

Message from the Dean

Once again Rowan goes through a new transformation by redefining itself and its mission. This time the University



introduces a major focus on biomedical and health science initiatives and, accordingly, reorganizes its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and establishes a new School of Biomedical Sciences (SBS)

In July, after 29 proud years, CLAS transforms into two separate and distinct colleges—College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) and, together with SBS, providing a unique opportunity to Rowan as well as to its science and technology based programs.

This semester, the College continued its progress toward a number of strategic goals. We inaugurated Hollybush Institute for the study of the Cold War, established the Museum of Anthropology at Rowan University, started a new faculty mentoring program, and implemented the internationalization initiative among others. Productive collaborations were established with foreign universities and international pharmaceutical companies, and new postdocs were recruited to our research intensive undergraduate programs.

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Waves of Change this Summer for CLAS

On July 1, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will become two distinct colleges—the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). This brings an end to a highly successful College of Liberal Arts and Sciences after more than 29 years. Now, we celebrate the hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff members of the CLAS during its long and successful tenure and embrace the new opportunities and challenges the new colleges propose.

Already recognized as the largest college on campus, adding two new departments, nursing and biomedical sciences and engineering, would have expanded the College to 16 departments, when most other colleges have only a third of departments at the most. As not to compromise the future growth and success of this larger academic unit, the University made the decision to split the College into two units that could serve the students more effectively, respond to the changing demands of the job market quicker and develop new initiatives more efficiently. The recently added departments will join the new School of Biomedical Sciences.

What does this restructure mean? For faculty, more availability for cross-disciplinary collaborations and interdisciplinary teaching and research, particularly in CSM, and more joint appointments. For students, opportunities for new multidisciplinary majors combining expertise and knowledge from different departments. CSM's goal is to be at the avant-garde in terms of developing new, forward-looking professional and science programs that will make our graduates competitive in the job market.

School of Biomedical Sciences

In more exciting transitions and additions, the School of Biomedical Sciences (SBS) arrives on campus this fall. It's mission? To attract and retain the best and brightest scholars in biomedical sciences by offering bio health and biomedical based programs. These types of programs help to better prepare students for admission into medical and health profession schools and graduate programs.



New School of Biomedical Sciences will prepare students for careers in health and medical fields

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STEM Symposium enters 15th year showcasing student talent

The 15th year of displaying innovative and intellectual outcomes from Rowan's talented students took place this April at the STEM Symposium. The symposium continues to produce exciting student research in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Flying robots, infection prevention and Alzheimer's detection were among the interesting topics on display. STEM provides the perfect opportunity for students to stage "hand-on" scholarly activity and to conduct open dialogue about their work to others inside and outside of their field of expertise.

New this year was the addition of awards in this friendly contest thanks to generous sponsorships from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Pre-Health Society. Senior **Bryant Jones'** abstract placed first among the tightly fierce competition and was inspired by his long-time interest in Lego® Mindstorms since childhood and his greater interest in back-end development. Jones, a computer science major who presented with Professor **Jennifer Kay**, plans to secure a job as a software or web development programmer after graduation. Second place award that was sponsored by the Pre-Health Society went to **Benjamin Pizio**, who presented along with Dr. Timothy Vaden and Dr. Lei Yu. Pizio, a graduating senior with a major in chemistry, selected his project "because of its fundamental scientific research that simplifies the nature of ion solvation in unique solvents," said Pizio.

Participants **Justin Senerchia**, **Kymberleigh Romano** and **Michelle**



(left to right) Tomas Varela, Greg Caputo, Jennifer Kay, Bryant Jones, Parviz Ansari



Benjamin Pizio receives a certificate for Achievement in Undergraduate Research from Tomas Varela

Stahl, all had one thing in common, Professor Greg Hecht, who also happens to be the coordinator of the event. "This puts extra pressure on us to perform well," chuckled Stahl, who will be a senior next semester. "And with Dr. Caputo assisting, the bar was raised even higher. Professors we've had in the past stopped by to check out our posters to see that we've retained all we were taught!" The students all agreed that the event was a great opportunity not only to present their research, but to see the results of others in and out of their fields and provided practice to present on a national level, as they are scheduled to visit San Francisco this summer to present at the American Society for Microbiology (ASM2012).

Full abstracts are available for download by students and faculty at www.rowan.edu/stem. If you would like to be a sponsor for next year's STEM Symposium on April 26, 2013, contact Greg Hecht at (856)256-3577 or email hecht@rowan.edu.

38th Annual Psychology Research Conference

For the last 38 years, the Annual Psychology Research Conference has been a staple on Rowan's campus setting the stage for talented students to showcase their psychology research findings at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students interweaved through the rows of impressive presentations exhibited throughout the auditorium, stopping to learn more about the attention-grabbing topics and discuss results among themselves and professors. "This type of setting helps strengthen the students' communication skills and promote professional development," said Monica Greco, chair/professor of the psychology department.

Featured this year was the documentary *Crooked Beauty*, which chronicled the journey of Jacks McNamara, the artist-activist who transformed from psych ward patient to pioneering mental health advocate.



