



SENIORS OF DISTINCTION AWARDS BANQUET

2019

Program

Dinner Reception

Dean's Welcome

Guest Speaker: Valerie K. Buickerood
'02 B.A. History Alumna

Presentation of Awards

What is the Seniors of Distinction Award?

Every year our programs have the tough task of choosing one student who stands out among their peers in the major—a student who not only demonstrates academic achievement but represents the best in the discipline. Receiving the designation of “Senior of Distinction” is indeed an honor but also a responsibility. We expect our Seniors of Distinction recipients to make an impact as they progress through their careers and serve their communities. We also urge our Seniors of Distinction to stay connected with Rowan, with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and with their department or program so that we can celebrate their successes!



Dean Nawal Ammar

I want to congratulate you for your Senior of Distinction Award. You must remember this award with pride. This is a difficult award to earn. You have worked hard to receive it, and there were ups and downs along the way. But 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 graduation. Take pride in this accomplishment, enjoy this event, and good luck in your future.

Our Guest Speaker

Valerie Buickerood has been a nonprofit professional since 2007. Prior to entering the nonprofit field, she spent more than a decade in the corporate sector in sales and service. After graduating from Rowan University with a BA in History, she pursued a graduate degree in U.S. History at Temple University before deciding on a career in nonprofit. Joining the development team at the Alice Paul Institute in 2007, Ms. Buickerood spent a total of 5 years at the women's history and girls leadership organization, with her last 2 years as executive director. She joined the development team at Isles, Inc. in 2012 in Trenton, NJ and Hopeworks 'N Camden in 2015 as the director of engagement and communications.



At Hopeworks, a youth development and workforce development nonprofit, Ms. Buickerood is responsible for managing all fundraising activities as well as communications. She is a long time member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, a current member of the Committed to Camden Committee and was recently named co-chair of the Nonprofit Committee at Chamber of Commerce of Southern NJ (CCSNJ). Ms. Buickerood is a 2018 Lead NJ fellow. She has been an active volunteer as a youth mentor with several organizations and recently became a member of Better Angels, a national organization that unites red and blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America.

Ms. Buickerood is dedicated to helping organizations raise resources to achieve their missions and create positive social change.

CHSS Chairs & Coordinators



Dr. Chanelle Rose
Africana Studies



Dr. Emily Blanck
American Studies



Dr. DeMond Miller
Disaster Preparedness &
Emergency Management



Dr. Joseph Coulombe
English



Dr. Danielle Gougon
General Studies



Dr. William Carrigan
History



Carolyn Gribbin
Human Services



Dr. Kelly Duke-Bryant
International Studies



Dr. Mike Weiss
Law & Justice Studies



Sharon McCann

Liberal Studies: Humanities/
Social Science;
Human Services



Dr. Marilyn Manley
Modern Languages &
Linguistics; Spanish



Dr. Ellen Miller
Philosophy &
Religion Studies



Dr. Lawrence Markowitz
Political Science
& Economics



Dr. Harriet Hartman
Sociology &
Anthropology



Nydreema McDuffie
Africana Studies

Nydreema McDuffie is an empowered and engaged student with many of the qualities needed to excel in an increasingly multicultural workplace and globalized world. She will receive a dual BA degree in Africana Studies and International Studies, with a minor in Spanish. She was awarded the university scholar status for multiple semesters at Rowan and inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Academic Honor Society. She has become an unofficial Ambassador of the AS program as president of the Student Organization of African Studies, and she represented Rowan University as part of the Eritrean delegation at the 16th Annual International Model African Union Conference in Washington, D.C. Nydreema's independent internship in La Entrada, Honduras (summer 2018) exemplifies her commitment to bridging the gap between academic research and the real world. This experience greatly encouraged her to become a leader within an international environment. She has also remained connected to local groups such as Youth Action Team at the University of Pennsylvania and Youth Empowerment Program, which supports those who have been impacted by parental incarceration. After graduation, Nydreema plans to attend law school and start her own non-profit that will focus on uplifting communities for systematic improvement.



