area of study and intend to pursue or further a communications career.

**Peter Yanefski '15** and **Megan Walsh Yanefski '14** moved into their new home in Pitman.

**Cassie Aran '16** and **Brandon Lucante '16**, who operate Cookie Munchers in Glassboro, have expanded the business with a second location near the University of South Florida in Tampa. They chose Tampa because of the large student population.

**Michael Bortnowski '16** is manager of community and patient engagement at a federally qualified health center. He also serves on the Pennsauken Board of



**Profs represent at Philadelphia Union match**

Rowan welcomed alumni and friends to the Alumni Association's first Major League Soccer event in August.

1. Kaitlee Francisco '19, Ryan Francisco '19, Mariah Francisco '16, M'18
2. Catherine Sampson '99, Roscoe Sampson
3. Krista Baker, Scott Baker '94
4. Alyssa Gautieri '16, Anas Muhamed '16, Matthew Oldland '16, Eric Guidarelli '16, Jeff Welder '16





### Top-notch teachers

More Rowan educators win more Teacher of the Year honors: Meghan Sickler '13 and Melissa Giunta Northup '13. Notes, p. 80.

Education, the Pollution Control Financing Authority and the Pennsauken Alliance Against Substance Abuse. He and his wife, Leyla, married in 2017 and have one child.

**Erin Callahan '16**, who teaches third grade in Maryland's Anne Arundel County, bought her first home in Baltimore and is working toward her second master's degree in special education at Western Governors University.

**Kacie Capozzoli Miller '16** and **Ryan Miller '16** married in September 2018 and bought their first home this summer. Photo, p. 71.

**Sarah Kalvaitis '17** and **Ricky Schuh '16** got engaged in May and are planning a fall 2020 wedding. Sarah and Ricky first met at Rowan Radio and have been inseparable ever since.

**Teresa Mahler '17** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice in May with a

master of social work degree, specializing in child welfare and well-being.



**Manuel "Mani" Rodriguez '17**, a CPA, is a staff accountant at Wheeler Wolfenden and Dwares, CPAs, a full-service firm with two offices in Delaware. The company was named a 2018 Best of the Best CPA firm by INSIDE Public Accounting.

**Morgan Fell '18** is a preschool teacher and loves every minute.

**Abigail Gardner '18, M'19** teaches at the F.W. Holbein Middle School in Mount Holly, where she is starting the school's first theatre program.

**Brandon Graham '18, Sherman Hartman '19** and **Jon Penner '10, M'18** founded their company, Arke Aeronautics, in 2017. Arke's initial product gives law enforcement, emergency medical providers and firefighters a live video stream of a scene while they're en route by sending it from

a drone to a smartphone. This allows the first responders to see what they'll face and decide how to handle a situation before they arrive on the scene. Graham is Arke's CEO, Hartman is the chief technology officer and Penner is CFO.

**Taylor Henry '18** has published *Wildwoods Houses Through Time*, a book about the architectural history of the four Wildwood boroughs. Henry is a Wildwood Historical Society board member and curates an Instagram blog, @TinyChurchesNJ, about New Jersey's religious architecture. Her book is available on Amazon.



**Stephen Luppino '18** is a structural engineer with Titan Engineers. He earned a master's degree in engineering from Lehigh University.

**Steven Spirn '18** is a civil engineer at E.E. Cruz & Company Inc., a heavy civil construction contractor based in New York City. He is working on a

master's in engineering management at Rowan.

**Hallie Wilmes '18** works at the Salt Lake County Center for the Performing Arts and the Utah Symphony. She, **Erin Anderson '18** and **Nicole Velez '18** enjoyed a trip to Utah's Arches National Park.

**Rylan Lynch '19** teaches English at Cherokee High School in Marlton.

**Christian Marcy '19**, who completed his undergraduate degree in just three years, is a software engineer at JP Morgan Chase Bank.

