

# College of Humanities & Social Sciences



## ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

**EMPOWER.**

**TRANSFORM.**

**ENGAGE.**

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Dr. Stanley Yeldell acknowledges Khenny Emile during Law and Justice Studies' "Career Day."

Cover (left to right): Dr. Maria Rosado examines an archeological specimen, students anticipate receiving their diplomas at Commencement and Dr. Joel Capellan speaks to students.

# Message From the Dean



It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I joined the Rowan University campus as dean of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS).

I feel privileged to serve during such an exciting era. Both the State of New Jersey and Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education have designated Rowan as a research institution. Moreover, we have been nationally recognized and ranked among other great universities in the state and beyond. However, our teaching mission has not been eclipsed by our growth as a research institution, as reflected by our professors' dedication to their students and the support of our staff.

This annual report tells the story of what our staff, faculty and students have accomplished in the last year. Among our many achievements, we rededicated ourselves to our mission with a new tagline — “Empower. Transform. Engage: Creating Connections in Teaching, Research and Service to Advance Society.”

As you will find in these pages, we rolled out new academic programs and experiential learning opportunities and hired full- and part-time faculty with degrees from prestigious universities. Our faculty won noted awards, continued to conduct high-quality research and engaged in local and global service.

CHSS students embraced a variety of opportunities, including travel abroad programs where they studied languages or explored other cultures and ways of life. They also joined CHSS professors in conducting innovative research and publishing and presenting papers. Our students learn from faculty who have discovered their passion and purpose through hard work, growth and success.

Our alumni show that CHSS has prepared them not only to make a living but a life — of service, intellectual curiosity and purpose.

In the following pages, you will meet some of our faculty, students and alumni who reflect our mission and herald a bright future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nawal H. Ammar".

Dr. Nawal H. Ammar  
Dean & Professor

# EMPOWER

## Innovative Teaching and Experiential Learning Help Students Succeed

CHSS courses unlock many opportunities where students can roll up their sleeves and immerse themselves in the nitty-gritty of their chosen fields.

For instance, forensic anthropology students learn the basics of excavation and exhumation as they piece together clues from the past using plastic skeletons as learning tools. “Students also handle natural skeletons, from which they learn how to determine sex, age, stature and whether there was any trauma to the body,” said Dr. Maria Rosado, professor, Anthropology, and Anthropology coordinator.



Dr. Jane Hill

Students also participate in faculty research. A number of students travel with Rosado each year to Museo Arqueologico in La Serena, Chile, to work on human skeletal remains, collect data and present their findings at Rowan’s STEM Student Research Symposium and the Sigma Xi Research Symposium at Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

Dr. Jane Hill, assistant professor, also plans to take a group of students to study in Cairo, Egypt, to find skeletal remains and artifacts. Additionally, students participate in collaborative research with Hill and the University of Pennsylvania, where she has access to a mummy that is approximately 4,700 years old.

Closer to home, students work with Hill to develop their own exhibits in the Museum of Anthropology at Rowan University.

Sociology & Anthropology is only one of the many departments where students develop hands-on skills. In September 2016, Dr. Christine Poteau, assistant professor, Foreign Languages & Literatures, launched the Service Learning Program, where students serve the community using skills they learn in the classroom.

## CHSS Fast Facts

### Teaching

- 1,225 sections taught, accounting for nearly 25 percent of undergraduate classes at Rowan University
- 137 classes taught online and 37 taught at Rowan’s Camden campus



Dr. Maria Rosado

Regardless of students’ majors, through experiential learning they demonstrate to prospective employers and graduate programs that they can apply what they learned in the classroom.

“Students are going to be more marketable because they’re learning sophisticated programs, mathematical analysis, statistics,” Rosado said. The work prepares students for a variety of fields, and the application of anatomical knowledge has prepared some students for medical school, she explained.

“Experiential learning empowers students by giving them practical skills,” Rosado said. “Students learn how we apply the theoretical models they learn in courses and research to understand humanity,” Rosado said.

