



FALL 2015

The Compass

*The Newsletter of the
College of Humanities & Social Sciences*



TRIBUTE HONORS Seafaring Professor

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A MAST RISES OUT of the geographic center of Rowan University's campus, with signs pointing east, west, north, and south to several international cities. It is part of a monument celebrating legendary Geography Professor Marvin Creamer, but he hopes it sparks something more.

After his retirement more than three decades ago, Creamer embarked on a record-setting adventure at the age of 67, conceived when he was only 17. Without compass or sextant

— not even a wristwatch — the founder of Rowan's Geography Department set sail on the *Globe Star*, a 36-foot steel-hulled cutter, to circumnavigate the globe. He relied only on the stars, water currents, and his own vast knowledge of geography and nature.

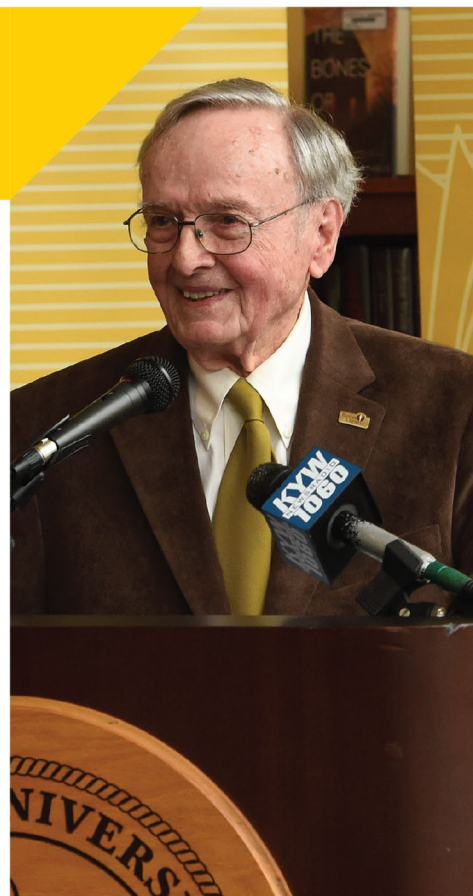
He recalls the Magellan-esque voyage in sharp detail, glowing with the memory. "I tell people I have a little pilot light under my chest bone, a little warmth there that's never going to go away," he said. "It's a wonderful feeling

to be able to have a dream and carry it out."

Commemorating Creamer's 510-day, 30,000-mile voyage from December 1982 to May 1984, the monument, named the *Endeavor*, was dedicated in October. Shaped and scaled to the size of the *Globe Star*, the structure blends multiple layers of symbolism and challenges visitors to explore the world and their role in it.

"It's an outdoor classroom," said Dr. John Hasse, chair of the Department of Geography and Environment. "There are boulders that are meant to be seats where students can sit and contemplate about themselves and where they are."

The monument aroused curiosity among students while it was still under construction, Hasse said. "It doesn't reveal itself. They have to ask questions. They



have to be drawn into the mystery of it as a way of thinking about their world in a manner that they hadn't thought about before.

"As Marvin says himself: 'This is my way of tricking people into continuing to learn geography long after I'm gone,'" Hasse said. ■

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At left: Dr. Marvin Creamer shares the experience of the new monument with Rowan students, faculty, and staff.





FRESHMAN PLANS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OTHERS

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RBREY SINGLETON, '19, remembers traveling through South Jersey as an eight-year-old with his dad, listening to Rowan Radio in the car. Little did he realize that, a decade later, he would choose Rowan University from among 17 other contenders during his college search.

Although time may have faded his initial impression of the school, one memory is clear: how Rowan ultimately sealed the deal.

When the Haledon resident attended Rowan's Accepted Students' Day, he encountered Richard Jones, vice president of student life and dean of students, whom he had met during a previous

campus visit. "Dean Jones remembered my name and he remembered my family," said Singleton, recipient of an Achieving the Dream Scholarship. "That made me feel like I would matter if I came to his school, and that was the reason I came to Rowan."

While Rowan impressed Singleton, Singleton also is leaving his mark on Rowan. In the few short months since he arrived on campus, the political science major was elected freshman class senator and joined the Pre-Law Society and the Freshman Leadership Involvement Program. He also lined up a December interview for a position in Senate President Stephen Sweeney's office.

His plans for the future are deeply rooted in his experiences. "I've always been interested in politics, and I think I can attribute that to my background," he said.

"My mom came from Bluefields, Nicaragua. My grandparents are Nicaraguan immigrants, too, and my dad came from Dillon, South Carolina," he said. "Both of those are places of abject poverty, and I've seen how much good government, or the lack thereof, can really influence the way people live. I hope I can make a difference in public service someday. Ultimately, I hope to serve in government, whether to be an ambassador abroad or in the United States Senate." ■

INTERNSHIPS HELP GRAD GET JUMP ON THE COMPETITION

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WITH HER SIGHTS set on a career in publishing, English major Natalie Marra knew she had a strong educational foundation. But she knew she needed even more to win over potential employers.

"I had to get work experience because the field is so competitive," said Marra, a Wenonah resident who also minored in communication studies, earning her degree in May.

Marra set to work, completing three internships before graduation and gaining a wealth of career-related experience.

Key in this quest was Rowan's CHSS Match internship pro-

gram, designed specifically for College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) students. Through the program, Marra landed an internship with South Jersey Magazine in Marlton, where she sharpened her editorial skills and published a number of articles.

