



The College of Humanities &
Social Sciences'

2023

**SENIORS OF
DISTINCTION
AWARDS
BANQUET**

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

I Welcome Reception

II Greetings

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

III Presentation of Awards



Congratulations from Dean 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.

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS



**DR. KATHERINE
TURNER**
American Studies



DR. DEMOND MILLER
Disaster Preparedness &
Emergency Management



**DR. CATHERINE
WILCOXSON**
English



**DR. DANIELLE
GOUGON**
General Studies



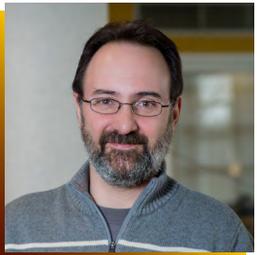
DR. EDWARD WANG
History



PROF. SHARON MCCANN
Human Services



**DR. CARLA
LEWANDOWSKI**
International Studies



DR. MICHAEL WEISS
Law & Justice Studies



DR. TIFFANY TILLMAN
Liberal Studies



DR. NATHAN BAUER
Philosophy &
World Religions



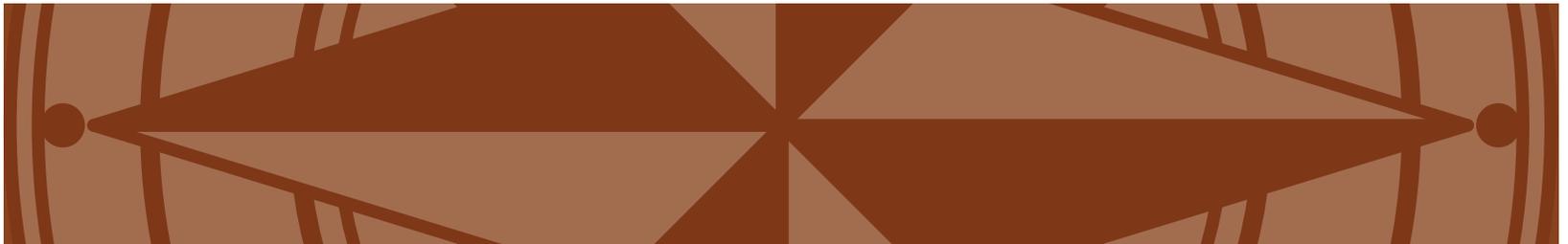
**DR. LAWRENCE
MARKOWITZ**
Political Science &
Economics



DR. MARIA ROSADO
Sociology &
Anthropology



DR. MARILYN MANLEY
World Languages



OUR DISTINGUISHED SENIORS



ALYSSA LOMBARDI
American Studies

Alyssa Lombardi exemplifies the best talents of an American Studies major. She performed thorough and engaging work in Dr. Plourde's senior seminar, which explored aspects of Philadelphia. In her presentation on the First Bank of the United States, she discussed its significance in the development of the American financial system and shared photos of her friend's wedding in the building. She provided a historical overview of Palladian architecture, including its origins and theory. In her research, she includes personal photos of Palladian buildings in Italy and of the Philadelphia Art Museum. She intentionally researched the Italian Market due to her family's business ownership experiences there. The seminar allowed Alyssa to share her life experiences. In her final paper, she used her research on art, history, and politics to argue that the Philadelphia Museum of Art is outstanding in promoting artistic and social inclusion, presenting a thorough and engaging narrative.



ALONDRA RAMOS-SERRANO
Anthropology

Alondra Ramos-Serrano is receiving the 2023 Senior of Distinction in Anthropology because she is eager to apply her knowledge to existing severe problems in the real world. As a research intern for the Museum of Anthropology at Rowan University (MARU), she successfully created a professional database for the Steinhart Collection of Native American artifacts on permanent loan to the museum. She continued to foster communication with Lenni-Lenape community leaders to create culturally sensitive interpretations of Steinhart's archaeological material for public display, both in the museum and online. She plans to pursue graduate studies to acquire skills in preserving archaeological materials in her home commonwealth of Puerto Rico, where limited resources and the effects of climate change are endangering its rich heritage. Her extracurricular work in Flow Forward on Rowan campus seeks recognition and redress for a real economic hardship facing female students that impede their access to education.



WILLIAM COOPER
Disaster Preparedness
and Emergency Management

William Cooper, a Gloucester City Native, is a Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management major with a dual major in Marketing. His commitment to serving others is seen in his engagement outside of the classroom. He interned with the New Jersey State Police in the Office of Emergency Management. He is currently employed by the New Jersey Department of Treasury in the Emergency Response Unit, working alongside the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management in Trenton. There, he assists New Jersey State Police and civilians in completing a variety of tasks to keep the citizens of New Jersey safe. He plans to attend graduate school after gaining more experience at the state or federal level of emergency management. No matter where William goes, the faculty are assured he will have a remarkable impact. He will be one of the cornerstones and thought leaders for his generation of emergency managers.