**Sriram Mohanakanthan '19** received a 2019 Luce 24 Under 24 award from the James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation in July. The awards recognize young game-changers who are making innovative contributions to humanity. Sriram is a data analyst and modeling intern with Gold Group Enterprises in Glassboro. While at Rowan, he interned with the Glassboro Housing Authority and was a member of the Accounting Society, the Financial Management Association and the Concert Band.

**Hannah Ocasio '19** served in Berlin, Germany, this summer as a volunteer with the HOPE Youth Corps, a faith-based, service-learning program that is helping Syrian refugees in Berlin integrate and thrive in Germany. The program helps resolve legal issues, teaches English and German and renovates the refugee camp.

# Remembrances

Fond eulogies of campus friends offered by AFT colleagues

## **Bruce Foster**

### *Reading*

Bruce H. Foster, 76, of Mays Landing, passed away unexpectedly on July 22. A member of the department of reading, Dr. Foster came to then-Glassboro State College in 1970 and retired from Rowan University as professor in 2005.

A resident of Mays Landing for most of his life, he was a 1959 graduate of Vineland High School. He then earned his B.A. from Trenton State College, M.S.Ed. from Bucknell University and Ed.D. from Florida State University.

Dr. Foster was an active member of St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Ocean City. He enjoyed working with children as a teacher, mentor and coach. He has been described as a friend to many and as one who leaves a legacy of literacy.

He was predeceased by Cathleen, his wife of 51 years, and his son David. Bruce is survived by his son Robert (Debra); daughter-in-law Shari; his sister Joanne (Bob); and sister-in-law Linda (Alan), and four grandchildren.

A viewing and service were held at the Boakes Funeral Home of Mays Landing. Burial followed at Union Cemetery in Mays Landing.

## **John Mullens**

### *Campbell Library*

John William Mullens Jr., 76, of Wenonah, passed away on June 25. He was an active member of the AFT Retirees Chapter and frequently attended meetings. John and his wife, Cindy, were honored upon their retirement from Campbell Library at an AFT recent retirees reception in September of 2012.

John held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Belmont College in Nashville and a Master of Divinity from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. He served in the Air Force from 1961 to 1965. He was also a volunteer fireman and a member of the American Legion and served as chaplain for these and other organizations.

Starting at Glassboro State College as a part-time employee at then-Savitz Library, John soon advanced to full time as assistant programmer. In 1994 he became computer systems manager and helped guide the challenging move into the new Campbell Library, overseeing the installation of upgraded computers and telephone services, among other technological duties. John also served as advisor to the International Cultural Society.

John is survived by his wife Cynthia Mullens, his sons, John Mullens (Susan) and Frank Mullens (Katherine), nine grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services were held at the Southwood Baptist Church of West Deptford. John's younger son, Frank, a Navy captain, delivered the moving eulogy. Interment followed at Wenonah Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to Samaritan's Hospice of NJ—[samaritannj.org/giving](http://samaritannj.org/giving) or Global Good Bakery at 31238 N. 41st St. Cave Creek AZ 85331, or online at [globalgoodbakery.com/give](http://globalgoodbakery.com/give).

## **Donald Zimmerman**

### *Elementary and*

### *Early Childhood Education*

Donald Drew Zimmerman, 87, of Pitman, passed away at home on February 15. He was an active member of the AFT Retirees chapter and enjoyed attending chapter meetings.

He held a B.S. and M.S. from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and an Ed.D. from Temple University. He was also a Navy Reserve officer during his college years and beyond for 16 years.

Don was a dedicated member of the department of elementary and early childhood education for 31 productive years, helping students become educators while working in the Teacher Corps project supporting new teachers to Camden.

Well known as a talented trumpet player and musician, Don entertained many here and abroad with his band. He also played with many other great bands, including the Michael Carney Orchestra of Manhattan.

A member of the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, Don participated in the choir, played his horn and served as deacon and elder. He also served as a board member for the Week Day Preschool.

Don is survived by his wife of 63 years, Cleo (Beeman) Zimmerman, daughters Laura DeMarco, Beth (James) Martin, and Lisa (Thomas) Fisher, along with seven grandchildren.

