

Rowan Magazine

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY

FALL 2021



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Each month the Office of Alumni Engagement sends an e-newsletter and other timely information about events, important announcements, and all things Rowan.

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@ROWANALUMNI



UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming 2021

Monday, October 18–

Sunday, October 24

Glassboro campus

Alumni, students and the community are invited to campus for the return of our Homecoming Tailgate, College Row, the Alumni Tent & Beer Garden and more!

Virtual events will take place throughout the week leading up to a weekend of in-person celebrations, including the Rowan University-Glassboro State College Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Sunday, October 24.

Visit rowan.edu/homecoming for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast & Day of Service

Monday, January 17

Chamberlain Student Center,
Glassboro campus

Golden Profs Reunion

Friday, May 20–Saturday, May 21

Glassboro campus

We coordinate virtual and in-person events for Rowan alumni throughout the year.

Visit alumni.rowan.edu/events for our full calendar of events.

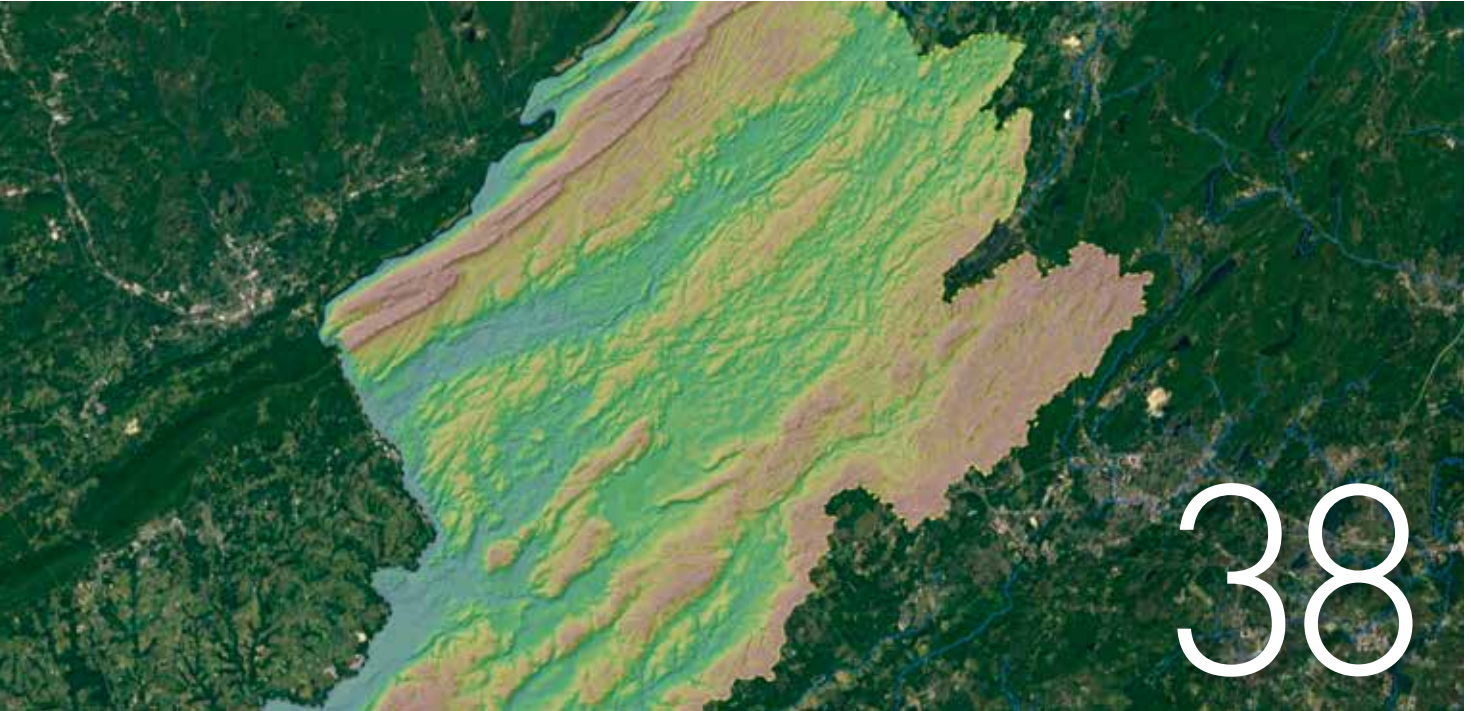
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ON THE COVER

Kanad Mukherjee DO'15 served as lead on-site physician at the School of Osteopathic Medicine COVID-19 vaccine clinic that opened in late December 2020. The SOM assistant professor's vaccination was one of more than 50,000 vaccines delivered by his SOM colleagues and student volunteers.

ROWAN MAGAZINE

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CONTENT

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It's good to be back

When our last issue hit the mail in November 2019, the Rowan Magazine staff expected to have a few months to tend to other projects before the next magazine deadline, when we'd celebrate 25 years of connecting the Rowan community through these pages.

Like so much else, that plan didn't work out in 2020.

Gaining perspective, amid

At press time, the COVID-19 pandemic is still around, so instead of being in the pandemic "after" we are still "amid." Amid uncertainty, fatigue and grief but still persisting, adapting and hoping.

Some of the pages in this issue tell about the 2020 "amid," a seemingly ancient, abberant, impossible history. And, thankfully, we also report on 2021 with so much good news about Rowan students, faculty and alumni.

Rowan University is still innovating and achieving, still exploring and inspiring, still leading, still strong. As uneasy as we still may be and as we still face threats and loss, we are proud to have gotten this far together and, thanks to the pandemic, at times apart.

Moving on

After so long and so much, it's a pleasure to welcome both the Class of 2020 and 2021 as alumni. It's an honor to bring generations of our Rowan community together again as readers and contributors to Rowan Magazine. We hope you all find hope, confidence, inspiration and pride in this issue.

If we had known what lay beyond 2019, we'd be no less grateful to serve you now. Here's to another 25 years. We have so much to catch up on and look forward to.

Lori Marshall

Lori Marshall
 Editor

Philosophy fact check

The business ethics article [Fall 2019, p. 12] reported, "The group put in more than 40 hours preparing ... reading Socrates [et al]." In fact, Socrates is known never to have authored any writings; all knowledge of Socrates is attributable to men whose written accounts about him have been preserved (e.g., Plato's account of Socratic dialogues published in Republic).

It is a curious and wonderful thing at which to marvel: A man who is generally accepted to have profoundly influenced the formation of modern Western civilization did not himself leave a record.

Name withheld by request, Class of '13, via email

Fantastic under-40

It is absolutely fantastic to read about what everyone is doing and so great to see such a diverse group of folks working in so many

different industries [Fall 2019, p. 16]—from politics to video game streaming and everything in between.

Even across the globe, I was getting snapchat messages and messages from friends and family.

As they say in Norway, "Jeg håper deg har en flott helg og tusen takk for alt! Vi snakkes!" [Translation: I hope you have a great weekend and thank you so much for everything! Talk to you later!]

*John Costantino '14
 Bergen, Norway*

Earth Day fact check

I would love to see an article on the first Earth Day (April 22, 1970) at Glassboro State College.

Sadly, I'm not finding anything about it online.

*Pat Del Camp '73
 via email*

Editor's note: Thanks for asking. We covered it briefly in Spring 2008 and will include in our 100th retrospective.

History ahead

Rowan University will start celebrating our centennial in August 2023. Stay tuned. We'll have opportunities for you to share memorabilia and memories and to attend events of all kinds. With so much planned throughout the year, our 100th will make history, too.

RETURN TO ROWAN

FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION ONLINE & ON-CAMPUS DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

Need additional education to take your career to the next level? Rowan offers a wide variety of graduate programs for numerous career paths including:

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- Business Administration
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- Counseling
- Criminal Justice
- Data Science
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- Emergency & Threat Response Management
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- Finance
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- Holocaust & Genocide Studies
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- Music
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- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Strategic Communication
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Wellness
- Writing
- And More

Rowan's graduate programs are challenging but achievable for working professionals. Courses are offered online or in the evenings and are taught by our world-class Rowan faculty, who understand that adult students need to balance work, school and family commitments.

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Tentative all year

For many months, tents throughout Rowan campuses sheltered outdoor classes, hosted students eating al fresco and provided open-air COVID test sites. While indoor venues shut down, tents made otherwise “tentative” activity possible outside all year.

Finally, it was time to celebrate Commencement for the Class of 2021—under a big top, of course—where graduates’ and guests’ joy filled the air throughout four May days and 20 ceremonies. Just hours before festivities began, the grand site seemed to breathe its own satisfied sigh, ready to welcome one and all.

PHOTO BY CRAIG TERRY





A full ride to Oxford

“I HOPE TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH ENOUGH GRIT AND HARD WORK AND BELIEF,” SAYS BANTIVOGLIO HONORS SCHOLAR, HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE KATHERINE TRAUGER

A magical childhood. An adolescence spent on stage. Four undergraduate years of intense study, debate and mentorship.

For Katherine Trauger, the University of Oxford—widely considered the world’s most prestigious university—seems a logical next step.

“It’s life-altering in an intense meaning of the word,” says Trauger ’21, who will pursue her master’s degree in Russian and East European studies at Oxford.

Trauger received the extraordinarily competitive Oxford-Nizami Ganjavi Graduate Scholarship, given to students studying Central Asia who will “contribute to the university’s groundbreaking research and who will go on to contribute to the world as leaders in their field, pushing the frontiers of knowledge,” according to Oxford officials. The scholarship fully covers course fees and living expenses.

“Oxford creates a community of some of the brightest up-and-coming people in their fields,” says Trauger. “I am aware that the people that Oxford accepts and turns into scholars are some

of the people who get into positions of power to literally change the world.”

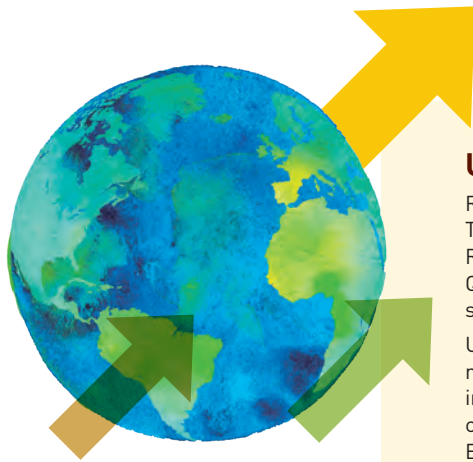
At Oxford, Trauger will focus on Soviet and post-Soviet studies. She will use her knowledge of history, focused on human rights, gender equality and democratization, to develop more successful liberation policies for post-Soviet republics, particularly Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Ultimately, she wants to work in policy planning for an international organization, such as the United Nations.

Trauger is the daughter of Nancy Stott Trauger ’80, an accomplished opera singer who attended the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music after graduating from then-Glassboro State College.

“The idea that greatness can come from Rowan was imbued in me at a very young age,” says Trauger, who calls her own childhood, infused with music, travel and culture, “magical.”

At Cherry Hill High School East, Trauger was in an elite choir that sang at the Kennedy Center and at President Obama’s Christmas party. At Rowan, she discovered her love of the humanities.



U.S. AND GLOBAL NOTICE

Rowan continues to get high marks at home and abroad. This year the Center for World University Rankings ranked Rowan in the top 8.2% of 19,788 universities surveyed and the QS World University Ranking ranked Rowan among the best schools worldwide.

U.S. News & World Report lauded Rowan grad programs in medicine, education and nursing and Rowan online programs, including the MBA and degrees in criminal justice, education, computer science and engineering. Rowan is on the U.S. News Best Colleges top 100 public institutions list, as well as among the best national universities and the nation's most innovative schools.

Katherine Trauger '21 plans a career in international policy planning with a focus on Soviet and post-Soviet studies. Her graduate work at the University of Oxford, widely considered the most prestigious institution of higher learning in the world, will propel her toward a doctorate.

“The humanities and social sciences are major catalysts for progress in the world on the same level that the sciences and STEM are,” she says.

Professors recognized Trauger’s potential and pushed her to develop keen writing, critical thinking and debating skills.

“I’ve developed relationships with professors and scholars that I know I wouldn’t have at an Ivy League school or a massive state school,” she says.

Insatiably curious, Trauger began teaching herself Russian on a faculty-led tour of Europe. She also worked for the Hollybush Institute for Global Peace & Security and for the Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute, where she studied state-sponsored media and social media in Russia, Iran and China.

High schoolers impacted by COVID-19 get help from Rowan

South Jersey urban and rural high school students whose academics were impacted by COVID-19 will receive support and guidance as they prepare for college, thanks to a \$1.5 million grant to Rowan University.

The grant is part of \$28.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education given to the state “to assist historically disadvantaged students, including underrepresented minorities, low-income students and working-age adults.”

Many of those populations were among the hardest hit by the pandemic.

Working with four school districts—Atlantic City, Camden, Paulsboro and Kingsway—Rowan University’s Opportunity for Postsecondary Excellence & Success (ROPES) program will help students with access to college through a new dual enrollment option.

“Five Rowan colleges will work together to help 100 high school juniors develop a seamless transition into college,” explains Gaëtane Jean-Marie, dean of Rowan’s College of Education and the grant’s principal investigator.

STUDENTS BRING MORE SUPER TO SUPERHEROES

“First responders are real-life superheroes, but the tools they have to collect, consume and share information are broken,” said Brandon Graham '18, M'20, co-founder and CEO of Arke Aeronautics, a Rowan startup that won the Federal Aviation Administration’s 2021 Challenge: Smart Airport Student Competition.

“Arke is a public safety platform that puts responders on-scene digitally before they arrive,” said Graham. The students proposed a cloud-based platform to help emergency crews reach airport emergencies faster, make better-informed decisions and potentially save lives.

The students’ entry earned first place and a \$25,000 cash prize.

“With this grant, Arke will take the next step towards helping keep first responders safer—and improving public safety for all,” Graham said.



The ICON-ic Man

Many consider Ali A. Houshmand iconic for his vision and leadership style as Rowan University's seventh president.

NJBIZ magazine this year recognized Houshmand as iconic, too.

Houshmand and some 50 other New Jersey leaders were named recipients of the 2021 NJBIZ ICON Awards for having made significant contributions to their organization, region and state.

Inaugurated in 2012, Houshmand has overseen Rowan's transformation from a well-respected state university into a top 100 public research institution with two medical schools. He developed partnerships with community colleges and created "3+1" programs that keep the cost of a bachelor's degree at less than what most universities charge for one year of tuition.

Houshmand said he was "honored to be part of such a distinguished group of people. While I am named, it's really the University that is honored. We are fortunate to have dedicated employees who have made the University what it is today."

GLADWELL'S A FAN

Malcolm Gladwell makes people think. And rethink.

Five years after the bestselling author and journalist first featured Rowan on his podcast, he still thinks Rowan University is remarkable.

His latest conversation with President Ali Houshmand was about how college rankings work—and—eventually, about Houshmand's Hazardous Hot Sauce, the president's project that raises funds for student emergency scholarships.

Gladwell's verdict: "I love Rowan." And he's a fan of the hot sauce, too. Listen to the episodes on "Revisionist History: My Little Hundred Million," about the University's continuing transformation, thanks to the historic 1992 Rowan gift, and the latest, "Lord of the Rankings," with the hot sauce taste test after the credits roll.



First-gen program earns national nod



Recalling his challenges as a first-generation student, President Houshmand participated in the inaugural first-generation gathering in 2017 and has supported the program each year since.

First-generation students—those who are the first in their family to attend college—comprise 27 percent of Rowan's undergraduate population.

Now, Flying First, the University's program to support first-generation students and their families, has earned national recognition.

In the spring, Flying First was named to the 2021-22 First-gen Forward Cohort, an initiative of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education and The Suder Foundation.

The designation recognizes colleges and universities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes for first-generation college students. Institutions earning the designation receive professional development opportunities, community building experience and access to research and resources.

First-gen Forward is the nation's first recognition program acknowledging higher education institutions for their commitment to first-generation student success.

Established in 2017 by Rowan's First-Generation Task Force, Flying First celebrates first-generation students and works to create a successful personal, professional, academic and social college experience for all first-generation students.

National statistics show that, without support, first-generation students are more likely to have difficulty finding their place in college and in navigating higher education culture. With support, first-generation students often graduate with stellar academic records and establish careers that contribute to generational success and socioeconomic improvements for their families, according to Penny McPherson Myers, vice president in the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Flying First works to help first-generation students be engaged with the University through supports and programming designed to help them persist and grow. The program offers everything from scholarships to an on-campus living community to workshops to events for students and parents. In the spring, the program hosted the fourth annual Flying First-Generation Symposium, a three-day virtual event that included registrants from 52 colleges and universities from Hawaii to Maine.

Earlier this year, Martyn '86 and Cheryl Gallus established a Flying First scholarship to help future first-generation students "stay the course" at Rowan.

Altogether, 215 diverse college and universities across three cohorts have received the First-gen Forward designation.



NEW FACILITY DEDICATED TO DANCE

By next fall, dance will have a new home at the College of Performing Arts' main building. The 7,500-square-foot facility rising on Wilson Hall's west facade will feature dance studios and locker rooms, plus other spaces to support the program. Dance major Gabrielle Langevine is excited about being one of the beneficiaries of the project. "I look forward to this being a hub for us all to be able to create, collaborate, and hone our talents," she said.



Associate Dean Melanie Stewart, Dance Professor Paule Turner and students Amanda Drayton and Gabrielle Langevine participated in the May groundbreaking for the new building designed to host dance education.



Early disease test earns Edison award

About a decade ago, Dr. Robert G. Nagele and his research team at Rowan University's New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging published a pivotal study that led to the discovery that all people have thousands of autoantibodies that clear cell and tissue debris from their blood.

That led the team to wonder: Could a simple blood test detect increased levels of disease-specific autoantibodies and lead to earlier diagnosis for diseases?

INDEED, IT CAN.

On Nov. 12, 2020, the Research & Development Council of New Jersey awarded Rowan University and Nagele the Edison Patent Award in the Medical Health Diagnostic category for "Diagnostic Biomarker Profiles for the Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease."

Nagele's invention provides methods, compositions and kits for a blood test for early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. The goal is to diagnose early-stage Alzheimer's disease in

Dr. Nagele accepted a bronze Thomas Edison bust designed for Edison Patent Award honorees.

patients the first time they arrive in their doctor's office with a cognitive or memory complaint, "even sometimes before the patient is aware that they have the disease," said Nagele, a professor of geriatrics at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford.

DETECTING OTHER DISEASES EARLIER, TOO

The same strategy can be applied for any disease, Nagele told the council.

"We have since filed patents for early detection of Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and early-stage breast cancer," Nagele said. "If we can detect the disease at an earlier stage, even before symptoms become apparent, that can lead to early treatment. And as you would guess, treatment of any disease at the early stage is always beneficial and increases the chances greatly that the treatment is going to successfully eradicate the disease from your body."

"That's really the importance of it," Nagele added. "Pharmaceutical companies are really trying hard to come up with medications that work for Alzheimer's. One of the problems they've had is that they can't enroll people until it's too late. But, now, if you have an early diagnostic test that detects the disease sooner, we can enroll these patients earlier into these clinical trials."

Investing in science, innovation and entrepreneurship

EARNING A RECORD NUMBER OF NATIONAL AWARDS, ROWAN BECOMES PART OF A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP LED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Rowan University is among the first universities in the region to join a new, Princeton University-led innovation network designed to transform scientific discoveries into new commercial ventures.

Set to launch Jan. 1, 2022, the NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Northeast Hub brings together eight institutions from New Jersey, Delaware and eastern Pennsylvania to develop a diverse and inclusive innovation workforce. The consortium is backed by a \$15 million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

The hub is one of five new hubs in a nationwide NSF-funded network of universities formed to accelerate the economic impact of federally funded research and invest in technologies that improve everyday lives, delivering benefits in health care, energy and the environment, computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, advanced materials and other areas.

“This new partnership exactly fits where we want to go as a research university,” said Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, interim vice president for research. “Rowan is already an economic engine in the region and we’re excited by the possibilities for our innovators.”

SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY

Supported by a web of academic, industrial and government partnerships, the I-Corps Northeast Hub will provide entrepreneurial training, mentoring and resources to researchers from all backgrounds, including those historically underrepresented in entrepreneurship. The program is designed to help researchers form companies and transform scientific discoveries into benefits for society.

Princeton will partner with the University of Delaware and Rutgers University to lead the I-Corps Northeast Hub. Rowan University,



New Jersey Institute of Technology, Delaware State University, Temple University and Lehigh University are the inaugural affiliates.

As a group, the eight institutions represent \$1.4 billion in annual research spending, have trained 430 I-Corps teams in regional cohorts and have spun out more than 80 deep technology ventures in the past five years.

Since 2018, Rowan University has sent 15 teams of researchers to regional I-Corps training. Ten Rowan researchers have earned national I-Corps awards, and one earned additional funding through the National Institutes of Health.

INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL FUTURE

Dr. Nidhal Bouaynaya, associate dean for research and graduate studies at the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, will serve as Rowan’s lead in the hub. A professor in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Bouaynaya earned Rowan’s first national I-Corps award to support her innovation: artificial intelligence to dramatically improve the detection of brain tumors—about three years earlier than the standard of care.

“Our vision for an inclusive entrepreneurial future—from ideation to commercialization—



Biomedical art and visualization program faculty in Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts are working with students to develop artistic skill while creating illustrations with Rowan innovators, including I-Corps researchers. Depicting complex, new concepts helps researchers explain their proposals to potential funding partners, collaborators and others.

ROWAN INNOVATIONS

Moving great ideas from the lab to the marketplace

Rowan's entrance into the I-Corps network is an indicator of the University's emerging reputation for innovation

and self-driven entrepreneurial focus, said Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, interim vice president for research and dean of the graduate school.

"The I-Corps program is the National Science Foundation's chief mechanism for developing innovators among university faculty," Dobbins said. "Rowan's University's track record demon-

strates we're a fast-growing incubator for big ideas."

Since 2018, Rowan researchers have earned a record-breaking number of I-Corps awards for an R2 institution without a formal designation as an I-Corps site or node, noted Dr. Yatin Karpe, director of the University's Office of Technology Commercialization and Rowan Innovations.

"We get them excited and get them to understand the entrepreneurial process," said Karpe, who used his own connections to tap Rowan into the I-Corps network.

Their innovations offer solutions to real-world problems.

Dr. Nidhal Bouaynaya's innovation uses artificial intelligence to detect tumor growth and speed treatment for brain cancer.

"Everything is done by eye-balling nowadays with doctors, or by hand," said Bouaynaya, co-founder of MRIMath, LLC. "We built an AI agent that achieves pixel-level accuracy and delineates the tumor, computing exact volumetrics and 3D coordinates for tumor surveillance in neuro-radiology and radiotherapy in oncology."

With his I-Corps support, Dr. Mohammad Abedin-Nasab and his team interviewed 143 trauma surgeons, hospital executives and patients with broken femurs, "finding a huge unmet need to improve alignment outcomes of femur fracture surgery." Since then, he has taken his orthopedic surgical robotic system, Robossis, through cadaver testing.

Dr. Cheng Zhu and his research partner from the School of Earth & Environment, Dr. Charles McGlynn, are working together to build a strong, inflatable "shaker shield" intended to protect people from earthquakes and flash floods. They have a patent pending for their innovation, developed from aircraft evacuation slide technology.

will foster an ecosystem that responds to current national crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and structural racism," said Bouaynaya, co-founder of MRIMath, LLC, a Rowan-affiliated startup.

MEETING NEEDS, FROM IDEA TO MARKET

The I-Corps program gives innovators the support they need to rapidly develop products and business plans based on customer feedback and market needs, said Dr. Yatin Karpe, director of Rowan Innovations and the Office of Technology Commercialization.

With help from his I-Corps award, Dr. Ben Wu from the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering and his team developed a prototype for a noninvasive way to detect skin diseases. The project received a U.S. patent.