Rowan's Finest Placed First in Med School

Biological sciences major **Sherri English** thought she would be faced with the difficult decision selecting the right medical school. As it turned out, it was a “no-brainer,” says English. She applied to different schools, but it was the Cooper Medical School at Rowan University that she “fell in love with, along with the staff that worked there,” said the Deptford resident, as she continued to describe how enthusiastic and incredibly nice they were. “It certainly made for a stress-free interview day.”

“When I was looking into other schools, Cooper Medical School at Rowan University’s mission resonated more with what I wanted to do,” said **Michael Coletta**, a biochemistry major. “It only took me five minutes being in the school and its associated hospital to know that’s where I wanted to be. Every one was very down to earth, which set it apart from any other hospital institution—And I speak for Sherri, too, when I say that being a part of the charter class is not only exciting, its truly an honor!” Sherri and

Michael are Rowan’s first graduates to join CMSRU’s inaugural class on August 13.

Rowan has been a great experience for English. Dr. Cristina Iftode, biological sciences associate professor, was Sherri’s advisor and mentor. “She was with me my entire path at Rowan, always there to help with subjects and taught me the ‘ins’ and ‘outs’ of research. And I love her for that, she was like a second mom.” Michael gives his shout out to Dr. Greg Caputo, professor of chemistry, “who not only taught me science, more importantly, he got me excited about science and research. There was so much I didn’t know and it now inspires me to look further,” said Coletta.

Sherri and Michael have already connected with their new classmates. “At ‘second look day’, we knew we were going to be a close group – it was better than ever expected. “CMSRU did an outstanding job selecting this group – everyone meshes. And we have our own Facebook page to stay in touch over the summer,” said English. “We’re excited,” says Coletta, “but at the same time it is med school! It’s expected to be different, but figure we got this far.”



Rowan’s grads Michael Coletta and Sherri English first to enter Cooper Medical School

Psychology Research Conference

For over 30 years, the Annual Research Conference has been a staple on Rowan’s campus



CLAS Professor and Students Rich in Research Honors

In the spirit of academic and research excellence recognition, CLAS proudly recognizes Rowan University's awards for excellence in research, scholarly and creative activities by faculty and students. Congratulations to the following CLAS professor and students.

Dr. Adrian Rusu, an associate professor for computer science, received the 2012 Research Achievement Award. Dr. Rusu was nominated by Dr. Stephen Hartley,

computer science department chair, and has taught at Rowan since 2003. Over this time, Dr. Rusu secured research funding in amount of \$85,000 per year. A large portion of the external funding benefits his self-established collaborations with the defense industry (Mission Solutions Engineering (MSE)/Rowan Research and Development Laboratory) and the government (Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)/Rowan Air Transportation Research Laboratory), for which he is the director of both. "I am

grateful for the efforts the administration makes in emphasizing the importance of research as part of the academic setting and in providing opportunities for research on a broader scale on campus," said Rusu.

Michael Corsello, a recent graduate in biochemistry, received the 2012 Rowan University Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research. Corsello, of Washington Township, credits Dr. Subash Jonnalagadda, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, in earning this award. "He has pushed me to excel in the classroom and in research and taught me that you can achieve great things with hard work and passion for what you do. Without his mentorship, I don't think I could have won this award." Corsello plans to pursue a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry at UCLA.

Also receiving honorable mention for Excellence in Undergraduate Research are Biological Sciences students **Ahmed Abdelhady, Ruthsabel Cortes, Michael Fackler and Samantha Musumeci**, nominated by Professor Dayalan Srinivasan.



Michael Corsello, recipient of the 2012 Rowan University Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research



Dr. Adrian Rusu, recipient of the 2012 Research Achievement Award

Upcoming Events

- Friday, July 13, the Center for Behavior Analysis is co-sponsoring a regional meeting of the **New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis Workshop** from 9 am to 3:30 pm in the Eynon Ballroom at the Chamberlain Student Center. The one-day event features Keynote Speaker **Timothy R. Vollmer, Ph.D.**
- Seeing stars in September! Look for the season opener of the **Fredric and Jean Edelman Planetarium's** star show **2012...And Beyond!**
- Students wishing to **study abroad in Spring 2013** must submit their application to the **International Center** by September 26.



School of Biomedical Sciences

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This interdisciplinary biomedical school will offer a graduate program and two major undergraduate tracks; translational biomedical sciences and biomedical engineering upon University Senate's approval. Faculty members from science, engineering, and medicine will collaboratively teach and perform research in these exciting and innovative programs.

Recently, the College introduced an undergraduate program in bioinformatics and graduate programs in pharmaceutical sciences, bioinformatics and a doctor of psychology--the first graduate programs in the sciences and the first doctoral program in the College.

"Certainly when the medical school became a reality, it made the entry into health-related professions much more attractive to the University," said Jim Newell, interim provost at Rowan. Newell confirmed the ability to partner with Cooper's medical school and institutions like the Coriell Institute makes Rowan a "greater place of interest for students seeking careers in health professions."

