



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017-2018

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**EMPOWER. TRANSFORM. ENGAGE.**



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# Message From the Dean



This year’s annual report overflows with many accomplishments of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS), Rowan University’s second largest college.

According to the 2018 report from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, humanities and liberal arts majors are employed in a variety of careers and are likely to be managers in their selected fields. CHSS offers students a model of lifelong learning that emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, competencies and discipline.

Our fields of study are based on timeless principles, including ethics, human rights, respect for history, democracy, peace and more, enabling our students to create a world in which everyone can contribute and prosper. The efforts of our faculty and students are exemplified by our tagline: “Empower. Transform. Engage — Creating connections in teaching, research and service to advance society.”

CHSS faculty conduct important research to further understanding in many areas. In addition, they implement innovative strategies to educate students about our principles. Among these techniques, they use team-based learning, experiential learning and travel abroad experiences.

For example, in the following pages, you will see that the College piloted a case study competition this year, where students competed in teams to develop a recommendation to a fictional university’s board of trustees on whether to invite a controversial speaker to campus. Each team developed problem-solving, collaboration, public speaking and other professional skills.

Students also participate in simulation exercises. This year a delegation of Rowan students engaged in the International Model African Union Conference in Washington, D.C., representing Eritrea and learning about the challenges facing these countries.

More than 450 CHSS students took part in internships this year, previewing careers in numerous fields and developing professional skills before graduation.

Seven Rowan University students earned high-profile Fulbright, Boren, Peace Corps, Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University Research Internship scholarships.

As the CHSS dean, I am honored to work with so many industrious students and accomplished and compassionate faculty and staff members.

We look forward to continuing to inspire our students to make a difference in our rapidly changing world. I invite you to read more about our efforts in this report.

*Nawal H. Ammar*

Dr. Nawal H. Ammar  
Professor and Dean



# Engagement Beyond the Classroom

## At ethics conference, students strengthen their voices

For the fifth year, Rowan students presented scenarios and solutions during the Student Ethics Conference on campus. This year, presenters' topics ranged from virtue ethics to Nietzsche's works on women.

"It's important for students to see how ethical issues are everywhere around them and they're relevant to any major and arise in any major. They are going to be important to think about no matter what career you choose," said **Dr. Ellen Miller**, associate professor of philosophy.

Miller was moved by presenters' passion and commitment to their issues. "They choose the topics

they presented on, so it's quite inspiring. They feel more a part of the Rowan community and the community of people who care about the world."

Furthermore, it develops students' sense of themselves and helps them understand that their ideas matter and they can make a difference, Miller explained. "A big part of my ethics classes is trying to help students not to become overwhelmed with the number of different issues there are. It helps them focus on where their strengths are, what matters to them and what might be relevant to their careers."



From left: Dr. Ellen Miller, Marisa Considine, Yamil Almonte, Allayna Nofs, Kyra Hammond, Emily Grenier and Stephen Schram spoke at the Student Ethics Conference.



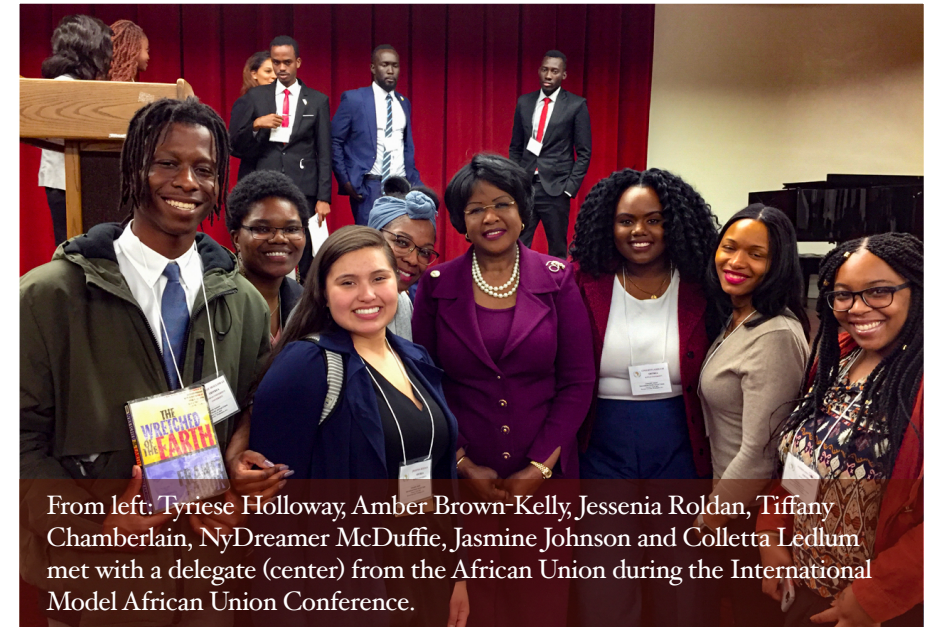
## Students hone diplomatic skills at Model African Union Conference