"We found that the I-Corps program—especially the training they offered—was very helpful to commercialize our idea," said Wu, an electrical and computer engineering professor. "We switched our mindset from 'what can we build in the lab to fit the market?' to 'what does the market want us to build?' to solve the current pain points."

Ready, set, study: Four faculty win major funding to establish labs

sussing out the mechanics of protein function. Understanding a major threat to honey bees. Finding the connection between neuron growth and human behavior. Building a better method of chemical analysis.

Such ambitious projects earned four Rowan University researchers support through the National Science Foundation (NSF). All four teach in the College of Science & Mathematics.

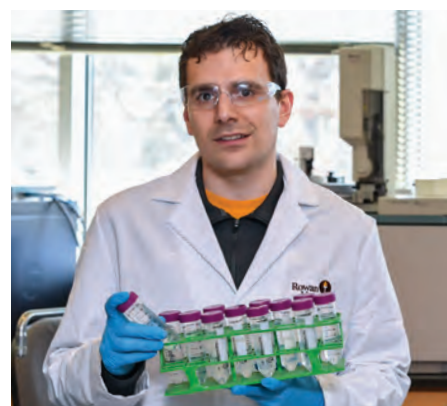
The NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program offers the foundation’s most prestigious awards to support research faculty, noted Dr. Tabbetha Dobbins, interim vice president for research and a 2009 CAREER award recipient.

“It really gives you a stable base from which to build your lab and the rest of your research activities,” said Dobbins. “It’s to help you establish the plan for your full career.”

SHAPE-SHIFTERS

With his five-year, \$749,406 grant, biophysicist Dr. Nathaniel Nucci plans to solve some decades-long mysteries surrounding how proteins within the human body work. Nucci hopes his discoveries will help shine a light on the evolution of cancer and revolutionize how the pharmaceutical industry designs drugs.

“The grant is exciting, but it’s not just about the innovation. It’s about the people,” Nucci said. “For the next five years, I know I’ll be able to support the students—and that’s the most important thing we produce at Rowan. We’re educators first.”



Clockwise, from top left: Dr. Nathaniel Nucci, Dr. Svetlana Vojvodic Kruse, Dr. James Grinias and Dr. Ileana Soto-Reyes are Rowan University’s newest CAREER recipients. All four teach in the College of Science & Mathematics.

HOMING IN ON BEES

With her five-year, \$763,600, award, Dr. Svetlana Vojvodic Kruse is examining how the bacteria in a bee’s gut might influence their behavior. Understanding bee biology could shed light on colony collapse disorder, a leading contributor to the global disappearance of bees.

“Is it possible that pesticides or some kind of disease is changing the gut microbiome of bees, and that’s changing their behavior and leading to bee losses? It’s possible,” said Vojvodic Kruse, who teaches in the Department of Biological Sciences. The work could also help researchers understand the mechanisms behind microbial influences on human behavior.

AT THE MOLECULAR LEVEL

With an award totaling \$511,767 over five years, Dr. Ileana Soto-Reyes in the Molecular & Cellular Biosciences Department is looking closely at the development of Purkinje cells, those intricate neurons in the brain that stretch out like trees. She wants to know, at the

molecular level, how alterations in the growth of those neurons affect behavior.

“If you know the biology, if you know which molecules are involved, in the future you can design and implement interventions that can maybe prevent or fix the problems,” Soto-Reyes said.

FASTER, CHEAPER, BETTER

With his \$524,999 award, Dr. James Grinias from the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry is exploring new, two-dimensional liquid chromatography techniques to advance the way scientists separate molecules found in chemical mixtures, using capillary columns.

Using smaller amounts of chemicals lowers risk to the environment, while lowering handling and disposal costs for industry, Grinias noted.

In short, Grinias said, “it’s a more powerful technology that allows you to accommodate more complex samples, increase the throughput of tests and produce less chemical waste.”

New math: Where will currents go next?



Near the Deepwater Horizon site on the Gulf of Mexico in 2016, Dr. Helga Huntley takes notes on the locations of drifters deployed to track the movement of currents.

The great swirling current that swoops tropical waters through the Gulf of Mexico carries tantalizing clues about the future: where fish will congregate, how hurricanes will behave and where oil spills might blob onto shorelines.

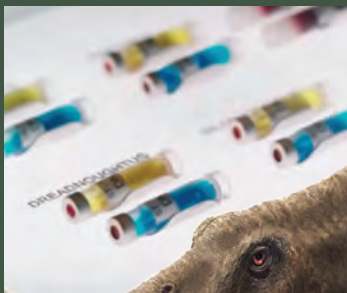
The Loop Current sometimes flows close to the Cuban shore and other times bulges toward the American coast. Once or twice a year, it spins off a huge eddy that can merge again with its mother multiple times before it meanders westward and finally dissipates. Scientists don't know what causes these eddies to form, what factors might foretell when they occur, or even how to define the precise moment when they occur.

It's a "vexingly difficult" problem that fascinates Dr. Helga Huntley, an assistant professor of mathematics in Rowan University's College of Science & Mathematics who studies ocean currents. Now, with support from a \$234,109 grant from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, Huntley is developing a mathematical diagnostic to forecast the formation of these eddies, using ocean physics and dynamical systems theory.

"It's not random," Huntley said. "That's the whole key...we're not just looking at the statistics. We want to know what causes the currents to do what they're doing."

DREAD NOT THE DNA

Next year's release of "Jurassic World: Dominion" will bring to the big screen Dreadnoughtus, the behemoth discovered by Rowan alumnus, dean and intrepid paleontologist Ken Lacovara '84 on a fossil dig in Argentina. A vial of Dread's DNA appears in the new movie's teaser, but the digital resurrection is up to special effects artists at Industrial Light & Magic. "Pretty much every paleontologist's dream," Lacovara said.



WRITING WHAT THEY KNOW

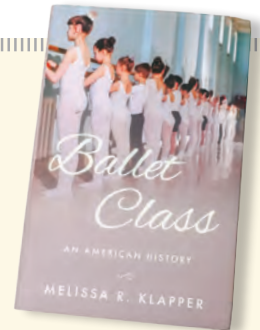
Rowan faculty members Melissa Klapper and Heather Lanier

are the authors of new books that focus on childhood and motherhood.

In "Ballet Class: An American History" (Oxford University Press), Klapper, a professor of history, explores how ballet class—recreational ballet class, primarily—became part of American childhood over the course of the 20th century. That happened "across all lines ... race and gender and class and sexual orientation. All kinds of children have taken ballet class," notes Klapper, who was a resident fellow in 2016 at the Center for Ballet and the Arts at New York University.

In "Raising A Rare Girl" (Penguin Press), Lanier chronicles, in honest, moving and personal detail, the struggles and joys of parenting a child with a very rare condition: Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome. The professor of writing arts writes about how loving her

daughter, Fiona, opened her up to new understandings of what it means to be human and what it takes to be a mother. Lanier's TED Talk, "'Good' and 'Bad' Are Incomplete Stories We Tell Ourselves," has been viewed more than 2.5 million times.



Rowan Magazine has five copies of each book to give away to interested readers on a first-come, first-served basis. To request a copy of either book, email editor@rowan.edu.



As a senior, English and writing arts major Destiny Hall '21 was one of the students working to digitize Miss America artifacts so scholars of women's studies, history, media and other disciplines can access them.

There she is, digitized Miss America

Rowan students are gaining first-hand knowledge of the archival process—and preserving historical artifacts for future generations of scholars—through a unique partnership between the University and the Miss America Organization.

Through the multi-year Miss America Digitization Project, students are combing through the vast archives of the century-old Miss America competition and working to digitize artifacts that can be used in the future by scholars of women's studies, history, broadcast media, New Jersey history and other disciplines.

The archives provide a rich look at both American and state history and help illustrate how ideals surrounding beauty and women's roles in society have changed over the past 100 years.

Working in the Digital Scholarship Center in Campbell Library, students are digitizing and photographing everything from program books to jeweled crowns, velvet capes and oil paintings.

The digital archive will become the cornerstone of the new Rowan Digital Collections, available to scholars worldwide through Rowan Libraries. Miss America will continue to retain the physical archives, currently housed in storage in South Jersey.

ART AND SCIENCE COMBINE IN NEW PUBLIC SCULPTURE

World-renowned stonemason Thea Alvin and a crew of workers and interns this spring built "Time Sweeps," a public art project in the shadow of Discovery Hall, Rowan's newest academic building.

The 264-ton sculpture contains three main features: a long wall with a passthrough arch; a snakelike second wall that creates a narrow "squeeze" between the two; and a shorter curved wall.

Topped with slabs of Colorado buff sandstone, the project incorporates seven types of boulder—gneiss, schist, rhyolite, granite, conglomerate, gabbro and basalt—that School of Earth & Environment faculty helped choose to complement their curricula.

The largest single specimens come from distant formations, including some in Oregon, Colorado and Taiwan. The majority of the project, hand-set and bound with small amounts of mortar, is fossil-bearing fieldstone from Pennsylvania.

"Most of this rock formed in the Earth's mantle," said Mallory Osmun, a rising senior geology major from Mount Laurel who volunteered in Time Sweeps' construction. "I love rocks. They're of the Earth. And it will be so cool to come back 30 years from now and it will still be here."



Lifting a sandstone slab, Thea Alvin, left, works with her crew and Rowan students to build the sculpture just east of Discovery Hall.

ROWAN MEDICINE- SEWELL OPENING



When it opened early in 2021, the new Rowan Medicine building in Sewell welcomed patients to its four practices in the 28,000-square-foot clinical center. Pediatrics, family medicine, osteopathic manipulative medicine and pain management specialists practice alongside a center dedicated to special needs teens and adults (see story, p. 26).

Early next year, School of Osteopathic Medicine faculty and students will expand from Rowan's Stratford campus into the 27,000-square-foot second floor space in Sewell. The new space will help accommodate the school's growing enrollment and allow students to observe and learn from hands-on experience in the clinical practices.

Established on the campus of Rowan College South Jersey with county, state and foundation support, Rowan Medicine-Sewell is one of the University's most recent partnerships to make the most of public resources.



Liguori earns honor for fostering entrepreneurs

The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship has named Dr. Eric Liguori a Justin G. Longenecker Fellow. Induction as a fellow is USASBE's highest honor, given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the development, furtherance and benefit of small and medium-sized businesses.

"From his early work mentoring startups through the SBA's Small Business Development Center program to the hundreds of students he has taught and inspired around the globe, to his record of leadership at USASBE and the meaningful impact of his research, we were proud to name Dr. Liguori a fellow of USASBE," said USASBE Fellow K. Mark Weaver.

The William G. Rohrer Chair of Entrepreneurship in the Rohrer College of Business, Liguori is managing editor of the *Journal of Small Business Management* and executive editor of the journal *Entrepreneurship Education and Pedagogy*. He has published 50 peer-reviewed articles in leading outlets including *Journal of*



Selected along with colleagues from Georgetown and Purdue universities, Dr. Liguori earned recognition for teaching, writing, research, training and public service. His work has been featured in media outlets including USA Today, U.S. News & World Report and Forbes.com, in addition to academic journals.

Management, *Small Business Economics*, *Journal of Small Business Management*, *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, and *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research*. His work has also been featured in popular media outlets USA Today, U.S. News & World Report, Forbes.com, BuzzFeed News and others.

"I believe in the adage that if you want to go fast you go alone, but if you want to go far you go with others," Liguori said.

"I thank the entire USASBE community for their continued support, collaboration and inspiration as we collectively work to educate and empower the next generation of entrepreneurs."

PIANO LESSONS: 50 YEARS OF DELIVERING

In September, piano professor Veda Zuponic began her 50th year teaching at Rowan.

Most recently, her dedication as an educator earned her a place among the inaugural class of the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame. As one of only 43 chosen from across the United States and Canada, Zuponic was honored for a record of producing high-

achieving students at both the pre-college and college levels. Steinway recognition is just one of many accolades she has earned over the years.

Zuponic is a fervent believer in the musical, educational, and real-life impact that comes from studying piano, beyond performing. She points to research showing that serious piano study boosts IQ points

while delighting in the fact that she's had students go on to be non-music majors at MIT, Johns Hopkins, Stanford, and Rochester Institute of Technology, among others.

The power of the piano to educate, even if one doesn't become a professional musician, is a lesson Zuponic still works hard to deliver on campus and beyond.



NCAA Champions Francis Terry, Justin Bishop, Hunter Barbieri and Amara Conte.

Student-athletes stay ready, stay hungry and stay focused into post-season national contests

Rowan's spring athletic teams returned to competition in March after the COVID-19 pandemic cut short their 2020 campaigns and then canceled the seasons for Rowan's fall and winter teams. And despite dealing with unprecedented times, the Profs continued to excel on the regional and national levels.

BASEBALL

The Profs achieved the goal that had eluded the program for 16 years when a strong group of upperclassmen helped lead the team to the NCAA Division III College World Series in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. After winning the NCAA Marietta (Ohio) Regional, Rowan advanced to its 16th World Series in school history and the first under head coach Mike Dickson.

The squad closed out the year with a 29-6 record and captured

the NJAC Championship, its 17th overall and the second in three years, while finishing 2021 as the seventh-ranked team in the nation.

Although Rowan was eliminated in the World Series with losses to Wheaton and Cortland, that didn't diminish the achievement in what was an unusual year in college athletics.

"I am proud of what the team was able to accomplish this year. The team fought through a lot of adversity this year from not having a fall season to going through many days of (COVID) testing," said Dickson, who received Coach of Year honors for the region and the NJAC. "All that being said, we played well enough to win a regional and get into the College World Series. That in itself is tough enough to do in a normal season."

Kori Hague earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, only the 30th Prof student-athlete to earn the prestigious distinction.

The Profs earned a host of individual awards, including outfielder Ryan Murphy, designated hitter Ryan McIsaac and pitcher Eli Atiya earning D3Baseball.com All-America honors. Senior Drew Ryback was named the NJAC Pitcher of the Year and Zach Listro was the league's "Fireman of the Year" as the top relief pitcher with a total of eight Profs earning All-Conference honors. Senior Alex Kokos reached a milestone as he became the program's all-time leader in hits with 230.

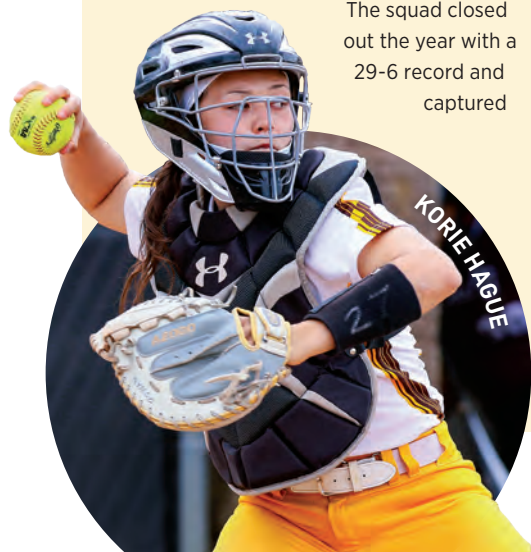
MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

The men's outdoor track & field team added more NCAA Champions to its rich tradition when Ahmir Johnson and the 4x400-meter relay team captured the national titles, while Rowan placed fourth in the team standings.

Johnson, a freshman, set a personal and school record with a leap of 49'7" in his second attempt, to win the championship and become the 24th student-athlete in men's track history to earn an individual title.

"I tell all of our guys, 'Just go out and execute your event and good things will happen'," said head coach Dustin Dimit. "Ahmir was ranked eighth in the triple. But he went out and executed."

The 4x400 relay team was comprised of a freshman and three seniors, and they clocked a 3:11.81 to best top-ranked Wartburg College and win Rowan's first title in that event since 2012. Freshman Amara Conte got the Profs off to a good start and the seniors took over, with



Freshman Ahmir Johnson hurdled to win a national title at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.



Hunter Barbieri and Justin Bishop running the next two legs. Francis Terry anchored the relay and overtook Wartburg's runner to clinch the championship.

"All three seniors dealt with injuries. They ran their fastest splits of the year. It was all the sweeter with the uncertainty they had," said Dimit, who was named the Atlantic Region and NJAC Coach of the Year as he led Rowan to its sixth straight conference championship.

All-American honors were earned by several Profs because of their performances at the NCAA Championships. Nana Agyemang, Jah'mere Beasley, Donovan Clement, Julio Lebron, Dan McAleavey, and Julian Pratt received the distinction along with Rowan's NCAA champions.

SOFTBALL

The softball team put together another strong year, going 27-7 and achieving the top seed in the NJAC Championship while earning a national ranking of 18th in the final poll.

Head coach Kim Wilson reached a milestone as she recorded her 800th career victory in 25 years at Rowan and was named the NJAC Coach of the Year for the seventh time in her career.

The Profs were led by some of the top players in the conference as senior Emily August was named the NJAC Pitcher of the Year and freshman shortstop Payton McNair was chosen as the Player of the Year. Both players garnered All-Region honors along with teammates Korie Hague and Morgan Zane.

Hague received one of the highest distinctions for a student-athlete as she was chosen to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Third Team. It marks the 30th time in school history that a Prof has earned the honor. She was the sixth Rowan softball player to do so.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The women's lacrosse team made its return to competition and qualified for the semifinals of the NJAC Tournament, making its seventh straight appearance in the conference championship. Rowan was led by a solid group of veteran players with seniors Ashley Lechliter and Julia Glica, and sophomore Erin Scioli earning All-Region honors. The trio was also named to the NJAC All-Conference Team along with junior Elise Cohan.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Rowan's women's outdoor track & field team took third at the NJAC Championships and had a pair of conference champions—Nicole Notarianni and Olivia Scattergood. Notarianni won the 100-meter hurdles and qualified for the NCAA Championships in that event. Scattergood broke the school record in the hammer throw earlier in the year and then bettered it with a distance of 160'7" to win the NJAC title. In addition, Notarianni and discus thrower Makayla Taylor were selected to the All-Region Team.

SAVE THE DATE

The induction ceremony for the Rowan University/Glassboro State College Athletic Hall of Fame will take place on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, during Homecoming Weekend. **Go to RowanAthletics.com for ticket information.**

The Class of 2021:

John Bunting
Football coach (1988-92)

Mary Marino
Field hockey and women's lacrosse coach (1987-97; 1988-97 and 1999-07)

Moriah Holmstrom
Field hockey (1997-00)

Tiffany Miller
Softball (1994-97)

Bob Pfeffer
Baseball (1975-78)

Mike Rucci
Baseball (2002-05)

Rob Scott
Men's basketball (1994-98)

The baseball team won the NCAA Marietta Regional to earn a trip to the NCAA Division III College World Series, which was the 16th appearance in school history, and the first since 2005.



Commencement 2021



21 CEREMONIES *celebrating* 3,600+ GRADUATES



Throughout five spirited days, Rowan welcomed Class of 2021 graduates and guests to a University-wide virtual ceremony and 20 smaller college and school ceremonies on the main campus, all with COVID-19 safety protocols.

During the virtual ceremony, Commencement speaker Dara Torres, the most decorated U.S. female Olympian of all time, accepted Rowan's Medal of Excellence for Inspirational Leadership. She encouraged graduates to set big goals.

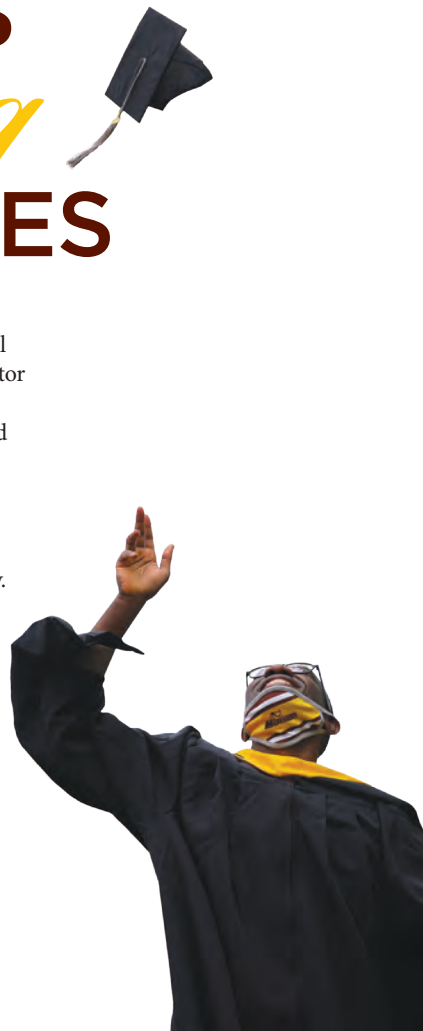
"When we aim high, our positive thinking and determination pave the way for unimaginable possibilities," Torres said. "Sometimes we achieve greatness that is different from what we envisioned, but it is greatness all the same."

Larry P. Thomas '96 received the 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Award

for his accomplishments as a national higher education leader, communicator and executive adviser. He and 2020 Distinguished Alumna and Lockheed Martin engineer Catherine Ni '00 were the first to accept the Alumni Association's highest honor during respective virtual programs, making alumni history in an unexpected way.

Then, at in-person ceremonies on the University Green, graduates beamed and loved ones applauded.

The Class of 2021 included 4,538 undergraduate degree recipients, 867 graduate level graduates, 170 graduates from the School of Osteopathic Medicine and 99 graduates from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.





Student Center expansion



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

AHEAD OF THE FIELD ALREADY, ROWAN AGAIN ANTICIPATES THE FUTURE AND TRANSFORMS TO FLOURISH IN IT

AS the COVID-19 pandemic changed the world since 2019, it raised hard questions and compelled innovation everywhere, not just for the challenges at hand, but for those beyond the horizon.

Early in the pandemic, with the Rowan community fully engaged in developing and adapting to protocols to keep the institution running and serve students safely, President Ali Houshmand was thinking ahead. Building on Rowan’s well-established institutional agility, he assembled a team to chart the course for the “University of the Future.” Charged to work across disciplines and to anticipate what the future should look like in practical terms, the group focused on five areas: Academics; Pricing Models; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Scholarship; Flexible Workforce; and Facilities and Infrastructure Needs.

The result of the months-long project shows that in many ways, Rowan is that university—the University of the Future. While many colleges and universities continue to struggle with enrollment deficits, economic instability and relevance in the marketplace, Rowan keeps earning accolades and attracting support to help it grow. Last year’s independent Beek Center study touted Rowan’s dedication to first-generation students and effective research. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education’s last accreditation review named Rowan “a model for institutional transformation.” Rowan is a higher education leader recognized by national rankings but not resting on them.

“It’s our job to anticipate, plan and deliver effective solutions to pressing problems,” said Houshmand. “We have to prepare for likely and unforeseen challenges, based on

data and research. We can’t anticipate everything, but we have creative power to improve results and we’re going to keep using that power to change what we can.”

SETTING THE COURSE

Published early in spring 2021, the University of the Future plan makes the most of the University’s agility and resources. The project team represented a broad range of voices—faculty, staff and managers from each campus and every sector of the Rowan community. Their months-long research and collaboration led to proposals and action steps for each area. In some cases, initiatives already underway will continue, others will expand or be refined. Target dates and specific deliverables make measuring each achievement clear.

Incorporating various perspectives within and outside the institution, the plan directs decisions that will benefit the entire University, rather than individual divisions. Taking into account human resources and institutional finances, senior leadership reviewed the recommendations and set priorities. These are highlights from the document:

NEW EDUCATION OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS

Before the pandemic, Rowan had already taken steps to become a high-quality provider of online education through Rowan Global,



Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park

Camden parking structure

providing undergraduate and graduate programs. In March 2020, the COVID-19 public health crisis forced nearly all instruction online, so programs that had not used virtual education observed remote learning firsthand. With the strong pre-pandemic foundation and many months of pandemic experience, Rowan will keep developing academic programming aligned to the needs of Rowan’s future students with goals that include:

- delivering education in new ways, expanding remote learning, increasing emphasis on experiential learning and providing offerings to a larger, more diverse population
- creating research opportunities for underrepresented groups as a springboard for successes in STEM fields
- building professional development pathways for all faculty.