"There is no doubt that the success of these major developments is made possible, in large, by the dedication of the faculty members involved in the development of these exciting and new programs in the College," stresses Ansari. "The same is true for those activities that involved faculty members from the College of Engineering and our College in creation of the biomedical programs."

Last Class of CLAS Graduates

With the turn of the tassel and everything it represents, the Class of 2012 was introduced to the field of proud family and friends covering the



University Green in front of Bunce Hall. The last class to graduate from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences processed to the upbeat sounds of

the Rowan choir who precisely captured the spirit of the ceremony. Sitting near the ceremony platform donning vintage straw hats were honored alumni from the decades of '42, '52 and '62. The 88th Commencement ceremony ended with the College's announcement of graduates and the medallion and dean's senior recognition awardees.



Rowan Rolls Out MCAT on Campus

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) preparation course made its on-campus debut this semester. This exclusive arrangement with Princeton Review allows Rowan students to take the course in the comfort and familiarity of their own surroundings, save at least six hours of driving time a week for the 3-days-a-week course, and save 25% off the total cost (a \$500 value). Tomas Varela Jr., health professions advisor at the College, says the high interest generated by the most recent offering supports another course next year and suggests it could be available even sooner based on demand. "In this economy, the level of competition to enter med school is more challenging. This prep course certainly enhances the studying process to receive that edge," said Varela.

CLAS Fact - *Did you know?*

In 1966, only four liberal arts areas were created for education majors. Today, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has 14 departments and 9 interdisciplinary programs and awarded more than 900 degrees in its last academic year.

Retirements

The end of this academic year concluded with the announcement of the following well-respected faculty's retirement. We wish them all the best in their new adventures.

Corann Okorodudu served Rowan and its students exceptionally well for the last 44 years. A professor of psychology in 1968, Dr. Okorodudu was recently honored at the 7th Annual Rosa Parks Commemorative Luncheon.



Corann Okorodudu receives an award at the 7th Annual Rosa Parks Commemorative Luncheon

In 1968, **Robert Newland**, a chemistry and biochemistry professor, arrived at the University in 1983 and continued to be an inspiration to students and colleagues for over 29 years. Dr. Newland served as interim dean for the College from 2001-2003.

In Memoriam

We would like to share the passing of former faculty who certainly made their marks in the lives of the students they taught and the colleagues who crossed their paths. **Dr. Donald Yannella**, a professor of English for over 27 years, retired from Rowan in 1991. His legacy will endure through his family line and in classrooms around the world. Serving the University for over 23 years, **Dr. Flora Dorsey Young** was a co-founder of the sociology department and is remembered by faculty as a truly wonderful and extremely smart individual. **Dr. Mark Chapell**, a faculty member of the department of psychology from 1998-2010, conducted the first-ever study on college bullying in 2004 as reported by Reuters Health.

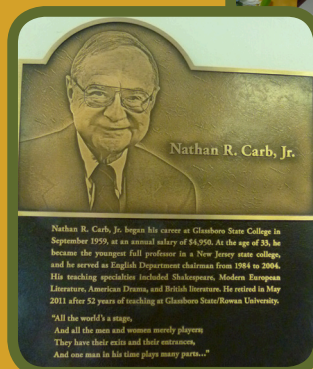
If you would like to make a donation in memory of a professor, please visit www.rowan.edu/las/giving.

There is Room for Dr. Nathan Carb

After more than 50 years of going into Rowan classrooms to teach, the one he walked into in April had his name all over it! Dr. Nathan Carb, who retired this year, was bestowed the honor of having a seminar room in Bunce Hall named after him. One wall displays the donor plaque with many names inspired by the English professor to help fund the technologically-advanced room. The other wall hangs the newly revealed plaque bearing his likeness and fondness of Shakespeare,

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts...*

Dr. Carb has certainly played an extraordinary part at Rowan. To apply or contribute to the Nathan Carb, Jr. Scholarship fund, contact Dr. Catherine Parrish at parrish@rowan.edu.



Nathan R. Carb, Jr. began his career at Glassboro State College in September 1959, at an annual salary of \$4,050. At the age of 33, he became the youngest full professor in a New Jersey state college, and he served as English Department chairman from 1984 to 1986. His teaching specialties included Shakespeare, Modern European Literature, American Drama, and British literature. He retired in May 2011 after 52 years of teaching at Glassboro State/Rowan University.

"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts..."



Wall of Fame

The Wall of Fame awards are given each year at a recognition luncheon in May to honor the Professors and Professional Staff members nominated by graduates from the previous year for their excellence in teaching and/or advising.

