



SPRING 2015

The Compass

The Newsletter of the
College of Humanities & Social Sciences



FRESHMAN AND SENIOR HISTORY MAJORS SET SIGHTS ON FUTURE

College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS) senior Chris Holzschuh and incoming freshman Tyler Jiang share a passion for history, but their interests will take them in vastly different directions.

Illuminating the Realities of War

IT WASN'T ENOUGH for Chris Holzschuh, '15, to hear his grandfather's stories from World War II. The Rowan history major wanted others to actually envision troops invading the beach at Normandy, a kamikaze attack in Okinawa, and other experiences of war.

"During a late-night conversation with my roommates about my grandfather and his World War II service, they convinced me it was definitely worth recording because it was a remarkable story," said Holzschuh, '15, a resident of Marlton, NJ.

The group — including Holzschuh, a former postproduction supervisor for the Rowan Television Network; Josh Hersch, a radio/television/film (RTF) major; Evan Moore, a public relations major; and Joseph Bottino, an RTF major — began by interviewing the 90-year-old William Roberts, a Toms River resident. "It was really good stuff, so we turned it into a documentary," Holzschuh said.

The narrative of *Change of Tides: The William Roberts Story*, their 20-minute video, begins as Roberts drops out of high school to join the U.S. Navy and is commissioned on the *USS Emmons*. "We get his first-hand account of when he saw the soldiers running on the shores at Normandy and the Japanese kamikaze pilots hitting the ship at Okinawa, including a few of his friends being killed," he said.

They balanced these stories with lighter incidents, such as when Roberts and his friends pilfered pies from the ship's galley. "We tried to include as much good as the bad," Holzschuh said. The film offers a fresh perspective. "You don't really hear the stories of individual soldiers," he said. "The World War II-era veterans are very stoic and won't talk about their experiences. I find getting these first-hand accounts of war experience is very important to understand the times."

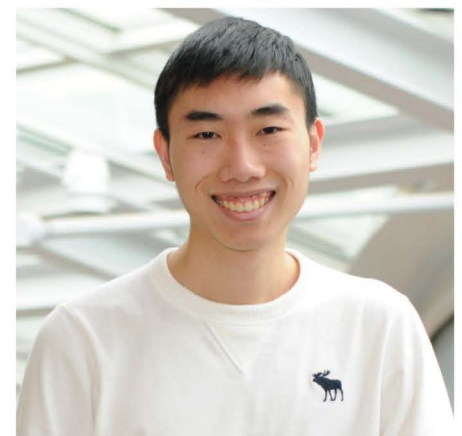
Riding on the success of their film, which debuted in Flemington in January, the filmmakers were commissioned to produce another documentary for the

RCA Heritage Program Museum, located in Rowan's Campbell Library. "Ideally, I would produce more documentaries," Holzschuh said. "I think I have found my calling. I get to combine my love of film and TV and my love for history. They come together so nicely."

Watch the Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_ISPzHVeD4&feature=youtu.be

Adding a Historical Perspective to Future Medical Plans



ALTHOUGH TYLER JIANG, '18, a history and biology major, set his sights on a future in medicine, his interests also remain firmly grounded in the past.



continued on page 3 >>

NEW FACULTY SHARE EXPERTISE WITH STUDENTS

AS ROWAN UNIVERSITY continues to grow by leaps and bounds, new faculty in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) are inspiring students in many ways.



DR. KATHARINE SLATER, assistant professor of English, specializes in 20th- and 21st-century children's literature, young adult literature, and visual literature. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Literatures in English from the University of California, San Diego. She earned her B.A. in English from Sonoma State University.

Before she joined Rowan, she taught at Johns Hopkins University, the University of California, San Diego, and Pacific Lutheran University. She has published articles on *Anne of Green Gables*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *The Secret Garden*, and other topics. She is hard at work on a book, *Little Geographies: Writing Place for Children*.



DR. NATHAN BAUER, a tenure-track instructor in the Department of Philosophy & Religion Studies, attained his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Chicago, and bachelor's degrees in philosophy and history from McGill University and the University of Calgary, respectively.

He previously served as a three-quarter-time assistant professor for CHSS and collegiate assistant professor and Harper-Schmidt Fellow at the University of Chicago. His research focuses on Kant and modern philosophy, and he is also interested in the history and philosophy of science and ancient philosophy.