In February, a delegation of Rowan students stepped into the shoes of African delegates, learning to compromise and negotiate during the International Model African Union Conference hosted by Howard University in collaboration with the African Union Mission in Washington, D.C.

Before the simulated proceedings, university delegations were assigned member states to represent and prepared with pre-conference courses, where they drafted resolutions. Rowan students representing Eritrea worked with representatives from other universities to pass the resolutions.

Amber Brown-Kelly, '18, an Africana studies major, served on the Economic Matters Committee. "I had to be a true Eritrean and play the role based on what they actually want versus what I thought they needed," said the Newark resident.

"They're trying to get resolutions passed, they're negotiating, they're meeting with other students and they're learning parliamentary procedure," said Dr. Chanelle Rose, associate professor, Department of History, and coordinator of the Africana studies program. Resolutions that pass are sent to the official African Union for consideration by the delegates.



From left: Tyriese Holloway, Amber Brown-Kelly, Jessenia Roldan, Tiffany Chamberlain, NyDreamer McDuffie, Jasmine Johnson and Colletta Ledlum met with a delegate (center) from the African Union during the International Model African Union Conference.

While they developed a strong sense of confidence during the proceedings, they also learned about the history and politics of the continent. "That's good for them because — like many others — they have misconceptions and stereotypes about Africa. Once they learn about the history, politics and government of their assigned African country, it opens their eyes in many ways," Rose said.

## Travel Broadens Experiences of CHSS Students

Each year, CHSS students broaden their academic knowledge and experience through travel. In 2017-18, students participated in co-curricular trips to and faculty-led study abroad courses in the following locations:

- Germany
- Spain
- England
- United Nations Headquarters, New York City
- Fort Ticonderoga, New York
- Ireland





# CHSS HOSTS INAUGURAL CASE STUDY COMPETITION

During the College’s first Case Study Competition, student teams drew strength from their varied majors to develop solutions to a theoretical case. It focused on free speech on a college campus.

“It was designed to encourage students to think about how different disciplines meld together, intersect and can help answer the same questions in different ways and give you a full view,” said Dr. Emily Blanck, associate professor of history and coordinator of American studies, who served on the planning committee.

“Given that our majors were different, we all brought different ideas and perspectives toward the solution,” said Juan Flores, ’21, a political science major from Robbinsville who was on the winning team. “It

opened my eyes to look at this differently and the theories from each major that could be applied to the case.”

Students learned teamwork, developed their critical thinking skills and were pushed to think outside the box, questioning their own beliefs, said Dr. Misty Knight-Finley, assistant professor of political science and coach of the winning team. “This group of students in particular took away a sense that communication is central to a number of the problems we experience today as a society. If we can put aside some of our disagreements to listen to one another, we may be much more likely to reach a common solution.”



Students developed teamwork, critical thinking skills and more as they addressed challenges associated with a theoretical free speech case.

CHSS FAST FACTS

**During the 2017-18 academic year:**

- 11 students served on the CHSS Student Advisory Council.
- 452 students earned academic credit for internships or service learning.
- Approximately 100 students were inducted into CHSS honor societies.
- 557 graduates attended Commencement.



# Faculty Accomplishments

Tracking terrorism in former Soviet states

## Advocating for families of the incarcerated

For nearly a quarter of a century, Dr. Sandra Joy, professor of sociology, has zealously fought to help abolish the death penalty and life imprisonment without parole. As a graduate student, however, she recognized how society not only punishes inmates, but also their families.

