



Message from Dean Parviz Ansari

As we celebrate this year's accomplishments in the College, we continue focusing on many exciting initiatives as I finish my second year as Dean.

Embracing available opportunities, the College has progressed in its strategic biomedical, environmental, and public policy initiatives through faculty hiring, curricular development, and research planning.

Renewed focus on our student-centered mission has led to greater emphasis on learning outcomes assessment, expansion of our summer grants program, and the forthcoming establishment of an advising center.

This summer, we will finalize our College-wide strategic planning and convene our inaugural advisory board. New partnerships with industries are underway, and fundraising is entering a new phase.

In response to these and other College initiatives, the Dean's Office is expanding and reorganizing as of July 1. As Associate Dean Cindy Vitto returns to teaching and Assistant Dean Kristen diNovi becomes the director of our new advising center, the Dean's Office welcomes a new Associate Dean (Ieva Zake), a Director of Finance and Administration (Gloria Sanders), two new Assistant Deans (Tricia Yurak, for Undergraduate and Graduate Students and Janet Lindman, for Assessment and Planning), a Senior Fellow (Cindy Vitto), and a Dean's Fellow for Research and Grants (Greg Caputo).

I'd like to offer my special thanks to my departing colleagues—and a warm welcome to the new members of the CLAS team.

Student research on antibiotics could impact treatments

Rowan Biochemistry students are researching ways to improve antibiotics by replacing current medicine with naturally occurring parts of the immune system.

An increase in prescribed antibiotic medication has led to the rise of antibiotic resistant bacteria. However, bacteria have not yet been able to develop resistance to host defense peptides, which are innate molecules

in the immune system.

"There's still a lot we don't know about these molecules," says Assistant Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry Greg Caputo. Caputo heads the research funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The students examine peptides on a chemical level to determine what makes one a good bacterial killer but not another. Senior Travis Magdaleno

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Medical Research: Professor **Gregory Caputo** (right) and senior **Travis Magdaleno** examine an isolation streak of *E. coli* as part of their research on antimicrobial peptides.



Physics & Astronomy's Ling accepts research award from Rowan

Physics & Astronomy Professor Hong Ling was recognized for his exemplary research achievements during Rowan's annual "Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony" this spring.

Ling received the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Achievement Award during the ceremony, an annual highlight of the spring semester. The award honors full-time faculty members for their outstanding achievements in research activity, either for a specific project or for a body of work accumulated over multiple years.



Top researcher: Hong Ling, Physics & Astronomy (right), receives the Faculty Research and Creative Activity Achievement Award from **Gautam Pillay**, Associate Provost for Research.

A Rowan professor since 1992, Ling's research fields include ultra-cold atomic and molecular physics; laser cooling and trapping; quantum optics; nonlinear optics; and laser physics.

Ling's research is jointly funded by the National Science Foundation and the Army Research Office. In the College, he's well known for his strong publication record and his impact on the futures of some of the University's strongest students.

Ling is the second Physics & Astronomy professor—and the fourth CLAS professor in the past five years—to receive the award. The other CLAS awardees have included Mary Louise Kerwin, Psychology; Kandalam V. Ramanujachary, Chemistry; and Samuel E. Lofland, Jr., Physics & Astronomy.

CLAS Faculty Notes

DJ Angelone, Psychology, and **Alison Krufka**, Biological Sciences, served as dean's fellows in CLAS for 2010-11.

Dianne Ashton, Philosophy & Religion, has been named editor of *American Jewish History*, the premiere journal in the field of Jewish history. Her book, *The American Hanukkah*, will be released in September by New York University Press.

Joseph Coulombe, English, is the author of *Reading Native American Literature* (Routledge Press), his second book. Additionally, two of Coulombe's articles on Native American Literature have been reprinted in Harold Bloom's *Modern Critical Views* series on Native American Literature, sponsored by Yale University Press.

Kristen diNovi, Assistant Dean of CLAS, successfully defended her dissertation and earned her Ph.D. in educational psychology from Temple University in the fall. Her research included the use of a risk prediction model to establish an early warning system and intervention with first-semester college students, addressing both academic viability and retention.

Laurie Kaplis-Hohwald, Foreign Languages & Literatures, presented a paper titled "Building the Temple in Verse" at the 35th International Conference on Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Villanova University.

Matthew Lund, Philosophy & Religion, is the author of the book *N.R. Hanson: Observation, Discovery and Scientific Change* (Prometheus Books). The work focuses on Norwood Russell Hanson, a seminal figure in post-war philosophy and the history of science.

