

# SENIORS OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

# 2020

**EMPOWER. TRANSFORM. ENGAGE.**



**RowanUniversity**

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES  
& SOCIAL SCIENCES

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# Dean's Congratulations



Dr. Nawal Ammar  
Dean of College of Humanities & Social Sciences

"We are experiencing a historically unprecedented time due to the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak. During this time, the University has initiated a series of steps to mitigate the effects of the disruptions the pandemic has caused. All CHSS faculty and staff have already transitioned to working remotely. Charles Darwin once said, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, but rather, that which is most adaptable to change." As we are adapting to this sudden change we continue to be proud of your accomplishment. I want to congratulate you for your Senior of Distinction Award. This is a difficult award to earn. You have worked hard to receive it, and there were difficulties along the way. Nevertheless, you did earn it. Your perseverance, consistency and hard work makes your professors in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences proud. Undoubtedly, your perseverance will serve you as you begin your journey after the completion of your degree. Finally, I want to leave you with a saying of a favorite futurist sociologist, Alvin Toffler, who said, "Change is not merely necessary to life – it is life." Take pride in this accomplishment, and good luck in your future."

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Nawal Ammar". The signature is fluid and cursive.

## OUR GUEST SPEAKER, MR. MICHAEL HEDAYAT, '13



“Congratulations to all the Seniors of Distinction. Though the ceremony was cancelled this year, the honor is still yours, and I celebrate each of you. You must have shown particular strengths to have been chosen for this award. I have been tasked with giving you advice which I have decided will come in the form of a challenge.

You are Plato’s torchbearers of humanity. As such, I challenge each of you to not give into fear or indifference in this time of crisis. The strength that you have shown thus far creates an obligation to act. This will do two things—help others while helping yourself. The best path forward in times of stress and anxiety is always action. Take your skills and give back to your community. Rowan has fostered excellence in you. I challenge you to take all your power and help rebuild. You will always be Seniors of Distinction, but I hope you will answer my call, and become citizens of distinction as well. “

Mr. Hedayat received his Bachelor's Degree in English from Rowan University, where he served as President of the Pre-Law Society. He was also involved in the Student Government Association as a Senator, the Order of Omega as President, the Inter-Greek Council as President, he served as the Texas A&M Conference on Student Government Association's Delegate for Rowan University, as well as an ASPIRE Student Leadership Retreat Peer Mentor. Mr. Hedayat successfully completed University of Virginia's Semester at Sea program in Global Studies while traveling through ten countries in Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Mr. Hedayat studied law at New York Law School in Manhattan; through the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom; through Tulane University Law School's Rhodes Program in Greece and completed his Juris Doctor degree at the Florida State University College of Law. Interestingly, Mr. Hedayat was sworn into the Bar of the State of New Jersey by his sister, Kathrine E. Hedayat, who also practices as an attorney in New Jersey.

After graduating Mr. Hedayat was honored to be the first judicial law clerk for the Honorable Avis Bishop-Thompson, J.S.C. at the Bergen County Vicinage in New Jersey. Currently, he serves as an attorney for Britcher Leone, LLC, focusing on serious personal injury matters and medical malpractice.

# Chairs & Coordinators



**Dr. Chanelle Rose**  
Africana Studies



**Dr. Katherine Turner**  
American Studies



**Dr. DeMond Miller**  
Disaster Preparedness &  
Emergency Management



**Dr. Zena Meadowsong**  
English



**Dr. Danielle Gougon**  
General Studies



**Dr. Janet Lindman**  
History



**Dr. Kelly Duke-Bryant**  
International Studies



**Dr. Mike Weiss**  
Law & Justice Studies



**Sharon McCann**  
Liberal Studies:  
Humanities/Social  
Science;  
Human Services

## Chairs & Coordinators (con't)



**Dr. Marilyn Manley**

Modern Languages &  
Linguistics; Spanish



**Dr. Ellen Miller**

Philosophy &  
Religion Studies



**Dr. Lawrence Markowitz**

Political Science  
& Economics



**Dr. Harriet Hartman**

Sociology &  
Anthropology



Bria Pender

Bria Pender is a Political Science major with a minor in Africana Studies. She has sought innovative ways to broaden her interest in the intersection of race, politics, and gender beyond the classroom. As a student worker for the office of Social Justice, Inclusion, and Conflict Resolution, as well as an intern for their Women's Center, Bria helped organize the Politics of Brown Hair symposium. She is also the event coordinator for Love & Luxe—a student club organized to empower Black women. Bria also shines as a mentor to the youth at the YMCA where she facilitates team-building activities on anti-bullying.