Working in a psychiatric hospital, she met a patient who became suicidal when her 18-year-old son was sentenced to death row, but her colleagues were averse to helping her. “They were not sure if they even wanted to deal with her because it was a publicized case,” Joy said.

Wanting to educate professionals about the profound grief family members experience, Joy spent several years interviewing 70 family members. In 2013 she published *Grief, Loss, and Treatment for Death Row Families: Forgotten No More*. The same year, she was invited to speak about the topic before the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Currently researching children of incarcerated parents, Joy was the keynote speaker at the National Association of Social Workers Conference in March and published a piece in the association’s newsletter. Joy is working to fund a program to support Rowan University students whose parents are incarcerated.

“It’s going to be important to give these students the support they need,” she said.



Dr. Sandra Joy works tirelessly to end the death penalty and life imprisonment without parole.

## REPRESENTING CHSS: FACULTY MEMBERS PRESENT AT ROWAN’S FACULTY RESEARCH DAY

During Rowan University’s first Faculty Research Day, Dr. Edward Wang, Dr. James Heinzen, Dr. Jeanna Mastrocinque, Dr. Sandra Joy, Dr. Jane Hill (with Dr. Maria Rosado), Dr. Kul Kapri, Dr. Christine Poteau and Dr. Kim Houser presented their research. This event drew nearly 300 attendees.



Dr. Lawrence Markowitz won a grant from the Minerva Research Initiative to investigate the intersection of drug trafficking and terrorism in former Soviet states.

For the last three years, Dr. Lawrence Markowitz, chair of the Department of Political Science and Economics, has been collaborating with researchers at the University of Kansas to investigate the intersection of drug trafficking and terrorism in former Soviet states.

Their work was funded by a \$953,500 grant from the Minerva Research Initiative of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The researchers generated policy reports, wrote several articles and will publish a book with Columbia University Press currently titled *Corrupt Security: Mapping the Trafficking/Terrorism Nexus in Central Asia*.

Markowitz conducted expert interviews in the region and contracted out others to professionals,

gathering information from nearly 100 discussions. This material was combined with databases and a geographic information systems analysis by University of Kansas investigators.

“The main finding of the book is that in Central Asia, where you would expect increases in terrorism in places where terrorism and drug trafficking intersect, we see lower levels of terrorism. That’s because the independent actors engaged in terrorist activities get folded into and absorbed into these illegal and illicit economies that are circling around and a part of drug trafficking,” Markowitz said.

He explained that this indicates that funding highly repressive security apparatuses to fight terrorism does not always subdue terrorism. Markowitz and his colleagues will share these findings in future publications and with policy audiences.



## LAW & JUSTICE STUDIES FACULTY JOIN GOVERNOR’S GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH TEAM

Dr. Joel Capellan (pictured) and Dr. Allen Jiao from the Law & Justice Department were chosen to serve on the New Jersey research team for the nation’s first Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium. Capellan and Jiao are among five inaugural members of Gov. Phil Murphy’s team.



# More Faculty Accomplishments

CHSS Celebrates Outstanding Faculty

## Historian lands NEH grant to study Russian black market



Dr. James Heinzen received a National Endowment for the Humanities award to study the Russian black market.

Dr. James Heinzen, professor of history and Russian history scholar, won his second National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer stipend award to advance his research on the social history of crime in the Soviet Union.

Two years ago, Heinzen published *The Art of the Bribe: Corruption Under Stalin, 1943-1953* with Yale University Press. With his second grant, he is investigating thriving black markets for consumer goods under a communist economic system in a repressive dictatorship. A fluent Russian speaker, Heinzen will travel to Moscow to work in recently declassified archives.

“My argument is that this black market activity is extremely sophisticated, very well coordinated and very ingenious in many ways,” he said. “I write about crime and corruption in Russia as a creative act undertaken by people under tremendous pressure in very difficult circumstances.”

Closer to home, Heinzen recently helped build a bridge of understanding between Americans and Russians. He acted as a translator when a Russian airliner made an emergency landing at Atlantic City International Airport in January.

Unable to clear U.S. customs, the group was stranded in the airport. Most of the passengers were families with children heading to Cuba for vacation.