## Students Honor Faculty and Welcome New Professors

The College's outstanding faculty also empower students.

Dr. Anne Pluta, assistant professor, Political Science & Economics, and Jeffrey Schwartz, instructor, Law & Justice Studies, each received the Excellence in Teaching Award during the 2017 Commencement, which was awarded for the first time this year. CHSS students nominate and select recipients of this award.



Dr. Anne Pluta

CHSS also continues to attract stellar faculty. It welcomed three new faculty members in 2016-2017:

Dr. Kul Kapri, assistant professor of Economics, obtained his bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics and master's degree in statistics from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and a master's degree in mathematics from Western Illinois University. He earned his doctorate in economics from Syracuse University. Kapri's primary research and teaching interests are in international economics, development economics and applied econometrics.



Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz

Dr. Christine E. Poteau, assistant professor, Foreign Languages & Literatures, received a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Saint Joseph's University and her master's and doctoral degrees in Spanish applied linguistics from Temple University. Poteau's research and teaching interests include global health and legal disparities and intercultural competence development in translation and interpretation.



Dr. Christine Poteau



Dr. Kul Kapri

Dr. Joel Capellan, assistant professor, Law & Justice Studies, earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Buffalo State University and his master's degree in social science research from the University of Chicago. He received a doctorate in criminal justice from the City University of New York Graduate Center. Capellan's research interests are reflected in his dissertation, "Looking Upstream: A Sociological Investigation of Mass Public Shootings."



Dr. Joel Capellan

# TRANSFORM

## Research and Innovation Revolutionize Education

Equipped with a new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Rowan professors are using a new approach to take aim at environmental challenges, linking a humanities perspective with scientific methods.



Dr. Dustin Crowley

Dr. Dustin Crowley, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Jordan Howell, assistant professor, Geography, Planning & Sustainability in the School of Earth & Environment, secured a \$100,000 grant to develop courses and a certificate of undergraduate study (CUGS) program in Environmental Humanities. It is one of the many grants and awards won by CHSS faculty.

“To understand why there are environmental problems in the first place, you can’t just approach it from a science or technology perspective,” Crowley said. “These problems concern the things that we value or don’t, the policies we enact or don’t and our understanding about how we are related to nature and ourselves. Those are social and political questions. The humanities have a long history of being able to address questions of value, politics and society.”

This curriculum grant will help transform the way humanities contributions are applied directly to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, Crowley said. Students in environmental studies now will be able to earn this CUGS, which will provide a humanities perspective.

The program will produce two-way engagement, where environmental humanities topics are implemented in STEM and humanities classes, he said. Fellows from numerous disciplines will come together to share ideas and recruit speakers.

Grant funding enables universities to perform projects that they otherwise may not be able to pursue and demonstrate what a university values, Crowley explained.

“The most exciting part of this is the opportunity to be at the forefront of an area acknowledged more and more as an important field,” he said. “This idea of environmental humanities is still new in academic circles.”

In addition to Crowley and Howell’s grant, CHSS faculty have received numerous grants, awards and fellowships, including:

### Grants

- U.S. Department of Justice Community-Oriented Policing Services Anti-Gang Initiative: Dr. Evan Sorg, \$48,573, awarded to complete a statewide assessment of gang activity, intelligence and threat.
- Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative: “Geospatial Factors and the Trafficking/Terrorism Nexus in Eurasia” — Dr. Lawrence Markowitz, \$224,000 over three years
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation: “Protecting Immigrant Women and Their Children from Violence and Family Separation: Activating Judges to Implement Equitable Policies” — Dean Nawal Ammar, \$78,720 over three years
- N.J. Department of Community Affairs: “Impact-Based Decision-Making Framework for Community-Based Resiliency Planning Under Extreme Storm Events” — \$800,000, Dr. DeMond S. Miller and Lead Principal Investigator: Dr. Rouzbeh Nazari (Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering); Co-Principal Investigators and Investigators: Dr. Beena Sukumaran; Dr. Parth Bhavsar; Dr. Jess Everett; Dr. Ralph Dusseau; Dr. Kauser Jahan; George D. Lecakes Jr.; Dr. Zachary Christman. Including research assistants Jalea Salley, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, and Joseph Foti, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management