Saadiqa Smart

Saadiqa Smart is an Elementary Education and American Studies double major. She has maintained excellent grades while pursuing interests in dance and church ministry. She teaches dance both at a dance center and at a non-profit, sharing her skills with children in support of her goals as a future teacher. She teaches tap and ballet, as well as dance classes for fathers and daughter so they can learn different dance styles together. She is also director of a children's ministry and has been recognized by the National Association of Professional Development. Her dream job is to teach middle school math!



**Katarzyna Krzton**

Katarzyna (Kasia) Krzton's body of work as an anthropology student is an exemplar of the values of respect and attention to meaningful details of peoples' lived experience that characterizes the discipline. Ms. Krzton is the coordinator of the Rowan/Camden Expressive Arts Collaborative, an applied anthropology project in cooperation with the Music Therapy Department at Rowan. Kasia's efforts and ingenuity made this project possible; she collected background research, drafted a grant proposal and thereby helped to obtain seed funding for the project. Currently, she is working with musicians and pediatricians to implement a music-recording program for Camden youth and is documenting the progress of the project in support of its future expansion.



**Heather Byrne**

During times of crisis, Ms. Heather Byrne will be there as a well-prepared graduate of the Disaster Science and Emergency Management Program. Since 2009, she has participated in various activities within the broader spectrum of emergency management services. Heather is the founder of a 501c3 Widows Ministry and received Salem County's CERT/MRC volunteer recognition in 2019. Within the Rowan University Community, she is a member of International Association of Emergency Managers and Epsilon Pi Phi Honor Society. Already recognized as a leader in the emergency management community, she inspires others with her enthusiasm and knowledge. Heather is very passionate about widows and people with functional needs.



Amanda Pinho

Amanda enrolled as an International Studies major specializing in International Business and Economics. Adding a German Studies minor, she completed it within two years. Because of the Economics specialization, she made Economics her second major. Outside of academics, her proudest accomplishment has been her membership on the Field Hockey Team. As Fundraising Chairperson, she has worked alongside other women with a passion for the sport, coordinated events with other universities, and participated in the annual National Collegiate Field Hockey Tournament. She is member of Rowan's Bantivoglio Honors College and has found many opportunities for students such as lectures, campus events, and with the Office of Volunteerism.



Farah Bakri

Farah Bakri exemplifies the English Department's commitment to academic excellence and community engagement. A member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education, she will graduate this May with a BA in English, a Minor in Education, and a Concentration in English for Future Educators. With boundless intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm, she has distinguished herself as an engaged, thoughtful student and a keen reader of literary texts. Besides being a pleasure to teach, she has made invaluable contributions to the Department, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the University as a student leader in the CHSS Center for Professional Success.

## GENERAL STUDIES



Sandra Collazo

Sandra Collazo is a first-generation college student who began her studies as a math major at Rowan University when it was Glassboro State College in 1988. Sandra has had a successful 20 plus year career in corporate retail fashion, where her love of mathematics has been central to her roles as a Merchandise Planning Manager at New York and Company (a \$900 million women's apparel company), as a business analyst at Polo Ralph Lauren, and a store analyst at Ann Taylor. Sandra has recently returned to Rowan to complete her degree through the Bachelor of General Studies Program and will graduate this spring. Sandra has enjoyed her return to Rowan and is considering pursuing an additional degree in the near future.

## HISTORY



Sylvia Hogue

Sylvia Hogue is a member of the Kappa Delta Phi, Tau Sigma, and Phi Alpha Theta honor societies and maintains a President's Scholars of Excellence distinction. She has interned at the Museum of American History at Deptford and now sits on the museum's board. Currently interning with the Rowan Center for the Study of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights she assists with programing and research. She plans to continue her studies with Rowan's master's program in Holocaust and Genocide Education. She hopes work in public history focusing on Holocaust and Genocide education and the implementation of a federal curriculum.



Kelly Auletto

Kelly is the essence of determination. She showed remarkable perseverance taking classes full time while working full time and managing her field experience hours. She faced setbacks in her own health and that of family members, yet she persisted. She became a central, steady, leader in her cohort, and led by example. She took advantage of her opportunity in Field, and used that to move up and reorganize an entire department in her organization. From line staff to managing 25 people in two years, Kelly shows us what perseverance in the face of many obstacles can bring.



Elizabeth Mosolovich

Elizabeth is a double major in International Studies (Global and Comparative Perspectives concentration) and Writing Arts. She excelled in her Methods and Seminar courses, and was part of our inaugural Model United Nations course and delegation (spring 2019). Elizabeth obtained highly competitive internships, most notably a State Department Virtual Internship, and worked for the International Studies program. She has held several leadership positions in Rowan's chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies honor society, and currently serves as its president. As a freshman, she published two blog posts in the online Journal of International Relations.