“One of the great lessons of the humanities is that there is a fundamental similarity between people in the end,” he said. “We can communicate across cultural lines despite different practices, ways of doing things and languages.”

## CHSS FACULTY FAST FACTS

Faculty academic activity during the 2017-18 year included:

- 61 articles and book chapters published
- 6 books published
- 70 academic conference presentations
- 50 public events
- 10 fellowships and grants

CHSS continues to attract exceptional faculty members who share unique interests and talents with their students and in other endeavors. Recognizing the many ways CHSS faculty shine inside and outside the classroom, the College presented the following awards:

### Excellence in Research

As Rowan University increasingly focuses on research, CHSS is building a national and international reputation for state-of-the-art scholarship. The College promotes research that furthers knowledge to advance humankind, builds resilient, inclusive and creative societies, and encourages dialogue and public debate to reveal new ideas, helping to create a world in which everyone can contribute and prosper.

In this vein, CHSS presented Dr. Dianne Ashton, professor, philosophy and religion studies, and Dr. Carla Lewandowski, assistant professor, law and justice studies, with its first awards for Excellence in Research.

### Excellence in Service

The College also is proud of its faculty members' commitment to service.

This year, CHSS presented its first Excellence in Service Award to Dr. Bill Freind, associate professor, English, and Julia Pizzuto-Pomaco, three-quarter-time professor of religion. The presentation recognizes faculty members' outstanding efforts to provide service to students, programs, departments, the College and the University.

### Excellence in Teaching

The Excellence in Teaching Award selection process is very student-centered — from nomination to final selection. Students nominate professors for the award, describing why faculty members should be honored. Categories include innovative teaching methods, availability to students, passion for subject matter and others. A faculty committee evaluates and narrows the submissions, and they are submitted to the College's Student Advisory Council, which ultimately chooses the winners.

This year the Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Dr. Stephen Hague, instructor, history, and Dr. Nadine Sullivan, lecturer in sociology.

## EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Dr. Dianne Ashton



Dr. Carla Lewandowski

## EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE



Associate Dean Corrine Blake (left) and Dean Nawal Ammar (right) celebrate with award winners, Dr. Bill Freind and Dr. Julia Pizzuto-Pomaco.

## EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING



Assistant Dean Stephen Fleming (left) and Dean Nawal Ammar (right) join Dr. Nadine Sullivan and Dr. Stephen Hague as they receive Excellence in Teaching Awards.



# Student Accomplishments

Fulbright recipients head to Germany and Kosovo

## Jiang wins Rowan Undergraduate Research Award

Tyler Jiang’s college experiences have led him far and wide, taking him to Beijing as Rowan’s first Boren Scholar and then deep into research exploring China’s domestic and foreign policy.

In recognition of his research, Jiang, ’18, an international studies and history major, received the 2018 Rowan University Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research during Faculty Research Day.

“I didn’t expect to receive the award primarily because I had a feeling it was geared more toward science, technology, engineering and math, so I was very proud that I had been selected,” he said.

As an intern, the Bryn Mawr, Pa., resident co-authored articles with Senior Fellow Joseph Braude on China’s foreign and domestic policy, published by the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, as well as numerous other articles.

“It honed my research skills and helped me narrow down my research interests,” said Jiang.

Djibouti figured prominently in the research. “The piece we published together on military bases was one of the few that came out on it, and it is significant in terms of geopolitics in Africa. It helped me figure out what to do in my life. It narrowed my focus.”



Tyler Jiang (above) was awarded Rowan’s first Boren Scholarship and recently received Rowan’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research from Dr. Shreekanth Mandayam, former vice president for research, and President Ali Houshmand.



Jiang will be working for the Federal government in the fall and will return to graduate school to earn a master’s degree and doctorate. He was recently admitted to The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University for his master’s studies.



In September, Justine Lorenz (left), ’17, an early childhood education and liberal studies major with a minor in German, will travel to Lübeck, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, to begin the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program.

Lorenz, a Collingswood resident, has had a lifelong passion for the German language and culture, thanks to her German immigrant grandparents. She is excited to help her students learn a new language, working in the diversity program with refugees from other countries. She also looks forward to learning more about German schools. “I want to see what makes their educational system so great and help bring that here,” she said.

A second CHSS Fulbright recipient, Saranda Karpuzi (right), ’17, a history major, will travel to Kosovo.