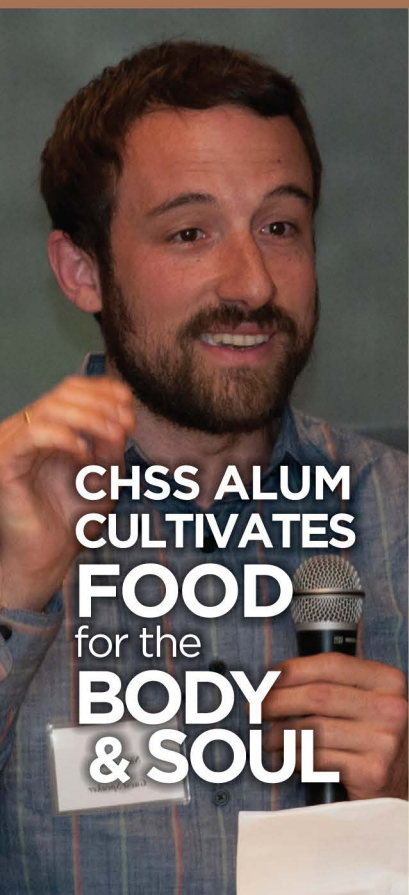


DR. KIMBERLEY HOUSER, assistant professor, Department of Law & Justice Studies, earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in criminal justice from Temple University and her B.S. in law and justice from The College of New Jersey.

Before joining Rowan, she served as an assistant

professor at Kutztown University and an adjunct professor at Temple University. She also has served in a number of research and teaching positions. Her research focuses on the effects of substance abuse disorders, mental illness, and other conditions on criminal conduct.

DEAN CINDY VITTO OBSERVES: “Every year I am amazed at the quality of the new faculty we are hiring. We have extremely high standards, since we are hiring only candidates who have already demonstrated that they are effective teachers, published scholars, and individuals engaged in the lives of their campus communities. This is a very dynamic time at Rowan, and we are hiring for the future—only the best!”



NIC ESPOSITO, '05, has a flair for growing things.

A passion for urban farming took root soon after he completed service in the Ameri-Corps National Civilian Community Corps, where he helped rebuild homes during the Hurricane Katrina recovery.

The English major eagerly learned to grow plants in community gardens throughout the United States and in South America. “I have to admit, it's sort of a mild obsession,” he said. “When you can grow something, harvest it, and eat it, it's incredible.”

A few years later, he returned to Philadelphia and plunged into the city's urban

farming movement, where he met his wife, Elisa.

They now operate the Emerald Street Urban Farm, a communal space in Kensington where community members pitch in to grow seasonal vegetables ranging from tomatoes to broccoli for their families.

“It's important for us to be able to sustain ourselves and also to sustain our community,” he said. “It's not just by growing food — it's also by creating this space, a kind of respite from the depressed area where we live.”

Esposito's desire to grow wholesome food intertwines with a need to share his stories. In 2011 he collaborated with a group of graphic designers, editors, and other professionals to

print and market his first novel, *Seeds of Dissent*, which focuses on urban farming.

To offer the same opportunity to other area writers, he and his colleagues formed The Head and the Hand Press in 2012. A few short years later, he completed an essay collection, *Kensington Homestead*, right before Elisa gave birth to their son, Luca.

The Head and the Hand continues to grow and expand, releasing two books this spring. “There are a lot of great writers in this area, but they need the industry and platforms so they can make some noise and be discovered,” Esposito said. “The Head and the Hand is starting to prove that it is that platform.”

CHSS STEERS HONORS PROGRAM INTO NEW ERA

WITH THE DAWN OF 2015, the University's prestigious Thomas N. Bantivoglio Honors Concentration took a new course as Dr. Lee Talley, program director and professor of English, took the helm.

"She's an incredibly creative person with endless energy," said Dr. Kristen diNovi, CHSS assistant dean and interim coordinator of the Honors program.

Talley is devoting that energy to growing the program — and much more. Launching new initiatives, she plans to increase the program's emphasis on service and citizenship and touts the program's new tagline: Think, Thrive, Share.

"I'm looking forward to building up course offerings in key areas in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, where there's a strong

need, but I'm equally interested in diversifying our offerings in the arts, humanities, and social sciences," she said.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) will offer a unique influence. "I think of the Honors program as providing students with an elite liberal arts college educational experience at a public university's price, and the humanities and social sciences are a central part of any strong liberal arts education," she said. "The offerings from CHSS that I hope to grow will especially help our STEM students become more well-rounded scholars and citizens."

Students in this program gain from an array of extracurricular activities, community service projects, Honors learning communities, cutting-edge independent research, as well as guided research assistantships with Rowan faculty, and other benefits.