Rebecca Messer
American Studies

Rebeca Messer on the surface looks like most American Studies students: a conscientious Elementary Education dual major who wants to make a difference through educating children. She will be an elementary school teacher next year, but will immediately begin to study to get an MA in Special Education. Her contributions to her classes suggest that she is much more. She is a very bright, empathetic, and deep thinker. She was described by one professor as having written the strongest paper yet in our challenging methodology course. Her Senior Seminar professor described her as providing strong and empathetic connections to the reading, understanding the nuances of social and cultural constructions more deeply than most people her age. American Studies chose Rebecca because we seek to educate students to be active citizens who understand how to be a part of our pluralistic democracy, and Rebecca embodies that ideal.



Joseph Foti

*Disaster Preparedness and
Emergency Management*

Joseph Foti will receive a BA in DPEM, a minor in Political Science and a Certificate of Undergraduate Studies in Counterterrorism Response Operations. He is also on the Dean's List. He represents the highest level dedication to the service of others through helping his community. Joseph is the founder and president of the Rowan Student Chapter of International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). He forged a partnership with the NJ Dept of Human Services, Rowan EMS, Rowan, Dept of Public Safety/ Office of Emergency Management and the Boro of Glassboro to implement a joint training exercise in Shelter Training at Rowan for students, faculty, Glassboro residents, Glassboro Officials, and Gloucester County personnel. Joseph worked as a Research Assistant for Community Planning Project and the NJ Dept of Community Affairs analyzing NJ flood documentation. Joseph interned with the Passaic County Office of Emergency Management where he designed exercises for emergency drills, attended meetings with local and state representatives, utility and care facilities and assisted teaching a hands only CPR course for senior services personnel. Joseph, as a NJ certified EMT, has been a member of Rowan EMS and is working on his recertification as an EMT-B.



Joseph Salvo

Economics

Joseph is a double major in Political Science and Economics. Only five years ago, he moved from Italy to the US with no knowledge of the English language. While challenging, Joseph credits his transition for his motivation to succeed. Joseph's ambition has garnered him a number of opportunities within and outside of his department. Joseph served as a research assistant with Dr. Stuti Jha in the Economics department. His work with Dr. Jha has since inspired his personal research project through which he is exploring the correlation between community health and cancer diagnoses. Joseph also served as VP of the Rowan Students Investment Club during his sophomore year. Beyond Rowan, Joseph maintains a multi-year internship with the NJ Superior Courts in which he currently interns for the Superior Court Judge with responsibilities similar to a law clerk. Joseph has managed to excel in curricular and extracurricular activities while also working nearly full time. Joseph earned Dean's List during every semester that he was enrolled, and President's List during two of those semesters. He was one of two recipients of the 2018 Dr. Bela Mukhoti Scholarship in Economics.



Rachel Barton
English

Rachel exemplifies the intelligence, ambition, and hard work that we value. She's a double major in English and Writing Arts, and she has minors in Creative Writing and Women's & Gender Studies. Her concentrations in Honors as well as Publishing & New Media help round out and emphasize her academic and professional aspirations. At Rowan, she has worked as a tutor in the Writing Center, an Admissions Ambassador for Rowan campus tours, and an intern with Singularity Press. In addition, Ms. Barton was editor-in-chief for Her Campus Rowan, senior editor for Avant Literary Magazine, and associate editor for Glassworks Magazine. Her accomplishments include a Fulbright Summer Institute at the University of Sussex (UK) and an internship with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Ms. Barton intends to enroll in a Creative Writing MFA program next Fall 2019.