A service celebrating his life was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman. Those who wish may donate in Don's memory to the First Presbyterian Church Building Fund. Arrangements were by Kelley Funeral Home.

## Stay in touch

Start a new job? Take a trip? Get married? Do something fun? Share your Class Note and photo a couple ways: Post your note and photo (online only) through the Alumni Association Online Community. Visit [alumni.rowan.edu](http://alumni.rowan.edu) to register. Click on new user and enter your name, birth date and Alumni ID (from the *Rowan Magazine* mailing label) and choose a username and password. Or send your submission to [alumni@rowan.edu](mailto:alumni@rowan.edu).

## Our sympathies

Jennie Mokrynski '43	Susan Pims Ott '71	Beatrice Campbell Griffith '84
Sara Foster Roberts '43	Elizabethl Sandt '71	James Leahy '86
Shirley Tubman Falchetta '46	Frances Blum '72, M'76	Edward Myers '86
Constance Clinton '47	Robert Corson M'72	Wendy Esher '89
Marie Cipolla Doyle '47	Pamela Sweeney Hart '72	Sujen Croman '90
Dr. Lawrence Winchell '49	Lynn Ingemi '72	Marilyn Goldstine '90
Dorothy Moorhead	Charles Shafer '72, M'77	Barbara Cissone M'92
Hendree '51, M'73	Francesco Sieri '72	Robert King '94
Dorris McDuffie '51	John Thomas M'72	Dawn Meis Meis-Glines '95
Conrad Rahme '51	George Bulotovich M'73	Dorothy Houser Adler '95
Helene Dimeglio '53	Elaine Crown Friedman '73	Michele Booth Kreisman M'96
Chester Ogden '54, M'59	Doris Kelly '73	Joanne Smith '96
Johanna Buchholtz	Elizabeth Burket	Nancy Vasquez '96, M'02
Rodriguez '54	Kielbowicz M'73	Thomas Kelleher '97
Joan Burnett '55	Janet Vogel Fitzgerald '74	Hugh McGlashan '97
Valerie Tyler '55	Eric Gibson '74	John Palmieri '97
Mary Brigandi	Edward Johnson M'74	Scott Schumann '98
Morganweck '60	Mary Humbert Mintzer M'74	George Rogers '01
Joyce Lovejoy '61	Christine Petro Salava '74	Meredith Tsue Grodin D'03
Joseph Albano '62	Irwin Woolf M'74	Casey Brennan '04
Matthew Cianci '63	Charles Damico '75	Paul Abbamondi '05
David Harrington '63	Ruth Knowles '75	Anthony Paladino '05
Karen Lautenschlaeger	Anthony Samulis '75	Lee Phillips M'09
McGregor '61, M'63	Charles Daniel '76	Nicole Hilliard '18
Peter Mitchell '63	Phyllis Baker '77	Jillian Scarangelli '18
Dianne Chell Winegardner '63	Richard Devine '77	Ceara Regan '19
Albert Hobbs '64	Arlene Feidt '77	
Leigh MacDuff '64	Helen Pennington '77	<b>Faculty and friends</b>
Harriett Cumback Miller '64	Mary Garvey Ryder '77	Verda Cline
Jean Dale '65	Marion Goetz Anson '78	Theresa Cone
Charles Pierson '65	William Huff '78	Bruce Foster
Edward Saler '65	Kathleen Mason '78	Stu McGee
John Wiczoreck '66, M'72	Joseph Monaghan '78	
Elizabeth Gillespie '67	Michael Infanti '79	
Jane Nothnick Pinotti '67	Dennis Sample '79	
Rebecca Tiger Connors '68	Donna Garrison Shinn '79	
Janet Stiles Edie '68	Bonnie Lyndt '80	
Mary Shoemaker	Stan Warkoczewski M'80	
Allen '69, M'77	Christina Mcnally '81	
Janet Staub '69	Joan H. Sless '81	
Howard Allen M'70	William Fabris '82	
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## what's news?

