



*The 16th Annual*  
SENIORS OF  
DISTINCTION  
—  
**2016**

*Recognizing the best students in  
the college.*

*Not merely a participation award.*

[rowan.edu/chss](http://rowan.edu/chss)



# Dean's Welcome

DEAN CINDY VITTO

“THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES SERVE AS THE HEART OF LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION AND THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SUCCESS.”

The humanities and social sciences serve as the heart of liberal arts education and the essential foundation for professional and personal success. Our graduates possess the critical thinking, research, and communication skills that ensure they can navigate the seven or more career changes likely in their future, including positions that don't exist today. They also exemplify ideals common to all of our disciplines—placing ethics and compassion above material concerns, and demanding more of themselves in order to make our world a better place for all. In short, CHSS graduates are equipped to make a life, not just a living.



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## WHAT IS THE SENIORS OF DISTINCTION AWARD?

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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 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!





# Our Faculty



**CHANELLE ROSE**  
**Africana Studies**

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Co-coordinator



**TANYA CLARK**  
**Africana Studies**

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Co-coordinator



**EMILY BLANCK**  
**American Studies**

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Coordinator



**NATALIE REAVES**  
**Political Science /  
Economics**

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Chair



**JOE COULOMBE**  
**English**

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Chair



**MARILYN MANLEY**  
**Foreign Languages &  
Literatures**

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Chair



# BY DEPARTMENT

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Our College was founded in July 2012 when the fourteen-department College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was officially split into two entities: the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). We remain the largest of the seven academic colleges within the university and, as the home of the majority of general education courses, we make contact with just about every student who graduates with a Rowan degree.



JOHN HASSE  
**Geography & Environment**

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Chair



BILL CARRIGAN  
**History**

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Chair



MIKE WEISS  
**Law & Justice**

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Chair



STEPHEN HAGUE  
**Liberal Studies: Humanities  
& Social Sciences**

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Coordinator



ELLEN MILLER  
**Philosophy & Religion**

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Chair



JAMES ABBOTT  
**Sociology & Anthropology**

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Chair



## AFRICANA STUDIES / AMERICAN STUDIES

The African American program is framed by intellectual-activist tradition, which emphasizes two major goals: (1) excellence in discovering, mastering, and creating knowledge and (2) integrity in using those understandings and skills in service to institutions and communities beyond the academy.

American Studies aspires to attract a broad and diverse body of students from many disciplinary backgrounds to provide a deeper sense of the history, society and culture of the United States to their personal, intellectual, civic, and vocational goals.



LA'NISE AMBROSE  
**Africana Studies**

La'Nise Ambrose is an exceptionally talented student with a major in Theater, minor in Sociology, and concentrations in Dance and Africana Studies. She has managed to maintain a high GPA while maintaining a rigorous schedule outside the classroom.

Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance, Paul Turner, noted "She is elegant but fierce." La'Nise is the Vice President of Atomik Legacy, a Rowan University student dance troupe from diverse backgrounds. The troupe has delivered powerful performances at a variety of events including Africana Studies' Annual Rosa Parks Luncheon, and La'Nise has been instrumental in choreographing their creative presentations that convey powerful messages of social justice and inclusion. The troupe has also taken its message to other venues including Stockton College, Rowan University SOM, and Rutgers University-Camden. They received the Senate Excellence in Diversity Award for their outstanding work in 2014.

La'Nise's future is extremely bright and she will definitely make an indelible mark on the lives of people she encounters.



KAITLYN ADAMS  
**American Studies**

Kaitlyn Adams is an American Studies/Public Relations major. Ms. Adams is an outstanding student who engages her classes deeply. Kaitlyn has been a campus leader: as President of the American Studies Club, PR Director of PRSSA, and the Yearbook Editor. She also is a founder of Rowan's ■ chapter.

Her Historical Methods paper was honored by the History Department to be a poster at the annual President's Day Student Poster Session, which she also presented at the Pennsylvania Historical Society. She has represented American Studies as an Admissions Ambassador for the last three years. Lastly, she has also been honored as a member of the Mortar Board Honor Society and EAK, the American Studies Honor Society.

Kaitlyn will go to Graduate school after leaving Rowan in hopes to eventually work in the PR department at a historical museum such as the Smithsonian.



## ECONOMICS / ENGLISH

The Economics major attracts students whose interest in business extends beyond the specific areas of accounting, finance, management, and marketing. The major exposes them to economic theories and trends in the context of other disciplines such as history, political science, sociology and psychology.

