

A photograph of four students in a classroom. A young Black male in a black hoodie with 'DEPT' on it is smiling and looking at a laptop. To his left, a young man in a white t-shirt is looking at the laptop. To his right, a young man in a red t-shirt is looking at the laptop. In the background, a young woman in a grey hoodie is looking away. The classroom has large windows showing a brick building outside.

College of **Humanities & Social Sciences**

.....
Leading the way to wisdom.



ANNUAL REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR
2015 - 2016



ON THE COVER

Students collaborate in a Spanish I classroom.



College of Humanities & Social Sciences

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Dean's Message

IT IS WITH MIXED EMOTIONS THAT I write this message for the Annual Report for 2015-16, my final year as dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Much change is occurring within CHSS, all of it positive, and the most significant change of all is a transition to a new dean, Dr. Nawal Ammar, as of August 1, 2016. Dr. Ammar has served for several years as the dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and is well-suited to moving our own College forward.

For my part, I am looking forward to returning to my “real” job as a Rowan English professor. I have missed teaching medieval literature and American English Grammar, my two specialty areas. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as the founding dean of CHSS and also to have initiated the CHSS Match Internship Program, which has brought real-world work experience to many of our students.

Several other changes have taken place within CHSS as well. The College now has a total of four new interdisciplinary undergraduate programs — Modern Languages & Linguistics, International Studies, Human Services, and Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management. In addition, our Law &

Justice Studies Program is an integral part of our partnership agreements with Rowan College at Gloucester County and Rowan College at Burlington County. We also have instituted accelerated 3 + 3 programs with Drexel's Kline School of Law, Widener University-Delaware Law School, and Rutgers Law School. Under these agreements, students who complete their major and core requirements at Rowan in the first three years will receive their Rowan degree upon successful completion of their first year of law school.

I am especially proud that in collaboration with the College of Education, and at the request of the New Jersey State Commission for Holocaust Education, we launched Rowan's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies during 2015-16. The Center has already become a vital contributor to Rowan's efforts to promote understanding and reasoned discourse among diverse groups. The Center now sponsors the Dr. Paul B. Winkler Lecture Series, an annual teacher training workshop, and a book club and conversation series open to all.

During my four years as dean, growth and change have become constants at Rowan University. I am honored to have served as dean during this exciting, dynamic time for CHSS, and I am looking forward to continuing

to serve the College as I rejoin my faculty colleagues.

Dr. Cindy Vitto
Dean



Senator Fred Madden (center) receives an honorary Doctor of Law degree after addressing the Class of 2016.



ON A CAMPUS THAT CONTINUES TO evolve daily, Senator Fred Madden, this year's College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) Commencement speaker, charged the Class of 2016 to make an impact on the world that surrounds them.

A 1980 graduate of then-Glassboro State College, Madden earned his master's degree from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He had a long and distinguished career in the New Jersey State Police, working his way through the ranks to become lieutenant colonel and ultimately leading the force as

acting superintendent.

In 2003, he was elected to the New Jersey State Senate. He chairs the Labor Committee and is vice chair of the Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee.

At Commencement, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree in recognition of his leadership and his commitment to higher education, the safety of the state's citizens, and the law enforcement community.

Madden told the graduates their knowledge and skills are paramount in today's workplace—and today's world. Mentioning the College's nearly 20 degree programs, he urged members of the class to utilize their studies in every area of their professional and personal lives.

"You're moving into a world that really needs you," Madden said. "Stay the course. Embody the highest ideals of professionalism. Your ethics are going to be challenged. The important thing is don't let them be compromised." ■

Senator Fred Madden Charges Graduates to Make an Impact

SINCE EARNING HIS ROWAN DEGREE more than two decades ago, William Castner, '95, has adeptly navigated the upper echelons of New Jersey state government in a number of roles.

In light of his many accomplishments, the Rowan University Alumni Association awarded him the Distinguished Alumnus Award during the 2016 College of Humanities and Social Sciences Commencement.

Currently senior vice president of



William Castner addresses the Class of 2016 prior to receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Corporate and Regulatory Affairs at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Castner oversees government affairs, public affairs, enterprise communications, and regulatory roles. Previously, he served as chair of the Government Affairs Department at Gibbons PC law firm, practicing in government affairs, corporate

compliance, ethics, regulatory affairs, and health affairs. He also has served in numerous other positions.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Rowan, he earned his master's degree from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University and his law degree from Rutgers Law School.