Wall of Fame Excellence in Teaching 2012

Biological Sciences: Maria Tahamont

English: Melinda DiStefano, Cindy Vitto, Lee Talley,

Tim Viator, Jacqueline Garlitos, Joseph Coulombe

History: Kelly Duke Bryant, James Heinzen

Law/Justice Studies: Kathy Balin, Michael Vigorita

Mathematics: Eric Milou

Philosophy/Religion: Abe Witonsky

Sociology: Anthony Sommo, Jay Chaskes

Wall of Fame Excellence in Advising 2012

Biological Sciences: Alison Krufka, Maria Tahamont

English: Cathy Parrish, Lee Talley

Foreign Languages & Literatures: Sonia Spencer

History: Corinne Blake

Mathematics: Eric Milou

Law/Justice Studies: Stanley Yeddell

Philosophy/Religion: Matthew Lund

Sociology: Yuhui Li

NSFSG Awardees

The Non-Salary Financial Support Grants (NSFSG) were established by Rowan to provide an opportunity for all full-time, tenure track faculty to obtain seed-funding to seek external grants. This year, the Research Office received 22 excellent proposals requesting a total amount of \$185,000, with \$100,000 of available funds. CLAS is pleased to announce our faculty awardees selected for the 2012 NSFSG Program:

Jennifer Kay, Computer Science

Melissa Klapper, History

Dayalan Srinivasan, Biological Sciences

Lee Talley, English

Faculty Achievements

The Joseph A. Barnes Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Professor **Marilyn Manley, Ph.D.**, of the foreign languages and literatures department at the 2012 Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a faculty or professional staff who has provided consistent, extraordinary and longstanding contributions to Rowan.



Dr. Marilyn Manley

“I’m truly honored to receive this award and believe that my service efforts have been vital to my overall professional well-being at Rowan. It is in the course of serving our University that I have learned a great deal about its students, my colleagues, and how best I can contribute to our community,” said Manley.

Dr. Manley was also recommended by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) to be recertified as a Full Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) tester in Spanish. Dr. Manley originally received her certification in June 2007. As of November 2010, there were 377 certified ACTFL OPI testers across 17 languages in addition to 142 Japan-based testers of Japanese. The OPI is used primarily as a measure of language proficiency for those in the academic, government and corporate spheres. It is now a requirement at Rowan for Spanish teacher candidates to take and successfully pass the OPI in order to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in K-12 Subject Matter Education.

Tabbatha Dobbins, Ph.D., was appointed member of the Cooper Medical School Board of Directors for a one-year term. Dobbins, professor for the department of physics and astronomy, is currently collaborating with a Cooper physician on research. “She has a great deal of interest in nanoparticle research and how it has implications of medical research,” said Dr. Thomas Gallia, Chief of Staff/Vice President for University Relations.



Dr. Tabbatha Dobbins

Successful Speaker Series Continues to Capture Audiences

The Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series ended its second successful season with acclaimed best-selling author **Lori Tharps** performing her monologue, *Kinky Gazpacho: Study Abroad Experiences of a Black Woman in Spain*. The entertaining lecture sponsored by the College and Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, reflected on her childhood daydreams of living in Spain that fatefully turned into reality after she studied abroad in Madrid. And Tharps, an associate professor of journalism at Temple and a freelance writer, not only brought home an education...but a Spanish husband as well! The author enchanted the audience with her humorous and poignant narrative of her search for a place to belong that started in Milwaukee and ended in Southern Spain.

Starting off the semester was **Dr. Drew Leder** of Loyola University, who was invited by the Philosophy and Religion Department. Professor and author Leder

presented his views on the subject of modern medicine being “too materialistic” by being overly focused on money and treating patients as a body-machine. Or perhaps not materialistic enough by not paying enough attention to its physical objects and environments and how these may influence healing.

The Physics and Astronomy Department presented the next lecture by **Dr. Kartik Sheth**, associate scientist with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, Virginia. Sheth shed a totally new light on universe imagery as he enthusiastically presented the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array telescope, simply referred to as ALMA, the newest and most advanced radio telescope array.

Sponsored by the College and the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Sheth's visit captured the audience with galactic images and facts about the

telescope's future possibilities on finding the first signs of life, organic molecules and where water came from. Although this project is currently under construction in the Chilean desert--the driest place on earth--the ALMA telescope's resolution will be up to 10x what is seen through the Hubble telescope, which has been the steadfast producer of astrological images in the industry.



Author Lori Tharps signs copies of her book, *Kinky Gazpacho: Study Abroad Experiences of a Black Woman in Spain*

China Universities' Structural Designs Go West

Dr. Bruce Plourde, a Fulbright scholar in China during the 2010-2011 academic year, presented a lecture based on Chinese architecture he observed during his travels to different universities. While visiting China, Plourde noticed architectural tendencies common to all of the schools that maintained an urban campus and had either built, or were in the process of building, a much larger campus in a distant, rural environment. “Rather than rely on Asian models of architecture, the architects of all of the new campuses were using Greek and Roman models for the various buildings,” said Plourde, a professor in the College's

English department. “This gesture towards western art also implies something about western values, a point made by the Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, and repeated by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson's use of neo-classical (or Palladian) architecture underscored his belief in the shaping of public space to enforce ideology and values, especially democracy and the rule of law.” Plourde also noted that the tendency for architecture to express social values leads observers to question the meaning behind the frequent use of western styles.