KEEPING EDUCATION AFFORDABLE

With health and safety imperatives implemented in March 2020, Rowan immediately moved to address the economic hardships students experienced. Loss of employment or the death of a parent or person who had helped with education costs directly affected some students. Some felt the impact in less direct ways, such as the need to purchase technology for remote and hybrid learning.

Recognizing that all students experienced economic impacts, Rowan discounted tuition 10 percent for AY2021—among the few institutions in the nation to provide such relief—and more proof of Houshmand’s concern about students’ financial burdens. By the end of June 2021, Rowan also provided students \$14.5 million in direct aid through the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Now, with some University initiatives begun in June 2021 and more set to be implemented during the next four years, the long-range pricing model will serve the needs of Rowan students and the institution through:

- developing a pricing structure to appeal to cost-conscious and value-seeking students, while maintaining the institution’s financial stability
- developing pricing models for tuition and fees that are simple

and transparent, adaptable, innovative, attractive to new students and designed to increase retention among current students.

WELCOMING AND INCLUDING ALL

Two years ago, Rowan University committed to diversity, equity and inclusion by establishing a Division of DEI and naming a senior vice president of DEI at the president’s cabinet level to focus leadership attention and resources on DEI issues.

The division has made significant progress and contributed to building a stronger, healthier University community. Still, the needs of Rowan’s diverse students are clear: financial support should be increased, especially through corporate partnerships and fundraising; programmatic supports and services should be enhanced to improve retention and graduation rates; and Rowan’s environment can be made more welcoming to its diverse students and faculty. These

▪ **ACADEMICS**

▪ **PRICING MODELS**

▪ **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) SCHOLARSHIP**

▪ **FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS**

▪ **FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE**



ROWAN IS MORE THAN READY

TO SHAPE THE FUTURE.

IT'S A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

THAT WE'RE PROUD TO TAKE ON.

—ALI A. HOUSHMAND

Discovery Hall

fundamental measures are expected to improve higher education outcomes for diverse students, increase graduation rates, post-graduation employment and decrease student debt load.

Already underway in March 2021, the long-term work for diversity, equity and inclusion includes:

- raising more funds through Advancement, individual donors and corporate partnerships
- sharing stories of students who benefit from support
- identifying variables that influence diverse first-generation students' recruitment and retention
- improving student services and supports and increasing opportunities for experiential education, meaningful engagement in research and post-graduation employment.

RESHAPING AND SUPPORTING THE WORKFORCE

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, Rowan did not use flexible work models because of barriers that seemed largely insurmountable, including state-negotiated labor contracts, paper-based processes and lack of adequate technology. However, during the pandemic, the University quickly and progressively implemented remote and flexible working models to keep the institution running.

This short-term progress and—in some cases, great success—laid the

groundwork and demonstrated the need for a formal policy and process to develop more work options. The steps toward long-term remote work arrangements, flexible and alternative scheduling and hybrid models include:

- assessing the impact and efficacy of flexible work on Rowan's employees and prospective employees
- considering how to change workflow and access to technology that supports remote and flexible work
- determining how to gauge work needs, shared services, and how to work with a focus on accountability and equity to best serve students, patients and other stakeholders.

ENHANCING FACILITIES AND TECH INFRASTRUCTURE

As students left campus and remote learning began in spring 2020, Rowan started housing and dining reimbursements, just one of the major effects on institutional revenue the pandemic brought about. Individuals lost work and faced economic hardships for which many were unprepared, including students who already were struggling financially.

In fall 2020, Rowan was one of the region's few universities that reopened, thanks to wide-ranging health and safety accommodations as well as technology and infrastructure adjustments. As University staff and contractors

ensured education and research could continue, they had unusual opportunities to implement and test new approaches to solving problems.

To build on the progress made in the last year, Rowan will continue investments in high-priority areas and make the most of contracts and partnerships that make possible more growth and stability, including:

- developing information technology infrastructure improvements
- studying feasibility sustainability for facilities and infrastructure enhancements on all campuses
- developing new facilities and infrastructure at the West Campus with partnerships to support economic growth, research, training and academic programs through a manufacturing hub.

THE FUTURE, FORMED BY REALITY AND OPTIMISM

"I believe strongly in the adage, 'never waste a crisis,'" said Houshmand. It's a mindset that has earned him regard as a leader and proven Rowan University to be resilient and always ready to serve others as it improves itself.

"The tragedy and trials of the pandemic tested everyone. They revealed institutional strengths and required us to innovate. Now, we have a practical, data-based plan to guide our next era of growth, Houshmand said. "The world promises change and challenge every day. Rowan is more than ready to shape the future. It's a great responsibility that we're proud to take on." ■

VISIT ROWAN.EDU/PRESIDENT TO SEE THE FULL PLAN AND TO VIEW OR DOWNLOAD THE PDF DOCUMENT.

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25 YEARS—YAY! (AND COUNTING)

59

issues
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121

class note
profiles

187

feature
articles

253

letters to
the editor

Judging a book by its cover and commenting on one's age may be risky social practices, but Rowan Magazine is ready to stand up to both.

For 25 years, our readers have helped us tell stories, show off achievements and share perspectives—no small feat for reporting on nearly 100 years of our institution's prolific and remarkable history.

We started publishing with the bold choice to feature an 85-year-old alumna in a swimsuit on our first cover. Adorned with a dozen of the medals she earned in national competitions by then, Margaret Flannagan '30 helped us announce that we'd celebrate all kinds of accomplishments and build relationships across many decades and countless experiences.

Since then, we've put ink on paper for Fulbright scholars, community heroes, faculty stars, student successes, generous donors and all the stories numbered in the stats you see here. We are committed to keep generations of alumni, employees and friends learning about our world and proud to be connected to Rowan.

As we aim toward our next milestone, we say "Thank you" for welcoming us into your reading routine and sharing your lives through Rowan Magazine. You've made all our covers and every page between them an impressive and compelling record of achievements and introduction to all that lies ahead. ■

616

campus news
articles

4,781

photos with
alumni

11,293

class note
entries

6.0M

magazines
printed

1995

Some notable milestones from 1995:

America Online provides 3 million U.S. families with easy access to the internet

"Toy Story," the first full-length, computer-animated feature film is released

New Jersey Devils win the Stanley Cup

Most popular baby names: Jessica and Michael

Rowan launches School of Engineering with majors in chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering

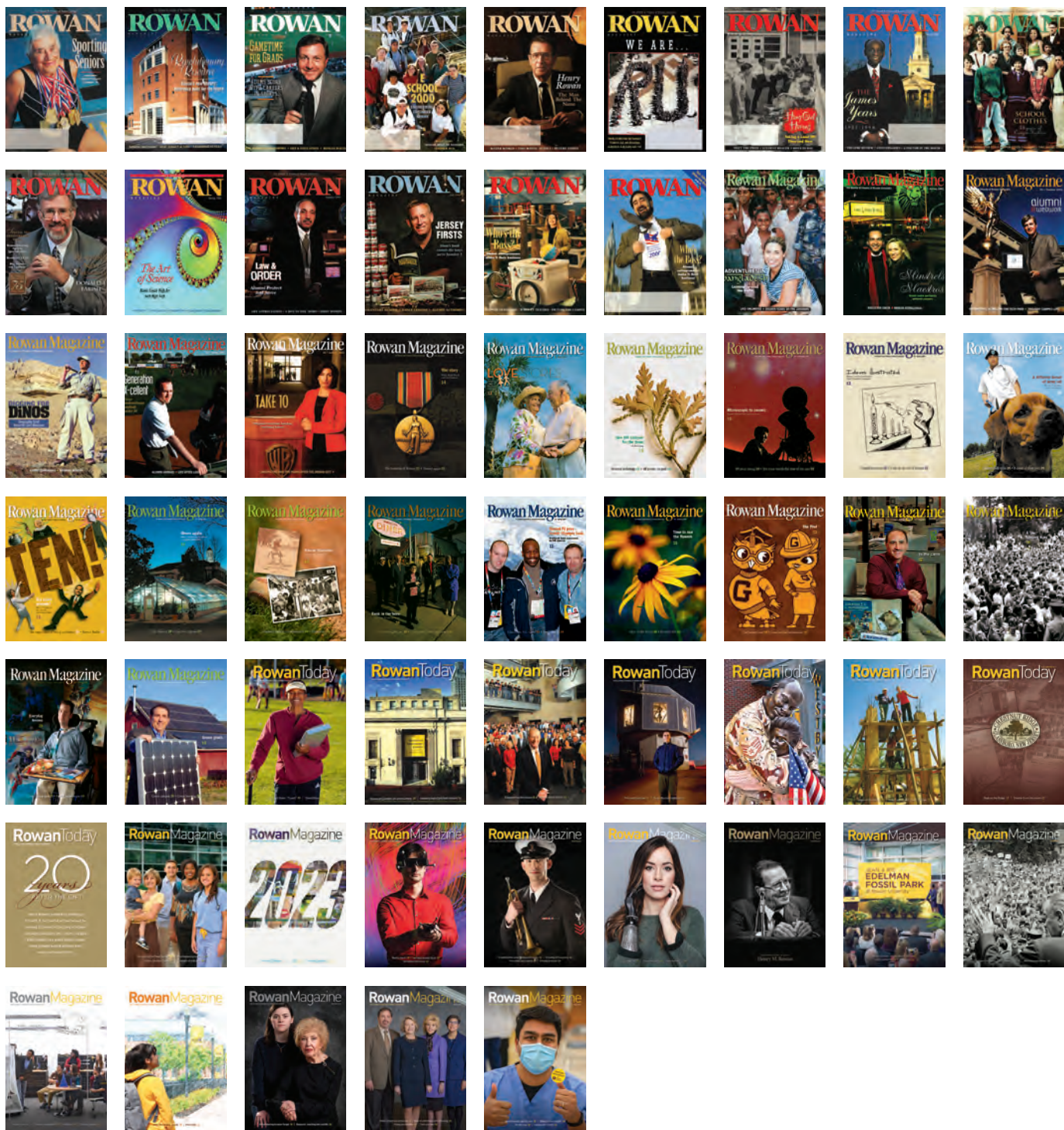
Craigslist launches

Amazon begins service as an online bookstore

Brad Pitt is named People Magazine's sexiest man alive

Americans vote for blue to replace tan M&Ms

USB port introduced



“Forrest Gump” wins Best Picture at the Academy Awards
 U.S. average cost of a gallon of gas: \$1.09
 U.S. average cost of a new house: \$113,150
 DVD optical disc storage format is announced
 Rowan opens the \$16.8-million Keith & Shirley Campbell Library
 “Kiss from a Rose” by Seal wins Grammy for song of the year

San Francisco 49ers win the Super Bowl
 Match.com debuts
 Michael Jordan ends his retirement and returns to the NBA
 Starbuck’s Frappuccino is introduced
 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame opens in Cleveland
 Rowan’s first endowed chair established

U.S. average monthly rent: \$550
 U.S. average cost of a new car: \$15,500
 Javascript is invented
 Cal Ripken Jr. breaks the all-time consecutive games played record in Major League Baseball
 “ER,” “Seinfeld” and “Friends” are the most popular TV shows
 U.S. average income per year: \$35,900

Rowan welcomes 1,513 graduates to the alumni family
 The Grateful Dead plays its final concert
 eBay goes live
 First-generation Sony PlayStation video game console released
 Denver International, North America’s largest airport, opens
 Born: Dua Lipa, Doja Cat, Gabby Douglas, Timothée Chalamet, Kendall Jenner, Patrick Mahomes II

Special needs, special care

Finding comprehensive primary and behavioral health care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can be an impossible task. A special-needs center is teaching future doctors how to fill the gap.

by Kim Mulford '94

PHOTOS BY AVI STEINHARDT



ASHLEY AND CLARISSA OLSON ARE MIRACLES. Born just 26 weeks into their mother's pregnancy, the Millville twins received the best care modern medicine could offer: six months in a neonatal intensive care unit to let their tiny lungs develop, followed by two decades of follow-up with a highly skilled children's health system to manage complications related to their premature birth: cerebral palsy, visual impairments and autism spectrum disorder.

And, then at 21 years old, the girls aged out of the pediatric system.

"That's when everything started going downhill," said their mother, Clarissa Cossaboon, who struggled to find appropriate health care providers for her daughters throughout their 20s. For years, one twin couldn't get the right medication for her severe anxiety. Her sister could only get weighed at a hospital during a rare wheelchair fitting, because their primary care doctor's office lacked an accessible scale.



As he shares a beanbag chair with Dr. Jennifer LeComte, Nicholas Iannuzzelli gives his new service puppy, Daisy, a treat in the waiting room at Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center in Sewell. His mother, Dr. Andie Iannuzzelli, found RISN just as her son aged out of the pediatric health care system.

“Something as simple as that, we couldn’t get,” Cossaboon said.

That changed when Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine opened southern New Jersey’s first primary and behavioral health care center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Staffed with a physician, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, social workers and more, Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center at Rowan Medicine’s new Sewell facility serves adults and adolescents, ages 14 and up, drawing patients from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The fully accessible center focuses primarily on the most vulnerable patients—individuals with autism, brain injuries, Down syndrome,

intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, and other complex conditions originating in childhood, with a focus on care through adulthood. The practice also cares for the caregivers, who often neglect their own health needs to concentrate on their loved one.

Overlooked, underserved

Historically, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have poorer health, shorter life spans and less access to high-quality medical care. Children with disabilities transitioning into adulthood often encounter major barriers to adequate medical care and few primary care practices are fully accessible or properly equipped to treat them.

Accessing basic medical care like routine cancer screenings, gynecological exams and bloodwork





is a challenge for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who are at an increased risk of developing common conditions like diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

Roughly 35 percent of people with intellectual disabilities also have a co-occurring mental health challenge, according to The NADD, an international association for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health needs. In New Jersey, few behavioral health practices accept Medicaid, the most common insurance for patients with special needs. That means psychosocial services are often out of reach for families who need it most.

Coordinating care

Embedding behavioral health and care coordination into primary care for patients with special needs—as well as their caregivers—“is unique across the health care system,” said Dr. Jennifer LeComte, RISN’s founding medical director.

“Often, people come to RISN Center thinking that they need psych care,” LeComte said. “What they really need is just comprehensive care and a safety net for all their worries. That often leads to not needing psych care.”

For patients with disabilities, good primary care is an elemental and often unmet need.

Colorful, water-filled tiles, a bubble wall and comfortable seating offer welcome distractions in a room designed to calm anxious patients.

For more than a year, 42-year-old Jade Le of Pennsauken experienced strange episodes that left her unable to speak for long stretches of time. Some doctors told her mother they thought it was another result of her body’s inability to get rid of excess copper, a rare genetic condition called Wilson’s disease. In its advanced stages, the condition causes muscle spasms and pain, as well as damage to the brain, liver and other organs.

Le’s 36-year-old brother, Hieu Le, suspected something else was going on and pushed for better answers. Eventually, tests revealed the real cause behind Jade’s silence: a urinary tract infection left undiagnosed and untreated.

It was just one example of the many hurdles the Le family has faced since moving from Bayonne. Insurance barriers and a lack of providers near their South Jersey home led to frequent two-hour trips to North Jersey for Jade’s medical appointments.

The Le family found RISN about a year ago, after searching for a provider who could manage Jade’s psychiatric medications. The Rowan team switched her medications, calming her mood



Jade Le of Pennsauken uses a device to help her communicate with RISN psychologist Dr. Wendy Aita. Her brother, Hieu Le, said the center has improved Jade's quality of life.

swings and tantrums. A social worker helped Jade get her first new wheelchair in 15 years. Work is underway to coordinate her other needs.

"Coming here was really, really nice," said Hieu Le, a business owner who grew up serving as his mother's translator during Jade's medical appointments. "It was good for her."

Psychiatric and psychological care is a critical component of RISN's services.

Throughout her 20s, Ashley Olson used to worry so much about the weather, she would end up in bed, unable to cope. Seeking answers, her mother sought help from a RISN specialist and coincidentally, discovered a primary care practice tailor-made for both twins.

One of RISN's exam rooms includes a ceiling lift to safely weigh and transfer patients who use wheelchairs. The spacious hallways and rooms are wide enough to navigate easily. A restroom features a fold-down changing table, sized for most adults.

A calming room outfitted with a bubble wall, a bean bag chair and color-shifting tiles offers anxious patients a private place to unwind.

Like the rest of RISN's staff, LeComte is warm and effervescent. She pops in to see her patients with an enthusiastic hello and megawatt smile, an instant mood-booster.

"All these people are nice," said Ashley Olson, who, at 33, is now doing so well on her new medications that she's able to help her mother with the laundry for the first time.

Care during COVID-19

The pandemic added more stressors for individuals with special needs, noted Dr. Wendy Aita, a psychologist and the center's co-director. Mask-wearing, social distancing and disrupted routines are especially hard for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who suffer higher mortality rates due to COVID-19.

Special care for women's health

Women with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) need sexual and reproductive health care services—but often go without.

The Rowan Integrated Special Needs (RISN) Center serves those needs, too. Recently, the center received a \$100,000 grant to increase education and access to gynecological care and screenings for cervical and breast cancer, sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy.

“Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities face significant health disparities in primary and preventative health care,” explained Wendy Aita, Ph.D., co-director of the RISN Center.

“More specifically, women with IDD encounter several barriers when accessing routine preventative care, including a lack of provider training and experience, and are given few, if any, opportunities to learn about their own reproductive and sexual health.”

The 18-month initiative is funded by an Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant from the Division of Disability Services, New Jersey Department of Human Services. The program's goal is to elevate the standard of female health care among patients with IDD, remove barriers and address the disparities in education on sexual abuse and consensual sexuality.



The shot that didn't hurt

For most of his life, Gilbert Thompson did not like needles.

"I felt like my life was in danger back then—that's how scared I was," said the 19-year-old Vineland resident who has autism and schizophrenia. "The only thing I could do was just brave through it. It was terrifying, absolutely terrifying."

When it came time for bloodwork, Gilbert told his mom he wanted to be sedated for the procedure. Dr. Wendy Aita, a psychologist and co-director of the Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center, offered him a better plan: new coping techniques to help him conquer his fear for good.

Her suggestion came just as the COVID-19 vaccines became available.

To help Gilbert prepare for the blood draw, Aita suggested he start with a slightly less scary prospect, a quick shot in the arm designed to protect him from getting seriously ill from COVID-19. She gave him options to help him prepare: a numbing spray to take away the sting or Buzzy, a device used to desensitize the injection site.

The two had a practice session and talked through the process. Aita offered to be there with him on the big day.

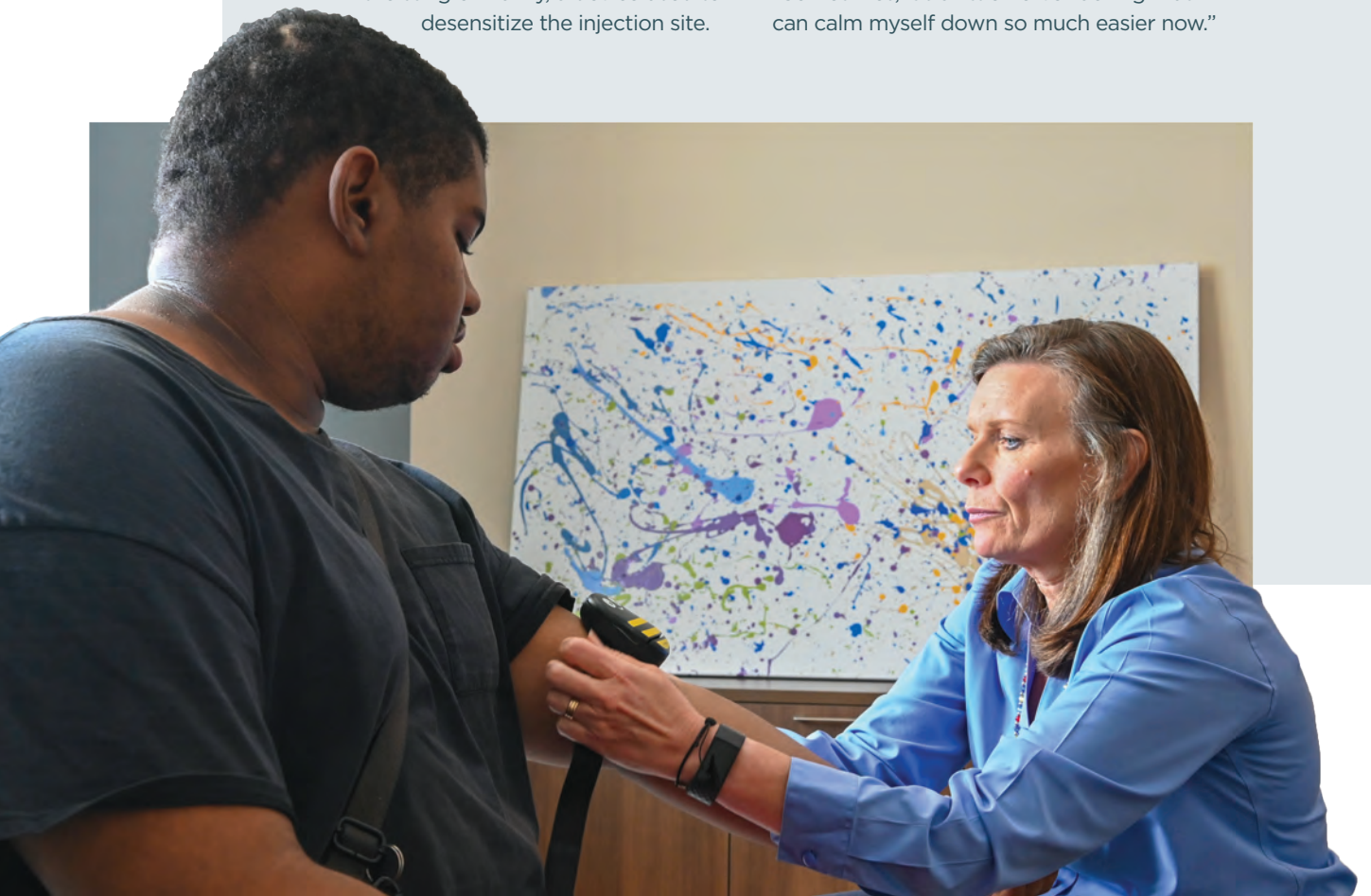
On a chilly day in February 2021, Rowan Medicine held its first COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the Stratford medical school for 52 RISN patients and their caregivers. Dozens of medical students volunteered to help, a complex endeavor that required individual care plans for each patient. Therapy dogs and their humans from the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program at Rowan University were on hand, too.

When it came time for Gilbert's shot, Aita was there.

"I felt absolutely nothing," Gilbert recalled. "It was like a miracle or something."

The experience gave him the confidence he needed to go through with the blood draw through a LabCorp site located within RISN's practice. He reminded himself that needles weren't that bad. He didn't even need his mom to help.

"Now, I can handle it," Gilbert said. "Sometimes, it's a little nerve-racking. But I can calm myself down so much easier now."



“Virtual learning can be a challenge for students in special education who require a more hands-on approach,” Aita said. “Adults couldn’t attend vocational and day programming, which was a vital source of respite and support for the individuals and the caregiver alike. As a result, we saw a rise in fear and behavioral health issues among individuals with special needs with a continued need to support their complex medical conditions.”

During the pandemic, the center offered telehealth appointments to counsel patients and their families. As soon as COVID-19 vaccines became available, the practice coordinated its own special needs vaccine clinic for RISN patients and their caregivers.

It all requires a great deal of planning, preparation and patience.

At 22, Nicholas Iannuzzelli visits RISN every three months or so to manage a complex list of conditions: a severe form of epilepsy, a nerve disorder, intellectual and developmental delays, autism and a bout with a brain tumor.

LeComte knows how to gently coax the young man away from the bean bag chair and into the exam room. She knows which stuffed toy will soothe him and how to talk him through procedures like a blood pressure check or a needle stick, explaining the procedure and asking for his permission before each step.