Marilyn Manley, Foreign Languages & Literatures, presented an hour-long session, "Using Translation Tasks to Achieve the Five C's," at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) 2010 Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Boston.

Adrian Rusu, Computer Science, has been awarded a three-year, \$425,000 contract to develop innovative enhancements for Mission Solutions Engineering, a full-service systems and software engineering provider. Rusu will oversee graduate and undergraduate students who will perform analysis and software development. Students plan to build a visual aid to help MSE rapidly identify and isolate hardware, software or configuration problems.

Stanley Yeldell, Law & Justice Studies, was named "Advisor of the Year" by Leadership Rowan, a group that prepares students for leadership roles. The award recognized his work mentoring students through Gamma Chi Sigma, the Rowan chapter of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, the American Criminal Justice Association. Yeldell also was saluted for his work with the Victim Awareness group and for his work organizing the annual Law & Justice Career Day.

Professor Skypes lesson to high schoolers

When Rowan University students were snowed in this winter, History Professor William Carrigan still shared his knowledge with high school students in sunny California. Via Skype, Carrigan discussed the history of lynching and mob violence against Mexican Americans.

Natalia Baldwin, a teacher at Overfelt High School in San Jose, contacted Carrigan after reading his co-authored article,

“The Lynching of Persons of Mexican Origin or Descent in the United States, 1848 to 1928” published in the *Journal of Social History*. The article argues that scholars and the public often overlook or forget the history of organized racial violence against Mexican Americans.

The topic resonated with Baldwin’s students, many of whom are of Mexican

descent, speak English as a second language or have parents who do not speak English.

“They were able to learn about an important and cutting edge topic in Latino history that is not yet well integrated in textbooks,” says Carrigan.

Students posed questions to Carrigan based on articles, poems and videos they reviewed in class.

“Their questions were insightful and as good or better than many of the questions I have received after public lectures,” says Carrigan.

“Having a professor validate their questions and ideas shows students that they can move on to higher education. Seeing a stranger take an interest in their education stirs up intrinsic motivation,” says Baldwin.

The unique experience enlightened the students, and Carrigan appreciated the opportunity to reach a pertinent audience.

“I like that I can directly connect my research to folks in the ‘real world,’” says Carrigan. “I’ve taught in New Jersey high schools, but the California conference expanded my work’s impact on society.”



“I like that I can directly connect my research to folks in the ‘real world.’”

From coast to coast: History Professor **William Carrigan** Skypes with California high school students about his research on the history of lynching and mob violence against Mexican Americans.

Senior reigns as Miss New Jersey

In high school, Ashleigh Udalovas never had time to consider competing in pageants. She was too busy with cheerleading, the National Honor Society and community service. But today, the Rowan senior juggles her studies—and also holds the title of Miss New Jersey.

A teacher recommended the Miss America program to Udalovas during her senior year of high school.

“I was attracted to the program because of the scholarship money I could earn. Over time, I have learned that Miss America encapsulates the values I cherish most: education, community service, ambition and compassion,” says Udalovas.

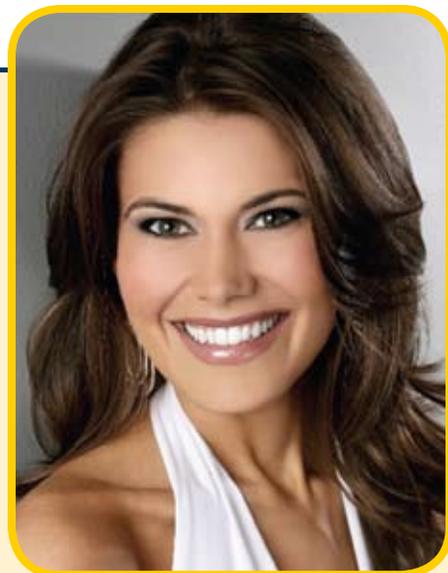
Udalovas’ platform is “Read to Succeed—Improving America’s Future through Literacy.” She founded Cumberland County’s First Book advisory board, which has distributed 5,000 new books to low-income families.

“I enjoy witnessing the tangible differences my efforts are making in the community,” says Udalovas.

While she loves serving others, Udalovas said the most exciting part of her reign was walking on the Miss America stage.

“When I was on that stage in front of 7,000 people and the cameras that represented millions more, I realized the magnitude of it all,” says Udalovas. “I never imagined that I would be a part of this time-honored American tradition on its 90th anniversary.”

Udalovas works hard to balance her duties with her schoolwork. She is a Spanish major with a minor in Education and a concentration in International Studies. After graduation, Udalovas hopes to pursue a law degree. Education is still a possibility, she says, adding she might like to become a professor as well.