KATHRYN HONNIG
Economics

Kathryn Honnig is a first-generation college student graduating after three years with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, alongside a minor in Music. She has achieved several academic honors, including President's Scholar of Excellence, Dean's List, and a merit-based scholarship under the Rowan Scholars Program. Kathryn is also a peer tutor on campus, and tutors fellow students in the core curriculum classes of the Economics major. Beyond academics, Kathryn is an accomplished violinist and dancer. Most recently, she won the 2023 Rowan University String Ensemble Concerto Competition and placed 1st runner-up the year previously. She is also a three-year member of the University's Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble. She was selected to perform in several different works and is a three-year member of Dance Extensions. Most recently, she was accepted into the Alvin Ailey American School of Dance and the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City.



LANCE SERAFICA
English

Lance Serafica is an English major with minors in Strategic Communication and in Creative Writing. He maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his time at Rowan. In his English coursework, he wrote insightful and original essays, focusing on the significance of pagan mythology in Christopher Marlow's *Dr. Faustus* and using queer theory to argue that Alice Osman's YA novel *Radio Silence* resists normative narratives of adolescent development. Lance spent a semester studying abroad at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, where he explored the countryside in his spare time. Lance is working towards a career in Trade Book publishing and is currently interning at Writer's House, a literary agency representing clients like Neil Gaiman and Adam Silvera. He is wrapping up the second draft of his own book, a queer YA Contemporary Fantasy/Horror story, which he hopes to finish by graduation.



TAMMY LONCTO
General Studies

Tammy Loncto is receiving the 2023 Senior of Distinction in General Studies. She is a first-generation student and has demonstrated perseverance and dedication in completing her degree. For 27 years, Tammy has juggled work and family while pursuing her educational goals. She began her studies at Rowan as a Psychology major before switching to the BGS program. Tammy has over 20 years of administrative experience in higher education, including financial assistance and credit evaluation. She began working at Rowan University in 2016, relocating from Northern California. Tammy is a parent of three children, ages 9, 18, and 20. Her oldest child is a junior at Rowan and the middle child begins attending next fall. Tammy is considering her next steps and contemplating applying for the MA in Higher Education: Advising program. She will continue to achieve great success in her academic pursuits and inspire others to follow in her footsteps.



JOHN RERES
History

John Reres transferred into the History BA/MA program in the Spring of 2021 and excelled immediately. His intellectual curiosity is matched by an impressive work ethic and desire for constant improvement. John studied abroad at the University of Kent during the Spring 2022 semester, where his diligence and enthusiasm were noted by his professors there. This experience altered his life trajectory toward a career in academic history. He has contributed to the Department of History not only through his academic achievements but also by serving as a co-president of the Student History Association, demonstrating exceptional leadership skills and a deep engagement with his fellow students. He is a credit to himself, his family, and Rowan University.



CAMARYN MEAKEM
Human Services

Camaryn Meakem is a Human Services major. Starting her junior year, she was a part of the Women's Club Basketball Team here at Rowan. During the course of her studies, she interned at Cathedral Kitchen under the case manager for its Culinary Arts Job Training Program, and with professor Sakinah Love, the founder and CEO of her non-profit, *Redeemed for a Cause*. Outside of school, she enjoys volunteering her time at Cathedral Kitchen and spending time with her friends and cat. She thanks her Mom, Dad, and my siblings, Alex and Justin, for helping her get to where she is today. Her long-term goals for employment and education are to work with children in some capacity, either as a school social worker, counselor, or something related, and to obtain her Master of Social Work.



SARAH HUTCHINS
International Studies

Sarah Hutchins accomplished a great deal academically while maintaining a robust extracurricular involvement on campus. In addition to being a student in the Martinson Honors College, Sarah was also on the executive board for multiple clubs, including Habitat for Humanity and the Ski and Snowboard Club. A member of Sigma Iota Rho Honors Society for International Studies, Sarah currently holds the position of Vice President. She also worked at the Center for Neurodiversity and was a coach for the Autism PATH Program providing academic and career coaching for neurodivergent students at Rowan. Sarah hopes her experience studying abroad for a semester in Granada, Spain will help her reach her goal of solving global environmental challenges utilizing an international lens. She is currently applying to graduate schools to continue pursuing her education and eventually working for the government or the United Nations to be at the forefront of environmental change.



MILLIE MARTINEZ SOSA
Law & Justice Studies

Millie Martinez Sosa is the 2023 Senior of Distinction for Law & Justice Studies. Millie is a first-generation college student majoring in Law & Justice with a minor in Political Science. Millie earned the academic honor of President's Scholar of Excellence during her time at Rowan. In addition to her impressive academic accomplishments, Millie has served as an active member of both the Pre-Law Society and Philosophy Club and regularly volunteers at Rowan's food pantry, The Shop. Millie aspires to serve as a role model for fellow Hispanics/Latinos and hopes to aid the Spanish-speaking community by guiding them through the intricacies of the law. Driven by this aspiration, Millie interned at Rebel Brown Law Group, LLC, and Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office. Millie plans to attend Rutgers Law School in Camden during the Fall of 2023 and hopes to become a prosecutor.