Riley Shea
History

Riley Shea will receive a BA in History and Africana Studies, with a minor in Political Science and an Honors concentration. During his time at Rowan, Riley has excelled in the classroom while providing wide-ranging leadership at the department and university level. He has served as the president of the Student History Association, a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the History honor society, a President's Scholar of Excellence, and Assistant Vice President for Club Development for the Student Government Association. In 2018-19, he was the Student Trustee on the Rowan University Board of Trustees. While accomplishing all of this, Riley has worked with at organizations such as the African-American Museum of Philadelphia, the Uncommon School in New York City, and Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia. One professor summed up that Riley, "is perhaps the brightest and strongest student I have taught in my nearly 10 years at Rowan." He plans to pursue graduate work in teacher education at a top-level program in order to become "a reflective, civic-minded public school educator."



Jasmine Sample
Human Services

Jasmine explored different majors and universities before making her home in the Rowan Human Services Department. Once here, she exhibited numerous academic and professional qualities that have set her apart from her peers. Jasmine is able to effectively communicate her thoughts and ideas while maintaining respect for others. She has stepped up to leadership roles within the Human Services Club and is now its President. She provides stability and inspiration to others, creating a community of support around her. She is leading our club to be fully chartered by the end of the semester. She is an asset to her field internships as well, needing a new site placement because her last placement was so impressed, they hired her. She is now working with Heart 2 Heart Services and making a lasting impact. She commands the respect of her peers, co-workers and professors. This woman is a leader in the field that she has only just stepped into. After graduation, Jasmine will pursue a master's degree in Social Work and hopes to work with children and adolescents involved with protective services and the juvenile courts.



Vanessa Washington
International Studies

As an International Studies major with a concentration in International Business and Economics, Vanessa Washington has acquired deep knowledge of pressing global issues, become conversant in German, and explored international business. In her Introduction to International Studies class, she wrote a memorable original research paper on the nuclear arms crisis in the Korean peninsula that engaged with a variety of primary sources. She studied abroad in the Netherlands during the summer of 2018, and she was chosen to participate in Rowan's first-ever Model United Nations course, offered this spring. Later this month, she will travel to New York for the National Model United Nations conference. She is among the first students to be admitted to Rowan's accelerated dual degree program in International Studies and Business, and will earn both a BA and an MBA at Rowan. After graduation, Vanessa plans to pursue a career in international economic development.



Raymond Philippe
Law and Justice

The Law and Justice Department is proud to honor Raymond Philippe as our 2019 Senior of Distinction. Ray's academic performance is a glowing representation of the interdisciplinary approach to higher education that is so deeply valued in CHSS, as evidenced by his impressive academic achievements as a L&J major, Sociology minor, and his completion of a CUGS in Psychology of Sport and Exercise, all while maintaining a position on the Rowan Football team. Ray has been a dedicated and active member of the Rowan community through his involvement with Sigma Alpha Lambda National Honor Society, and through his work with the Rowan Chapter of Students Against Cancer coordinating the Relay for Life and the Cancer Survivor Dinner. He also volunteers for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and as football coach in his hometown. He works with Virtua to create a summer camp for children of parents in cancer treatment. We wish Ray the best as he continues his education at Rowan earning a master's in Counseling in Educational Settings and making a positive impact in the lives of today's youth.



Olivia Dellston
Liberal Studies

As a student in Liberal Studies Humanities and Social Sciences, with sequences in Sociology and American Studies and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Olivia stood out, because she relished a challenge and brought both the personal and intellectual into her studies. She is directing her learning to helping others and chose internships during college which reflect this. Last summer she was an Intern in Buenos Aires Argentina doing research on gender and homelessness and she's been an intern this year at The Shop Food Pantry. Olivia also serves on the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Student Advisory Council, through which she collaborates with College administration to best serve students.



Joseph N. Antaki
*Modern Languages and
Linguistics*

Joseph N. Antaki will graduate in May 2019 with a B.A. in Modern Languages & Linguistics with Concentrations in Spanish and Japanese, as well as a B.S. in Computer Science, and the Thomas N. Bantivoglio Honors Concentration. In 2018, he received the NJ Association of Teachers of Japanese Award for Excellence in the Study of Japanese Language and Culture. In that same year, he also served as an English-Esperanto Translator for Rowan's Student Research Symposium. Joseph has also demonstrated commitment to the field of Computer Science through a variety of extracurricular and professional activities. He has applied his skillsets in Information Technologies and software development with companies and organizations including the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), Infinux Games, and ASRC Federal Mission Solutions. In his time at Rowan, Joseph has also served as Chair and Learning Chair of the Association for Computing Machinery's Artificial Intelligence Committee and the Service and Philanthropy Chairman of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. Additionally, Joseph is a member of the Upsilon Pi Epsilon International Science Honor Society. After graduation, he will pursue a Master's in Computational Linguistics.