CLAS Senior Ashleigh Udalovas values community service and education and has focused on both in her platform as Miss New Jersey.

“I know that the more I invest in my education, the more I will be able to invest in the service of others,” says Udalovas.

Okorodudu receives honor from APA

The American Psychological Association (APA) has honored Corann Okorodudu, professor of Psychology and Africana Studies, with a prestigious award to recognize her advancement of peace psychology and social justice in the APA and at the United Nations.

The APA is the largest association of psychologists worldwide. As APA's first appointed U.N. representative, Okorodudu helped draft APA's application for accreditation as a U.N. Non-Governmental Organization.

Okorodudu works to integrate psychological perspectives into the U.N. agenda and advance public policy on children's rights, women's rights and the elimination of racism.

'We need to learn about human rights and social justice and how to apply these concepts with historical consciousness in all areas of our work.'

The Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology Division of the APA awarded the first-ever Distinguished Contribution to Psychology Policy Initiatives in Support of Peace, Human Rights, and Social Justice Award to Okorodudu and Judy Van Hoorn, an education professor at the University of the Pacific.

While serving on APA's Council of Representatives, the pair worked to initiate APA's policies against torture. They also advocated policy changes in APA's Ethics Code, which now requires psychologists to adhere to international standards of human rights.

"Each of us has a unique history. We need to recognize the diversity and commonalities of the human experience in all contexts of our lives and our work because both are strengths and realities that challenge us," says Okorodudu.

During her 42 years at Rowan, Okorodudu has worked to promote respect for human diversity, gender and racial equality and other human rights in Rowan's institutional structure and curriculum.

"We need to learn about human rights and social justice and how to apply these concepts with historical consciousness in all areas of our work. Through human rights and social justice-based practices, we can uplift, empower and transform our institutions, ourselves, each other, the next generation and our communities," Okorodudu says.

Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series: Speakers explore NY crime stats, mysteries in physics, and William Penn's policies

This year, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences welcomed three speakers as part of the second annual Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series.

Criminal justice scholar Eli B. Silverman, University of Pennsylvania historian Daniel Richter and Ian Spielman of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) came to Rowan to discuss the foremost areas of research and development in their fields.

In his talk, "New York City's Crime Statistics: Truth or Fiction?" Silverman discussed Compstat, a managerial accountability system. He examined how Compstat affects police crime reporting and how potential pressures put on police might influence unethical crime reporting. Silverman is Professor Emeritus at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Graduate Center at the City University of New York.

Richter's research focuses on Colonial North America. His book, *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (Harvard University Press, 2001), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. In his discussion, "William Penn and Native Americans, Revisited," Richter explained that while Penn is deservedly remembered for his Quaker emphasis on peaceful and fair dealings with Native Americans, late 17th century English imperial thinking also influenced Penn's policies.

Spielman examined the origin of complexity. Systems of ultra-cold atoms, tenuous atom vapors cooled to just above absolute zero, help scientists determine how order appears from simplicity. Spielman discussed how interacting particles first create and then destroy a superconductor and what cold atoms tell us about the emerging technology of spintronics. In May 2010, the Maryland Academy of Sciences named him "Maryland's Outstanding Young Scientist of the Year."

All Dean's Distinguished Lectures are free and open to the University community, alumni and the general public. To stay abreast of future lectures, visit www.rowan.edu/las.



Distinguished Lecturer: University of Pennsylvania historian and 2001 Pulitzer Prize finalist **Daniel Richter** discusses how William Penn's Quaker-based policies with Native Americans also followed late-17th century English imperial practices.

From community service to the moon: Rowan's Physics Club earns national recognition

For eight of the last 10 years, the Society of Physics Students (SPS) has named the Rowan Physics Club one of the top chapters in the nation.

The club earned this recognition through NASA internships, award-winning community outreach, campus tutoring and participation in national conferences. The club helps students and the public learn to understand and appreciate physics.

"Physics can be scary. When I was a freshman, the degree really intimidated me. But I found friends and mentors in the club," says Physics Club president Emma Cortes. "It's a great organization that opens doors, promotes hard work and helps the academic and outside community."

The group provides free tutoring to any student in a Physics class. Members also present Physics demonstrations at elementary, middle and high schools.

Twice, the SPS awarded the Rowan chapter the Marsh W. White Award. The financial award assists chapters in promoting general interest in Physics.

"It's a great organization that opens doors, promotes hard work and helps the academic and outside community."

"We realize how lucky we are to receive an education at Rowan. That motivates us to give back to the South Jersey community," says Cortes.

The Rowan chapter has also won three SPS research grants. Students have presented their research findings at national

and regional conferences, including ones at MIT and Yale.