As part of his scholarly visit to China, Plourde taught courses on American

literature at Yunnan University. Because Fulbright scholars are expected to offer lectures to university audiences throughout China, Plourde had the opportunity to visit and lecture at 16 different cities. Each university treats a visiting scholar as an honored guest, and provides accommodations and guided tours.



Plourde plays cello in the middle of a street called Wen Lin Jie -- an urban setting with very unremarkable Chinese buildings

Message from the Dean

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This semester, curriculum proposals were submitted for new degree programs in bioinformatics, biomathematics, pharmaceutical science, translational biomedical sciences, biomedical engineering and psychology. We are now on our way to have new academic departments: Department of Nursing in CSM and Department of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences in SBS.

This spring, CLAS was proud to send off a record number of well-prepared graduates to begin new adventures as CSM prepares to bring the first ever cohort of international graduate students to our science program this fall.

The College increased its support for the summer research grants by 30% compared to last year while its overall acquisition of the sponsored external grants increased by 21% during the same period.

I am pleased to introduce a new publication, the CLAS Strategic Plan, highlighting the current achievements and future objectives and to present a new annual report showcasing the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students during the academic year. Our expanded newsletter highlights selected achievements and my dean's blog at www.deanansari.com features college related materials and higher education issues.

For the last three decades CLAS educated an ever-growing number of quality students, which is a proud testimony to the high caliber of faculty on board. I applaud the faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work applied towards all the initiatives that made this College successful. It will be an honor to lead the new College of Science and Mathematics and School of Biomedical Sciences and wish everyone a successful journey ahead.



Parviz Ansari, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Affordable Education One of Many Benefits with New Partnerships

With the escalating cost of education in the news lately, local students can now take advantage of a groundbreaking way to afford a four-year degree. Starting this fall, a new partnership between Rowan and Gloucester County College (GCC) provides innovative ways to earn a bachelor's degree in an affordable and convenient manner. The dual-enrollment program will allow students to be enrolled in both schools concurrently. After completing an associate's degree and Rowan's general education requirements at GCC, students will automatically be enrolled in Rowan's liberal studies bachelor degree program and continue at the college's Deptford Township campus. Paying GCC's tuition and fees the first two years and receiving a discount off Rowan's tuition and fees for the next two years, the savings are more than 40% off when compared to attending Rowan all four years.



The CLAS strategic plan to develop non-traditional undergraduate and alternative methods of delivering high quality programs remains on track with the recent announcement of another partnership with a local community college. Rowan and Cumberland County College (CCC) will offer a new bachelor's degree completion program in computer science as well as an online liberal studies degree this fall.

"Rowan University's new bachelor degree completion program in computer science in partnership with CCC, serves as a strategy to increase enrollment in the computer science major and provide a feeder system for the computer science department's MS program," says Dr. John Robinson, computer science instructor and UNIX Systems Administrator at Rowan. "The program will also serve as a springboard for initiatives in online, accelerated, and hybrid offerings by the computer science department, and to create a model for possible partnerships with other community colleges in the area."



Dr. Jacqueline Galbiat, CCC Pres. Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe, Dr. Houshmand and Dr. Newell announce partnership

College Launches Faculty Mentoring Program

*“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”
~ John Crosby*

Mentors are leaders, role models and confidants—willing to share knowledge and past experiences in a nurturing fashion without expecting anything in return. For someone new on campus, mentors can be all that plus more!

The College launched an innovative mentoring program aimed at meeting specific career goals of its junior faculty as part of its strategic plan for faculty

development. In collaboration with the Faculty Center, seven junior faculty members were connected to mentors outside of their departments and asked to work on concrete tasks during a few months of mentoring. This approach was designed to share diverse perspective of workloads and challenges that may arise and help

achieve success inside as well as outside of their departments. This new mentor program will assist in the development of individuals to build careers in the future by learning the culture of programs, expectation of departments and the College and to advance in the University. In addition, it will help increase the vision of our valued faculty—whether they have been with the University a long time or just recently joined the Rowan family.

“The program is a valuable resource new faculty members can use right away and it shows we truly care. This resourceful program will help set the tone of who we are, what our expectations are, and assist in the positive promotion of our faculty,” said Dean Parviz Ansari.



Faculty Center Director Deb Martin, Mentor Tricia Yurak and Mentee Umashanger Thayasivam

New Anthropology Museum Unveiled on Rowan Campus

The Museum of Anthropology at Rowan University (MARU) – a first in the South Jersey community – made its debut in April. Through the exhibition of artifacts, student and faculty research activities and virtual museum experience via its extensive digital library, MARU provides community outreach by offering educational programs for area schools and general public and promotes learning and understanding of human and cultural origins by representing the four-field approach of anthropology: physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, archaeology and linguistics. The museum was created through a collaborative effort from student researchers, co-curators Dr. Maria Rosado and Dr. Jane Hill, and the dedicated faculty of the sociology and anthropology departments.