## LAW AND JUSTICE



Cameron McIver

Cameron McIver studies Law and Justice at Rowan University with minors in Political Science and Ethics. He has achieved several academic honors, including the President's Scholar of Excellence, Dean's List, and Rowan Scholar-Athlete. Cameron has strived to maximize his college experience by participating in track and field as well as holding officer positions for academic clubs like Rowan Political Forum and Alpha Phi Sigma. He has also served as a Resident Assistant and an Assistant Resident Director on campus. Cameron is currently interning for local law offices and has been accepted to seven law schools with significant scholarships.

## LIBERAL STUDIES



Alexandra Schlager

Alexandra Schlager has sequences in History and Art History as well as double majoring in Philosophy & Religion. She currently has an exceptional GPA. She won a scholarship to study abroad in Scotland in spring 2019 and was involved in an independent study project one of her Art History professors. Alexandra embodies the meaning of interdisciplinary intellect and curiosity. Her embrace of all of her opportunities is why Alexandra is a Senior of Distinction.

Danny Librizzi is graduating with a double major in Spanish/ Education and Modern Languages & Linguistics, along with minors in International Studies and Latin American Studies. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, given the depth, breadth and rigor of his coursework and the fact that he excelled academically in all of his classes. He participated in service-learning projects, translating documents for the Vineland Public School District and working alongside a hospital interpreter at Cooper University Hospital. Danny represents the “complete package” that the Department of World Languages offers its students; he plunged into every aspect of language learning with curiosity and dedication.



Ny'Asia Brackett

The 2020 Political Science program’s Senior of Distinction is Ny’Asia Brackett. Ny’Asia is a member of the university’s award winning debate team, a campaign manager in a local election, and co-founder of the Fearless Movement (in which she coordinated events to create awareness for individuals battling epilepsy). She has also been the co-coordinator of Rowan’s inaugural “Walk it Like You Talk it” civic engagement and voter registration drive. Through her involvement at Rowan and in the community at large, Ny’Asia exemplifies the Political Science Program’s commitment to developing engaged citizens who will be the leaders of tomorrow.



Chad Shire

Mr. Chad Shire—a President's Scholar of Excellence—is a double major in Philosophy and Psychology (B.S.) with a Neuroscience minor. He works as a research coordinator and oversees students working with patients on the schizophrenia spectrum. He has conducted original research in cognition and mental health. In addition, Mr. Shire is an award-winning diver and has been on the Rowan diving team during his entire academic career. He was a Regional Qualifier and received the NJAC Diver of the Year award in 2019. He plans to complete a PhD in neuroscience, a degree that combines his undergraduate research in philosophy and psychology. Mr. Shire is a conscientious and ethical student; we look forward to the contributions he will make to the mental health field.



Connor Chapman

Connor Chapman has emerged as the star of stars across our talented cohort of seniors in the Sociology program, and he is emerging as a rising star in our discipline. The soon-to-be Dr. Chapman has gained admission with full funding to the Sociology Ph.D. programs at the University of Pittsburgh and Portland State University. A double major in Sociology and History, Connor has developed an outstanding set of interdisciplinary skills that he employs as a scholar and an advocate of environmental justice. We honor Connor for his sustained excellence and for bringing credit to our department, college, and university.



Angelica will be graduating this Spring 2020 with a Spanish major and concentrations in Applied Spanish and Spanish American Literature and Culture. Previously, at Germanna Community College in Virginia, she received the Academic Award for Health, was inducted as a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, tutored various subjects, and served as a tour guide at open house events. She has applied her bilingual, Spanish-English skills in her work as an HR Assistant for CleanOffice Inc. and as a Server at Longhorn Steakhouse. Her future goals include becoming an interpreter and translator and furthering her studies in Arabic.

Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation from Rowan University! On behalf of our more than 90,000 Rowan proud alumni, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Rowan University Alumni Association.

Our goal is to help you stay connected to the University by providing resources, benefits and opportunities with you in mind. We hope that you will take advantage of our many networking events, on-campus activities, sporting and arts events and career advisory services.

While your senior year may not have concluded in the way you imagined, Rowan University will always be your home and you will always be a Prof! We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

All the best,  
Jessica Kanady '08, M'15  
Assistant Director of Alumni  
Engagement

P.S. You can stay connected with us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn @RowanAlumni.

Follow us online!



#RowanCHSS

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