The daughter of Albanian immigrants, Karpuzi developed an interest in history when she visited a school in Macedonia, where refugees from Kosovo stayed during a war for independence from Serbia. This piqued her interest in the history of the region. “Kosovo offers a history buff like myself the opportunity to experience a place that has been marred by ethnic and religious tension but is now in the midst of great change and transition,” said Karpuzi, of Mount Royal, a literacy specialist with Literacy New Jersey.



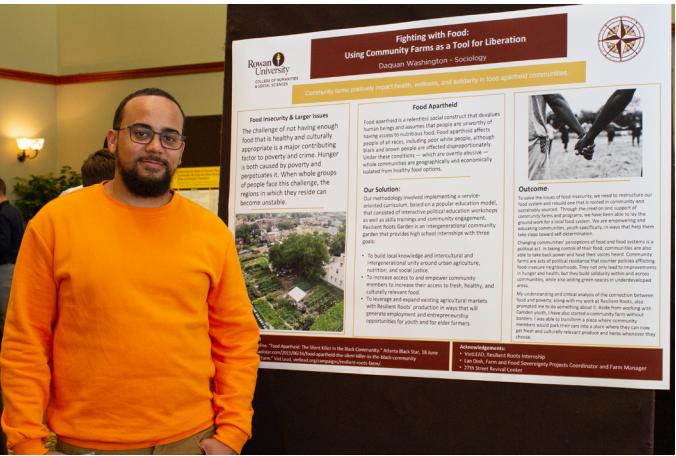
## Boren recipients study languages, work in agriculture abroad

While still a junior, sociology major Daquan Washington, ’19, earned a Boren Scholarship, which will take him to Arusha, Tanzania. Boren Awards provide funding for graduate and undergraduate students to learn less commonly taught languages in international regions critical to U.S. security. Recipients are required to work for the federal government for a year after completing the program.

After learning Swahili at the University of Florida in the summer and taking Swahili and other courses in Arusha in the fall, he will work on food justice and agricultural projects with non-profit organizations such as the Great African Food Company and the Tanzania Agricultural Society.

“Hunger is both caused by poverty and perpetuates it,” said the Camden resident who received the University Diversity Award. “When whole groups of people face this challenge, the regions in which they reside can become unstable.”

As president of Rowan’s Human Services Club, Washington already has helped attack hunger in Camden, teaching young people to grow food through an urban farming initiative. (Boren continued on page 14)





(Boren continued from page 13)

**R**yan Doud, '13, a graduate student in public relations/strategic communication who earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish with minors in multiple languages, also earned a Boren. Doud, who speaks seven languages, traveled to Wisconsin in the summer, then Lucknow, India, to intensively study Urdu, a language spoken in Pakistan and parts of northern India.

Doud is a Marine Corps veteran who served as a Persian linguist and intelligence analyst in Iraq. He explained that the need for communication will become increasingly significant in India and Pakistan with global efforts to improve agriculture, irrigation and water access.

"I'd like to work in developing more effective communication strategies for local government and international non-governmental organizations and U.S. agencies working in the region to better educate people on the available technologies and how to implement them," he said.



## Making an Impact: At Home and Abroad



From left - Ryan Doud, Justine Lorenz, Daquan Washington and Saranda Karpuzi were recognized for their academic achievements in May.



**Mikeala Litchfield**, a history, international studies and Africana studies major, was one of 75 American students to win a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals fellowship in Germany to study the German language and work

with a non-governmental organization for refugee youth for one year.

**Miriam Kontoh**, an international studies and political science major, was published in the *Sigma Iota Rho Journal of International Relations*.



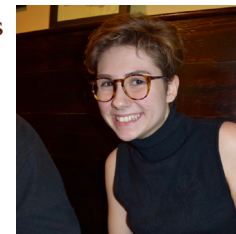
**Tyriese Holloway**, an English and education major, presented a paper at the annual Undergraduate Research Colloquium of the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium. Holloway also was accepted into the Public Policy and

International Affairs summer institute, "A Mile-High Ascent to Public Service," at the University of Colorado School of Public Affairs and Strategic Corporate Research Summer School at Cornell University. He is teaching English in China this fall.