## CHSS Fast Facts

### Research Productivity

- 9** Books
- 27** Refereed Articles
- 24** Book Chapters and Encyclopedic Articles
- 100** Conference Presentations
- 3** Conferences Organized on Rowan's Campus
- 9** Grants and Fellowships
- 25** University Events Organized by CHSS
- 11** Student Publications and Conference Presentations

### Faculty Awards/Fellowships

- Teaching Hall of Fame: Dr. Zena Meadowsong, English; Dr. Joseph Davey, Law & Justice Studies; Dr. Anne Pluta, Political Science & Economics; Dr. Anthony Sommo and Dr. Mark Hutter, Sociology
- Sigma Iota Rho International Studies Honor Society Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award: Dr. Cory Blake. Blake is associate dean, coordinator of the International Studies Concentration and advisor of the Fulbright Program.
- Grant for NEH Summer Institute, Northeastern University – “Space, Place and the Humanities”: Dr. Kate Slater, English
- Fellowship for summer research at the University of Sussex near Brighton, England: Dr. William Carrigan, History



Dr. Kelly Duke-Bryant, Associate Professor of History, instructs Sub-Saharan Africa Since 1800.

# ENGAGE

## CHSS Students Make Their Mark Far Beyond the Classroom

The CHSS education propels students into new experiences on campus, in the community, nationally and internationally.

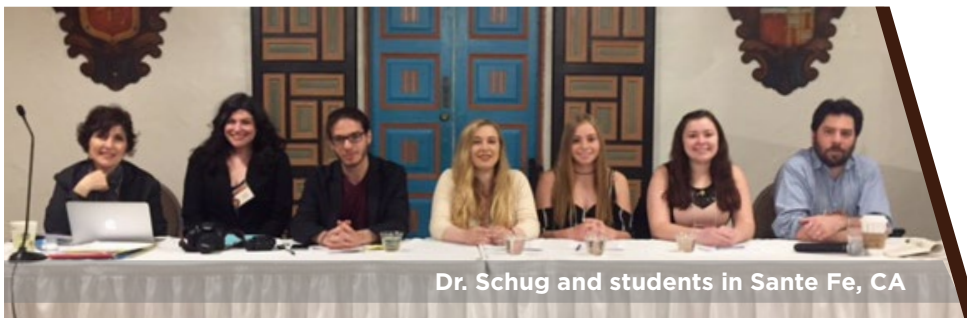


Dr. Seran Schug

Dr. Seran Schug, instructor in Anthropology, traveled with colleagues and students to Sante Fe for the annual conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology, presenting a panel discussion, “It’s Not You, It’s Not Me — It’s Us!: Challenging Public Perceptions of Anthropology Through Experiential Learning.”

These experiences allow students to learn to make a presentation, meet other professionals and learn more about what anthropologists are doing. “They were interacting with people whose names they had seen in textbooks and articles. It was very exciting for them,” Schug said.

“They begin to see themselves as part of a professional community, with professional interests,” she said. “School is not only about learning information. It’s about developing a professional identity.”



Dr. Schug and students in Sante Fe, CA

## CHSS Fast Facts

### Engaging Through Internships

Established in 2013, the CHSS Match Internship Program connects humanities and social science majors with engaging internships. Through these positions, students can apply their skills and learn about potential career paths.

Since its launch several years ago, CHSS Match has enabled CHSS students to gain exposure and experience in the professional world.

During the 2016-17 academic year, 146 students worked with this program and 103 positions were available per semester.