Through an intensive study of literature in all its variety, Rowan English majors learn to interpret and write about the worlds that the written word opens to us. These majors form a unique and diverse learning community combining, a critically inquiring mind and a sense of civic responsibility.



THOMAS (NICK) ROSA  
**Economics**

Thomas (Nick) Rosa is from Franklinville, N.J. and was a NCAA Division III athlete in baseball at Cairn University, before transferring to Rowan. He loves intramural sports and worked the last two years as an Intramural Sports Program Coordinator at the Rec Center. In addition, Nick serves as a Student Leader and Audio Technician for Rowan's Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship.

Last summer, he played second base for a Deacons Softball Prison Ministry, and visited close to 15 prisons playing baseball with prisoners. He will do the same this summer. He also works for the Woodbury City Police Department as a Police Cadet and is an avid baseball and Philadelphia Phillies fan. In his free time, he enjoys drinking hot tea, making handcrafted tea boxes, and riding his four-wheeler.

After graduation, he plans to enter a police academy, pursue a M.A. in Economic Crime Forensics and eventually work as a Special Agent for the FBI.



ANDREA QUINN  
**English**

Andrea Quinn is an engaged learner, clear thinker, and sophisticated writer. Her many skills and interests build upon – and extend beyond – this strong academic foundation. She's an award-winning poet and prose writer, who also reviews submissions for the literary arts magazine *Gigantic Sequins*.

She founded the literary journal, *The Madison Review*, serving as its first editor-in-chief. Andrea now works as a tutor in the Rowan Writing Center, and she participated on a pedagogy panel at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association Conference in March. She has an essay under consideration (with faculty sponsorship) for the Carol Gay Award from the Children's Literature Association.

Andrea plans to pursue a PhD in English with a specialization in Young Adult and Children's Literature. She's also fluent in sign language, works as a substitute teacher in a local high school, and creates podcasts about New Media, popular culture, and literary theory.



## FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES: SPANISH / MODERN LANGUAGES & LINGUISTICS

American Studies aspires to attract a broad and diverse body of students from many disciplinary backgrounds to provide a deeper sense of the history, society and culture of the United States to their personal, intellectual, civic, and vocational goals.



CINDY RUBIANO-GOMEZ  
**Spanish**

Both as a student and as a volunteer, Cindy's accomplishments are impressive. She will graduate at the end of Spring 2016 with a double major in Spanish and Psychology. She also studied abroad in Granada, Spain in Summer 2015.

Since October 2013, she has served as a Spanish-English Translator/Interpreter and Project Leader for Rowan's Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). With EWB, she has traveled twice to the Dominican Republic, where she has translated and interpreted for community members, the NGO, representatives of various local water companies, and for representatives of the Catholic university in the city of Santiago.

Additionally, in the summer of 2014, she tutored for ESL classes in Camden, NJ and in the summer of 2013, she taught Spanish language lessons to patients in the Bancroft Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Following graduation, she plans to pursue a Masters in Spanish Translation and Interpretation.



ACACIA HUTTON  
**Modern Languages & Linguistics**

Acacia's accomplishments to date are impressive, including her academic achievement, her extracurricular activities, and her professional experience. She will graduate at the end of Spring 2016 with a Spanish Major, a Major in Modern Languages and Linguistics, a Law and Justice Studies Minor, an Honors Studies Concentration, an International Studies Concentration, and a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Chinese.

She also studied abroad in Granada, Spain in Spring 2015. For her Honors Studies Concentration at Rowan, she has completed fourteen hours of community service and fourteen hours of Honors activities per semester. Since September 2015, she has served as a representative to Rowan's Student Advisory Counsel and also as a Global Ambassador for International Studies Abroad (ISA), involving encouraging other students to study abroad through the organization of events, open houses, and presentations.

Following graduation, she plans to pursue a Master's in Spanish Translation and Interpretation.





## GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT: GEOGRAPHY / GIS - PLANNING

What our students discover is that geography is about everything having to do with our world, the physical systems of our planet including land, air and water as well as the story of people, how they interact with the environment and our fascinating mosaic of cultures ever changing over time and space continuously creating and recreating place.