During Commencement, he reminded graduates that Rowan alumni are unique.

"You know, what's great about my

■ *continued, page 4*

Castner Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

RCHGS Highlights Connections Between Past and Present

ROWAN UNIVERSITY'S CENTER for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (RCHGS) may bring to mind unspeakable historical images, but there are cautionary messages for the present.

"We work hard to make connections to things that happen today, things that are happening in our society," said Dr. Jenny Rich, co-coordinator of the center and a College of Education instructor. "We want to really help our University students understand that the choices they make are actions that matter."

Since its launch in fall 2015, the center has received an outpouring of support. It has hosted a bi-weekly conversation series, a book club, a holocaust and genocide education teacher workshop, public programs on the Darfur genocide and other topics, and additional events.

"In a short time, the RCHGS has firmly established itself as an important entity at Rowan but perhaps more importantly, in the region," said Dr. Stephen Hague, center co-coordinator. "We have served as a conduit for information about the Holocaust, other genocides, anti-bias education, and open dialogue.

"We feel we have set out a clear strategic direction and have already

Dr. Stephen Hague educates residence hall students about biased vandalism.



affected, in positive ways, discussions and dialogue at Rowan," he said.

With the New Jersey State K-12 educational mandate to teach holocaust and genocide studies in a grade-appropriate manner, the center not only helps prepare teacher candidates for this task, but serves as a professional development resource for teachers.

"We want very much to engage with teachers and community members to be a resource in any way that we can be," Rich said.

Using grant funding, the center will evaluate what teachers know about these issues and research how the center can better educate them.

Highlighting the need to examine events that led to genocide, the center stresses the danger of complacency. "We not only want to study horrific episodes, we want to learn from them and most especially create an environment where others can draw lessons, develop their thinking, and take action to make the world a better place," Hague said.

Dr. Paul B. Winkler Lecture Series

THE CENTER'S FALL LECTURE series now is known as the Paul B. Winkler Lecture Series. Winkler, who passed away in July, served as the executive director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust/Genocide Education for 42 years and was instrumental in developing the RCHGS.

Donations to support the series or the center can be made on the center's website — www.rowan.edu/colleges/chss/rchgs/.

Alumni and community members are welcome to attend the lecture series, as well as all RCHGS programs.

Castner, continued ▲

generation of Rowan grads — and this will carry on — is we have a little bit of a chip on our shoulders. I think that's a good thing and I think we carry that on to our professional lives," said Castner, acknowledging the class's proud New Jersey roots.

"We are Rowan grads. We are practical. We are gritty. We are street smart. We don't back down from fights. We're hungrier than you are. And that's why we succeed.

"You're going to succeed...and you're going to bring honor to this great institution."

Student Captures Survivors' Accounts

WHILE HISTORY CONTINUALLY repeats itself, junior Patricia Iannaci hopes the documentaries she produces will help break that cycle.

The history and radio-television-film major recently filmed the story of Manya Frydman Perel, survivor of eight concentration camps.

"The will to survive got her through each concentration camp," said Iannaci, who was deeply moved by Perel's courage and resilience.

When Iannaci, along with classmates Peter Chamalian and Shannon Farrell, completes Perel's documentary, she plans to present it at Rowan, inviting Perel to speak.

Her interest in historical documentaries emerged in high school, as she interviewed Holocaust survivors for a class. She continued this work with a teacher and her father (also a teacher), and the documentaries were presented at city hall in her hometown of Bayonne. She also interviewed and recorded civil rights activist Mark Levy.

In her sophomore year at Rowan, she



Patricia Iannaci connects her two majors to tell meaningful stories.

was captivated by the stories of Holocaust survivors Charles Middleberg and Helene Bouton during the Holocaust Center's inaugural event in November 2015. She plans to interview them for a future documentary.

Iannaci, who has worked to capture the stories of seven survivors, hopes her work will raise awareness of the extreme cruelty of such events. "Hopefully we won't keep making the same mistakes. Learning Manya's story was so powerful, showing what hatred could cause people to do to each other," she said. "When will it stop? How many stories do we have to hear?" ■

Acacia Hutton is the first Modern Languages and Linguistics program graduate.



WHEN THE COLLEGE LAUNCHED its Modern Languages & Linguistics program in fall 2015, it fit neatly into Acacia Hutton's career plans.