The chapter also received a major research award for collaborative work with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Several club members have completed NASA internships for the LEND (Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector) program under the supervision of Physics & Astronomy Professor David Klassen.

During his internship, Carl Campbell learned how to code software with IDL—a programming language designed for image analysis—to correlate the data gathered by satellites. This will help with the current moon-mapping mission, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

"I have the Physics Club to thank in part for this internship. Being a part of the Physics Club is what really made me feel at home with the subject," says Campbell.



Historic Hollybush

Elyssa Ford, Rowan's first-ever Hollybush Fellow, discusses the historical importance of the mansion with her class this spring. Ford's class helped students understand the significance of public history. During her semester-long work as the Hollybush Fellow, Ford also worked on archival work for the mansion. The Hollybush Fellow is expected to become an annual position with the University, attracting scholars to further study and document Hollybush's important place in history. The mansion was the site of the historic Hollybush Summit between President Lyndon Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

Best in CLAS: Dean honors graduating seniors

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences recognized some of its most accomplished seniors during the Dean's Senior Recognition Awards Ceremony, formerly known as the Dean's Tea.

Faculty from each CLAS program select the graduating senior who they feel best represents their discipline. Awardees are students who have not only demonstrated academic excellence but have also made significant contributions to their department, the University and/or surrounding community.

Highlights of students' accomplishments include internships with Mission Solutions Engineering, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the California Institute of Technology. Many students participated in research while at Rowan and presented their findings at conferences.

Examples of recipients' extracurricular activities include leading student organizations, assisting in Katrina relief efforts, volunteering for the American Cancer Society and reigning as Miss New Jersey.

Many recipients plan to continue their education in graduate school, law school or medical school.

Recipients included Andrew Spence, American Studies; Mary Pinter, Biological Sciences; Travis Magdaleno, Chemistry & Biochemistry; Malik Ahmed, Computer Science; Kristen Grace, Economics; Tanya Harmer, English; Amy Fread, Environmental Studies; Ashleigh Udalovas, Foreign Languages & Literatures; Bushra Awan, Geography & Anthropology; Ian Tyson, History; Nicholas Mueller, Law & Justice Studies; Christopher Santiago, Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Sciences; Maria Horton, Liberal Studies: Math/Science; Jennifer Hoxworth, Mathematics; Justin Uscenski, Philosophy & Religion Studies; Catherine Booth, Physics & Astronomy; Kieran Higgins, Political Science; Laura Grossi, Psychology; and Darren Pearce, Sociology.



Head of the CLAS:

Dean **Parviz Ansari** (above, center) poses with recipients from each CLAS department during the Dean's Senior Recognition Awards Ceremony. At left, **Ansari** and Professor **Stanley Yeldell** honor Law & Justice Studies senior **Nicholas Mueller**, who completed a prestigious Drug Enforcement Agency internship.

Student research on antibiotics could impact treatments

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has been investigating the properties of antimicrobial peptides (AMP).

"I've been studying the shape of the AMP when it attaches to the membrane," he says. "It converts from random orientation to an α -helix, which looks like a spring.

"In some cases, multiple AMPs penetrate the membrane, arrange into a circle and form a pore, which releases cellular contents and kills the cells. We hope to find an AMP that attaches to the bacterial cell membrane with a faster, stronger bind and is more effective at killing bacteria."

Researchers eventually will apply this information to small molecules and potentially develop new therapeutics.

The project is producing so much

data that students have already presented findings at conferences.

"Scholars outside of Rowan are amazed at the quality and quantity of research done by our undergraduates," says Caputo.

The research provided internal collaborations with the Physics and Mechanical Engineering departments. Caputo is also in initial talks to work with infectious disease specialists at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University to test some of his peptides on clinically derived bacteria.

The student researchers include seniors Frank Duzello and Travis Magdaleno; juniors Michael Coletta, Theodora Maravegias and Sarah Misenko; and sophomore Angela Picciano.

Fulbright Scholar teaches—and learns, too

For the fifth straight year, Rowan University has welcomed a Chinese Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA). Yinan Li, an English lecturer at the University of Sichuan in China, received the yearlong assistantship, which bridges language and culture gaps.

Li teaches elementary and intermediate Chinese at Rowan.

“My students excel at learning the lan-

guage and are very curious about Chinese traditions and our lifestyle,” says Li.

Just like her Rowan students, Li is gaining an understanding of a foreign language and culture. Li studied English for seven years, but the assistantship improves her skills in a real English setting and gives her a firsthand account of America, she says.