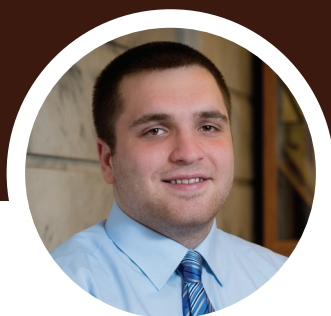


FRANCESCA MUNDRIK  
**Geography**

Francesca Mundrick is from Jefferson Township, Morris County, New Jersey and is a senior in the Rowan Geography and Environment Department. She will be graduating in May of 2016 with a BA in Geography, Minors in GIS, Planning, and Environmental Studies, and a Concentration in Geoscience.

To say that Francesca is a very involved student is an understatement. Her ambition, determination, and willingness to be engaged have made a huge impact within her department and throughout the greater Rowan University community. She is committed to working hard and making a difference, consistently displaying a deep level of devotion to her field of study as well as her fellow students. Her passion for Earth Science in particular has led Francesca to decide to continue her education by pursuing graduate studies. She hopes to someday become a professor of geology, and to continue her involvement in higher education.

Francesca is excited about her future and hopes to use her experiences at Rowan as a foundation and motivation to achieve greater accomplishments.



DAVID MARKO  
**GIS / Planning**

David Marko is from Bayonne, Hudson County, NJ, and is a senior in the Geography and Environment Department, where he is a dual major and will receive a BS in Geographic Information Science and Planning when he graduates in May.

David found a home in the Geography Department where he utilizes his acumen for maps, design and geography. He quickly became a valued member of the department and the university through his great work ethic, friendly personality, and positive attitude.

Dave holds multiple positions at Rowan University including a teacher assistant for multiple Introduction to GIS courses. He also works for the National Guard program and the Rowan Sign Shop. Dave has assisted on many department projects for multiple professors and provides support for any student who might need help in the department.

David is ready to carry his knowledge from Rowan into the real world where he will make a positive impact in GIS, planning, and the environment.



## HISTORY / LAW & JUSTICE

Our History students gain an in-depth knowledge of the past, and an understanding of the historical process while developing valuable skills such as writing, research and communication. In addition to course work, students can strengthen their skills by participating in field service projects at local historical society's, museums and other places of interest.

The Law & Justice program focuses on preparing students for professional careers in the major areas of law enforcement and security services, court services, corrections and human services by combining academically challenging coursework with practical work experience through internships.



NICOLAS MASON  
**History**

Nick is an overachiever, a member of the Student History Association then its President. Nick organized several book signings where his professors discussed their new books. Since last year, Nick has served as President of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society.

As a sophomore, Nick studied abroad in Shanghai, China learning the language and making many friends. More importantly, Nick has also found his research area - China-related topics. Besides taking courses on Chinese and Asian history, Nick worked with Dr. Carrigan as a research assistant on mob violence against Chinese immigrants in the 19th century US. He will present a paper on the subject at the regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta. His academic excellence also earned him the spot in our 4 + 1 program by which he took a few graduate courses.

Already setting his eye on becoming a professional historian, Nick applied to graduate programs and has been given full scholarship and stipend by Syracuse University. Nick is without question one of the best students our department has seen in many decades.



RYAN JOSEPH BOONSTRA  
**Law & Justice**

Ryan Boonstra is a Law & Justice major with an honors concentration and a Philosophy minor. We are proud to honor him as he represents the best and brightest of our department. Ryan is deeply committed to the Rowan community and has proven to be an outstanding leader. He has been an active member of the Pre-Law society since his freshman year and has served as President since his sophomore year.

He aided in establishing an LSAT prep course for students who may not have otherwise been able to afford this opportunity. Ryan also serves as the Vice President for Alpha Phi Sigma, the Law & Justice Honor Society, and has recently been inducted into the International Honor Society for Philosophers. Ryan is on the CHSS Student Advisory Council serving as liaison between students and the Dean's Office. Ryan completed two law internships, including one with the Navy Yard working on multi-million dollar contracts.

Ryan plans to attend law school after graduation and has already been awarded a full scholarship to Penn State Law.



## LIBERAL STUDIES: HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCE / PHILOSOPHY

The Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Science (LS:HSS) major offers students the opportunity to pursue multiple areas of study in the humanities and social sciences. This gives students the ability to combine two academic areas into one flexible and comprehensive Bachelor of Arts degree.

Philosophy and Religion Studies courses promote rigorous inquiry involving both analytical and integrative reasoning. The focus is centrally on the capacities of reasoning and logic, reflection on meaning and values, and texts, issues and questions foundational to many of the world's cultures.



ELLEN BONITATIBUS

**Liberal Studies: Humanities & Social Science**

Ellen Bonitatibus will receive a BA in Education (K-6th grade) and BA in LS:HSS with English and History sequences. Among her many accomplishments are serving as a founding member of the College of Education Student Advisory Council and presenting her research at the History Department's 2016 President's Day Celebration poster session.