MARU student researchers: Jessica Turin, Jonathan Otero, Joanne Connors, Rebecca Keating, Maegan Pollinger, and Emily Marsh (not pictured Allison Lucci)

CLAS Fact - Did you know?

The Predynastic Collection at the Penn Museum is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the United States.

History Students Debut in Debates

It was Rowan's first appearance at the National Model African Union Conference, an annual event sponsored by Howard University to provide simulated proceedings of the African Union—the regional organization of African states. The country Rowan students **Rachel Bellamy, Cindelle Harris, Corey Larrea, Oluwafemi Odunlami** and **Raymond Tempest** represented was Burundi – a small east African country bordering Rwanda.

“The conference brings groups of students from all over the country together, and this year it offered a great representation from the east and south coasts, and even out west, providing a good geographical level of participants,” said Kelly Duke-Bryant, assistant professor in the history department. Students practiced debates and negotiation skills as they took on the role of the African countries they picked to represent. “The students spent an impressive amount of time researching,

which began last fall.” Students met regularly outside of the meetings with faculty advisors Tanya Clark (English), Kelly Duke-Bryant (history), Chanelle Rose (history) who also sit on the Africana Studies Council.

“Students debated on issues similar to what their country would face, including economics, social issues, conflict resolution, women’s rights and health issues,” said Duke-Bryant. “I was very proud of their efforts, especially as first-time participants. No one knew what to expect, however, they did it quite well for their Rowan debut.”



History students attend their first debate held at Howard University

Dead Men do Tell Tales

By: Jane Hill, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and Maria Rosado, Ph.D., Rowan University

Recent inventory of the Predynastic Egyptian collection in the University of Pennsylvania Museum revealed a flexed bundle burial (E 16229), one of two Predynastic human burials donated to the Museum in 1898. These human remains exhibit many interesting features of the Egyptians’ early experimentation with different mummification techniques. Some of these techniques include the use of different types of cloth wrapping, basketry and an exterior animal skin envelope sewn together to contain the mummy. Evidence of postmortem reconstruction, including an

internal wooden support inserted along the individual’s vertebral column and the packing of the body’s abdominal cavity with twists of cloth soaked in resin, was also uncovered. An interdisciplinary forensic anthropology investigation utilizing minimally invasive sampling techniques and X-ray analysis was undertaken in the summer of 2011 to address numerous questions about this individual including preservation, sex, age, stature, paleopathology, and diet. Using the Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Florescence Spectrometer, courtesy of Rowan’s Physics and Astronomy



Dr. Jane Hill samples a Predynastic human burial donated to Penn Museum

departments, researchers have obtained an elemental breakdown of human bone fragments and resins covering the body which shed light on the individual’s diet and the chemical composition of the unguents with which the body was treated. Additional analysis of the cultural artifacts included in the burial and the treatment of the body as the subject and object of ritual and memory are also discussed.

Fulbright Scholar Ventures to Malaysia

Jolene Hernandez's New Year resolution will be to learn a new language. "I picked Malaysia because I wanted to explore where few people go—and it wasn't preferred to know their native language," as Hernandez justified her choice to study abroad through the esteemed Fulbright Scholarship program. "I will certainly take a crash course in the language—but I think there are other ways to communicate such as smiling and pointing—especially when ordering food! There is a great acceptance as Americans," said the Hightstown resident, who will spend 10 months in the country through the English Teaching Assistantship (ETA).

As a member of Rowan's dance team, VP Dance Extensions, Hernandez is believed to be the first from the theater dance team to be honored as a Fulbright Scholar and she hopes to represent them well.

Traveling is not new to Hernandez. She has studied in Morocco and France and also visited Jordan, Spain and Greece. What's after Malaysia? "I'm looking for funding to sponsor trip to Europe for dance," said Hernandez, which she admits is her true passion.

In May, Hernandez graduated magna cum laude and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. Once the traveling subsidies, Hernandez plans to focus on grad school.



Fulbright scholar Jolene Hernandez prepares for trip to Malaysia

The Fulbright Scholarship is a prestigious scholarship program for both graduating seniors and faculty members and sends hundreds of U.S. students to study abroad to experience other cultures. For faculty members, over 800 grants to more than 130 countries are awarded for teaching and researching abroad.

Triple Play Grounds Rowan Grad

For most students, one is enough. Maybe two. But three majors for this Rowan student...what was **Michael Reca** thinking? "My first two years were gen ed classes before I went insane," joked Reca, a Howell resident. Earning a BA in chemistry, BS in physics, BS in math and two concentrations—one in applied mathematics and one in philosophy & religion, "made my academic experience more diverse in a meaningful way," said Reca. He admits to thoroughly enjoying philosophy because it allows him to think in different ways. "You're not using memorization techniques—it forces rigorous and concrete thinking," said Reca.

Although he graduated in May, Reca will continue to take courses at Rowan and conduct research over the summer under the supervision of Chemistry Professor Greg Caputo. His next step on his academic quest—grad school at the University of Pennsylvania where he will be pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry. While at the University, he will be working as a research assistant alongside Dr. Zahra Fakhraai, assistant professor of physical chemistry, studying the interaction between light and nanoparticles. "I'm extremely happy, regardless of which grad program I selected, because I'm blown away with research and thrilled to be working with three professors in a big city – which was one reason I chose the school," says Reca, who will be hunting for apartments in the big city between projects.