Originally a Spanish major, Hutton, '16, also was taking Mandarin as a secondary language and Arabic as a tertiary language, fulfilling the three-language requirement of the new major.

The first Modern Languages & Linguistics graduate, also named a Senior of Distinction, Hutton completed a summer internship as a marketing

translator and will pursue a master's degree in Spanish translation and interpretation at Rutgers University.

"The program was an advantage for me because I feel one of my best qualities is knowing multiple languages — not

just one, not just two. I have a third and a fourth," she said. "I have an interest and a level of proficiency, and that's what I want employers to know about me when they see my degree."

Modern Languages & Linguistics is only one of the new degree programs the College established this year. The others include Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management, Human Services, and International Studies.

"It's a way to combine academic knowledge with real-world preparation," said Dr. Larry Butler, associate dean. "We

■ *continued, page 6*

New Degree Programs in CHSS Offer New Opportunities

Rowan Partners With Law Schools in New 3 + 3 Program

New Degree programs, continued ▲

are combining the liberal arts with professional practice so that we have students who are well rounded but prepared to take on specific challenges in the world.”

Students will take Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management and Human Services courses exclusively on the Camden campus. “We expect that we will have a lot of interest from people who are already in those fields and want to return to complete their degrees,” said Dr. Cindy Vitto, dean.

She anticipates that International Studies will appeal to many students. “We had an International Studies concentration that had well over 100 students, so the demand was clearly there,” Vitto said. The program also will offer a 4 + 1 option. “This will be for students who want to go on to earn an MBA degree so they are ready for international business,” she said. ■

RYAN BOONSTRA, A 2016 LAW & Justice Studies graduate, will head to Penn State Law this fall on a full scholarship. As he moves ahead, however, he looks forward to the opportunities Rowan University’s new fast-track 3 + 3 program will offer his pre-law peers.



“I think the biggest benefit it will offer students is a confidence boost. It gives them a clear-cut goal that they can strive for,” said Boonstra, who was named a Senior of Distinction. He was also a member of Rowan’s Pre-Law Society since his freshman year and president since his sophomore year.

According to partnership agreements with Widener University-Delaware Law School, Drexel University-Thomas R. Kline School of Law, and Rutgers Law School, qualified students completing all major and core curriculum requirements and

RIGHT *Ryan Boonstra’s heavy engagement within his discipline has prepared him for law school.*

BELOW *Provost Jim Newell and Widener University Delaware Law School Dean Rodney Smolla solidify 3+3 law school agreement.*

meeting other standards will be able to simultaneously complete their fourth year of undergraduate education and first year of law school. Students must complete 90 credits at Rowan for Widener-Delaware and Drexel and 92 credits for Rutgers.

The accelerated 3 + 3 schedule not only reduces tuition costs, but partner institutions will award students scholarships, which vary by school.

“For example, it’s part of the agreement that students who go to Widener University-Delaware Law School from Rowan will receive a \$10,000 renewable merit scholarship and a one-time housing scholarship,” said Dr. Michael Weiss, chair and associate professor, Law & Justice Studies. Drexel will award a Bridgebuilder Scholarship (\$834 per term per credit, which works out to approximately \$25,000 for students in their first year of study), and Rutgers will offer significant assistance. In addition, Rutgers’ tuition rate is much lower because it is a public institution, Weiss explained.

Delaware Law School Dean Rodney Smolla is pleased with his school’s collaboration with Rowan. “This agreement outlines an outstanding education plan created by two schools that are committed to helping students along the path to engaging careers,” Smolla said.



“Students interested in pursuing this program will need to maintain contact with their advisors so they can select their courses and map out their schedules in accordance with the program,” Weiss said.

Understanding admission requirements upfront will be a major advantage to students. “It will allow them to better gauge their study habits and set up classes if they need them,” Boonstra said. “They will be in contact with other students in the 3 + 3 program, so they will be able to create study groups for the LSAT. I believe it will create a much better community among pre-law students, who will all work together to achieve a common goal.” ■

DRAWING APPROXIMATELY 200 scholars from China, New Zealand, Australia, Europe, and the United States, Rowan University hosted the sixth biennial conference of the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) in June.

The first event of its kind on the Rowan campus, the international conference alternates locations every two years between Europe and the United States, said Dr. Matthew Lund, event organizer and associate professor of philosophy. Rowan was chosen after a lengthy period of negotiation with the society.