She has been Chapter President of Rowan's New Jersey Student Education Association, as well as Local Outreach Chair and Ambassador at the State level. Her many awards include the President's Scholar of Excellence for Fall 2015 and the Deans' List since Fall 2013. Ellen's recommenders have described her as "always enthusiastic", "very committed to learning," "a delightful person," and "an inspiration."

Her future goals are to work as an elementary-level educator in a New Jersey public school, and, in the future, to pursue Graduate school for her Masters Degree. Her areas of interest include Special Education Leadership, Higher Education, and Learning Disabilities.



JOSIAH DOMICO

**Philosophy**

Josiah Domico entered Rowan and its Philosophy and Religion program in Spring 2014, having studied Philosophy on his own in years prior. Josiah is an active member of Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society in Philosophy. As Vice President of the Philosophy Club, he was a leader in the weekly meetings held on a diverse range of topics.

He has presented his scholarly work at Rowan's Annual Student Ethics Conference, and he received the Ethics Award last year for his outstanding research and class-work.

He plans to enter graduate school in 2017 to continue his philosophical education and become a philosophy professor. His interests include Nietzsche, Heidegger, Philosophy of Technology, and Philosophy of Science.



## POLITICAL SCIENCE / SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

Political Science majors learn about American politics, international relations, political theories and the governmental systems that have influenced the conditions of human life around the world.

Sociology & Anthropology students learn to ask questions, to research, analyze data, construct arguments, communicate effectively, and to recognize their place in the world. Graduates of our program now work in law, marketing, medicine and public health, social services, and academia.



WESLEY VOLZ-PRICE  
**Political Science**

Both as a student and as a volunteer, Cindy's accomplishments are impressive. She will graduate at the end of Spring 2016 with a double major in Spanish and Psychology. She also studied abroad in Granada, Spain in Summer 2015.

Since October 2013, she has served as a Spanish-English Translator/Interpreter and Project Leader for Rowan's Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). With EWB, she has traveled twice to the Dominican Republic, where she has translated and interpreted for community members, the NGO, representatives of various local water companies, and for representatives of the Catholic university in the city of Santiago.

Additionally, in the summer of 2014, she tutored for ESL classes in Camden, NJ and in the summer of 2013, she taught Spanish language lessons to patients in the Bancroft Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Cherry Hill, NJ. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a Masters in Spanish Translation and Interpretation.



MICHELLE FORTUNATO  
**Sociology & Anthropology**

Acacia's accomplishments to date are impressive, including her academic achievement, her extracurricular activities, and her professional experience. She will graduate at the end of Spring 2016 with a Spanish Major, a Major in Modern Languages and Linguistics, a Law and Justice Studies Minor, an Honors Studies Concentration, an International Studies Concentration, and a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Chinese.

She also studied abroad in Granada, Spain in Spring 2015. For her Honors Studies Concentration at Rowan, she has completed fourteen hours of community service and fourteen hours of Honors activities per semester. Since September 2015, she has served as a representative to Rowan's Student Advisory Counsel and also as a Global Ambassador for International Studies Abroad (ISA), involving encouraging other students to study abroad through the organization of events, open houses, and presentations.

Following graduation, she plans to pursue a Master's in Spanish Translation and Interpretation.



# CHSS DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

- **English**  
English (B.A.)
- **Foreign Languages & Literatures**  
Spanish (B.A.)  
Modern Languages & Linguistics (B.A.) (NEW!)
- **Geography & Environment**  
Environmental Studies (B.A.)  
Geography (B.A.)  
GIS (B.S.)  
Planning (B.S.)
- **History**  
History (B.A.)
- **Africana Studies** (B.A.)
- **American Studies** (B.A.)
- **International Studies Major & Concentration** (B.A.) (NEW!)
- **Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Science** (B.A.)
- **Law & Justice Studies**  
Law & Justice Studies (B.A.)
- **Philosophy & Religion Studies**  
Philosophy & Religion Studies (B.A.)  
Specializations in Philosophy and Religion Studies
- **Political Science & Economics**  
Economics (B.A.)  
Political Science (B.A.)
- **Sociology & Anthropology**  
Applied Sociology (B.A.)  
Sociology (B.A.)  
Human Services (B.A.) (NEW!)  
Disaster Preparedness Emergency Management (B.A.) (NEW!)

## CONTACT US

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