Reca received grants from both the Fountaine Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which will fund his first four years of grad school.

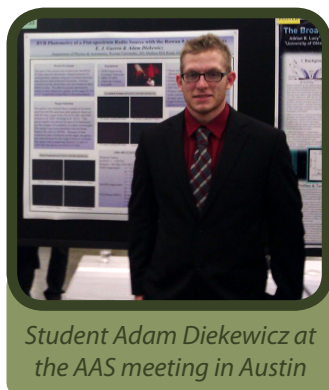
His career plans include securing a job in private industry, government or academia focusing his research on renewable and clean energy.



Triple major Michael Reca will pursue his PhD in Chemistry at Univ of Penn

Astronomy Student Takes His Stars on the Road

In January, physics and astronomy student **Adam Diekewicz** presented at the 219th American Astronomical Society meeting in Austin, Texas. He accompanied Dr. E.J. Guerra, professor of physics & astronomy, to the conference and demonstrated his observations of a galaxy 505 million light years away using the .04 meter telescope installed at the Fredric and Jean Edelman Planetarium last spring. Diekewicz acquired most of his training on the telescope through the enrollment of the observational astronomy course required for the astronomy minor. This general education science course requires students to use CCD cameras to image objects and take quantitative measurements and is also open to students majoring in English, history, business, and music.



Student Adam Diekewicz at the AAS meeting in Austin

“We have plans to include an expansion of observatory activities to high school outreach so students like Adam can train and supervise intrepid high school students on observational projects,” said Guerra. “The efforts of Adam are an important proof-of-concept for future work in the observatory and have led to efforts to improve the telescope performance.”

Future Astronaut’s Count Down to Japan

In a new exchange program with Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan, physics major **Zachary Buck** took the lead as Rowan’s first student to visit the University. He studied alongside Dr. Shigehito Sobue, a materials science and engineering professor, and Hokkaido physics major, Shotaro Chiba. As part of the exchange program, Chiba returned the visit to Rowan’s campus last April working alongside **Tabbatha Dobbins**, assistant professor of physics and astronomy.

When Dobbins first learned about the program offered through the Japanese minister of education, she immediately thought of Buck, who she worked closely with since his transfer from Gloucester County College last year. Dobbins emphasized “research is important and improves critical thinking skills.” This experience will certainly be an asset to Buck in his plans to study astrophysics in graduate school, and realize his dream of becoming an astronaut and researcher for NASA.

CLAS Celebrates at Dean’s Awards

The 13th Annual Dean’s Senior Recognition Awards was held in March to honor graduating students on behalf of their significant contributions to the departments, University and surrounding community. The 17 students representing each of the departments and programs listened as guest speaker and alumni, Michael Carbone, recounted his time as an honors student here. “You’ve worked hard, now it’s up to you what you do with it,” said Carbone, whose son also attends the University. “Your diploma says Rowan University, be proud of that!”

Congratulations to this year’s recipients:

Rebecca Bickel, *American Studies: Interdisciplinary Studies*

Bianca Hess, *Biological Sciences*

Michael Corsello, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Shahid Akhter, *Computer Science*

Lauren Addeo, *English*

Stacie Paczkowski, *Foreign Languages and Literatures*

Alanna Casey, *Geography & the Environment*

Danielle Petulla, *History*

Pembroke Kenner, *Law & Justice Studies*

Jina Pioppi, *Liberal Studies: Humanities & Social Sciences*

Michelle Lees, *Liberal Studies: Mathematics & Sciences*

David Evans, *Mathematics*

Raymond Davidson, *Philosophy & Religion*

Jasen Scaramazza, *Physics & Astronomy*

William Sahr, *Political Science & Economics*

James Castorina, *Psychology*

Katherine Campbell, *Sociology & Anthropology*



Recipients of the 2012 Dean’s Senior Recognition Awards

Summer Grant Blooms Full of Research

The Summer Grant Awards celebrated its third year recognizing the active culture of research and scholarly activities within the College. The event was held at the Hollybush Mansion on May 30 and the honorees were joined by members of the administration, faculty, chairs, and the students who will be engaged in research projects. The seed-money awarded to faculty provides an opportunity to enhance professional growth, make a contribution to the disciplines and increase students' involvement and interest in research. The success of this program is demonstrated by the increase of the College's support for this year's summer grants, which increased 30% since two years ago, and the total external funding received this year was 20% more compared to last year. "The productivity of our previous grant winners is a true testament to what can be accomplished through this award mechanism," said Greg Caputo, assistant dean for research and grants and chemistry professor.

An added distinction to this year's event was the presentation of legislative commendations signed by Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Deputy Speaker John Burzichelli, and Assemblywoman Celeste Riley, acknowledging the six recipient's research and interest in their fields and their promotion of excellence in achievement among students.