“Patients know themselves best,” LeComte said. “That’s why RISN Center is so patient-centered. You just have to ask the caregiver and the patient themselves. That model is really what we’re teaching our students, our residents and our colleagues—to include patients in the dialogue because they will answer the questions for you.”

A training ground

RISN Center aspires to be an evidence-based model of comprehensive care that leads to better outcomes and reduced health care costs. It’s also a training ground for medical



students, giving them experience they can carry throughout their careers.

Through research, LeComte hopes to demonstrate that RISN’s ability to provide inclusive care can be the norm in health care—for everyone.

“The demand far outweighs the supply of providers and physicians who are comfortable caring for this patient population,” LeComte said. “Being part of graduate medical education allows us to make more soldiers. Once we build that confidence, patients (with special needs) will be welcomed into practices, as opposed to having to create a clinic or an office just for them.” ■

Kim Mulford '94 is assistant director of Media & Public Relations at Rowan University.

Located on the first floor of Rowan Medicine-Sewell, the RISN Center offers primary and behavioral health care, social services and an on-site lab for patients with special needs and their families. The expansive new facility at 1474 Tanyard Road also features a cafe, Rowan Medicine primary and specialty care, physical therapy and pain management services.

To learn more about the Rowan Integrated Special Needs Center, please visit:

go.rowan.edu/risn



RISING

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
ROWAN UNIVERSITY

RISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

\$120.5M+ REASONS TO BE THANKFUL

From July 2014 through June 2020, more than 18,000 alumni, friends, faculty, staff, parents, students and corporate and foundation partners contributed to Rowan's Rising campaign—supporting innovative teaching, learning and research.

Gifts of all sizes are making a lasting impact across the institution, helping to change students' lives, support new discoveries and create inspired learning and living environments.

The success of Rising: The Campaign for Rowan University embodies the shared belief of our supporters in Rowan's future and its mission to transform lives. Together, we are creating rising opportunities for generations to come.



\$120,520,348

total raised in new
gifts and pledges

**ALUMNI
GIVING**

2019

*Class with
the highest
percentage of
participation*

23
GIFTS OF
\$1 MILLION+

36,888

*Total number of
campaign gifts*

1962

*Class that
raised the
most money*

18,061 TOTAL UNIQUE DONORS

1939

*Oldest class
giving in
the campaign*

12,188
First-time
donors

(67% INCREASE)

68
NEW ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDS CREATED

47%

*Percentage
of total
campaign gifts
from alumni*

GIFTS THAT KEEP



HELPING STUDENTS FIND THEIR PATH

In 2019, Paul S. Grand, Ph.D., and Sunitha Menon-Rudolph, Ph.D., established the Autism PATH (Preparation & Achievement of Transition to Hire) Program to help Rowan students on the autism spectrum achieve successful employment outcomes. Providing opportunities to develop career readiness and to network with faculty, professionals in the field, and their peers, the program helps neurodivergent students maximize their potential and make a smooth transition from classroom to career. In the 2019-20 academic year, the program acquired 50 participants and established numerous external partnerships.

ENGINEERING A LEGACY OF SUPPORT

Since 2012, Catherine Ni '00 and her husband, James, have funded engineering scholarships for 30 Rowan students. But in 2016, they decided to create an endowed scholarship to build a lasting legacy of support for engineering students with big dreams. "The foundational principles of Rowan have remained true," said Catherine. "I owe a lot of where I am today to the University. If Henry Rowan didn't do what he did, I wouldn't be able to do what I do—and now this will be a way for us to do the same for others."

PAYING IT FORWARD

From 2015 to 2017, Robert O. Carr made a series of generous commitments to provide scholarships and mentoring to students who have faced economic hardship and other adversities. Since the 2017-2018 academic year, his Give Something Back Scholarships have provided 50 \$5,000 awards to economically disadvantaged, academically talented students, with an additional 48 recipients for 2020-2021. The program is helping students graduate in four years with little or no debt and supports Rowan's commitment to affordable, accessible education.

IN THE BUSINESS OF GIVING BACK

Established in 2016, the Bob and Deana Palmer Endowed Scholarship in Business has been awarded to three New Jersey students studying in the William G. Rohrer College of Business. In addition, the Palmers' contribution supports the University's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, providing student volunteers with laptops to use as they provide free income tax preparation services for local residents. "I owe a lot to Rowan," said Bob, a business graduate of the Class of 1988. "I'd been giving for so long. I was ready to do something more meaningful."

GROUNDBREAKING GIFT

In 2016, Jean '81 and Ric Edelman '80 committed \$25 million to transform STEM education through one-of-a-kind scientific engagement and world-class research at the Jean and Ric Edelman Fossil Park. Working to preserve and expand opportunities for public access to hands-on scientific discovery, the Fossil Park offers a variety of outreach events including Community Dig Days and school visits. A state-of-the-art, on-site museum designed to connect people to deep time, the contingencies of natural history and the fragility of our planet is planned.

MAKING A PAWS-ITIVE IMPACT

In 2019, Gerald B. Shreiber established the Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program, bringing certified therapy dogs to campus to interact with students and delivering resources to enhance the well-being of the entire Rowan community. The gift has funded the hiring of the program's assistant director, creation of a dedicated program space in the Wellness Center and a series of events and outreach. The program partners with student services including Disability Services and Military Services, and has 13 active therapy dog handlers and 15 active therapy dogs.

GIVING

Contributions to the Rising campaign are changing lives. Here are just a few stories of meaningful impact that is reaching across our institution:



LOVE FOR ROWAN FACULTY CONTINUES

Created in 2017, the Denis Mercier Endowed Professional Development Fund supports the professional development endeavors of faculty members within the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts. The first recipients, Katie Budris and Tim Zatzariny Jr. '94, M'07, attended the Association of Writers and Writers Programs (AWP) conference in Tampa, Florida. "The opportunity to connect with the wider literary community and bring graduate students to the AWP conference is the highlight of my job," said Budris.

CREATING A SOLID RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The William G. Rohrer Charitable Foundation pledged \$5 million in 2017 to establish the William G. Rohrer College of Business Honors Scholarships to attract, support and graduate Honors business students. Funds from the endowment are used for targeted scholarships and to create and implement recruitment and retention initiatives—further solidifying the status of the Rohrer College of Business as a top destination for the best and brightest business students.

FROM SCHOLARSHIP TO FRIENDSHIP

Established in 2016 to support students in the College of Education, The Clifford V. Presser and Jane Gullett Presser '47 Endowed Scholarship has been awarded five times—three times to Isabella Knapp '20, who not only gained financial support, but also received emotional support and a lifelong friendship. "Ever since receiving this scholarship, Jane and I have become pen pals," said Knapp. "She [was] there to give me advice about my classes, my extracurriculars and really anything that [was] troubling me. I consider her one of my most honored mentors."

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

In December 2014, the Rowan Family Foundation transformed engineering education with a \$15 million pledge to establish an endowment for the College of Engineering. Supporting critical programs including the Engineering Ph.D. Program, the Henry M. Rowan Engineering Globalization Fellowship Program and the Virtual Reality Lab, the endowment also provides scholarship support to exceptional students. For the 2019-2020 academic year, funds were used to provide 44 graduate students with fellowships, upgrade research equipment for new faculty startup packages and build the Global Engineering Program.

ENSURING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Longtime Rowan supporters Lawrence Salva '77 and his wife, Rita, continue to ensure access, opportunity and excellence for students across the institution. Since the 2014-2015 academic year, more than 30 high-achieving students—at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Ric Edelman College of Communication & Creative Arts—have received scholarship funds, thanks to their generosity.

FUNDING FUTURE PHYSICIANS

In 2018, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Renzi generously gifted \$100,000 to establish The Renzi Family Clinical Simulation Fund in honor of Albert J. Renzi and Eileen P. Renzi. Following their gift to name four clinical simulation rooms at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in 2011, this fund supports the educational activities of the entire Simulation and Clinical Skills Center. Through opportunities to engage in intensive, hands-on experiences, the fund helps aspiring physicians learn and perfect best practices for patient care. ■

ON THE MAP

**ROWAN RESEARCHERS USE DATA TO SHOW
THE WAY TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

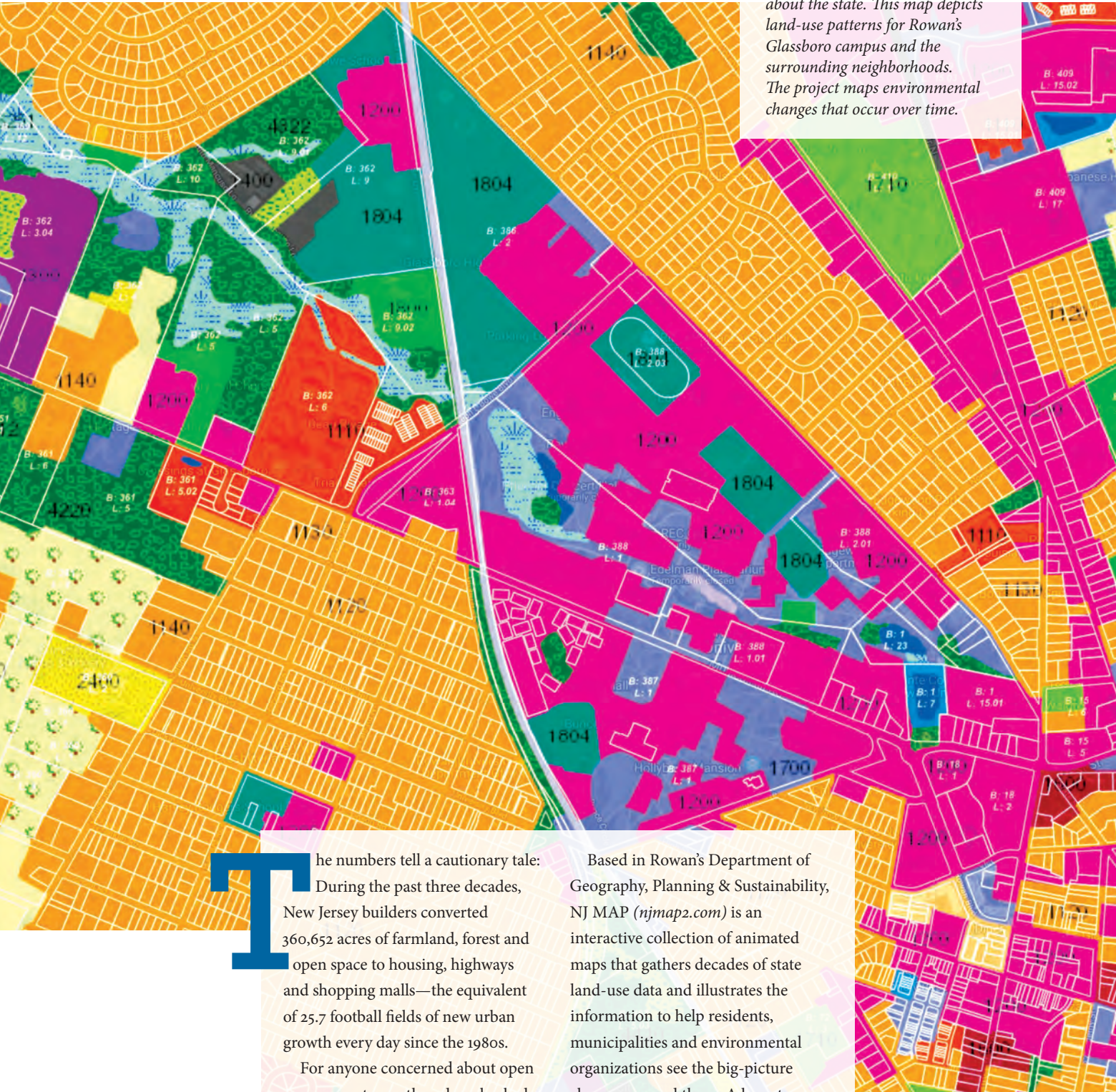
**BY TIM ZATZARINY JR. '94, M'07
& STEVE LEVINE '87, M'07**

From North Jersey's scenic Highlands to the Jersey Cape's shoreline, 9.4 million people call the Garden State home—more per square mile than all of populous India. Growing employment, population and the retail revolution are just a few drivers of record land development in New Jersey.

What's happening in your backyard and what can you do about it? Rowan's NJ MAP research project puts powerful, easy-to-use answers within a few online clicks that can help protect every precious acre in the state.

Land use in Glassboro

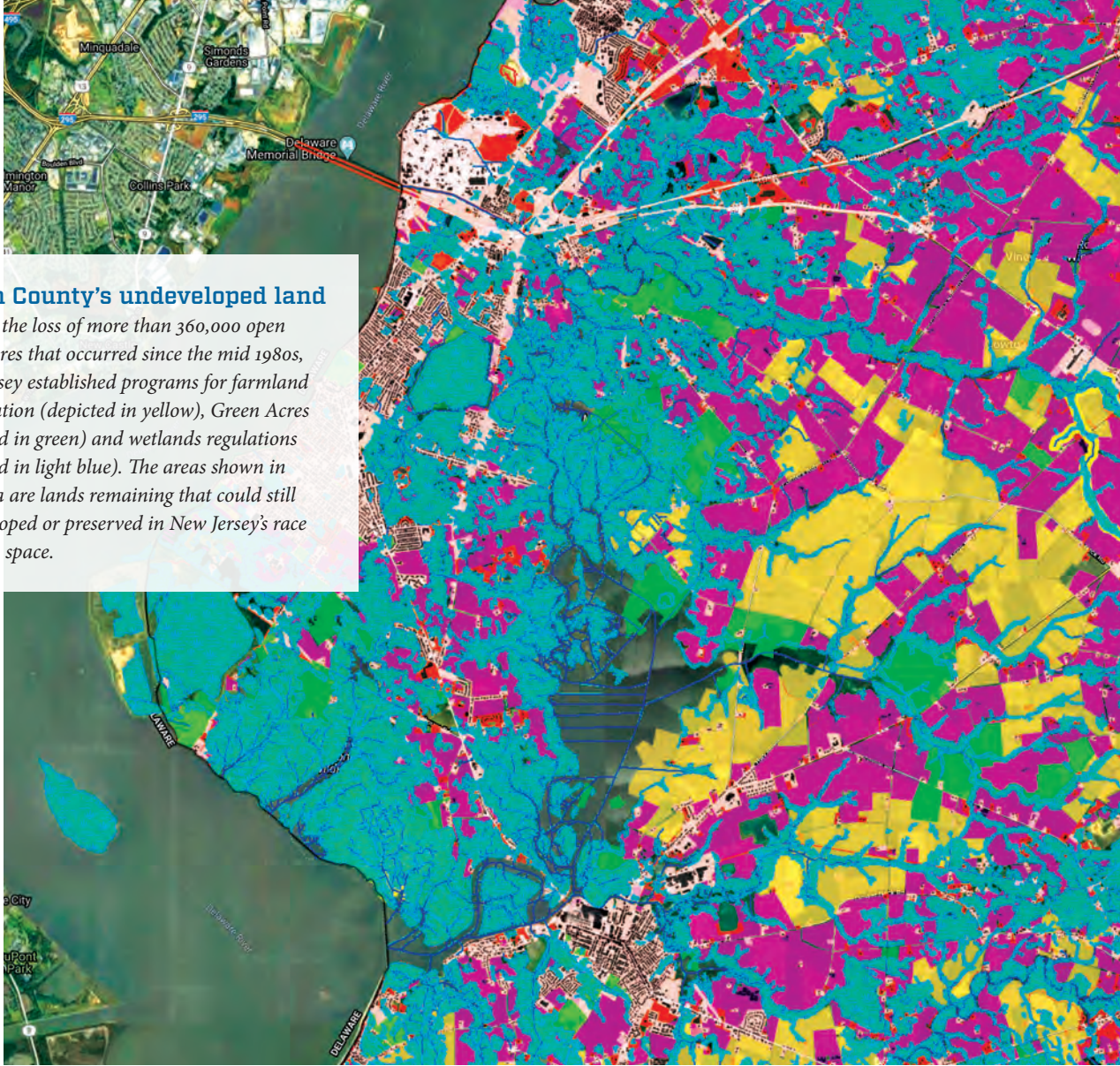
NJ MAP provides open access to hundreds of layers of information about the state. This map depicts land-use patterns for Rowan's Glassboro campus and the surrounding neighborhoods. The project maps environmental changes that occur over time.



The numbers tell a cautionary tale: During the past three decades, New Jersey builders converted 360,652 acres of farmland, forest and open space to housing, highways and shopping malls—the equivalent of 25.7 football fields of new urban growth every day since the 1980s.

For anyone concerned about open space, smart growth and unchecked development's effects on everything from property taxes to supermarket parking spaces, access to this information is essential.

Based in Rowan's Department of Geography, Planning & Sustainability, NJ MAP (njmap2.com) is an interactive collection of animated maps that gathers decades of state land-use data and illustrates the information to help residents, municipalities and environmental organizations see the big-picture changes around them. A long-term project involving Rowan faculty, students and staff, NJ MAP is helping to shape a shared vision for the state's sustainability.



Salem County's undeveloped land

To stem the loss of more than 360,000 open space acres that occurred since the mid 1980s, New Jersey established programs for farmland preservation (depicted in yellow), Green Acres (depicted in green) and wetlands regulations (depicted in light blue). The areas shown in magenta are lands remaining that could still be developed or preserved in New Jersey's race for open space.

“[NJ MAP] can help towns ... with smaller budgets save money because they'll have access to information for which they'd normally have to hire engineers or other professionals.”

—Katrina McCarthy '09

“When land becomes developed, there's tension between creating desirable communities and minimizing environmental impact. The environment can handle development if it's done properly,” said John Hasse '95, geography professor and Geospatial Research Lab director. He started the mapping project in 2011 to track the state's land-development patterns.

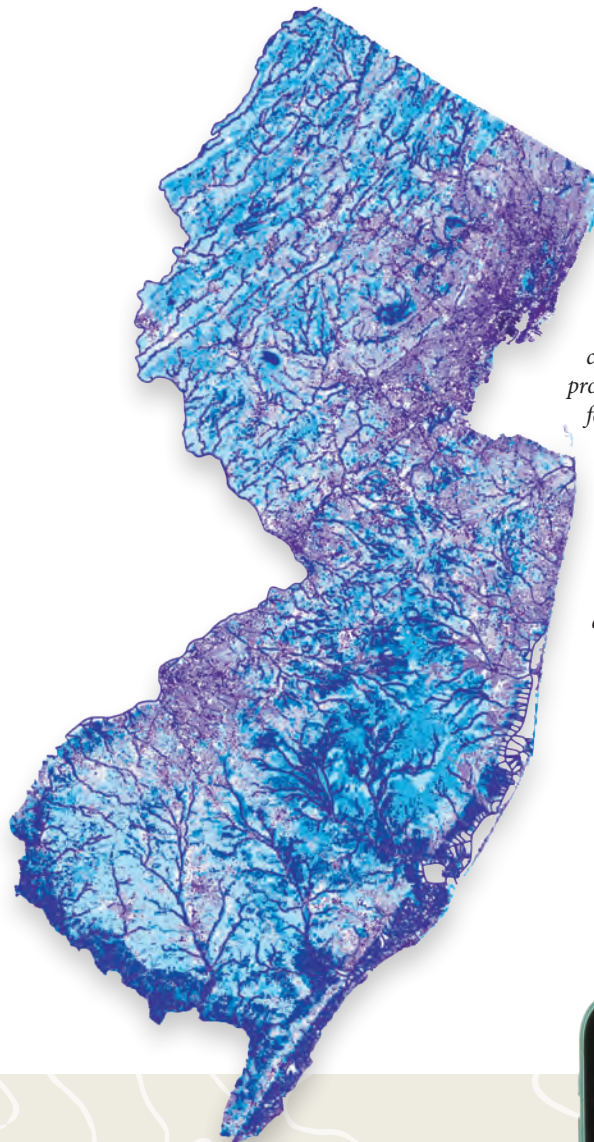
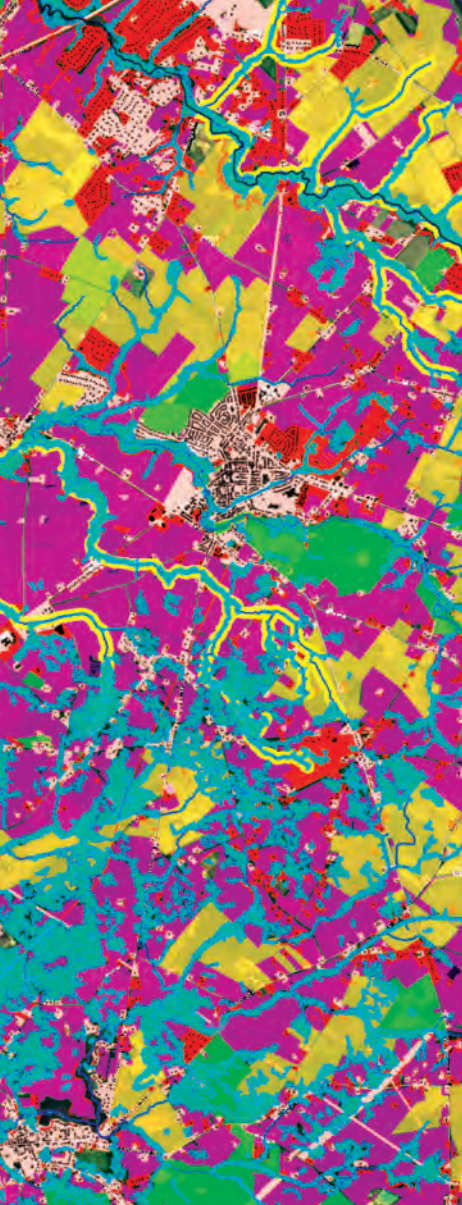
The project's goal is to provide data and visual resources so residents can better understand land use and provide informed feedback about it to decision-makers.

NJ MAP offers multiple themes, including an animation of residential and commercial development in New Jersey from 1986-2015 (the last year for which statewide data are

available); a section that prioritizes farmland for preservation; and a map that allows users to zoom in on individual parcels for detailed information such as the property's location within a watershed.

Animated maps tell full story

Although much of the information on NJ MAP has been publicly available elsewhere, the data never have been provided in a visual way that puts it all in context, right at hand, Hasse said. “Presenting the information visually helps illustrate the past, the present and the future of development in New Jersey,” he said. “It's especially vital for making decisions about land development in environmentally sensitive areas.”



WATERWAYS

Water quality is a key environmental indicator throughout New Jersey's urban, suburban and rural communities. NJ MAP provides essential map layers for monitoring the state's watersheds, streams, water bodies, wetlands and flood hazard areas, as well as aquifer recharge areas—all critical to health, safety and quality of life for residents and visitors.

What you can do with NJ MAP

- Explore details about N.J.'s 3.5 million property parcels—including your own
- See how the state has developed since the 1930s and zoom in to where you live to see how change has occurred in your own backyard
- Learn about flood zones that could affect your property or community
- Find contaminated sites that could affect your health and quality of life
- View the state's river basins to better understand the health of its watersheds and commit to protect the water quality where you live, work or play
- Help your environmental commission work on a local natural resource inventory



When the data hit home

Meghan Wren '19 has long fought the effects of climate change, even before it drove her family last year from their Bayshore home on Money Island in Downe Township.

The loss of their home, in large part due to rising bay waters, made the fight against climate change deeply personal, but she views NJ MAP as a resource to help turn the tide.

“When someone can see their own house and where it is in the world, where floodplains are rising and how the community is changing, it empowers them and lets them engage in decisions for their place,” she said.

An area planner for the state of New Jersey, Wren believes humankind must use every available tool, such as NJ MAP, to identify and limit the effects of climate change before it's too late.

“I remember hearing about climate change as something that might happen in the future,” she said. “Well, it's here now.”