CATHERINE GIULIANI
Liberal Studies

Catherine (Catie) Giuliani is a Liberal Studies major with an interdisciplinary academic background with sequences in History and Art History and minors in Anthropology and American Studies. Catie also completed certificates in creative writing, public history, and foundations of literature and is a member of the Martinson Honors College. Besides her academic achievements, Catie supports fellow students as a writing center tutor and a Resident Assistant. Catie participates in various student organizations and projects, making her an active member of the Rowan community. Catie interned for the McNeil Center for Early American Studies in Philadelphia, the Museum of American Glass at WheatonArts (South Jersey), and for Singularity Press as an editing intern. Catie intends to work at her hometown library and pursue graduate education, with the aim of transitioning to museum work in Philadelphia. The Liberal Studies Program is impressed by her passion and eagerly anticipates her future endeavors!



MICHAEL T. BILOTTI
Modern Languages and Linguistics

Michael T. Bilotti will graduate at the end of Spring 2023 with a Major in Modern Languages and Linguistics with Japanese as his Advanced Language, Chinese as his Intermediate Language, and German as his Novice Language, and a Minor in Asian Studies. In 2019, Michael had passed the prestigious Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) with a score of N5. He recently completed his study abroad program at KCP International in Tokyo, Japan, and in April 2023 he will begin his new career as an English Teacher with Kids Up, a large English as a Second Language (ESL) school in Tokyo, Japan. Michael's activities outside the classroom complemented his academic pursuits, including his time as a student worker with Rowan's International Center and his membership in our Japanese Culture Club.



DAWSON KIPPHUT
Philosophy

Dawson Kipphut is a triple major at Rowan University, graduating with degrees in Philosophy, Law and Justice, and Psychology. He presented at the 2022 Rowan Student Ethics Conference, and he is presenting later this spring at the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium's Annual Undergraduate Colloquium. Dawson is also an active mentor. He helped high school students at the Philosophy & World Religions Ethics Workshop in the summer of 2022, and he is one of the busiest tutors for Philosophy and Law and Justice courses at the Rowan Tutoring Center. Dawson intends to pursue a career in law (possibly combined with graduate study in legal philosophy), with the goal of becoming a Public Defender and serving the disenfranchised in either South Jersey or Appalachia. He is currently waiting on several law school applications.



REECE JONES
Political Science

Reece, a Political Science major, is a dedicated and independent scholar, ranking among the top five students in our program. Reece's ambitious senior project analyzed lobbying in Congress, specifically examining the relationships between campaign contributions and legislative behavior. After discovering these relationships are often hard to detect, he adapted his project to focus on how lobbying differs across different sectors, such as the environmental and oil and gas industries, resulting in different legislative actions. He is involved with Fresh for All, Rowan's weekly produce food drive. Reece interns for the 5th Legislative District, assisting with constituent services and community outreach. Reece plans to continue serving the public as a permanent advocate for the district, believing it's a great opportunity to improve the lives of New Jersey residents and be part of the democratic process. He thanks his family, friends, and teachers for helping him along the way.



MARYBETH BAISDEN
Sociology

Marybeth Baisden is a senior Sociology major, with a concentration in Applied Sociology. In addition, she minors in both Psychology and Italian Studies, having received a merit-based scholarship towards the latter. Marybeth is an only child who lives with her mom and dad, and loves 1970s music as a result. She is an avid reader, whose favorite genres include psychological thrillers & historical fiction. She's a home baker who is working her way through various cookbooks gifted to her or bought from book sales. Marybeth works at the Office of Social Justice, Inclusion, and Conflict Resolution on Rowan Glassboro campus, advocating for women's rights.



JENNA RECH
Spanish

Jenna Rech will graduate at the end of Spring 2023 with a Spanish Major, a Major in Modern Languages and Linguistics with Spanish as her Advanced Language, American Sign Language (ASL) as her Intermediate Language, and Arabic as her Novice Language, and a Minor in International Studies. Jenna has also been active beyond the classroom. In December 2022, she was inducted into Iota Tau, Rowan's Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society. She also served as the Public Relations Officer of Rowan's Arabic Culture Club and she is currently the Treasurer for Rowan's Field Hockey team. In Fall 2023, she will begin Rowan's Master's Program in Counseling in Educational Settings. She aims to use her language proficiency to connect with future students.



MAXWELL ARMSTRONG
World Religions

Maxwell Armstrong is a graduating senior majoring in both World Religions and Philosophy. He is an accomplished student in both fields, and he was recently inducted into the Phi Sigma Tau philosophical honor society. He was also last year's recipient of our department's Dianne Ashton Endowed Scholarship in Religion Studies. Max intends to pursue a doctorate in either Philosophy or World Religions, but he is currently torn between the two fields. While he decides, he plans to get a masters in the field of education. He was recently accepted into Penn's Master of Science in Education program for the coming year.

*I encourage you
to live with life.
Be courageous,
adventurous.
Give us a tomorrow,
more than we
deserve.*

—Maya Angelou



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