Congratulations to the following professors and their award winning abstracts:

Gerald Hough, *Biological Sciences*

Geographic variation of song and abundance of Atlantic seaside sparrow

Dayalan Srinivasan, *Biological Sciences*

Comparative cell biology of the response to environment in aphid reproduction

Subash Jonnalagadda, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Development of novel small molecules as anti-cancer agents

Lei Yu, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

Quantitative methods for the evaluation of environmental and health effects of nanoparticles

Glenn Odom, *English*

Intercultural theater, local modernities

Melissa Klapper, *History*

Ballet Class: An American History



(left to right) Interim Provost Jim Newell, Gerald Hough, Dayalan Srinivasan, Subash Jonnalagadda, Melissa Klapper, Lei Yu and Dean Ansari (not pictured: Glenn Odom)

Checking In - An Update on Previous Grants Awarded

In the last two years, the Summer Grants provided funding for 14 faculty members. Below is a partial list of the scholarly and/or research activities resulting from the grants:

- 6 publications with 3 more submitted
- 8 funding proposals submitted to local and national agencies, including ENH, ACS, NSF and the National Council for East European and Eurasian Research
- 26 presentations

Cold War Scholar Lecture Launches Hollybush Institute

The College took great strides towards establishing the Hollybush Institute this year. In March, experts were invited from Princeton University, Temple University, Woodrow Wilson Institute and US Naval Academy to consult with faculty and administration on the mission and future possibilities of the Hollybush Institute. The Institute will be a new center on campus capitalizing on the international legacy that began in 1967 with the on-site summit of two superpowers, US President Lyndon B. Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, as they debated opposing views on the Arab-Israeli conflict and discussed perils of the nuclear arms race during what were intense times for both countries and the world.

In front of a large crowd on April 14, Dean Ansari formally announced the

founding of the Institute at the inaugural event featuring guest speaker, Ambassador **Jack Matlock**, a prominent scholar of Cold War diplomacy and past presenter at the Summit Anniversary Celebration held at Rowan 40 years later. Matlock addressed



the audience with his riveting views on Russia today.

The intent of the Institute is to analyze the crossroads of politics, technology, medicine, science and engineering from a historical and comparative perspective. “The Hollybush Institute will support the academic study of current international relations and the history and legacy of the Cold War regionally, nationally and internationally, furthering the academic and community dimensions of Rowan University,” said Ansari.

Up until 1998, Hollybush housed university presidents. Ansari is grateful to the institution for the opportunity to preserve its historic value to the community. “It took the effort of many diligent individuals to bring the concept into reality.”

Including a generous gift from alumni Betty Castor—whose father, Joseph Bowe, was Glassboro’s mayor at the time of the Summit. This began the first steps toward the creation of the Institute by introducing a fellowship to teach and research the Cold War. Since then, two 1-year fellowships have been appointed as strong advocates for the Institute.



Internationalization Efforts Lead to MOUs

During spring 2012, **Parviz Ansari**, Dean of the College, began implementing the CLAS strategic internationalization initiative by developing close and productive relationships with foreign universities, in particular, select universities in India.

Tim Torre, director of the International Center, and **Dr. Kandalam Ramanujachary** from the department of chemistry and biochemistry accompanied Dr. Ansari on a recent visit to India where they visited 10 universities and a pharmaceutical company leading to new Memorandum of Understandings and a series of curricular and scholarly collaborations.



Parviz Ansari and Tim Torre visit India to explore scholarly collaborations

A Touch of CLAS - Events in the Community

- The fifth annual **Rowan Science Day** invited more than 100 students from local schools in Gloucester and neighboring counties to participate in workshops, hands-on demonstrations and experiments.
- Rowan played host to the **New Jersey National Geographic Bee** held in March. More than 30 students from the geography and other disciplines participated in the many tasks required to make this event successful.



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www.rowan.edu/las/giving

Alumni Spotlight/Class of 1997

By Sarah Klosek



I graduated from Rowan University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. Six years later I began my career as a registered patent attorney after receiving a Master of Science degree in chemistry from Purdue University (2000) and a Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers School of Law - Camden (2003). Currently, I am a Senior Associate at the national law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP, resident in the Lawrenceville, New Jersey office.

I highly value the undergraduate education I received from Rowan.

The open-door policy of the chemistry faculty was a great help when I was studying complicated new concepts. I was also given the opportunity to take on a leadership role as Vice President of the American Chemical Society Student Affiliate Group.

My Rowan experience provided a strong foundation for graduate school, law school, and beyond. For example, as a research assistant for Dr. Robert Newland studying photo and radical polymerization and Dr. K. Ramanujachary exploring alternative methods for solid oxide fuel cell technology, I learned the importance of keeping detailed laboratory notebooks, understanding the current state of the art, and obtaining reproducible experimental results. Additionally, public speaking and seminar courses prepared me for the Socratic Method used in law school, in which students are randomly called on by the professor to answer one or more questions in class.

Rowan University prepared me to think like a scientist and a lawyer!

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