For example, one map tracks the loss over time of thousands of acres of peach orchards in Gloucester County to development. Losing farmland largely to vast, often treeless housing tracts is, in some areas, erasing the bucolic nature of the region—the very thing that drew many to it in the first place.

“NJ MAP is communicating in a science-based way the changes that are happening in our backyards,” Hasse said. “If you can do that graphically, where people can zoom into their town, they can know more about where they live and be inspired to become more engaged in caring for their communities.”

More data, better decisions

Among the many social, cultural and economic effects of COVID-19 has been an upward pricing spiral of the national housing market. During the pandemic, the value of outdoor spaces for safe recreation skyrocketed, as did interest in telecommuting and other life-work changes that could benefit our environment.

On the other hand, the meteoric rise of e-commerce continues to fuel the shuttering of storefronts across the country. In New Jersey, warehousing is a growing concern with Amazon now the state's largest employer, according to ROI-NJ. Though beneficial economically, it's a troubling environmental trend to some residents and elected officials, including Senate President Stephen Sweeney.

“The rapid increase in the construction and operation of retail warehouses poses a threat to the preservation of farmland and open space,” Sweeney said.

In fact, NJ MAP's data continues to be vital to the state's farmland preservation program, the most successful in the nation by percentage of land protected.

NJ MAP interfaces with other mapping-enabled websites such as the NJ Environmental Justice Mapping Tool (NJ DEP) and Zillow.

No matter the land-use focus for concerned individuals and organizations, NJ MAP data can be the first step in understanding limits and seeing options for planning sustainability. And because most land-use decisions are made locally, it's vital that municipalities and planning boards have solid, robust data so they can make better decisions on land-use applications.

The maps “can help towns, especially rural ones with smaller budgets, save money because they'll have access to information for which they'd normally have to hire engineers or other professionals,” said Katrina McCarthy '09, lead project manager, who helps develop the maps.

For residents, NJ MAP can provide information to help combat encroaching greenfield development—(construction on land that has never been developed)—and/or highlight favorable locations for redevelopment.

With NJ MAP access on a smartphone or tablet, anyone who attends planning board meetings can view their neighborhood or a nearby waterway or other feature and ask informed questions, McCarthy said.

Blueprint provides guidance

A major part of the project is the New Jersey Conservation Blueprint, a partnership between Rowan's



Farming future

New Jersey's farmland preservation program is one of the nation's most successful, with more than 2,700 parcels in permanent preservation. It uses NJ MAP Conservation Blueprint data extensively.

GeoLab, the New Jersey chapter of the Nature Conservancy and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. It uses a points system to prioritize areas for preservation as open space that could be used as parks or for other recreation. It also provides a visual ranking of land that is important to agriculture, ecological resources and water quality throughout the state.

Eric Olsen, director of the Land and Rivers Program for the New Jersey chapter of the Nature Conservancy, said the Conservation Blueprint has helped unite the state's major environmental groups, which often can have varying agendas.

"It catalyzed the conservation community," he said. "It created the impetus for us to begin developing a vision and to form answers to questions such as, 'How do we continue to ensure that people in urban areas have access to parks and farmer's markets?'"

Aided by NJ MAP, the Camden Conservation Blueprint, which launched in 2020, is a model for community planners, according to Hasse. It shows how the process can work to provide residents,

community groups and planners with information to help improve health and quality of life. In Camden, the Hispanic Family Center and the New Jersey Tree Foundation collaborated to plant trees and promote community amenities like parks and playgrounds.

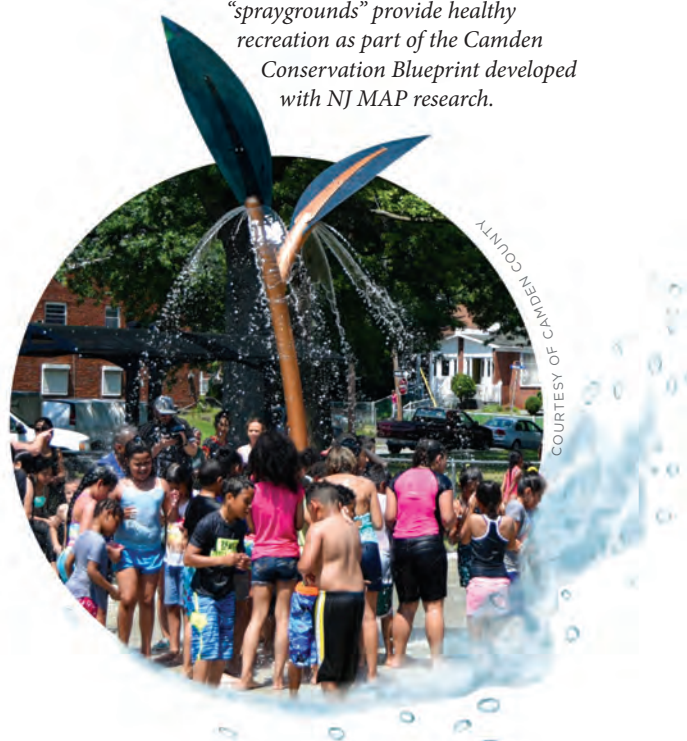
In any community, NJ MAP data may be used to gather information, advocate for local improvements and prioritize projects. Camden's project focus included information on food access, trails, transit, tree canopy cover and more that is helping city government, nonprofits and advocacy groups working to address decades of environmental injustice.

In 2021, collaboration continues, but with the Nature Conservancy and a focus on Newark, where the Newark Greenprint Project will launch this winter.

Kudos and support

NJ MAP has been funded through public and private grants, including longstanding support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, as well as through state government contracts for creating specific environmental mapping. The financial investments

Water play features such as "spraygrounds" provide healthy recreation as part of the Camden Conservation Blueprint developed with NJ MAP research.



“NJ MAP is communicating in a science-based way the changes that are happening in our backyards. If you can do that graphically, where people can zoom into their town, they can know more about where they live and be inspired to become more engaged in caring for their communities.”

—John Hasse '95

demonstrate the significance of the Rowan team’s work and its relevance to New Jersey’s future.

Ironically, NJ MAP often attracts the attention of planners, organizations and public agencies across the U.S. who are interested in the Rowan team providing services for their projects, but Hasse has to turn them down. “It’s gratifying to know what we’re doing is considered so valuable that others seek our help,” Hasse said, “but our work is exclusive to our state and the NJ MAP platform.”

With that in-state focus, one of Hasse’s recent research collaborations documented New Jersey landscape changes in a 2020 report released with the Center for Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis at Rutgers.

In the last three years, NJ MAP earned the support of the Garden State Preservation Trust and picked up two prestigious awards—NJDEP Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award (2019) and the N.J. chapter of American Planning Association Award for Community Engagement and Education (2020). *New Jersey Monthly* magazine featured the project in its January 2021 issue.

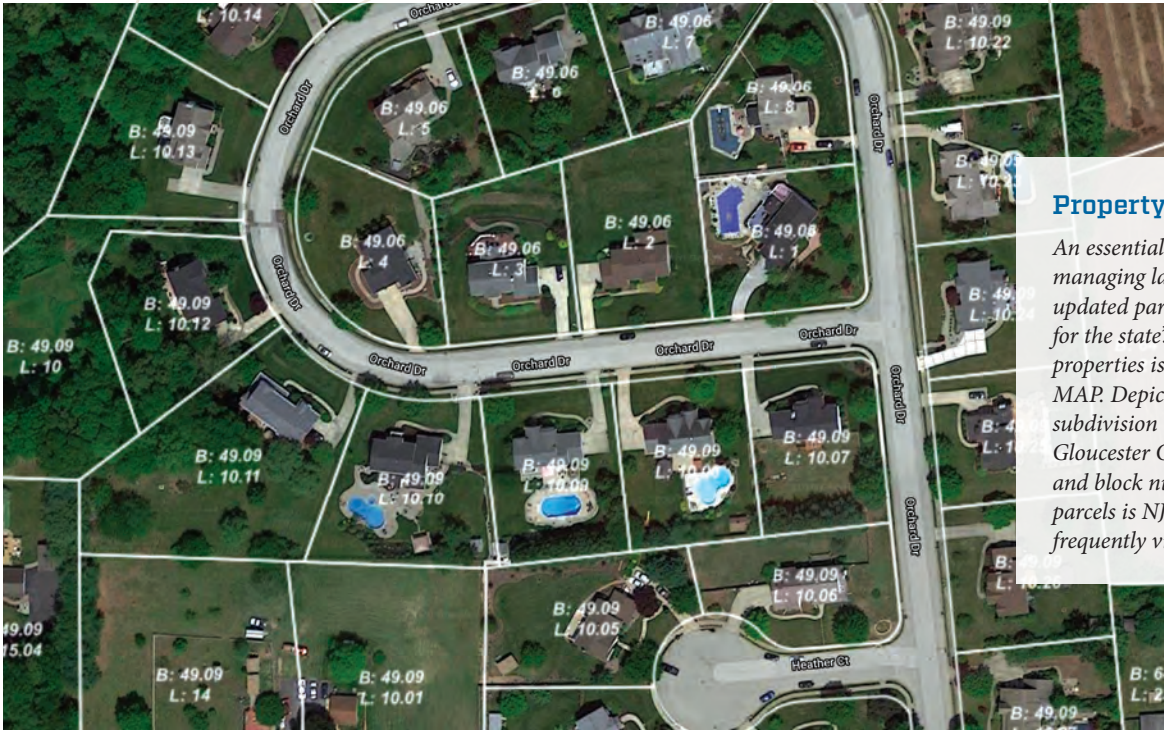
Plans for helping planners and teachers

Hasse said even as the Geospatial Research Lab seeks long-term project funding, it is working with K-12 and college teachers to create educational models to deploy NJ MAP in the classroom.

Vintage Jersey City

Among more than 800 layers of information available in NJ MAP are the historic topographic maps of northern New Jersey produced by C.C. Vermeule, circa 1900. This map shows details of Newark Bay, Jersey City and the marshlands that eventually became Newark International Airport.





Property parcels

An essential layer for managing land use, regularly updated parcel information for the state's 3.4 million properties is available at NJ MAP. Depicted here, a subdivision in Mullica Hill, Gloucester County, with lot and block numbers. Property parcels is NJ MAP's most frequently visited map layer.



Meanwhile, the project continues to expand, he said, thanks to a small but skilled and dedicated staff that also includes Mark Corbalis, Mackenzie Franco '16 and Michael Brein '17. The group is working on animated climate maps, stormwater management illustrations and maps including key information for developing an environmental/natural resource inventory.

As it develops, the ultimate goal of NJ MAP is to transform the way New Jerseyans think about their home state. Development patterns that respect the Garden State's environmental resources can result in sustainable smart-growth communities rather

than unchecked suburban sprawl, Hasse said. "New Jersey's land and waterways are precious. With the knowledge we share at NJ MAP, people gain the power to protect their neighborhoods and communities. It's power to make changes now and for the future." ■

Tim Zatzariny Jr. '94, M'07 teaches writing at Rowan. He lives in Woodbury, where he is the owner of On the Record, a record shop in the city's downtown.

Steve Levine '87, M'07 is a published novelist, award-winning former journalist, and serves as assistant director of Media & Public Relations for Rowan University.

For more information and decades of data available via smartphone or desktop, please visit:

njmap2.com

COPING WITH COVID



March 2020 seems like a lifetime ago.

We had no idea then what a global pandemic might mean for us. We thought it would blow through in a matter of weeks, maybe in a few months. Even as the cases mounted, we fixed our attention on the future, maintaining our expectations, goals and dreams. We kept on keeping on.

Students packed up and headed home for Spring Break. Within days, faculty pivoted their classes to a virtual format and staff dialed into work each day from home.

With much of New Jersey's population hunkered down under stay-at-home orders, venturing out in public became an act of bravery. We recognized everyday heroes among us: the first responders who answered calls for help, the grocery store workers who kept the shelves stocked, the nurses and doctors facing down a bewildering enemy.

Some selfless faculty and students scrounged through supplies around our campuses and used their time and expertise to produce desperately needed supplies for area hospitals: intubation shields, devices for respirators, 3D-printed face masks and even hand sanitizer concocted in a campus chemistry lab.

With so many restaurants and businesses shuttered, our friends and neighbors needed help, too. We shared food and delivered meals. We offered artistic performances online and helped teachers around the world make the switch to remote instruction—all in this together.

By December, when the first COVID-19 vaccines became available to health care workers, medical students and first responders, we opened a regional vaccination center at our School of Osteopathic Medicine, marking the beginning of what we hoped would spell the end of the pandemic.

Nearly a year later, we're still in it. We're still looking toward the future with every expectation that this, too, shall pass.

And it will.

Story by Kim Mulford '94 and Barbara Baals

Photos by Jonathan Kolbe, Kevin Monko, Avi Steinhardt, Craig Terry, Robert Thorpe, Thomas Fusco, David Cimetta and readers, including Julia Marshall and the Shainline family.

LEFT: Simple signs throughout Rowan University's campuses remind visitors to follow public health guidelines. Such widespread messaging helped (and continue to help) faculty, students and staff adjust to ever-changing instructions on how to keep one another safe.



Heading home

On March 9, 2020, Gov. Murphy declared a public health emergency and Rowan University announced Spring Break would be extended to two weeks to allow faculty to shift to virtual instruction, if need be.

Many students headed home—some for good. Uncertainty brought a sense of both urgency and inertia. Normal routines stalled and shifted.

Still without any reported cases on our campuses, the University weighed the next steps as we began to navigate and respond to the first pandemic in our history.

There would be much to do.





 **Rowan University** 
@RowanUniversity

COVID-19 Update: Rowan to Restrict Access to Buildings. Read more: bit.ly/2wmaX9m



Coronavirus Update
March 19, 2020



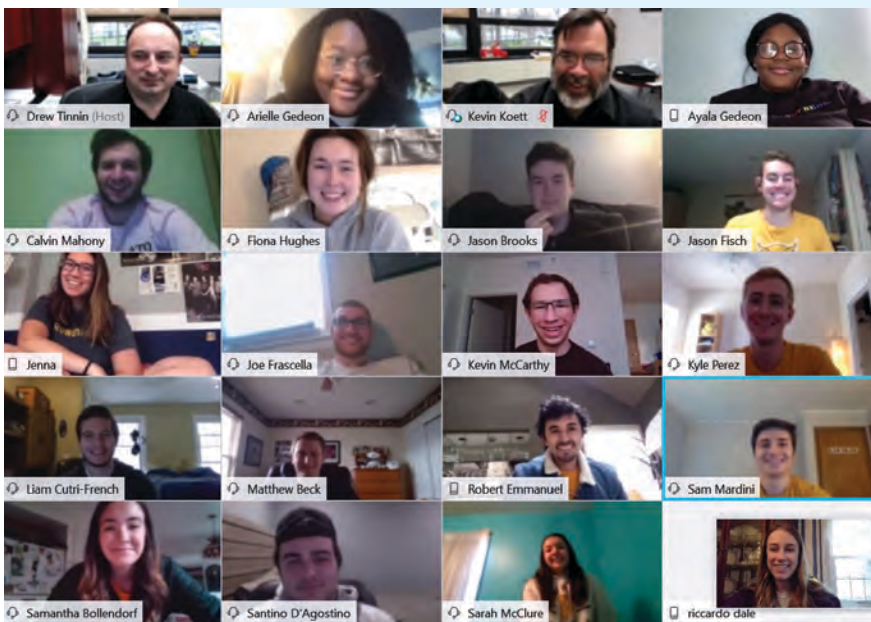


A quiet campus

With our first two cases of infection announced during Spring Break, Rowan closed buildings to in-person learning and switched to remote operations in an effort to smother the outbreak.

Thanks to video calls, social media and the miracles of modern technology, a scattered Rowan community found new ways to stay together and keep progressing.

Under advice to stay at home if they could, the handful of students and employees left on campus joined visitors who sought solace and respite outdoors. Many found the main campus a vital and vast public park. Bright blooms signaled the world waking from winter...but in an eerie quiet.







Rowan Athletics
@RowanAthletics

Today, we give a big shoutout to Justin List '08! A @RowanMSoccer player, Justin, is part of the Kangaroo Crew at Texas Children's in Houston, working as an emergency air & ground transport respiratory therapist!

There isn't enough thanks for people like you! ❤️!
#RowanPROUD





Answering the call

Amid stay-at-home orders, Rowan's community of doctors, nurses, engineers, chemists and researchers stepped up. They shared newly refined designs for a reusable, 3D-printed face mask (top right). Researchers began investigating the virus and its effects on the blood-brain barrier (top left), the psyche and on society as a whole.

Administrators worked with industry partners like ExxonMobil to address supply shortages for simple things like hand sanitizer. First responders and newly essential employees took on new risks and responsibilities to keep the world running.

And when a critical care doctor requested intubation shields to protect her staff, engineering faculty and students produced the first within 24 hours.

"It's just a box, but sometimes, it's the right thing at the right time," said Francis "Mac" Haas, assistant professor in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering.





COMMENCEMENT 2020

Honoring our graduates

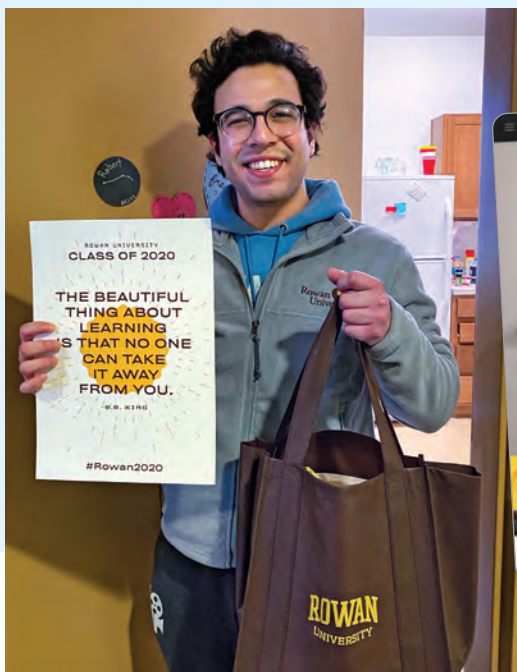
COVID-19 delayed—but did not deter—us from celebrating the Class of 2020. In a silent, empty stadium, President Houshmand recorded remarks to encourage everyone and promise a proper celebration when it could be done safely.

While many institutions cancelled Commencement ceremonies, the Rowan community rose up—and masked up—to honor our graduating Profs. After a University-wide virtual program in May, in-person ceremonies took place in July on the University Green with strictly limited and carefully spaced seating.

During three days, 1,800 graduates accepted their diploma covers at 13 carefully choreographed programs.

After each ceremony, dedicated volunteers and employees reset and wiped down hundreds of chairs.

Even through their masks, grads and guests shared smiles, tears and cheers for the spirited and resilient Class of 2020.









Caring for one another

The pandemic exposed rifts among us—as well as our ability to come together. Summer 2020 saw a national outcry over systemic racism and violence, and many in our community marched in the streets and called for change.

Already a university community committed to serving our neighbors, we found even more ways to “be the change.” At President Ali Houshmand’s urging, Rowan partnered with Gourmet Dining and the Borough of Glassboro to respond to food insecurity that fall.

With students’ help and donors’ support, the Rowan-Glassboro Neighbors Table delivered meals to local families in need.

“No one in our community should ever go hungry,” Houshmand said. “One of the most important things we can do as University neighbors and proud citizens is assisting others through our talents and our service. I’m excited to see this program serve our neighbors and friends and I know our students will benefit tremendously through their involvement.”





SONGS TO WASH YOUR HANDS TO



 DON'T STAND SO CLOSE TO ME
THE POLICE

Don't stand,
don't stand so
Don't stand so
close to me
Don't stand,
don't stand so
Don't stand so
close to me



SCAN FOR THE SPOTIFY PLAYLIST



#RowanPROUD & #ProfStrong.
Live it. Own it. #MaskUpProfs

Earning accolades

Rowan's approach to managing campus life during the pandemic involved thoughtful planning; strong community and statewide partnerships; decision-making focused on health, wellness and student success; innovation and creativity; and comprehensive communication.

To that end, signs and messages throughout Rowan campuses reminded our community to stay united, diligent and strong.

As part of her 15,000-mile national tour to assess how colleges and universities addressed the pandemic, Dr. Deborah Birx, then the response coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force, praised Rowan.

"It's really evident that you care about your students, as well as your community and faculty," said Birx, whose tour earned full-page coverage in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (right). Rowan, Birx said, had "the best signage that we have seen at any campus."

Pandemic praise

Deborah Birx's Good-News Tour

URING AN APPEARANCE at Plymouth State University this month, Deborah L. Birx, response coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force, has been delivering on campuses all over the country since June. As of mid-October, she had visited 27 colleges and traveled more than 15,000 miles on rental cars, often repeatedly driving there with colleagues. She has inspected classrooms, laboratories, student unions, and other university spaces, and met with students, faculty, and administrators about their pandemic plans, and received the same advice about the importance of masks, distancing, and regular testing.

She has also visited not just campuses, but also the homes of many of the university's faculty and staff members. Birx said she was "impressed" by the university's response to the pandemic, and that she was "impressed" by the health of the students here. At Rowan, she noted the "outstanding" administrative leadership that "opens the university and to keep it open." She also noted that the university's response to the pandemic is "one of the best we've seen."

She also noted that the university's response to the pandemic is "one of the best we've seen." She also noted that the university's response to the pandemic is "one of the best we've seen." She also noted that the university's response to the pandemic is "one of the best we've seen."

her older brother. He said he was always looking for a job for her, including her job at the White House. "I'm a job thief," she said. "You can't tell from the recording whether she laughed or groaned at the reference to a now-infamous press conference during which Trump suggested inspecting classroom students and using 'goggles inside the body.'"

In her speech, Birx commended universities like Plymouth State that chose to hold in-person classes, and seek a new normality for those who want the more cautious, believed in their students enough to open their doors," she said. "It shows that you believe, and we're learning that students are completely willing to welcome their schools as in-person learning."

Birx also made it clear that she believes that progress is necessary to mean that the spring semester for colleges will be very different from the fall. She thinks that faculty and staff members may be able to get vaccinated before the end of January, which is why that is encouraging colleges to delay the beginning of their semesters until then. That is a more optimistic timeline than has been offered by some other experts.

the reassurance. "I said to her, 'Can we really do this?' And she said, 'Yes. So long as you follow the procedures and policies,'" he recalled.

"I would not be lying," Birx said, "watching her sit on a chair in a widely reported, if not widely known, government official's household home. It was 'hard to watch' when she'd been on the receiving end of a household name. It was "hard to watch" when she'd been on the receiving end of a household name. It was "hard to watch" when she'd been on the receiving end of a household name.

In her speech at Plymouth State, Birx has been thanked in the fall her reputation has taken, and in the fall that the White House might spend the end of a decade-long term in public service. "When you work on a presidential election year," she said, "you know it's a national event in your government career."