“I feel like I’m a cultural ambassador,” says Li. “I show Americans what Chinese

people are like. When I return to China, I’ll share my American experiences with students there.”

Li loves Rowan, especially the people she meets here. Her mentors, Sonia Spencer, Interim Chair, Foreign Languages & Literatures, and Aiguo Han, Associate Professor of Writing Arts, have shown Li how hard-working and accommodating Americans can be, she says.

Li also learns about America through travel. She has visited New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, California and Las Vegas.

The highlight of her travels was a visit to Washington, D.C. for the annual FLTA meeting. Hillary Clinton made a surprise appearance and discussed the impact of “humanizing international relations” on peace.

“Secretary Clinton showed us that we carry an important responsibility. We need to share what we have in ourselves, not only our language but our ways of thinking and cultural elements,” says Li.



“I feel like I’m a cultural ambassador.”

Cultural Exchange: Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant **Yinan Li** teaches the Chinese language and culture to Rowan students.

Promising career: '10 English alumna lands national book deal

Editor’s note: This time last year, Kristen Brozina was speaking at the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences’ Commencement ceremony. Today, the 2010 English alumna is in the midst of a national book tour for *The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared* (Grand Central Publishing), her first book. Below, Brozina, who uses the pen name Alice Ozma, talks about the whirlwind year she has had—and the love she has for her alma mater. To learn more about *The Reading Promise*, visit www.makeareadingpromise.com.

By Kristen Brozina

When my book was published on May 3, it was just under a year since my LAS graduation—354 days to be precise. It’s been a wild ride.

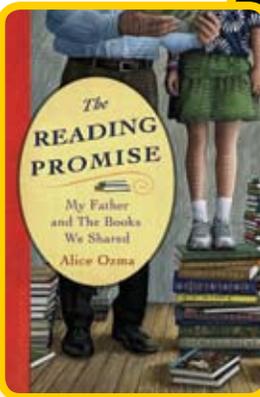
During my last semester of college, I wrote an essay about my father reading to me, every night without missing a night, from fourth grade until my first day of college. I intended to use the essay as

part of an application for graduate school, but English Professor and LAS Associate Dean Cindy Vitto read it over and saw potential. She contacted the University’s Office of Media & Public Relations, which pitched the story to *The New York Times*. To my surprise, the *Times* bit.

From 10 a.m. the day the *Times* article was published and for the next few weeks, my phone did not stop ringing. I found an agent and a publisher eight days after the piece ran, and I’m happy to say that I know now I made the right decision. They are both a perfect fit for me. Once all of that was secured, however, I went back to being a normal college student for a few weeks...I had finals to study for, after all!

I wrote for five weeks, edited off and on for a few months, and started making appearances to promote *The Reading Promise* in January.

I’ve met many wonderful people, and I am often asked about my alma mater. I describe Rowan as a place where questions are an-



The Reading Promise: Alumna **Kristen Brozina’s** first book has been published by Grand Central Publishing.

swered, opportunities are given, and anyone who wants to really can make a difference.

When my publisher asked where I wanted to launch my book, I knew I wanted to celebrate the release of *The Reading Promise* at Rowan University’s Barnes & Noble. I took that as an opportunity to thank Rowan for all it has given me. I hope you, too, will thank Rowan for all it has given you as you achieve personal and professional success. To be sure, the Rowan experience amounts to so much more than a degree.



Music of the Andes: Playing over 35 instruments, **Andes Manta** brought the Andean culture of South America to Rowan last semester as part of the President's Lecture Series. Foreign Languages & Literatures Professors **Marilyn Manley** and **Anthony Robb** organized the visit. The group also performed their "Concert of Andean Music," a successful fundraiser for Rowan's Pujals Study Abroad in Latin America scholarship.

Klapper lands Jewish Studies fellowship at Michigan institute

Melissa R. Klapper, Associate Professor of History and former director of Women's and Gender Studies, was awarded a residential fellowship at the University of Michigan's Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies.

The Institute comprises an international group of scholars from various disciplines who advance Jewish Studies through research and discussion.

Each year, the Frankel Institute focuses on a different theme. The 2011-2012 theme is "Jews & Politics." During the fall semester, Klapper will conduct research for her upcoming book *Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women's Pre-World War II Activism*, which examines Jewish women's role in the suffrage, birth control and peace movements.

"This particular ethnic group walked a line between embracing tradition and modernity," says Klapper. "Little is known about this aspect of history, and my research will help fill that gap."

Klapper will also take part in weekly seminars and public lectures with other fellows and faculty members.

"This intensive semester of Jewish studies will not only benefit me but also enrich my classes when I return to Rowan," says Klapper.



Melissa Klapper

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