In addition, study abroad expands students' perspectives. "I think that's an unparalleled experience," Talley said. "It enables them to immerse themselves in particular areas of study, and it's a strong component of our program."

At least three CHSS Honors students applied for a Fulbright Scholarship for the summer. If accepted, they will study abroad in one of the most prominent international programs.

Thomas N. Bantivoglio students are an extraordinary group, according to Talley. "They are incredibly talented, engaged, and committed young people," Talley said. "Working with them is inspiring."



Above: Dr. Lee Talley meeting with Honors students; at left: Dr. Lee Talley (left) and Dr. Kristen diNovi.

Future Medical Plans, continued from page 1

"History was probably my favorite subject in high school, and I wanted to stick with it at the university level of education as well," he said.

After medical school, the Radnor, Pa., resident hopes to become a pediatrician or oncologist. However, he believes his humanities courses provide an important basis for his future. "History helps you understand the basis of modern science," he said.

Jiang has an assortment of interests. "I used to really love the World War II era, but now I'm starting to lean towards the Napoleonic era," he said. "However, the World War II era is definitely one of my favorite places to look for fun history facts."

Additionally, Jiang is engaged in a wide spectrum of activities. He recently added his voice to Profecy, Rowan's a cappella

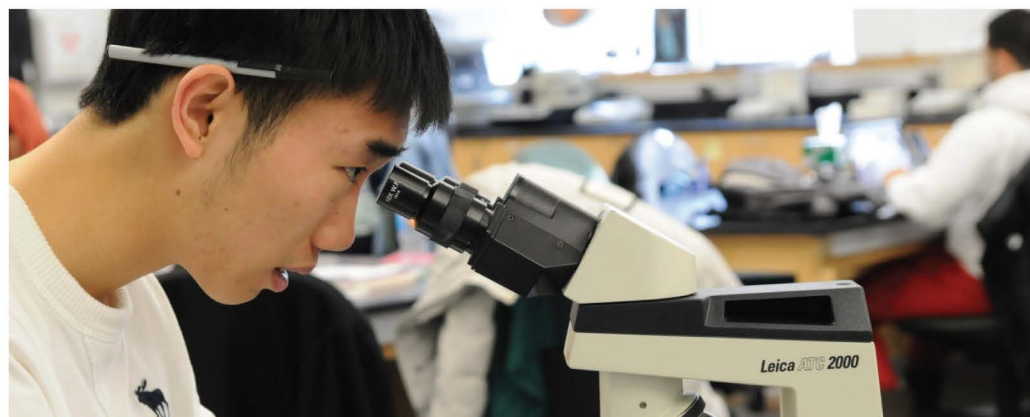
group, and serves as the secretary of the campus Ping Pong Club.

He also joined PBL Primer, a campus honors organization where students put their problem-solving skills to work in diagnosing medical cases and proposing treatment options. "It's very fun," he said.

As he envisions his white-coat future, Jiang believes his history background will provide a number of benefits. "I think humanities will help me connect with

patients, so I have something other than science to talk about with them," he said.

"I also will always have history in the back of my mind even as I work as a doctor," he said. "History will allow me to look through the various treatment options that were used in the past to see whether they have potential or whether I may develop an option into a viable treatment with the use of modern science."





College of Humanities & Social Sciences
201 Mullica Hill Road
Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellmawr, NJ
Permit #1047

THE COMPASS SPRING 2015

Cindy Vitto, *Dean*
Larry Butler, *Associate Dean*
Kristen diNovi, *Assistant Dean*
Diane Angelucci, *Writer/Project Manager*
Barbara Baals, *Editor*
Will Mendez, *Photographer*
Craig Terry, *Photographer*
Colin Merlo, *Design*

THE COMPASS is published twice a year by the College of Humanities & Social Sciences to celebrate the achievements of its students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Send suggestions and comments to:
College of Humanities & Social Sciences
c/o Editor - The Compass
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Rd.
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701
or email: dinovi@rowan.edu

CONTACT

(856) 256-5840
(856) 256-5668 (fax)
www.rowan.edu/chss



www.facebook.com/RowanCHSS



www.youtube.com/RowanCHSS



[@RowanCHSS](https://twitter.com/RowanCHSS)



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Majeeda Hason (center), administrative assistant in the Department of Political Science and Economics, is surrounded by her family—and members of the CHSS family—at the University's Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony in April. Hason, in her 18th year at Rowan, was honored with the University's Inclusivity Award, which recognizes an employee who promotes an inclusive workplace by inviting diverse viewpoints, encouraging collaboration, and modeling appreciation and respect toward colleagues and students.