**Emily Grenier**, a history major, won "Best Paper by an Undergraduate" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.

**Allayna Nofs**, an English major, is pursuing a Peace Corps mission in Indonesia to build cultural understanding through English teaching.



**Hope Holroyd**, Emily Grenier, Maximillian Bielsa, Daquan Washington and Tyler Jiang presented their research at the STEM Symposium on topics in American studies, history, anthropology, sociology and international studies.



# Alumni Accomplishments

## Driven by her love for America: Alumna Receives Freedom Medal

**S**ince earning her history degree with a concentration in international studies, Muqaddas Ejaz, '15, has left few stones unturned in her efforts to help others. In honor of her work, she received the 2018 Camden County Freedom Medal.

As the first Muslim member of the Cherry Hill Democratic Committee, Ejaz is also co-leader of the Southern New Jersey chapter of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom and was recognized by Congressman Donald Norcross as a Woman of Honor in Education. She tirelessly volunteers in interfaith youth work and in providing educational workshops, drug awareness workshops, crisis intervention and many other efforts. She is a sergeant in the Camden County College Public Safety Department.

"My love for America drives me to do everything that I'm doing," said Ejaz, who was born in Pakistan and now lives in Cherry Hill. "When I think about my America, I think about many different colors, races and faiths and yet we are all part of the same country with a commonality between all of us. We are all Americans and we need to make it work. While we are so different, we have the same goals."

Ejaz was honored to receive the award but looks ahead to the work she plans to do. "I still consider myself to be at the starting point," she said.





# Inclusivity and Impact

## Rowan Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The Rowan Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies had an exciting year. Among its many accomplishments, the Center offered nearly 40 programs — ranging from book clubs to informal conversations with Holocaust survivors to teacher workshops — serving approximately 1,000 students, staff, faculty and community members.

In addition, the Center has created a certificate of graduate study in Holocaust and genocide education and is developing a master's degree in Holocaust and genocide education.

It is the first program in the country that will bring together content about the Holocaust and other genocides and teaching strategies in a focused and integrated way, said Dr. Stephen Hague, director.

E

## The Hollybush Institute

Established to preserve and build on the legacy of the historic 1967 Glassboro Summit meeting between President Lyndon B. Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, the Hollybush Institute launched several new initiatives.

Together with an ongoing library project, faculty and staff plan to digitize all documents, interviews and oral histories of people involved in the historic event and other information, while updating the website to make materials more accessible.

“We will make accessible all kinds of interesting material that was produced around this superpower summit held on our campus,” said Dr. James Heinzen, director.

Tying the summit to current events, the institute plans to expand speaker events related to international affairs, international cooperation and diplomacy.



Rowan University Hillel and Chabad honor the victims of the Holocaust.



# Inclusivity and Impact (con't.)

## CHSS programs contribute to growth in Camden

With the addition of Human Services and Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management programs to Rowan's Camden Campus, CHSS not only is growing the campus but contributing to the community beyond.

"By bringing additional services for our students to Camden, we're partnering with Cooper and other area schools to provide those services, which is enriching our connections with the community. Our service clubs and field placements are providing opportunities for students to be engaged in Camden-related support agencies," said Sharon McCann, coordinator of the Human Services and Liberal Studies programs.

For example, through the leadership of its president, Daquan Washington, the Human Services Club is training young people in Camden to grow food.

In addition, 18 students were placed in agencies in and near Camden last semester. By graduation, seven graduates were employed by the communities where they had been placed.

The city — undergoing revitalization to focus on "eds and meds" — provides an important educational setting. "Camden is a microcosm of some of the social challenges that face other communities in the country as a whole," McCann said. "Some of our initiatives there show how a better understanding of the social ills that face us and our community members can be resolved through a good application of the social sciences — and sociology in particular. That's what we're all about. We're all about applied sociology, taking the theoretical out into the street."



CHSS's Camden facility houses many Human Services and Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management courses.

INVEST IN OUR

*future* WHILE ACHIEVING YOUR *dreams*



Support Rowan University College of Humanities & Social Sciences students by making a planned gift today. The following gift vehicles are some ways you may be able to meet your personal financial goals and leave a legacy of learning for future generations of Rowan students:

### GIFTS ANYONE CAN MAKE

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