Eager for more experience, the following year she connected with CHSS Match and an internship with Penumbra Literary LLC, a literary agency where she helped review author queries and submissions. Through her own efforts, she also secured an internship with Running Press, a Philadelphia publisher.

Her efforts paid off this summer, when the National Board

of Medical Examiners signed on Marra full time as an editorial production assistant.

Marra believes her internships played a vital role. "I think that, from an employer's perspective, it speaks a lot to see that the candidate has work experience," she said.

The expertise she gained in grammar, close reading, and other areas from her courses and internships provided a solid background for her new position. "That helps me every single day. I use it all at my job. I've only been there for two and a half months, but I feel very satisfied with my work and I feel like my internships definitely prepared me for that," she said. ■



UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES



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SEVENTY YEARS
after the liberation of Nazi concentration camps, the atrocities of the Holocaust provide enduring lessons for humankind. Carrying these messages forward, Rowan University recently established the Rowan Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, which hosted its Inaugural Program in Boyd Recital Hall in November.

Holocaust survivors Helene Bouton and Charles Middleberg shared their experiences in a discussion moderated by Larry Glaser, assistant executive director of the New Jersey State Commission on Holocaust Education (*photo above*). In addition, Tim Kaiser

(*pictured below*), deputy director of the Levine Institute for Holocaust Education at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, presented his talk, “Now More than Ever: The Need for Accurate, Authentic and Authoritative Holocaust Education.”

The new center — a collaboration of the College of Hu-



manities and Social Sciences, Rowan’s College of Education, and the State of New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education — is one of 27 centers throughout the state providing information and serving as resources regarding the Holocaust and genocide.

“This partnership will harness the interest and energy related to these studies and provide outreach to the community,” said Dr. Stephen Hague, coordinator of the center and a history instructor. “It’s great in many respects because the two colleges are coming together to provide education and study opportunities.”

The center plans to offer a spring workshop to educa-

tors. “One of our primary goals will be to provide education to teachers who are teaching this material,” he said.

“There are innumerable possibilities that go beyond this, ranging from offering additional courses to film presentations, programs, conversations with survivors, talks, workshops, and teacher training opportunities,” he said.

As the center grows, it will serve as a valued resource, collaborating with the State Commission, other Holocaust centers, colleges within the University, and local and regional school districts. “We will be robust in our growth and in our programming over the months and years to come,” Hague said. ■



DEPARTMENT OFFERS NEW PERSPECTIVES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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IN JUNE, ROWAN
University will draw international researchers to campus when it hosts the prestigious 2016 annual conference of the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice.

A major attraction is Rowan’s strong emphasis on the philosophy of science. “We are one of the only programs in the country to offer as many sections of Philosophy of Science as we do,” said Dr. Ellen Miller (*above*), associate professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies.

In addition, given the University’s two medical schools, the

department recently launched a concentration in Bioethics and Philosophy of Medicine. A new course, Spirituality and Healing, emphasizes holistic approaches to medicine and spiritual factors associated with healing.

“It’s important for students to understand that medicine has ethical, cultural, and philosophical dimensions,” Miller said. The department also helped develop Rowan’s new concentration in Jewish Studies.

Philosophy and Religion Studies courses offer perspectives that students can carry into any profession, and new career

tracks in the major help students choose their elective courses.

“We’re one of the oldest disciplines, so all other disciplines relate to our courses,” Miller said. The department emphasizes contemporary applications of the disciplines to demonstrate their relevance.

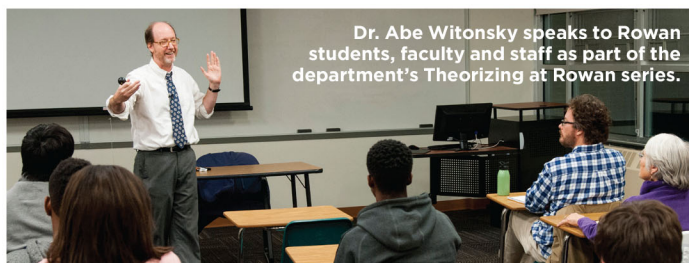
Students also develop strong critical thinking and writing skills. “Philosophy and religion studies majors nationwide have the top scores on all graduate school exams, including the LSAT, GMAT, GRE, and MCAT,” Miller said. Moreover, the department has a 100-per-

cent placement record for students pursuing graduate school, according to Miller.

Promoting University-wide understanding of philosophy and religion studies, the department hosts Theorizing at Rowan, a series of increasingly popular lectures from Rowan presenters and guest speakers.

It also holds an annual Ethics and Society Student Conference, where students present their original research.

“It’s amazing to listen to young students who are so passionate about ethical issues that they’re going to confront in their careers and personal lives,” Miller said. “We hope that continues to build and grow.” ■



Dr. Abe Witonsky speaks to Rowan students, faculty and staff as part of the department’s Theorizing at Rowan series.



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CHSS Mates



AT HOMECOMING 2015, Rowan's most well attended celebration to date, throngs of alumni from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences visited the CHSS tent, where faculty members, administrators, dean's office staff and students were on hand to greet—and reconnect—with members of the Rowan family. Here, CHSS Dean Cindy Vitto (second from right), Rowan President Ali A. Houshmand (third from right) and Provost Jim Newell (second from left) enjoy the celebration with their respective spouses. Joining them are (from left) Heidi Newell, Farah Houshmand and George Romeo, a Rowan accounting professor. Below, the Prof and Sean Velarides enjoy a friendly game of checkers at the CHSS tent, which included activities, information about the college, and giveaways. ■