We have three ways for you to share your brown and gold news:

- submit this Class Notes form
- email your update to [alumni@rowan.edu](mailto:alumni@rowan.edu)
- or submit your class notes and photos online at [alumni.rowan.edu/classnotes](http://alumni.rowan.edu/classnotes).

**To submit your Class Note (and photo), please complete form, attach photo and an additional page if needed (photos will not be returned).**

**Please provide the following information for verification (it will not be published).**

FULL NAME GRAD YEAR

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CITY STATE ZIP CODE

EMPLOYER/OCCUPATION

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This is a new address/phone. Please update my record.

Mail this completed form to:  
Alumni Engagement Office, Shpeen Hall,  
40 North Academy Street, Glassboro, NJ 08028

# Room at the table for everyone

By Patricia Quigley '78, M'03

*Patricia Quigley is an assistant director of Media & Public Relations at Rowan University. Her slow cooker is always ready for dinner duty.*

**N**o matter what your faith tradition is, odds are that you and your fellow believers love carbs.

This is one of the things I've learned from gathering around a table to share a meal with students and colleagues who are part of Rowan University's Interfaith Council.

Imagine the spread: pizzas, stromboli, naan, challah, samosas and more. Okay, there was a salad. It had something chip-like on top of it. As I said, people of every faith love carbs.

I'm a staff advisor to Rowan's Campus Catholic Ministry (also known as Newman Club), so I've had the privilege to get to know other advisors, clergy, e-board reps and students from three Protestant groups, two Jewish organizations and our Muslim student group. I've been impressed by the way these Rowan employees and students of varying beliefs have come together honestly and patiently and in a welcoming manner as part of the Interfaith Council.

The Council is a few years old, one of the initiatives of the Office of Social Justice, Inclusion & Conflict Resolution. As the name promises, SJICR is on a mission to build understanding, relationships and respect.

At a state school, in a secular environment, at times when some of us may feel like "other" for caring about a Supreme Being, it impresses me that Rowan has this interfaith organization.

But that is just one part of a bigger picture to me: our school, this place where I have worked for more than 20 years—and attended more than 40 years ago—has become an institution that embraces all people, regardless of gender, physical abilities, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, faith or many other characteristics and outlooks.

We are our own little New Jersey melting pot of people from all backgrounds. While we may not be as diverse as, say, an NYU, we do become more so each year. We are a collection of stories, of trials, of triumphs. We are family, with all that entails.

Breaking bread together means that we're also breaking barriers. Getting to know each other better isn't always easy. We're tentative in some ways. Our beliefs are, in many cases, very different, and no one wants to tread on anyone else's toes. There's a tacit understanding: no sermons, no finger pointing, no "my way or the highway."

I like these people, and I hope to learn from them, to grow in understanding, to become more open and tolerant.

The Interfaith Council is just one example of the wide welcome Rowan offers throughout the institution. Our academic community fosters openness and support.

Our school also demands respect from us for others. Yes, as individuals we fall short at times. Yes, we sometimes cling to people who look or sound or think like us.

But there's a home for all kinds of people at Rowan University. Everyone is welcome to attend, to observe, to learn.

And when the body is eager for dinner and the mind craves a thoughtful discussion, I know of at least one table where there's room for more hungry friends—carb lovers, especially. ■





**Dr. Jennifer Caudle** sees patients in our Sewell Family Medicine office. She can often be seen lending her medical expertise on local and national TV, including Fox News and CBS3 Philly and The Dr. Oz Show.