Marisa Considine
Philosophy & Religion

Marisa Considine is a double major in Philosophy and Theatre with concentrations in Musical Theatre and Honors Studies. She is the recipient of the 2019 Joseph Robinette Excellence in Theatre and Dance Senior Medallion, the 2018 Charles Wei-Hsun Fu Scholarship in World Philosophy and Religion, and the inaugural David Clowney Philosophy Scholarship Award. She is a 2018 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition Nominee and is on Rowan's President's Scholars of Excellence List. Along with being a member of Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honor Society and founding President of the Philosophy Club, Marisa has appeared in ten college theatre productions and has presented her scholarly research at Rowan's Annual Ethics Conference. She is an avid traveler and tap dancer, most recently studying genocide in Europe and visiting a school in rural India. Marisa plans to attend graduate school, exploring opportunities in a range of fields. The Philosophy and Religion Studies Department is very proud of Marisa's many accomplishments and contributions. We look forward to hearing how she uses her intelligence and passions in this next chapter of her life.



Rbrey Singleton
Political Science

Rebrey Duane Singleton has embraced the Rowan University spirit since coming to Glassboro in 2015. Rbrey found his home within the Student Government Association as a senator, on the Foundation Board of Directors and on the Rowan Board of Trustees as student trustee. Rbrey advocates for college accessibility and affordability and successfully lobbied the SGA for \$30,000 to create The S.H.O.P., Rowan's on campus food pantry and resource center serving the fight against food insecurity. He assisted with bringing the "Fresh For All" market to Rowan. Rbrey has served as a Constituent Service Intern at US Senator Cory A. Booker's office, assisted NJ residents dealing with federal immigration agencies like the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Last summer, he joined 1199SEIU union, as a Legislative Communications Intern and worked towards Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) staffing standards in NJ nursing homes. Rbrey will continue his education at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Law School. He hopes to use his J.D. to advocate on behalf of migrant families as an immigration attorney.



Daquan Washington
Sociology

Daquan Washington is a Sociology major from Camden. At Pennsauken High School he was selected for the Student Employment Program's Positive Contribution Award and as Cooperative Education/School-to-Work Student of the Year. Selected for Rowan's 2018 Excellence in Diversity Award for Social Activism, a 2017 Presidential Scholar of Excellence and on the 2016 Dean's List, he is a member of Tau Sigma National Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors society, and Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership/ Honors Organization, and is President of the Human Services Club. Daquan was awarded a 10-month Boren Scholarship through the African Flagship Language Initiative in 2018. Since 2015, Washington has been the Youth Program Coordinator for Camden's VietLEAD, helping high school students learn how to cook, market and grow food. He started a community farm in Camden and travelled to Puerto Rico to assist farmers. Washington anticipates working for USAID's Feed the Future upon graduation.



Born in Colombia, Paola Florido arrived in the United States of America at the age of thirteen with a commitment to excel academically and change the future of teaching as both a leader and peer in classroom and community contexts. In 2015, Paola earned her Associates degree in Liberal Arts from Atlantic Cape Community College. She continued her studies at Rowan University to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Spanish in 2018. As a member of the Dean's List at each institution, Paola's dedication to her studies and progression to become an innovative teacher remains evident as she anticipates graduating in Spring 2019 with her Master of Science in Teaching (MST) at Rowan University. Paola was instrumental in assisting teachers at local school districts with young learners struggling with reading while fully engaging in the first local and global service-learning programs in Spanish at Rowan University.



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