Some internship sites include:

- Camden County Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Glassboro Police Department
- Food Bank of South Jersey
- Hopeworks N’ Camden
- Law Offices of Hoffman DiMuzio
- Literacy NJ
- Unidos Para la Familia
- Woodbury Economic Development Office



# Alumni Share Words of Wisdom With CHSS Students

Long after they earn their degrees, CHSS alumni continue to return to campus, inspiring students who will blaze their own paths into the future.

## Commencement Speaker

As 2017 Commencement speaker for CHSS and the School of Earth & Environment, Amanda Ashworth, '07, a publishing professional who majored in English and writing arts, encouraged graduates to use their talents and education to influence the world in a positive way.

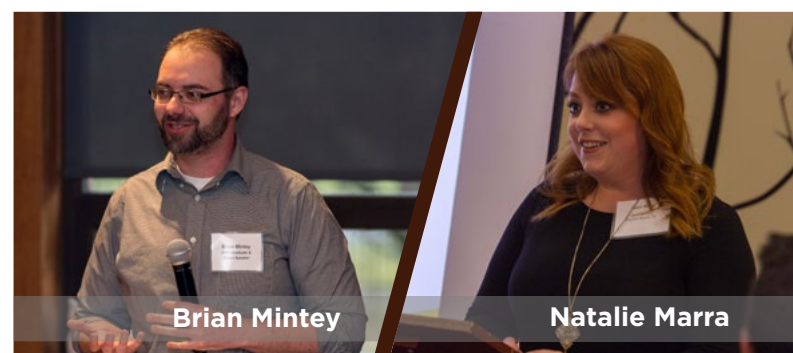
## Seniors of Distinction

Brian Mintey, '07, a philosophy and religion major, returned to campus to speak at the 2017 Seniors of Distinction awards ceremony.

For the ceremony, each undergraduate program was represented by one senior who excelled academically and engaged in academics outside the classroom. They included: Cato Yancey, Africana Studies; Amy Trowbridge, American Studies; Alec Napolitano, Economics; Nicole Wyglendowski, English; Jeffrey Dever, Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management; Erin Christine Graham, General Studies; Zachary Baer, History; Marisa Ditzkov, International Studies; Lexxus Matos, Law & Justice Studies; Marissa Cartier, Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Sciences; Thomas Hill III, Modern Languages & Linguistics; Kyle Sullender, Philosophy & Religion Studies; Danielle Davis, Political Science; Evy C. Tolentino, Sociology & Anthropology; and Caleigh Mulligan, Spanish.

## CHSS Match Appreciation Dinner

Natalie Marra, '15, credited her multiple internships for enabling her to quickly land a position as an editorial production assistant with the National Board of Medical Examiners. She spoke at the CHSS Match Appreciation Dinner.



## CHSS Funds and Scholarships

The College thanks the many donors who fund scholarships that open many doors for its students.

### Funds

American Federation of Teachers  
Fund for African Studies  
International Studies Fund  
Nathan R. Carb Fund  
CHSS Fund for Career Preparation

### Scholarships

Asian Studies Scholarship Fund  
Becker Scholarship  
Thelma Rebecca Dyer Caswell and Helen Criden Cohen Scholarship  
Rosemary Geri Foreign Languages Scholarship  
Maxine A. Hartley and Richard J. Johnson Scholarship  
Gary Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Amelia and Peter Kressler Scholarship  
Marius Livingston Scholarship  
Richard Mitchell Memorial Scholarship  
Dr. Bela Mukhoti Scholarship in Economics  
Josefina and Enrique Pujals Study Abroad Scholarship Fund  
Frank and Helen Richie Scholarship  
Dr. John Visceglia Memorial Scholarship  
Nicholas Yovnello Scholarship



Rbrey Singleton, '19, and Denisha Lucio, '18, join the CHSS Student Advisory Council in discussing their majors with Clearview Regional High School students.



Graduating students stand as their degrees are conferred during the CHSS 2016 Commencement ceremony.

Professor Janet Fishman assists students in an Elementary French class.

INVEST IN OUR

# *future dreams*

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