—TOM HULLSLEY

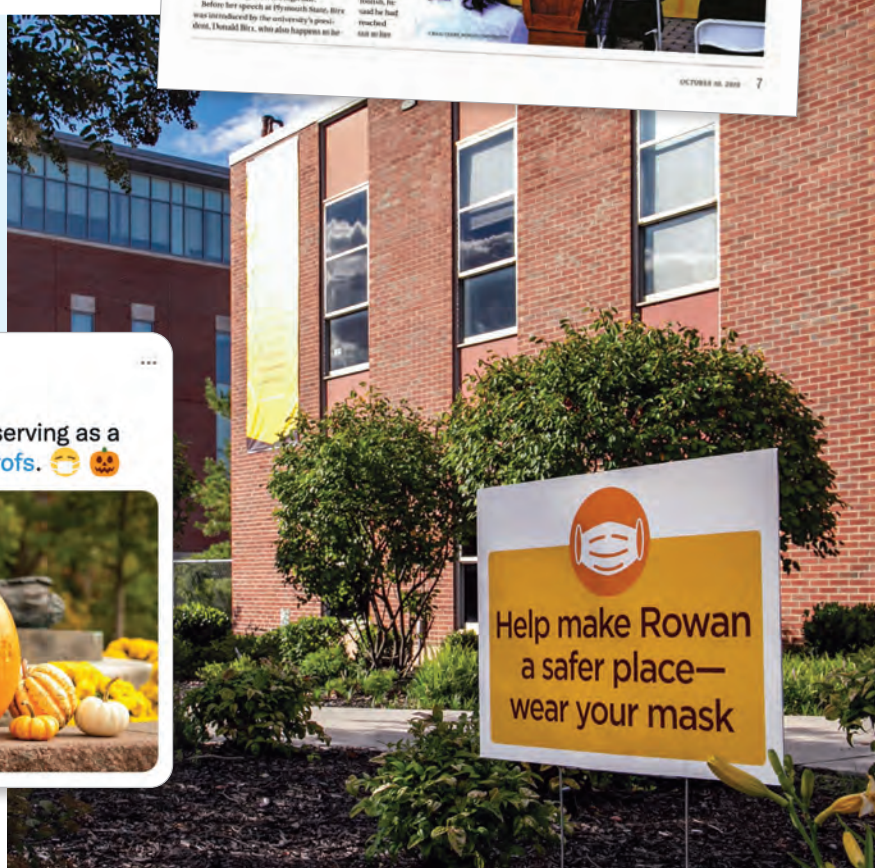


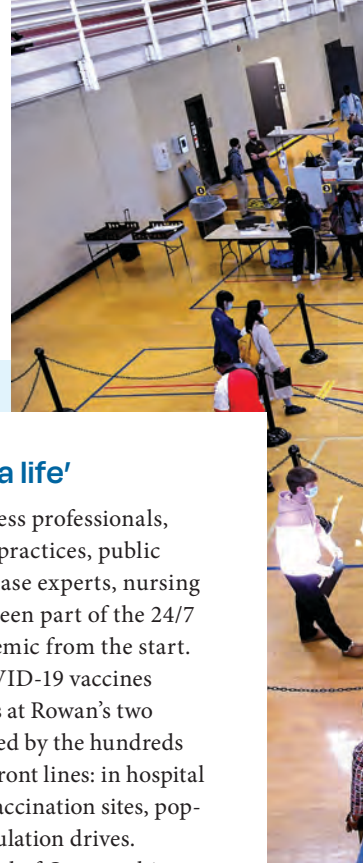
OCTOBER 16, 2020 7



Rowan University
@RowanUniversity

#NationalPumpkinDay serving as a reminder to #MaskUpProfs. 🍻🍻





'Every shot saves a life'

Rowan's health and wellness professionals, Rowan Medicine clinical practices, public health and infectious disease experts, nursing students and others had been part of the 24/7 mission to fight the pandemic from the start.

As soon as the first COVID-19 vaccines became available, students at Rowan's two medical schools volunteered by the hundreds to deliver vaccines to the front lines: in hospital conference rooms, mass vaccination sites, pop-up clinics and special population drives.

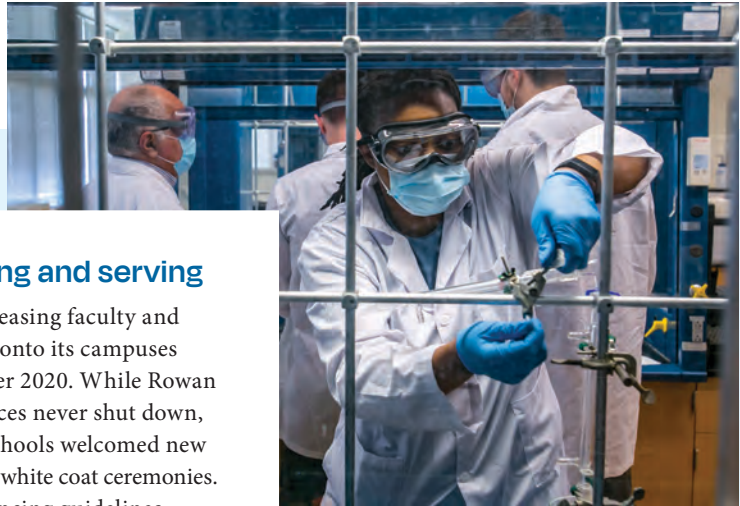
At press time, the School of Osteopathic Medicine had vaccinated more than 50,000 people and Cooper Medical School of Rowan University had delivered tens of thousands of vaccinations with clinical partners and volunteers. Vaccines changed the odds in favor of everyone willing to roll up a sleeve.

Both medical schools made concerted efforts to get vaccines to underserved populations, noted Anjani Patel, a third-year SOM student.

"We know we have to focus on marginalized communities," Patel said during the push to vaccinate South Jersey residents. "Every shot saves a life."







Still learning and serving

Rowan began easing faculty and students back onto its campuses during summer 2020. While Rowan clinical practices never shut down, the medical schools welcomed new classes at their white coat ceremonies.

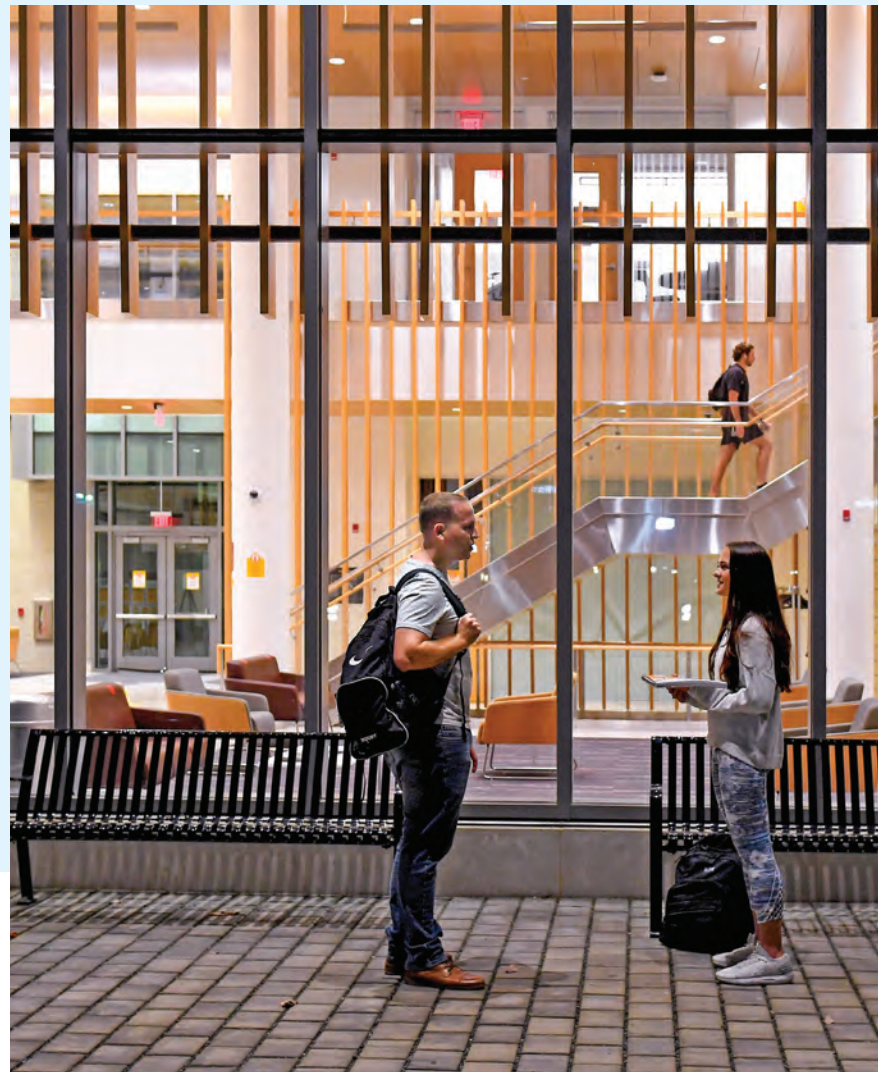
Social distancing guidelines, mask-wearing and intensified cleaning protocols enabled some main campus students to return last fall to hands-on learning, particularly those in the arts, sciences and engineering. For many more, hybrid courses with a mix of in-person and remote instruction offered greater flexibility for faculty and their students.

By fall 2021, vaccinations and mask requirements brought a sense of near-normalcy to classrooms and labs.

Technology made a tremendous difference in Rowan's ability to continue teaching and research during the pandemic. So did brave educators, dedicated facilities and support staff and the thousands of people persisting alongside and encouraging each member of the Rowan community.









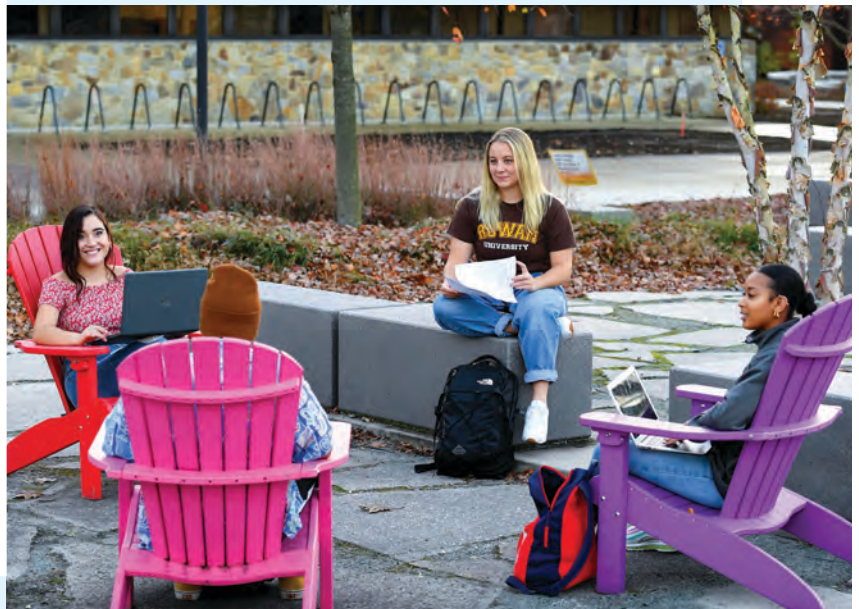
Making (distant) connections

With widespread mask-wearing and social distancing in place, in-person activities returned in autumn 2020 and Rowan was able to maintain momentum through the new year. Early fall 2021 still requires masks and distancing, minor inconveniences in making life together possible.

At outdoor yoga, intramural sports, club meetings, studying or hanging out with friends, students have adapted to COVID-19 protocols designed to keep community members safe.

The University installed tents throughout its campuses in 2020 to increase areas for outdoor dining and seating, as well as open-air classrooms, meeting spots and, of course, virus testing and other services. Students and employees continue to make the most of the shelters to collaborate, socialize and, most importantly, stay healthy.

They wear masks. They bump elbows. They look out for each other. And they keep finding ways to connect and thrive. As Profs do.



class notes

It's been a while!

Some of our Class Notes and photos have been on hold since fall/winter 2019, so this is a deep dive into what's happened since our last issue. Thanks to everyone for your patience in getting to share your news.

60s

Antionette Libro '60 partnered with artist Cindy Watson in an art gallery show in St. Augustine, Fla., of Wilson's works on batik and Libro's poetry. The exhibition, titled "Midnight in the Garden of Indigo," featured Wilson's indigo batiks and a booklet containing images of the batiks with Libro's poems positioned opposite them. Their collaboration will continue, and Wilson is incorporating one of Libro's haiku in an indigo batik.



Daniel N. Walters '62 has written a memoir, "A Dickens Of A Life," published by the BookBaby Publishing Company. Daniel grew up as a foster child and ward of the state after he and his siblings were abandoned by their mother after a train ride from Baltimore to Atlantic City. Walters

earned a master's degree and a doctorate at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He completed a 40-year teaching career and had a wall dedicated to him at Absegami High School in Galloway Township. His book is available on Amazon.

Howard Shelton '64 retired after 24 years as Major League Baseball's program manager—authentication. He played a huge role in starting MLB's authentication program, which aimed to protect against the enormous number of sports memorabilia forgeries.

Ron Weisberger '65 is director of the Holocaust and Genocide Center at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass. Under Weisberger's leadership, the center has conducted workshops for teachers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The center has also brought survivors and scholars to the college, sponsored conferences



Retired and still repping GSC

Stephen O'Brien '72 and his wife, Helen, share news about life in Alaska. Note, p. 68.

and held yearly artistic programming with Holocaust and genocide themes. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other national organizations have recognized their work.

Joan Bransfield Graham '66 has had her poetry featured in five poetry anthologies, including one in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and another for National Geographic. She's written poetry for 20 Lee Bennett Hopkins anthologies, and Houghton Mifflin

Harcourt Educational has purchased rights to use her book, "The Poem That Will Not End: Fun with Poetic Forms & Voices," in their Reading Series. Visit her at joangraham.com.

Donald DeMore '68, M'75 and **Barbara Coleman DeMore '63, M'85** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They have enjoyed their retirement in Sunset Beach, N.C., for the last 18 years.

Robert Philbin '68 retired in 2001 after teaching elementary band for



Athletics alumni and friends golf for the good of Profs student-athletes

A total of 144 Rowan alums and supporters played in the 4th Annual Academy Bus Prof Classic on June 28 at Scotland Run Golf Club in Williamstown. The proceeds from the outing, which sells out every year, directly benefit the athletic and academic well-being of Rowan student-athletes.

- 1. Bart Zazzali, Bob Zazzali '72, M'74, George Donnelly, Kerry Mucci.
- 2. Brian Holton, Chris Bowen Ashwin, Phil Fedako, Mike Bowen.
- 3. John Giannini, Joy Solomen '69, M'75.
- 4. Michelle Andre '99, Erin Small '00, Steph Segrest '99, Becky Peterson '04.

- 5. Reggie Jackson, Marshall Pierson, Jimmy Donofrio '74, Mike Snyder.
- 6. Kym Durham, Karyn Brooks, Ryan Barrett, Kim Wilson.
- 7. John Morris '17, Brian Wolf '16, Rachel Strow, Colin Fisher '18
- 8. Justin Hanus, Cameron Meiswinkel '13, Jeremy Boyd, Brandon Cruz.

over 31 years. Over 350 of his band arrangements for beginners have been published by the American School Music Institute. He was the bandleader and arranger for a Civil War re-enactor brass band for 23 years and has been an extra in four movies. He lives in Cedarville and volunteers at the Millville Army Airfield Museum and the Bayshore Center in Bivalve.

70s

Gerrie Venner '70 and **Rusty Venner '70** have lived in North Carolina since 2005. They have

nine grandchildren that keep them busy. They enjoy golf and vacation trips with all their children's families.

Pamela Bathgate Husik '71 and **Mark Husik '71** welcomed a new grandchild, Aria, on Jan. 1, 2020. She joined her sister, Ava, whose parents, Adam and Allison Husik, live nearby in Allentown.



Kathleen Wickham '71, a professor in the School of Journalism & New Media at The University of Mississippi, published "The Magnifying Effect of Television News: Civil Rights Coverage and Eyes on the Prize" in

the winter 2020 issue of *American Journalism*. The article stemmed from a research fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis when she discovered audio tapes from the preproduction sessions of the "Eyes on the Prize" documentary. In 2019, she served as producer on a William Faulkner documentary that aired on PBS stations in Mississippi and Memphis. Wickham also was featured on an international podcast distributed by Agence France-Presse World News on the unsolved 1962 murder of AFP reporter Paul Guihard at the University of Mississippi.

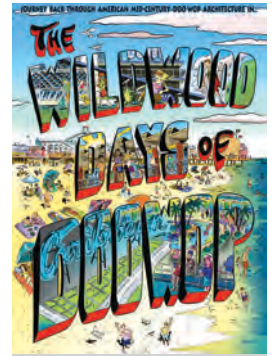
Stephen O'Brien '72 is retired but still acting and was cast in the Triumvirate Theatre production of "Beauty and the Beast" at the Glenn Massay Theater at Mat-Su College in Palmer, Alaska. Steve and his wife, Helen, also announce the birth of their granddaughter, Rosella, on Dec. 18, 2019. Photo, p. 66.

Linda Bowden '73 was named to the New Jersey Hall of Fame for her work in enterprise. She is the New Jersey regional president of PNC Bank. Previously, she was managing director of Wachovia Wealth Management. She has an MBA with a concentration in

finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University, an M.A. in institutional counseling from William Paterson University and an MSW from Columbia University.

Andrew Mitchell '73 is the recipient of the Joseph P. McCraren Award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to the Aquaculture Industry, an honor bestowed by the National Aquaculture Association. Mitchell is a former researcher at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence. He works for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fish Inspection Program. Twenty years ago, he developed a way to combat an invasive flatworm threatening farmed catfish and his contributions to the fish farming industry continue to be celebrated. Recognized internationally for his work, he has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals.

Darlene Beck Jacobson '74, M'80 has had her second book published by Creston Books. "Wishes, Dares, and How to Stand Up to a Bully," a novel written in verse, is set in the 1960s and deals with the issues of a boy's father missing in action in Vietnam and bullying close to home.



Alumni bookshelf

Mike Jasorka '07 honors mid-century Wildwood and music in his new graphic novel. Note, page 83.

Mary F. Fullard '75 and co-authors Grover Jackson and E. Christine Jackson have created "A Journey—A Multimedia Tale of American Black History Told by Those Who Lived It." It chronicles the lives of 14 siblings raised by poor but loving sharecropper parents who were directly descended from slaves. A companion piece, "Back to Kenya," is a multimedia digital presentation about Grover Jackson and his journey to Kenya as a Peace Corps volunteer. Fullard retired after 35 years in education.

Mary Beth Connor Gibson '75, who spent 35 years teaching in Australia, is the author of the award-winning "Duncullen Saga," a trilogy of historical novels set in 18th century Ireland and Revolutionary War-era South Carolina.



Ginkgo from University Green

Ed Ziegler '72 shares a photo of a tree planted as a seedling in his yard 20 years ago from the iconic Ginkgo on the Bunce Hall lawn. The original tree greeted students arriving on campus in 1923. For many years, students would touch the tree for good luck as they headed off to exams and press one of its leaves in the pages of their yearbooks when they graduated.

HOUSHMAND'S HAZARDOUS HOT SAUCE



WOW!

Just for Rowan Magazine readers:
Buy a 3-jar variety pack at
25% off AND get a FREE tote!*



**100% OF PROCEEDS SUPPORT
THE ROWAN UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

FOR YEARS, PRESIDENT ALI HOUSHMAND WHIPPED UP SMALL BATCHES OF HIS SECRET HOT SAUCE RECIPE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. NOW, IT HELPS SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED. MADE WITH SOME OF THE WORLD'S HOTTEST PEPPERS GROWN AT THE WEST CAMPUS FARM, EACH HOT SAUCE—ALI'S NASTY, NASTYLICIOUS AND NASTYVICIOUS—DELIVERS A RICH, PEPPERY HEAT THAT'S GREAT WITH ANYTHING A HOT SAUCE LOVER CAN THINK OF.

*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. USE COUPON CODE: MAGAZINE

rowan.edu/hotsauce

Marie Natale '75 showed her watercolors in an exhibition during July and August at the SOMA NewArt Gallery in Cape May.

Diane Tucker '75, '97, an avid, lifelong swimmer, marked her recovery from a double lung transplant by swimming a mile at the Cumberland-Cape Atlantic YMCA pool where she has coached and competed for decades. She said her grandson, Reece, is her inspiration. She had a career in education as a teacher, vice principal and principal at Sacred Heart High School. She was also an adjunct at Salem Community College and at Rowan. Her husband, **Steve Tucker '75, M'91** taught physical education for 28 years at Glassboro High School and was a volunteer football coach at Rowan.

Beth Chernick '76 is solutions manager at The A Team, a top national accounting firm headquartered in New York City. Before joining The A Team, Beth spent more than 17 years as manager of the Entrepreneurs' Organization New York Chapter.

Sally Craig '76 retired in June 2020 after 44 years teaching kindergarten at the Peter Muschal Elementary School in the Bordentown Regional School District, the same school she attended as a student. Craig had said she would not retire until her kindergarten class of 2008 graduated from high school. Over the years, she attended every high school graduation. After the ceremony, she presented former students with a collage filled with all the things they gave her during their time in

kindergarten and their accomplishments during their academic careers.

Debra DiLorenzo '76, who was CEO and president of the Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey, and **Kathy Davis '81**, who was executive vice president and chief operating officer, retired from the chamber at the end of 2019 after 25 years with the organization. DiLorenzo was the chamber's first woman president and Davis the first woman COO.

Bruce Miller '76 and **Kathy Fiore Miller '89** are grandparents of Maxwell D'Amico.

MaryLynne Montesano Perkins '76 welcomed her granddaughter, Anna (after three grandsons), on Nov. 4, 2019.

Deborah Palmieri '77 has been included in Marquis Who's Who. Now retired, Palmieri was a special education teacher for more than four decades at Vineland High School. She created and pioneered Project Rainbow, an integrative life skills curriculum that incorporated food service, horticulture, factory work and other basic self-care into traditional academics. As an advocate for her students and for special education programs as a whole, Palmieri has been an active member of the Council for

Disabled Children since 1979. She is working to create a series of illustrated Shakespeare books appropriate for older students with lower-level reading ability. She is the founder of Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Bereavement Ministry and been recognized for her service to the school and community. She serves as president of the Alpha Delta Kappa local chapter.

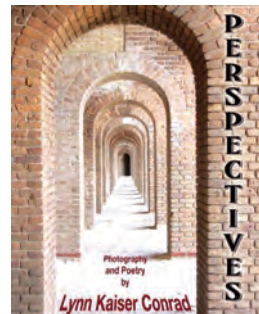
80s



Susan Andrews '81 has earned her Orton-Gillingham

therapist certificate, accredited by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council. Andrews is the dyslexia specialist for the Rockaway Township School District. Sue is also an adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University, training teachers in the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading.

Michael Bernstein '82, who is semiretired from a 34-year career in the environmental consulting industry, had his article, "Industrial Waste from the Whitney Glass Works, Circa 1900: The Approaching End of Mouth-Blown Hollowware at Glassboro,"



Alumni book shelf
Lynne Kaiser Conrad '83 shares poems and encourages others to write, too. Note, p. 72.

published in the summer 2021 issue of New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. During his career, he performed environmental assessments of commercial and industrial properties in 35 states plus Canada, Mexico and Germany. He donated to Rowan artifacts that he found while at GSC and wrote about glass history for this magazine. He restored to the New Jersey State Archives four Colonial legislative documents stolen during the 1930s. His research has also been published in The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology, Nautical Research Journal and Northeastern Geology.



Louis Laste '82 is CEO of Brandware Public Relations, an Atlanta Top 20 agency.



Alumni book shelf

Sally Cavallaro Kalksma '84 wrote a memoir to tell her story and to help support cancer research. Note, p. 72.

Real talk, real teaching

Building relationships— and community—with CJ Reynolds

Save for a classroom treehouse (“Like, a *legit* treehouse. I don’t know how I’m going to pull it off, but it’s going to happen.”) and a visit from entertainer Will Smith (“Bro, we’re in West Philly. It doesn’t get any easier than that.”), CJ Reynolds ’04, ’05 has accomplished many of the things on his teacher bucket list.

Among them, he has:

- taken students on life-changing trips, including to Costa Rica,
- created a popular “History of Hip-Hop” course that addresses themes including poetry and language, art, masculinity and LGBTQ issues,
- challenged students to build a classroom replica of Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre (a balcony, crypt and box office included),
- established an uncanny collection of weird and weirder teaching props (think confetti, eyeball stickers, silly string, beach balls, crazy glasses, and a Shaquille O’Neal-sized hand-on-a-stick to collect papers and distribute wacky high fives),
- and built a successful, 15-year career teaching in the inner city.

Additionally, Reynolds has written a book, “Teach Your Class Off: The Real Rap Guide to Teaching,” established a corresponding 500-episode YouTube channel with nearly 56,000 viewers worldwide, created “Sunday Night Teacher Talk,” a live weekly YouTube show, and built a following of nearly 23,000 on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.