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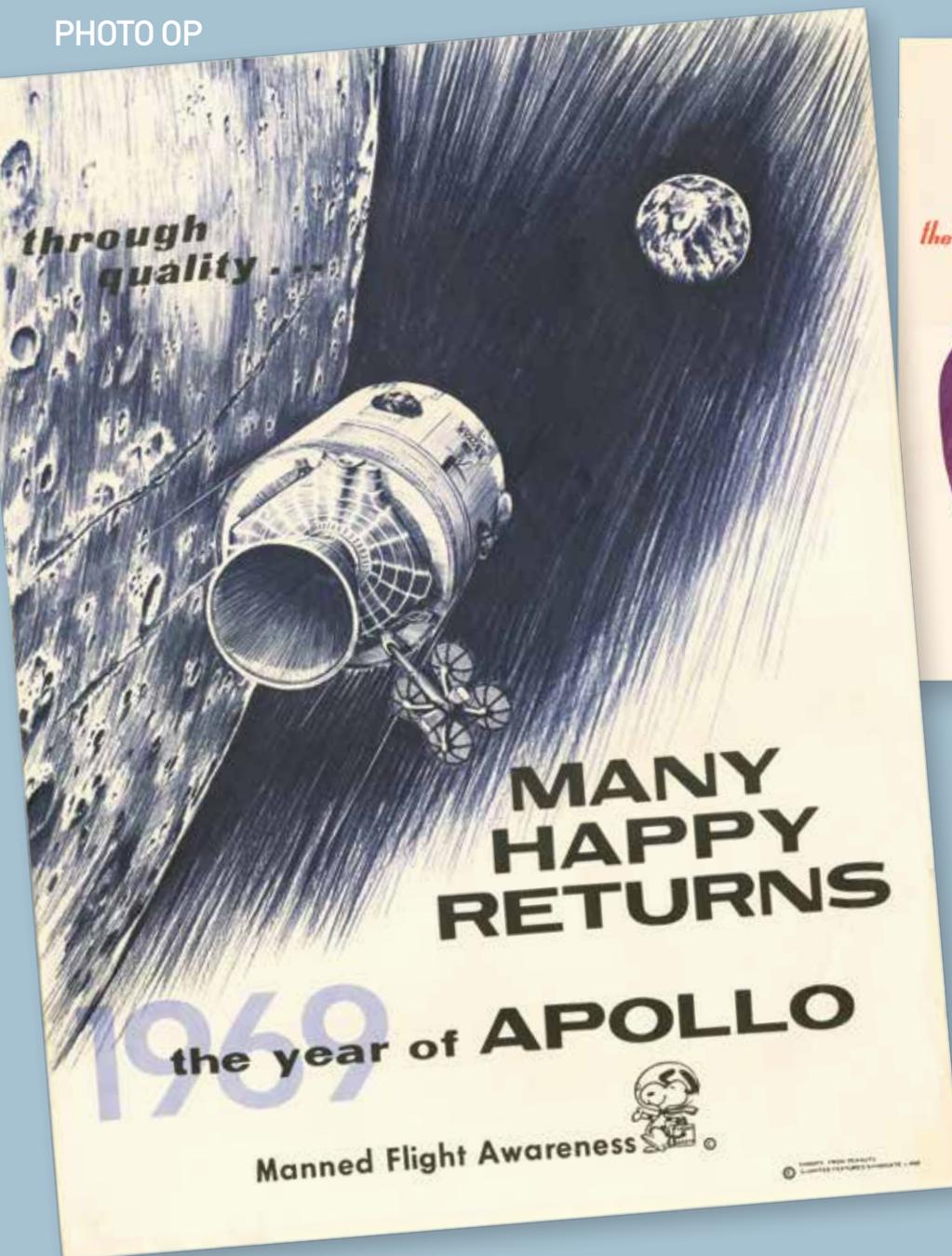
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## PHOTO OP



### Space for everyone

Part of the RCA Heritage Museum collection at Rowan, commemorative posters captured the 1969 moon landing marvel. Ironically, they feature hand-drawn sketches of the space mission even though RCA camera technology made it possible for the world to watch on television in near-real time what the astronauts did 230,000 miles away.

Today, space innovations are part of everyday life. NASA's next-generation GPS guides wanderers around the globe. Rowan medical students learn to use tiny cameras and transmitters to monitor patients' internal organs.

And LED technology lights up the heavens on the Edelman Planetarium dome, bringing the wonder and sense of possibility to school kids and college students exploring for a new era.