"We had some of the foremost scholars in the fields of history and philosophy of science and economics giving plenary lectures, and several of the speakers and participants were practicing scientists.



Julie Nelson of the University of Massachusetts Boston presents Critiquing the Foundations of Economics, and Why it Matters to the delegation of the International Philosophy of Science in Practice conference.

of Earth and the Environment, also lectured during the event.

The conference was preceded by a graduate student workshop and followed by a dig at the Rowan University Fossil Park.

As well as gaining from the lectures, participants appreciated the intimate environment and camaraderie it fostered. "It is very important in all humanities fields to build relationships, get to know people, and perform collaborative research with them," Lund said.

Lund believes this could open the door to future conferences on campus. "I think it places Rowan on the institutional map within certain disciplines to do this," he said. ■

College Welcomes International Conference on Philosophy of Science

TYLER JIANG, '18, HAS FAR-REACHING plans for the future. With a prestigious Boren Scholarship to China in hand, he is well on his way.

A history and international studies major who speaks Mandarin fluently, Jiang will travel to China from January

to August 2017, immersing himself in the culture and language and learning to read and write Mandarin. The Boren Scholarship pays as much as \$20,000 for students pursuing careers in national security. As part of the agreement, Jiang has a commitment to work for the federal government for one year.

"In addition to going to school, this is probably the next best thing in preparing for my future because I plan to work for the government and study international

■ *continued, page 8*



Tyler Jiang is looking ahead to spring 2017 when he will study in China under the Boren Scholarship.

Student Awarded Prestigious Boren Scholarship

College Celebrates Ongoing Accomplishments

Since its founding, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) has achieved many accomplishments in four short years.

Here are a few highlights:

CHSS Match Internship Program

This innovative program connects students with potential employers, helping them gain hands-on experience and explore potential career paths through internships before graduation. Through these internships, employers benefit from an array of student skills as interns develop marketable expertise.

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

Established in 2015, the center is an alliance between CHSS and Rowan's College of Education, as well as the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. This center promotes increased awareness of the Holocaust and genocide, providing discussions, lectures, and other learning activities and opportunities for students, faculty, teachers, and community members.

New Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Programs

Expanding opportunities for students, during the 2015-16 academic year, the College instituted new undergraduate degree programs in Modern Languages

& Linguistics, International Studies, Human Services, and Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management.

3 + 3 Partnerships

Through partnerships with Drexel University-Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Rutgers Law School, and Widener University-Delaware Law School, eligible students can earn a bachelor's degree and law degree in six years.

Regional Partnerships

The College has entered into Law & Justice Studies partnerships with Rowan College at Gloucester County and Rowan College at Burlington County.



Anthropology students uncover human remains during a mock-excavation.

Boren Scholarship, continued ▲

security issues," said the Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, resident. "Having the opportunity to study abroad in China and improve my language skills is just amazing."

Dr. Corinne Blake, associate professor of history and Rowan's Boren representative, believes Jiang is the first Rowan student to receive the national scholarship, which is awarded by the National Security Education Program. He is an ideal candidate, she explained, based on his outstanding academic credentials, campus leadership, hereditary Chinese language skills, and career plans. In addition, during a spring 2016 internship with the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, he co-authored an article on Chinese involvement in Djibouti.

"When he applies for a position after he returns, because he's a Boren recipient, employers will certainly look at his application more carefully," she said.

Jiang agrees. "Employers will know that I went to a foreign country for six months to a year and that I have that language background, so finding a job is that much easier, I think," said Jiang, who plans to eventually pursue a doctorate in international security. "Also, being able to work for the government for a couple of years will give me work experience to narrow down what I want to do." ■

New faculty members brought a vast array of interests and talents to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences during the 2015-16 academic year.

**Dr. Dustin Crowley,
Assistant Professor of English**

Crowley earned his bachelor's degree in English from Graceland University and his master's and doctorate in Literature and Literary Theory from



the University of Kansas, where he served as a lecturer. His book, *Africa's Narrative Geographies: Charting the Intersections of Geocriticism and Postcolonial Studies*, was recently published by Palgrave Macmillan.