A literature teacher at Boys’ Latin of Philadelphia Charter High School in West Philadelphia, Reynolds’s teaching philosophy comes down to this: “In the classroom, relationships are king and education is only ever about the students.”

“Lesson plans come second. Kids come first,” says the funny, chatty, admittedly “a little left of center”

Reynolds, who earned his English degree and his secondary education teaching certification from Rowan. “My job feels like a choose-your-own adventure in a lot of ways. I get to be the teacher I never had growing up.”

By writing his book and engaging on social media, Reynolds has created a community where teachers come together to be inspired...and to inspire others. It’s the way it should be, he says.

“Teaching is a communal activity,” says Reynolds, who grew up in Haddon Heights and now lives in Gloucester City. “There are no silver bullets in education. There’s not one way to teach a class, to deal with students.

“With ‘Sunday Night Teacher Talk,’ we’re trying to create a safe space for teachers to explore and express what it is to be a teacher ... to help them be the teachers they’re called to be,” adds Reynolds, who offers one-on-one mentoring to teachers via his website, realrapwithreynolds.com.

Reynolds began his teaching career at Macha Girls High School in Zambia. He taught at Camden Academy Charter High School before joining Boys’ Latin a decade ago.

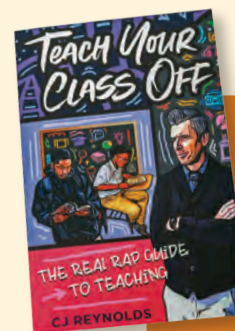
“Teaching allows me to use all the gifts I have to connect with students and do good in the world year after year. It’s a job I would never, ever change,” he says.



Confetti, Hip-Hop and crazy string all have a place in the inner-city classroom of CJ Reynolds. His philosophy? “Education is only ever about the students.” His book, YouTube channel, and weekly “Sunday Night Teacher Talk” show are all designed to help teachers “be the teachers they’re called to be.”

Reynolds realizes his teaching style isn’t everyone’s. But he encourages teachers to be authentic in the classroom, to focus on truly knowing and understanding the motivations, interests and passions of their students, and to be their staunchest advocates and supporters, particularly with administrators.

“It’s harder to say no to the dreams of children. Let that fuel your courage,” Reynolds recently told educators tuned into his YouTube show. “The relationships you tend are the relationships that grow.”



Rowan Magazine is giving away five copies of *Teach Your Class Off: The Real Rap Guide to Teaching*. Be one of the

first five to email editor@rowan.edu and say you’re ready to read.



Alumni book shelf

Lillian Aragones '89 tells her family's story. Note, page 72.

JoAnn Deckert Burns M'83, who retired after 40 years in Millville schools, was inducted into the 2020 Cumberland County Women's Hall of Fame. The honor recognized her creation of the transition to kindergarten program that helps children who need additional support to become academically successful. She also was a driving force in developing Millville's Child Family Center preschool, which has become a model for innovative preschool programs. She has served as president of the Rieck Avenue School Parent Teachers Organization, the Friends of Lakeside Middle School and the Millville Education Association.

Lynn Kaiser Conrad '83 has written *Perspectives*, a book of poetry and photographs published by Taylor and Seale Publishing in December 2019. The book appeals to a wide audience and encourages readers to write their own

poetry. It is available on Amazon. Photo, p. 70.

John Heath '83 has published his second book, "Positive Splits: Positive Running Stories," which is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Mary Lynne DiPietro Diehlman '84 retired in 2020 after teaching elementary school for 35½ years in Deptford Township. She and her husband, Larry, have a son, **Larry Diehlman '23**. The Diehlmans enjoy traveling whenever they can.

Sally Cavallaro Kalksma '84 had her debut book, "Life Gets in the Way: Powering Through Adversity with Grit and Grace," hit bestseller status in five Amazon categories. This memoir chronicles her life as a caregiver-turned-cancer patient who then transformed into a professional athlete, raising awareness and funds for others affected by cancer. In her book she fondly mentions her years at GSC. She is also donating a portion of the book proceeds to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. For more information or to order a book, visit her at sallykalksma.com.



Donna Campo McAvoy '84 retired from teaching

second grade for 30 years in Galloway Township. She and her husband, who also retired, have traveled to Greece, Hawaii, San Diego, San Francisco and Key West. Donna is the Lacey Township School Board president. She enjoys staying connected with her sisters from Sigma Delta Upsilon and planning Greek reunions with her college friends.

David Doeblner '85 retired in June as president and general manager of NBC-owned WMAQ-Channel 5 and Telemundo Chicago WSNS-Channel 44. Both stations are units of Comcast NBCUniversal. Doeblner, who became president and general manager of NBC 5 in 2013, was named to the additional position of president and general manager of Telemundo Chicago in 2016. Previously, he spent eight years as president and general manager of WVIT, the NBC-owned station in Hartford, Conn. Earlier in his career Doeblner held management positions at NBC stations in Raleigh, N.C., and Birmingham, Ala.

Sammy "Pepper" Bonavita '87 has been at WGLS for 50-plus years sharing his love of The Beatles. His show started its fall run in September. "Pepper" took his handle from the group's "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club

Band" album. He's been a Beatles devotee since the the early 1960s. In fact, he first took to the WGLS airwaves Sept. 26, 1969, the same day the Fab Four released "Abbey Road," and has been spinning Beatles tunes ever since. He was drafted into the military during the Vietnam War and served stateside in the Air Force. His WGLS training helped him land a position in the military in which he did news, sports and interview programs for Air Force Radio in Colorado.



John Bunting. '78, M'97 retired from the Mill-

ville Board of Education after 23 years as a guidance counselor/administrator. His professional career spanned 39 years total, including service with Bridgeton Board of Education as a high school teacher and guidance counselor, and employment with the NJ Casino Control Commission. He facilitated the Educational Talent Search Program of Cumberland County College, Gentlemen by Choice Program of Alpha Phi Alpha at Rowan and CHAMP at Millville Middle School. He earned various awards for professional excellence and service, including an Award of Honor from the New Jersey Counselors Association. An avid supporter of education,

he served as a member of the Rowan University Alumni Association and the Community Advisory Board of GSC/Rowan University Educational Opportunity Fund Program. Rowan's fifth president, Herman James, appointed Bunting to the college's Task Force on Minority Recruitment and Retention and the Rowan University Transition Team. In retirement, he enjoys traveling with family, supporting his church and community and running in road races. Friends may email jlbunting1@aol.com.

Shelley Shayner '87, author and award-winning illustrator, published "The Dreyling Prophecy," a children's fantasy novel and the first of the planned Ogalon Series. She also has a short story published in "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Dreams and Premonitions," and another in "Tall Tales and Short Stories from South Jersey." She is a South Jersey Writers' Group member and resides with her rescue cat, Jasper.

Brian Simmermon '88 is chief information officer at Medical Guardian, a leading provider of innovative senior health solutions. Following his 13-year tenure at Subaru of America in Cherry Hill, Simmermon served as CIO at Advanced Call Center Technologies LLC

in Berwyn, Pa. Additionally, he was a senior vice president at QVC and the Franklin Mint CIO. He is past president of the Society for Information Management Professionals and a board member at Hopeworks, a nonprofit in Camden that helps young people break the cycle of violence and poverty.

Lillian Aragonés '89 published "Revelations: Diaspora to Legacy," a memoir of how her mother and grandmother influenced her life and the legacy they left her.

Kathleen Lange Damiri '89 and **Peter Damiri '89** have a son, **Sam Damiri '23**.

90s



Todd Barasch '91 is managing director, global business development, at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Previously, he worked for 19 years at Disney, the last eight as vice president, product and portfolio management, global distribution.

Melissa Harris Fox '93 is Acenda Integrated Health's chief operating officer. Acenda now serves more than 27,000 clients annually through some 120 programs. She has been married for

more than 20 years to Gantry Fox, who is the police accountability organizer for Salvation and Social Justice, a leading civil rights nonprofit in Woodbury. Fox, a Gloucester County NAACP board member, earned her master's degree in health care administration from Louisiana State University and is a fellow with the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

Michele Giordano Moore '93 owns Born to WOD (Born to Work Out Daily) a fitness apparel business that offers clothing for women, men, children and babies. For details, visit borntowod.com.



Reza Shah DO'93, a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, is a general vascular surgeon with RWJBarnabas Health. He also was named a Top Doc in New Jersey Magazine in November 2020.



Dawn Wilson '93 is 2020-2021 president of the North American Nature Photography Association. Dawn runs her own nature photography and writing business in Colorado where she focuses on telling stories about wildlife's



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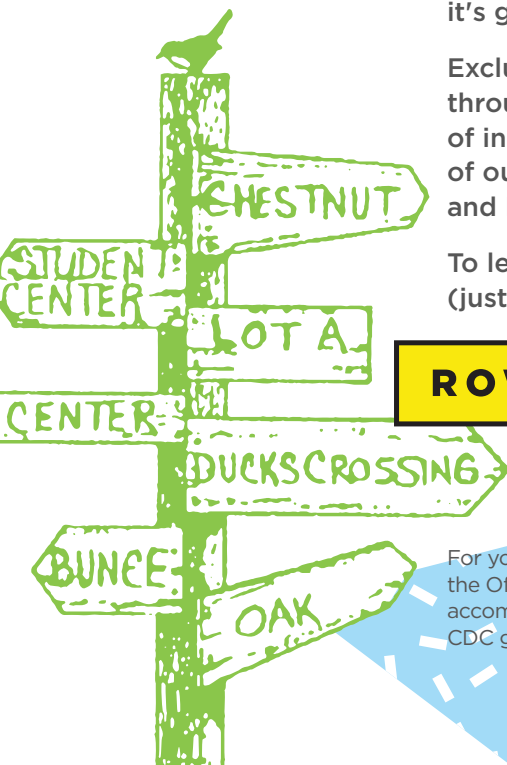


Alumni, students and the community are invited back to the '90s as we commemorate age-old traditions alongside the creation of new ones—it's gonna be all that and a bag of chips!

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ROWAN.EDU/HOMECOMING



For your safety and the safety of your fellow Profs and families, the Office of Alumni Engagement will have plans in place to accommodate our current climate and follow the most up-to-date CDC guidelines. Detailed information forthcoming.

class notes

challenges and successes. She has published a book of photographs, “Bears of the Alaskan Peninsula,” to raise awareness about the impact of a proposed mine in the region and is planning a project to celebrate Colorado’s 150th anniversary in 2026.

John R. Logar '94, senior director of aseptic processing and terminal sterilization at Johnson & Johnson Microbiological Quality and Sterility Assurance in Raritan, is chair of the ASTM International board of directors. He was board vice chair from 2019 to 2021. ASTM International develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems and services. Before joining Johnson & Johnson in 2014, he held various positions at Sterigenics. An ASTM International member since 2001, Logar serves on several committees. In 2010, he received the Peter D. Hedgecock Award for his contributions to the committee on nuclear technology and applications.

Scott Peterson '94 is supervisor of the Homicide Task Force at the Union County Prosecutor’s Office.



Vicki VanArsdale '94 is the biotech marketing and outreach manager at the National Institutes of Health/Office of Extramural Research’s Small Business Education and Entrepreneurial Development office.



Bernadette Woodhouse Latta '95 earned a doctorate from South University School of Pharmacy in June.



Anthony Minosse '95 is deputy chief of the Gloucester Township Police Department. Early in his career as a patrol officer, he served as a field training officer and shift investigator. In 1999 he became a member of the Special Response Team, the police department’s tactical unit, and became its commander in 2010. He served as a sergeant and lieutenant in the Patrol Bureau until his promotion to captain in 2010 and was assigned as the division commander for various units. Minosse holds numerous instructor certifications and has taught various courses at the department and local police academy. In 2014, he attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Donna Mitchell '95 is a media strategist with BackBay Communications, a leading integrated financial services public relations, content and digital marketing firm in Boston. Before joining BackBay, Mitchell provided freelance clients with a range of editorial services focused on the commercial real estate, structured finance, wealth management and personal finance industries. Previously, she was a senior editor for Financial Planning magazine and a managing editor for Asset Securitization Report.

Thomas Amoriello Jr. '96 has taught guitar classes for the Flemington Raritan School District in Flemington since 2005 and was also an adjunct guitar instructor at Cumberland County College for five years. He is chair of the NAFME Council for Guitar Education and is also the former chairperson for the New Jersey Music Education Association. He is the author of the children’s picture books: “A Journey to Guitarland with Maestro Armadillo” and “Ukulele Sam Strums in the Sand,” both available from Black Rose Writing. He earned a master’s degree in classical guitar performance from Shenandoah Conservatory. Visit him at thomasamoriello.com.



Jankowski family graduates

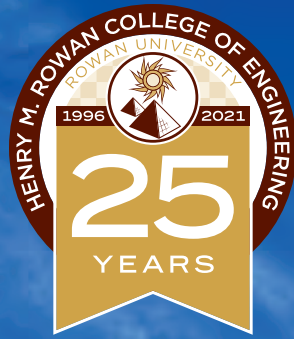
Ashleigh '23, Samantha, Jeremiah, Rebecca and Nicholas Jankowski '00 celebrate more academic achievements. Note, page 78.

Kyle Cassidy '96 is a Philadelphia photographer who created a series of portraits of health care and essential workers on the front lines during the pandemic. The photos can be seen at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia and at BetweenUsAndCatastrophe.com. Cassidy drew worldwide attention last year when he launched a campaign to rescue a sick cat. He found that the stray had feline leukemia and started a social media campaign to get her adopted. He created a fundraiser to give out grants of \$500 to artists to paint pictures of the cat, who was named Stabatha after a social media naming campaign. The cat was adopted.

Kelly Stewart Maer M'96 received the Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award from the Women’s Political Caucus of New Jersey PAC. The award

recognizes Democratic women who have had a successful career, are leaders who have promoted policies in support of women and families and have made progressive and effective efforts to advance the careers of and to create opportunities for other women. Maer is director of state and federal public affairs and advocacy for Capital Health Systems. She has been ranked among the 100 most powerful political players in New Jersey on Insider NJ’s 2016-2020 Power Lists as well as PolitickerNJ’s “Women of Power Lists” for 2015 to 2020. She lives in Monmouth County with her husband, daughter and their rescue pup.

Frank Dos Santos DO'97 is chief medical officer at Clara Maass Medical Center, part of RWJBarnabas Health in Belleville. Previously, he



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class notes

was a clinical professor at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and part of Envision Physician Services as an Emergency Medicine EmBassador Travel Team physician. Before that, he was the chief medical officer for New York Network Management. Other leadership roles include chief medical officer of Navy Medicine East in Portsmouth, Va., and a Navy and Marine Corps Emergency Medical Service leader for the Navy in Washington, D.C. He was also a senior medical officer in the Navy serving in Iraq. While serving in Naples, Italy, Dos Santos held two positions: chairperson of the emergency medicine department for the Navy hospital and head of the Navy emergency management department.

Jason Levin '97, who founded Washington, D.C.-based Ready, Set, Launch, LLC® in 2011, is

writing Relationships to Infinity—The Art and Science of Keeping in Touch, scheduled for publication this winter. Levin provides firms and individuals with interview preparation, leadership development, executive coaching, résumé writing, career development coaching, public speaking training and human resources support. He earned an MBA at Georgetown University McDonough School of Business.

Angelique Barge Hilton '98 has moved into a new career in the wine industry. She stays involved with Rowan through the Alumni Board and Rowan University Black Alumni Network.

Joseph Medica '98 is principal at Southern Regional High School in Manahawkin.



Clarissa Beyah '99 is Union Pacific's chief communica-

tions officer, responsible for the railroad's corporate communications strategy. Previously, she led Northwestern Mutual's communications organization. She also served as chief communications officer for GE Transportation, and managed communications teams at Aon, Exelon and Pfizer. A professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, Beyah is also the founder of Writer's Block Ink, a nonprofit that helps at-risk youths. She earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of New Haven.



Barbara Bungy '99 is director of strategic initiatives and partnerships at Education Plus Health in Philadelphia. Previously, she was chief operating officer at Philadelphia FIGHT. She spent nearly a decade in the department of pediatrics at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, serving in several positions. She is a member of the board of commissioners of National Commission for Health Education Credentialing. She has two Drexel University master's degrees.

Kelly L. Gibson '99 is the acting deputy director of the Division of Enforcement at the Securities and Exchange

Commission. Previously, she was director of the Philadelphia Regional Office. She joined the SEC in 2008 as a staff attorney in the Division of Enforcement in the Philadelphia office. Before joining the SEC, she was a litigation associate for law firm Ballard Spahr LLP in Philadelphia. She earned her law degree with honors from Villanova University School of Law.

00s

Nathaniel Biggs '00 self-published his first novel Prisoner of Vengeance, a novel set in Germany during World War II. It's available on Amazon.

David Coster '00, a math and engineering teacher at Cedar Grove High School, was named the New Jersey Education Association's Essex County Teacher of the Year. Coster is also the 3-D Printing Club and Robotics Club advisor and was co-advisor of the Class of 2021.

Jayme Miller Dobbins '00 was 2020-21 Teacher of the Year at Oakcrest High School in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County, where she teaches fine arts. She earned a master's degree from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She taught in the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District and at Absegami

High School before moving to Oakcrest. She grew up and still resides in Williamstown with her husband, Joe, and children, Cody and Brenna.

Nicholas Jankowski '00 earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland in fall 2020. He is a program manager at the Army Research Laboratory, developing advanced electronics and thermal control components.

Evan Roskos '00, who published "Bird's Advice for Sad Poets" in 2013, has seen the book made into a film by the same title. The book (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) is a semi-autobiographical work that explores the world of a 16-year-old boy living with social anxiety, panic attacks and depression. The boy turns to an imaginary giant pigeon therapist, a well-worn copy of Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" and a series of ordinary suburban trees (he likes to hug them) for comfort and ballast. Producer Shona Tuckman had heard about the book from a friend on Good Reads and was impressed by its sensitive portrayal of topics that she was not seeing in literature for young people—serious, issues like self-harm, suicide and panic attacks. Roskos lives in Collingswood with his wife, Laura, and son, Dean.



Baseball in Boise

Mike Van Hise '04 took the stage as his team's general manager at the 2019 Northwest League (Short-season A) / Pioneer League All-Star Game held in Boise, Idaho. Note, page 82.



Television audiences worldwide watched Joe Biden deliver his presidential victory speech at the Wilmington, Del., waterfront. Verge Aero's fleet of 200 drones flew in synchronized patterns to a soundtrack that included Coldplay's A Sky Full of Stars.

Rowan engineering alumni light up skies around the world

When Joe Biden celebrated his presidential win on the Wilmington waterfront on Oct. 7, 2020, the fireworks display included a highly technical light show powered by 200 drones. With brilliant LED lights mounted on their bellies, the drones painted patriotic pictures and phrases in the sky for the globally televised event.

Those drones were designed, built and programmed for flight by three Rowan University alumni: Tony Samaritano '12, M'18; Anthony Merlino '14; and Chris Franzwa '13.

They are the engineers behind Philadelphia-based Verge Aero, a startup launched in 2016 to create dazzling nighttime light shows using drones and robotics.

The company's lean early years were spent building the company's proprietary system from scratch. The team ran test drills in the fields at Rowan's South Jersey Technology Park before introducing the product to the public. A short demonstration, featured on the CBS show Innovation Nation, hovered above Rowan University's Coach Richard Wacker Stadium. "A lot of this can be tied back to Rowan," said Samaritano.

As students, before drones were commercially available, Samaritano and Merlino built their own "flying computer" from scratch as their clinic project with support from their professors, Robi Polikar, John Schmalzel, and other faculty in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering in the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering. The University provided them with funding for the components: motors, blades, batteries and such.

"It was a great learning experience," Samaritano said. After graduation, the three engineers decided to leave their jobs in private industry to build Verge Aero, along with Nils Thorjussen, an entertainment industry veteran who helped them get the company off the ground. Verge Aero began flying shows at festivals and live events in September 2019.

"These guys are amazing," said Thorjussen, the company's CEO. "They worked so hard for so long and we have an awesome system," requiring just a few hours and a small crew to set up, fly and pack up.

Today, Verge Aero's intricate drone shows are seen around the world, thanks to years

of behind-the-scenes engineering that enables the team to safely and easily fly in coordination, even in crowded urban skies.

"Definitely, when building a tech startup, you learn a lot on your feet," Samaritano said. "Rowan absolutely set us up for this."

Polikar shows off Verge Aero's demonstration videos to prospective students at every opportunity.

Flying one plane is difficult, Polikar said. Flying 100 drones so they dance synchronously in the air is something else entirely.

"It is an inordinately complex engineering feat and an excellent showcase of our program," said Polikar, who heads the electrical and computer engineering department. "It is a marriage of hardware and software ... Not only have they built these drones, but they have also developed a sophisticated software system with an enormous amount of code that allows those drones to fly in complex patterns."

"I'm incredibly proud of what they've been able to achieve," he added. "I can't speak highly enough about them."



John Sadak '00, M'03 is part of a FOX Sports Ohio team that

provides play-by-play for the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. Before moving to Ohio, he was a national TV play-by-play announcer for CBS Sports, a national radio play-by-play announcer for Westwood One and a radio play-by-play announcer for the New York Mets on WCBS 880. His broadcast work includes the play-by-play of the NFL, NBA, MLB, college football, basketball, and baseball along with almost 15 years in minor league baseball.

Shaun Blokker '01 has created fitness programs such as Hip-Hop Abs, Cize, Focus T25 and Insanity. He started posting short workout videos on Facebook around eight years ago and decided to expand his online presence after seeing their success. His Get Up! is a 30-day cardio and dance program of 24 videos.

Cynthia Marconi Hickman '01 is director of the Division of Training and Development for Cumberland County.

Michael Reilly '01 is vice president at Innovative Medical Products, responsible for leading IMP's global sales and marketing strategic direction, managing


Rowan babies

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Cervando, to Brigid Hoempler '12 and Erik Hoempler ; note, p. 88. | Deborah Dunn Cendo '13 and Daniel Cendo ; note, p. 88. | Spagnola Brywa '07 and Brian Brywa ; note, p. 83. |
| 2. Franco Robert, to Rosie Braude Esposito '08, M'09 and Greg Esposito M'10, EdS'12 ; note, p. 84. | 7. Melody, to Patrice Martin Robinson '06 and Stephen Robinson '05 ; note, p. 82. | 12. William, to Amy Ovsiew Recine '08 and John Recine ; note, p. 78 |
| 3. Ari John, to Amy '11, M'12 and Jeff Miele '11, M'13 ; note, p. 86. | 8. Gabriel, to Lauren Schoener Gaynor '06 and Martin Gaynor ; note, p. 82. | 13. Louie, son of Danielle Kelley Fala '18 and Louis Fala ; note, p. 92 |
| 4. Sonny, to Bryan '07 and Hilary Blum Sculthorpe '07 ; note, p. 84. | 9. Raegan, to Ariel Gordon Basch '14 and Jacob Basch '14 ; note, p. 90. | 14. Olivia Grace, to Crystal Olivero Hackett '09 and Keith Hackett '06 ; note, p. 84 |
| 5. Lincoln, to Jason Kreyling '10 and Bryanna Kreyling ; note, p. 85. | 10. Josephine Anne, to Lauren Kuski '11, M'13 and Charlie Kuski '11 ; note, p. 86. | 15. Summer, to Andrea Keely Gaetano '07 and Thomas Gaetano ; note, p. 83. |
| 6. Charlotte and Dean, to | 11. Lily Mae, to Stephanie | |

all product brands and distribution channels, and developing plans to accelerate sales growth. Previously, he was regional sales manager. Before joining IMP, he held several key marketing management positions at Terumo Medical Corporation, Medtronic (formerly Osteotech), and Biomet Spine.

James M. Reina '01, M'05 is superintendent of the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District in Hamilton Township, Atlantic County. The district includes Oakcrest, Absegami and Cedar

Creek high schools. Before becoming superintendent, Reina was the Oakcrest principal. He has worked in the district since 2001 as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. He and his wife, Christine, have two daughters.