**Dr. Emily Hyde,
Assistant Professor of English**

Hyde received a bachelor's in English literature from Yale University and her master's and doctorate in English liter-



ature in 2013 from Princeton University. She has taught a range of students, beginning with students at the Chinese University of Hong Kong to her position as a teaching fellow for an academic enrichment program for low-income high school students in Trenton. She was awarded the prestigious McCosh Teaching Award at Princeton in 2013. Her current book project is titled "A Way of Seeing: Postcolonial Modernism at Midcentury."

**Dr. Christy Thornton,
Assistant Professor of History**

Thornton received her bachelor's degree in political science from Barnard College, her master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University, and her doctorate in history from New York University. Her dissertation was titled "Sovereignty and Solidarity: The Mexican Revolution and the Origins of the Postwar Order, 1919-1948." She will be a major influence in the

success of the new International Studies Program, teaching the program's



core courses. She has written for outlets such as *The Nation*, *Al-Jazeera America*, and *The New York Times* commentary "Room for Debate."

**Dr. Stuti Jha,
Assistant Professor of Economics**

Jha earned her doctorate from Purdue University, West Lafayette. Her research interests include health economics and labor economics. Her past research has focused on labor market



▶ *continued, page 10*

New Faculty Bring Fresh Perspectives

New Faculty, continued ▲

outcomes for physicians in the U.S. healthcare market, specifically the gender wage gap among physicians, and specialty choices of physicians and their match probability in the residency match program. Her current research analyzes issues related to women's access to healthcare in the immigrant community in the U.S. She is also interested in studying the role of information in health care decision-making, particularly the relationship between patients' search for health care information online and their demand for health services. Her teaching interests include health economics, labor economics, and econometrics.

**Dr. Anne Pluta,
Assistant Professor of Political
Science**

Pluta received her bachelor's degree in history from Loyola University Maryland, master's degree in history from West Chester University, and doctorate in political science from



the University of California, Santa Barbara. Pluta previously taught at Chestnut Hill College. Based on her dissertation, she is currently working on a book titled *The Development of Popular Presidential Communication: Opportunities and Incentives from Washington to Obama*, in which she examines why presidential rhetoric has changed over time.

**Dr. Jennifer Kitson,
Assistant Professor of Geography
and Environment**

Kitson received her bachelor's degree in geography from San Francisco



State University, master's degree in geography from California State University, Los Angeles, and her doctorate in geography from Arizona State University. Her dissertation, "Matter and Mattering in Historic Habitation," explores the materiality of historic landscapes, especially in urban environments. Another area of her research uses infrared photography to

image and imagine the thermal city — a new way of seeing urban landscapes.

**Dr. Evan Sorg,
Assistant Professor of Law &
Justice Studies**

Sorg earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in criminal justice from Temple University. He began his career in criminal justice as a New York City police officer. His academic research began with the Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment, during which time he walked with police, wearing a bullet-proof vest, in violent crime hot spots in Philadelphia. This resulted in three papers, one of which received an award for one from the American Society of Criminology. Sorg's dissertation focuses on the design of Philadelphia's GunStat model, a multi-agency collaboration that targets offenders responsible for violence committed in identified hot spots.





Dr. David Clowney is awarded Lindback Distinguished Teaching award.

Lindback Winner

In the spring, Dr. David Clowney, professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, received the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award at the Celebrating Excellence Awards Dinner.

Clowney relies on the Socratic method of questions and answers to guide students to deeper discussion and understanding. A former pastor, he helps students learn about themselves through their coursework.

He teaches courses on logic, aesthetics, the philosophy of art, environmental ethics, and other areas, helping students discover their own voices and develop the confidence to use them.

An advocate of experiential, service, and applied learning, he helped develop Rowan's Environmental Studies program.

His dedication to mentoring students has contributed to the department's 100 percent graduate school placement record.

Funded by the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation, the Lindback award honors a tenured faculty member with an outstanding record of teaching and a sustained record of commitment to student learning.

Since the College was established four years ago, CHSS faculty have received this prestigious award twice.

Dr. Corinne (Cory) Blake receives Excellence in Mentoring Award.



Excellence in Mentoring

Dr. Corinne Blake, associate professor of history, received the Gary Hunter Excellence in Mentoring Award this year. This award recognizes exemplary mentorship of students. It is given in memory of Dr. Gary Hunter, a well-respected history professor who passed away in 2003.

Blake has created and taught courses on Islamic civilization, the modern Middle East, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. She received her bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and her doctorate from Princeton University.

This is the second consecutive year that a CHSS faculty member has won this award.

CHSS Faculty Honored at Celebrating Excellence Awards

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ABOVE: Seniors listen to classroom presentations in Dr. Matt Lund's Senior Seminar in Philosophy and Religion.

AT LEFT: Dr. Jane Hill (center) and Dr. Maria Rosado (left) co-instruct an anthropology lab in which students examine human remains.

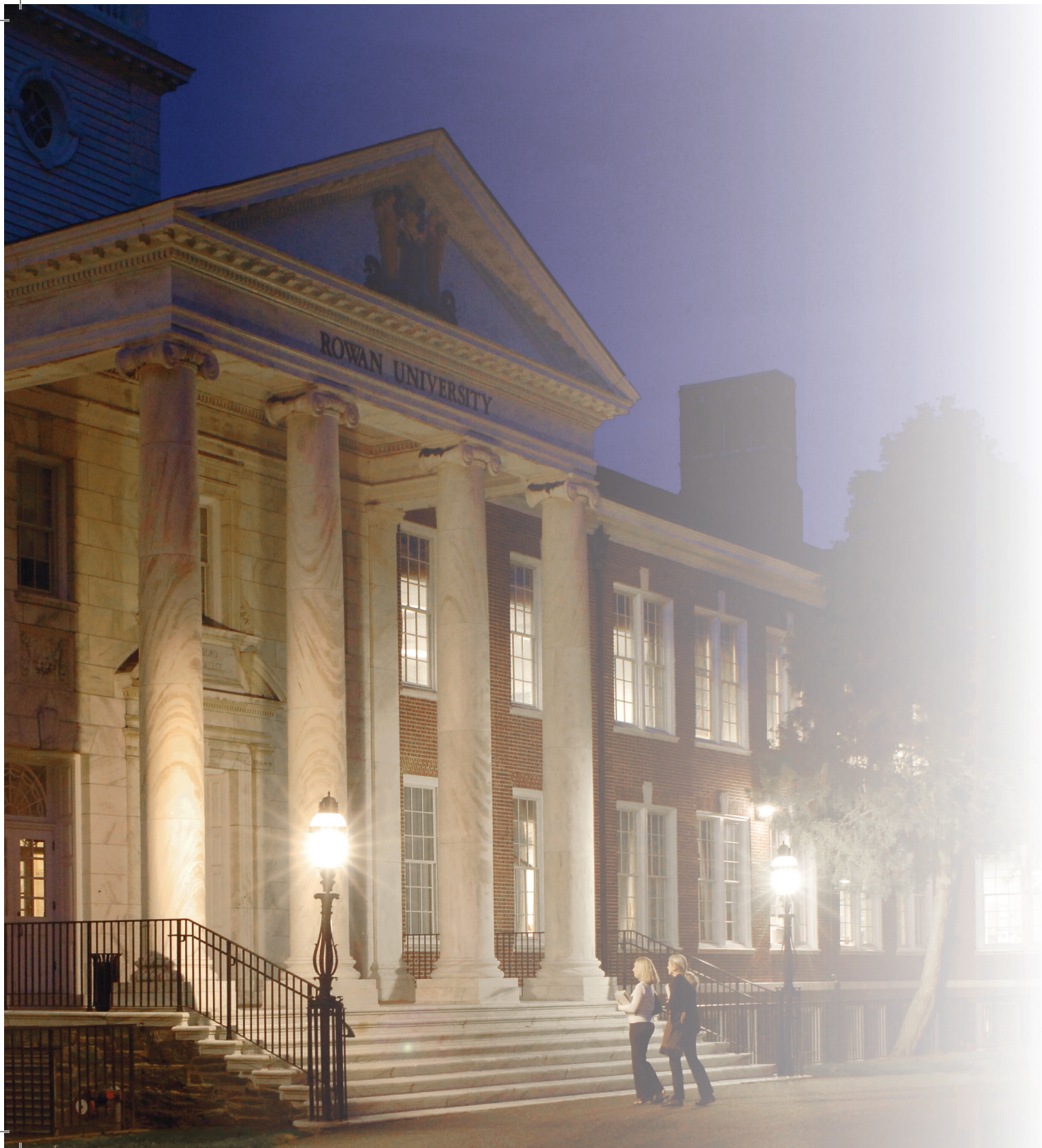


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