Suzanne Smalley Beers '02 is director of major gifts at the Wills Eye Hospital Foundation in Philadelphia.

Mike Musacchio '02 is senior director at Moody's Analytics, where he manages global sales

operations for the firm's research, data and analytics division.



Denise Kovalevich M'03 owns and operates dmk Publicity LLC, a boutique PR and marketing agency that focuses on the music/entertainment, restaurant and business sectors. Kovalevich has more than 20 years' experience in public relations and has worked in several Philadelphia area agencies, national music PR firms and served as the PR manager at retail giant QVC for seven years. She also

volunteers her services to the Kisses for Kyle and Miles for Migraine nonprofits and helps organize annual benefit concerts for the Cancer Support Community (Philadelphia), Musicopia and many more. The firm is in King of Prussia, Pa. Visit her at dmkpublicit.com.

Sara Montalto '03 is vice president of the senior living team at Bluespire, a performance digital marketing agency based in Minneapolis. Montalto has more than 17 years of experience in senior living on both the agency and client sides.

She earned an MBA in marketing from La Salle University.

Leigh Paynter Martinez '04 has published "The Pine Barrens' Devil." The book contains four chapters, each set in a different time period and focusing on a separate set of characters. While at Rowan, Leigh was an entertainment stringer reporter for the Courier-Post and a special projects intern at WPVI 6ABC. After graduating, she worked as a news photojournalist in Sarasota, Fla. A year later, she left to serve in the Peace Corps in

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Armenia. After that, she earned a master's at S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She returned to Sarasota for a brief period before moving to California to work in TV news. The book is available on Amazon. Visit her at leighpaynter.com.

David Mazeika '04 is an assistant professor of criminology at The College of New Jersey. He earned a doctorate in criminology and criminal justice at the University of Maryland while working full time at the Statistical Analysis Center at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in Washington, D.C., an independent agency with a mission of improving public safety across the district.

Mike Van Hise '04 is vice president and general manager of the Boise Hawks, a minor league baseball team in Boise, Idaho. The Hawks are in the Class A-Short Season Northwest League and are affiliated with the Colorado Rockies. Photo, page 78.

Stephen Robinson '05 and **Patrice Martin Robinson '06** announce the 2019 birth of Melody. Photo, p. 80.

Christina Paciolla Stahl '05 is the Associated Press state news editor for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio, managing 17

reporters. Previously, she was an AP desk editor and news supervisor, city editor for Metro Philadelphia newspaper, political reporter for *NJ.com* and freelancer for South Jersey Magazine and its sister publications.

Lauren Schoener Gaynor '06 and **Martin Gaynor '05** welcomed their third child and first boy, Gabriel, on Nov. 9, 2019. Gabriel joined his two sisters, Mia, 6, and Fiona, 3. The Gaynors met at Rowan and married on Nov. 1, 2008. The family resides in South Jersey along with their rescue pup, Ralphie. Photo, p. 80.

Varsay Lewis '06 is a counselor at Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. Lewis previously served as a business development specialist for transition students in Philadelphia and is the founding moderator of the Anti-Bullying Club and a head moderator organizing the annual senior class trip. He is also head coach of Camden Catholic's varsity boys' soccer team.

Katrine Bengaard DO'07 was part of an all-female team of health care workers who vaccinated people against COVID-19 in remote Alaskan villages last winter. The team of Bengaard, a pharmacist and two nurses traveled in bitter weather by plane, sled and snowmobile to

deliver the vaccine to elderly people who could not travel. They trekked hundreds of miles to multiple villages to deliver 65 vaccinations.

Stephanie Spagnola Byrwa '07 and Brian Byrwa welcomed Lily Mae on February 11. She joined brother Luke. Photo, p. 80.

Dennis Emory '07, M'18 and his wife, Allie, welcomed their first child, Jacob, on May 12, 2020.

Andrea Keely Gaetano '07 and her husband, Thomas, announce the June 2019 birth of Summer. Photo, p. 80.

Michael Jasorka '07, along with editor Kirk Hastings, has written "The Wildwood Days of Doo Wop." The book chronicles the largest collection of mid-century motels in Wildwood and explores the music of the early vocal groups that came to Wildwood, which allowed the resort town to deliver some of rock 'n' roll's earliest hits. Jasorka, a cartoonist, offers his creations at bombshell-comics.com. Photo, p. 68.

Joe Lizza M'07, D'17 is chair of the NACA Foundation Board of Trustees. Lizza directs the Rowan Student Center & Campus Activities. He is also

Run, Wojos, run!

Olivia Wojtowicz '16 and her mom, Kelly, are racing across the USA

It started with the Marauder Trotter, a 5K along the shores of Lake Erie in Dunkirk, NY.

Olivia Wojtowicz '16 isn't sure where or when "Race in Every State" will end.

"We don't have a timeline, really," says Wojtowicz, who, in 2016, joined with her mom, Kelly, to devote themselves to running a 5K in every state. Thus far, they've completed 5Ks—and sometimes 10Ks and even a few half-marathons—in 29 of 50 states.

Known on Instagram as the Running Wojos, the pair began running together when Olivia was in middle school.

"My mom and I liked running together," says Wojtowicz, who earned her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Rowan and swam four years for Profs Coach Tony Lisa.

"Race in Every State" had an impromptu and inauspicious start.

"Our first race was unplanned. We were in upstate New York on vacation and we found a tiny, little 5K and we said, 'Let's start right now.'"

From the Night Nation Run in Englishtown to the Wyoming Law Enforcement Memorial 5K in Cheyenne to the All State Hot Chocolate 5K in snowy Indianapolis, Olivia and Kelly have gained intimate views of the U.S. and its citizens. Moreover, their races have raised money to benefit veterans, provide toys for needy kids, and support first responders, among many other causes.

Their favorite races include the Cooper River Bridge Run in Charleston, SC—which drew 40,000 runners—and the Rock 'n' Roll Savannah in Georgia. Their farthest race so far was in California.

"Usually, we both agree we need a vacation, so we just take off," Wojtowicz says. "I've loved getting to learn more about every area of the United States, about what makes a certain area special and learning more about the people. It's really cool."



Olivia Wojtowicz '16 and her mom, Kelly, finished the Rock 'n' Roll Chicago Half-Marathon in 2019 as part of their Race In Every State goal. Thus far, they've completed races in 29 states. "We have so many memories together," Wojtowicz says

"Race in Every State" has brought the mother-daughter duo closer, says Wojtowicz, who works as a physician assistant in Delaware. Kelly, who also is mom to Olivia's brother, Nathan '19, is a labor and delivery nurse in Centreville, MD, a position she's had for more than 30 years. Additionally, she's a group fitness instructor and a personal trainer.

On the race course, Olivia and Kelly run at their own paces, with Olivia usually recording faster times. But they're a team ... bound by their commitment to fitness, to their challenge, and to each other, she says.

"We have so many memories together," says Wojtowicz, adding that their matching "Race in Every State" tank tops are conversation starters among other runners. "Sometimes my pace is a little bit better and she usually knows I'll go up ahead. But, after I finish, I always run back to the finish line to cheer her on."

Wojtowicz will take a bit of a break from racing this year to get married, but the pair is determined to hit all 50 states in the months and years ahead.

"Next up will be Vegas or Arizona next year. It feels good to go out there and move," she says.



Ready to run, coach!

Coach Ringo

Adamson '83 met Colton Haney, the next generation of Rowan cross country, visiting with mom, **Jena Peacock Haney '12**. Note, page 85.

an adjunct instructor and deputy Title IX coordinator. Before joining Rowan, he served in evening and weekend programming and student union operations at Stockton University.

Hilary Blum Sculthorpe '07 and **Bryan Sculthorpe '07** announce the birth of their son, Sonny, on April 29, 2020. Photo, p. 80.

Steven Calakos '08 is director of education at Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla. While teaching in elementary, middle and high schools, Steven served as founder and artistic director of CHS Theatrical, a New Jersey-based independent theatre company that produced numerous productions as well as the annual South Jersey Student Theatre Festival for high schoolers. He also taught theater arts at Vineland High School,

where he founded the Visual and Performing Arts Academy. He was also director of theater productions for Vineland All Middle School Productions and a teacher and drama club director at Petway Elementary School. He has worked throughout the greater Philadelphia area as an actor, singer and model, and has developed and facilitated education programs with community partners such as the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

Rosie Braude Esposito '08, M'09 and **Greg Esposito M'10, EdS'12** announce the birth of their second child, Franco Robert, on Dec. 22, 2020. Photo, p. 80.

William Huggins '08 organized and helped facilitate two meetings for the National Institutes of Health involving 300 researchers participating in the NIH All of Us research program. The program asks volunteers from across the U.S. to help speed up medical research by sharing information about their health, habits and what it's like where they live. By looking for patterns, researchers learn more about what affects people's health.

Alycia Larson '08 doesn't mind being known as "The Geography Lady," a title she has earned by spreading her worldly knowledge across

the Philadelphia area. Larson, a former teacher, believed she could heighten awareness of other cultures by touring schools and libraries, offering free events for children of all ages. Larson's upcoming events can be found on her website: thegeographylady.com.

Dan Lee '08, head football coach at Monroe Township High School in Middlesex County, was named the Home News Tribune Coach of the Year for guiding Monroe to its first winning season since 2014. Lee, who teaches physical education at Monroe, was an offensive lineman on Rowan's football team and was its captain for two years.

Justin List '08, a men's soccer team member in 2006-07, is part of the Kangaroo Crew at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, working as an emergency air and ground transport respiratory therapist. Photo, p. 52.

Amy Ovsiew Recine '08 and her husband, John, welcomed William in October 2020. Photo, p. 80.

Raven Santana '08 is a NJ Spotlight News correspondent. Before joining NJTV, she studied in Rome for a year, interned at a radio station, worked at Fox and NBC TV affiliates and reported for FIOS-1.

Patti Smith HD'08 will be inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in October.

Michael Wright '08 is director of workforce development and apprenticeship education for Associated Builders and Contractors, New Jersey Chapter. He began his career as a teacher in the United Kingdom, and later returned to southern New Jersey, transitioning to sales and sales training in the private sector and serving as a board member for various organizations in education. ABC is a national association representing 21,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms in 69 chapters across the United States.

Keith '06 and **Crystal '09 Hackett** welcomed their third child, Olivia Grace on November 04, 2019. Photo, p. 80.

Brookshield Laurent DO'09, chair and associate professor for the department of clinical medicine at NYIT-College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University, serves on the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' Board of Directors. NBOME is an independent nonprofit that provides competency assessments for osteopathic medical licensure and related health care professions.

Laurent is also the executive director for the Delta Population Health Institute, the community engagement arm for NYITCOM at the university. She is a fellow of the AACOM Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship and the Physician Leadership Institute.

Steve Lerner '09 is a senior reporter at Law360 covering the legal industry. Lerner formerly was startups and financials editor at PhocusWire, where he covered technology in travel, tourism and hospitality. Before that, he worked at Enterprise Mobility Exchange as an editor. He also worked at Pleroma Media and Spine Media.

Ashley Shaw '09 is a board member of Covenant House, an organization that provides services to help young adults become self-sufficient, including street outreach, crisis care, stable housing, health and wellness services, education, employment and life skills training. She has helped raise awareness and funds for Covenant House, and the organization honored her at the Camden Community Sleep Out in March 2020 at the Kroc Center in Camden. Photo, p. 85.

Joseph Zlotek '09, M'20 is a school administrator.



Committed to Covenant '09

Covenant House honored Ashley Shaw '09 for her support. Note, p. 84.

10s

Petisa Anglin '10 is one of 40 women featured in Gail Watson's "Voices of the 21st Century: Resilient Women Who Rise and Make a Difference." The book is a collaboration of women sharing their stories of overcoming struggles, empowerment and encouragement. It was released on Feb. 23, 2021.

Tessa L. Belluscio '10, who teaches at the I.S. Kosloff Torah Academy in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., was awarded a fellowship in 2020 by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. The fellowships support further study of American history by college students who aspire to teach American history. Belluscio was one of 49 recipients who competed with students from all 50 states, the District of

Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. islands and trust territories.

Jaclyne Huster '10 and her husband, Steven, welcomed Lillian on Nov. 13, 2018.

Jason Kreyling '10 and Bryanna Kreyling announce the birth of Lincoln on Feb. 12, 2020. Photo, p. 80.

La'Quetta Small D'10 is principal of Atlantic City High School, the largest Atlantic County high school. Small has been in education for 21 years, 14 of those at the administrative level in Atlantic City. She was principal of Pennsylvania Avenue School before being named to the high school post. Small earned a bachelor's degree from Stockton and a master's degree from Kean University. She is married to Marty Small, the city's mayor. The Smalls met while at Stockton University and have been together for 26 years.

Rebecca Timms '10 is lead publicist for Sesame Street.

Maria Costantini '11, a graduate student at the School of Life Sciences at the University of Hawaii, received the Maybelle F. Roth ARCS Award in Conservation Biology. The ARCS® Foundation, a nationally recognized nonprofit started and run entirely by women, provides funding to



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Renee Grant '11 is director of the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program and the Academic Opportunity Program at Hobart and Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y. Previously, she was the associate director of the Office of Intercultural Affairs. Before that, she was assistant director of housing operations.

Lauren Kuski '11, M'13 and **Charlie Kuski '11** welcomed Josephine Anne on February 23, 2021. Photo, p. 80.

Gabriel Lerman DO'11 is a partner at Sound Critical Care and director of simulation education at Nazareth Hospital in Philadelphia.

Amy Miele '11, M'12 and **Jeff Miele '11, M'13** welcomed Ari John on February 3, 2021. Photo, p. 80.

Christopher Negron '11 and his wife, Gisela, purchased their first home in August 2019. They also adopted a Chihuahua named Macy.

Michael Stouber '11 holds the record for winning the most money on CBS's "The Price Is Right." After facing off in the Showcase Showdown, he went home with

Weddings & engagements

- 1. **Waldy Diez Baldwin '13** and **Max Baldwin**; note, p. 88.
- 2. **Sarah Kalvaitis Schuh '17** and **Ricky Schuh '16**; note, p. 92
- 3. **Rachel White Giambrone '14** and **Steven Giambrone '14**; note, p. 90.
- 4. **Patricia Frey Gleimer '12** and **Evan Gleimer DO'12**; note, p. 88.
- 5. **Lauren Ferguson Case '15** and **James Case '16**; wedding party from left: **Ashley Force Case '15**, **Caitlin Donahue '14**, **Kacie Capozzoli Miller '16**, **Andrew Plucinsky '16**, **Brendan Rush '16**, **Samuel Case '13**, **Gregory Case '18**, **Ryan Miller '16**, note, p. 90.
- 6. **Alyssa Cowling '15** and **Scott Cowling**; note, p. 90.
- 7. **Jessica Catts Scharnagle '13** and **Christopher Scharnagle '15**; note, p. 88.
- 8. **Kimberly Hutchins Erbicella '16** and **John "JP" Erbicella '16** note, p. 92.
- 9. **Ashley Force Case '15** and **Samuel Case '13, M'14**; note, p. 90.
- 10. **Maria Brasco '15** and **Felix Wurmbach '14**; note, p. 90.

South Jersey's trail boss

Father, teacher, storyteller, hiker—like all of us, alumnus Mike McCormick is a lot of things.

But the side of him that most people know best—trail blogger—is one even he never saw coming.

McCormick '07, who started blogging about strolls with his wife and kids eight years ago simply as a way to express his joy in getting out for a walk, found instead the one elusive thing that all writers crave: an audience.

To date, his SouthJerseyTrails.org site has attracted some 1.3 million views. His readers—drawn to his folksy, family-oriented and informative entries—log on for info on where to hike (South Jersey and the state at large are teeming with places), what to see (bogs, bays, hills, hideaways, trails, terrain, you name it) and how to find it all.

McCormick said it all started with his first son. The new father simply wanted to get out of the house and give his wife a break, so he took his son for a walk.

“My thought process was, well, I know a couple of trails, but they weren't enough, so I started looking for books on where to hike,” he said. “It turned out that 90 percent of the hikes were in North Jersey and I didn't want to drive four hours to take my son for a one-hour hike.”

So, he explored close to home, opening up a world of wonder and adventure for himself and his readers.

McCormick, who graduated with degrees in history and education, said his hikes often have a historical bent, and practically everything he sees and learns goes into a blog post.

“There's tons of history all around us,” he said. “Walking through the Pinelands you might come across an old ironworks or,



over by Rancocas Creek in Burlington County, an ancient Native American village.”

A long-time casual hiker, McCormick's treks have led practically anywhere his Converse-clad feet can carry him, including through hundreds of miles of the Appalachian trail and, with his wife Alix, more than half of America's national parks.

Still, the third-grade teacher for Pennsauken Public Schools says there's plenty to see and do nearby. His firsthand, on-the-ground reports (“Difficulty: 7 of 10—your legs will feel these hills the next day!” and “This stretch of trail had a bazillion deer. I saw at least six or seven of them.”), help explain his blog's popularity.

“My favorite trail has to be the Franklin Parker Preserve in Chatsworth, Burlington County,” he said. “It goes right through the Pinelands, winding through old cranberry bogs that are now a nature preserve. There are two giant Adirondack chairs that someone hauled out and built years ago, and there's a rope bridge like in Indiana Jones that passes over the Wading River.”

A big fan of hikes that are under 30 minutes from his Camden County home, McCormick highly recommends Palmyra Nature Cove at the base of the Palmyra Bridge along the Delaware River, Crow's Woods in Haddonfield where, one time,

Mike McCormick hikes often with his family and shares tips for others to enjoy the great outdoors. In Wenonah Woods this summer, he retraced a trek he described in his blog as “a few trails on hillsides with tricky footing... always worth the walking.”

“we were lucky enough to see a beaver,” and Blueberry Hill in Gibbsboro “where you can see the Philadelphia skyline from the top of the hill.”

McCormick said he's a proud New Jerseyan who, in writing about his experiences, is not just cataloguing things to do and places to see but providing a service as he boosts the often-battered image of the Garden State.

In fact, though his website has “South Jersey” in its name, it offers options for hiking, camping and traveling in the central and northern portions of the state, plus a few in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Treks outside the eight southern counties include the John A. Roebling Memorial Park in Hamilton Township, Mercer County, and a challenging excursion (he rates hikes by difficulty, among other measures) around Sunfish Pond in Worthington State Park in Columbia, Warren County.

“It was for my own purposes in the beginning but, as it turned out, there was need,” he said. “I'm not the only one looking for places to go and our region has lots of them.”



Alumni bookshelf
Charlene Goddard '14 tells a story about a little girl on a mission. Note, p. 90.

country course. She also wanted her son, Colton, to meet the coach who meant so much to her. Photo, page 84.

Brigid Burgin Hoempler '12 and her husband, Erik, welcomed Cervando on Oct. 9, 2020. Photo, p. 80.

Colleen Kebles Imler '12 and Kyle Imler announce the birth of their first child, Adeline, on July 28, 2020.

Tiffany Reed M'12 is director of the Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. Reed was previously director of multicultural programs and services at Butler University in Indianapolis. Before that, she was program coordinator for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Maryville University of St. Louis. She was a resident director at the University of Pittsburgh, Reed earned a doctorate in higher education administration and leadership from Maryville University.

Rachel Riley '12 is an assistant professor in Rowan's biomedical engineering department. She earned a doctorate at the University of Delaware and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. In

2020, she received a Career Award from the Biomedical Engineering Society and was a NIH F32 Fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Her research specialties are drug delivery, nanotechnology, prenatal therapy and gynecological cancers.

Waldy Diez Baldwin '13 married Max Baldwin in October 2020. She is a digital producer on Gannett's New England Digital Optimization Team. Max is a *New York Times* senior web developer. Photo, page 86.

Daniel Cendo '13 and **Deborah Dunn Cendo '13** announce the birth of Charlotte on July 15, 2019 and Dean on June 24, 2021. Photo, page 80.



Michael Stanley Czahor '13 earned a doctorate in statistics at Iowa State University, where he also earned a master's degree. While he was working on the master's degree, the prestigious Fraunhofer Research Institute in Hanover, Germany, hired him as a research consultant. In 2013, the National Science Foundation awarded Czahor a fellowship to pursue statistical research in wind energy.

Jordan DiPinto '13 is in-house counsel at TD Bank. He earned his J.D.

from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2017 and began his career as an associate in the business litigation practice group of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in Philadelphia, where he advised clients on commercial litigation with a focus on cases involving accounting and valuation issues, including appraisal and merger and acquisition litigation. Jordan lives in South Jersey, with his wife, **Danielle DiPinto '13**, and 1-year-old daughter, Olivia.

George Koch '13, founder and executive vice president of sales and marketing for Mount Laurel-based Extended Care Systems, has joined Allentown, Pa.-based senior services pharmaceutical provider Phoebe Pharmacy as business development specialist. In addition to his role at Extended Care, his additional position at Phoebe makes him responsible for driving customer acquisition and retention, as well as leveraging technologies for pharmacy services. Phoebe provides pharmaceutical services for thousands of personal care, assisted living, independent living and skilled nursing residents throughout eastern Pennsylvania. It is part of Phoebe Ministries, a nonprofit that operates independent living and personal care communities, as well as skilled

nursing facilities in four Pennsylvania counties.

John Laszkow '13 is a SiriusXM refresh specialist and a weekend on-air talent at 95.9 WRAT-FM, part of the Beasley Broadcast Group in Lake Como. He married in 2018 and has a daughter, Jamie.

Jessica Catts Scharnagle '13 and **Christopher Scharnagle '15** married on Oct. 5, 2019. They met in the TV studio in Bozorth Hall. Photo, page 86.

Kimberly Davis '13, a two-time Emmy Award winner, is an #HTownRush morning anchor at KHOU 11 in Houston. Previously, she worked at CBS3 KYW in Philadelphia and WTVF in Nashville, Tenn. She was also a reporter at KTTC in Rochester, Minn. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the National Association of Black Journalists. While at Rowan, Davis interned with Comcast Sportsnet Philadelphia.

Lauren Gregg Tegen '13 and her husband, Lonnie, announce the June 24 birth of Declan. He joins Dylan, who was born April 29, 2019.

Adam Angelozzi D'14 is superintendent of the Point Pleasant School District. Previously, he was principal of Manalapan High School and taught at New Egypt

\$262,743. He also won a trip to Fiji and a new car. The hardest part about winning: He could not tell anyone about it until the taped show aired.

Knetta Adkins M'12 is the organizing manager at GHF (Georgians for a Healthy Future). She is a certified doula with DONA International, where she also serves as a member of the Birth Equity subcommittee, a group that works to advocate for and strengthen maternal health care practices that ensure equitable treatment for all people. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Virginia.

Patricia Frey Gleimer DO'12 and **Evan Gleimer DO'12** married in 2018, nine years after meeting at SOM. Photo, p. 86.

Jena Peacock Haney '12 traveled from her North Carolina home to visit former college coach, Derik "Ringo" Adamson and the new cross-

Rowan family, through and through

Rowan Gabrielle Otero thinks her name is cool. “I like it because it’s different,” the spirited 9-year-old says. “I’ve never met another Rowan.”

Everywhere they look in their Toms River home—from their daughter’s smile to the blanket on their bed—Army National Guard Captain David Otero ’09 and Jessica Harhigh Otero ’08 are reminded of their love for Rowan University.

“We have a lot of fun memories that we shared at Rowan. We loved being there,” says Jessica, a radio/television/film alumna.

In spring of 2007, David and Jessica both took “Experiencing Acting,” an elective for non-majors. As a final project, they were paired up to present a 15-minute scene as a married couple. Jessica’s costume was culled from a local thrift store.

“An old, floor-length granny nightgown,” she laughs.

“An awesome, cute nightgown,” David jokes.

Despite the frumpy frock, the scene resonated with both of them...and not just because they earned As.

“I think the sparks were always there,” Jessica says. “I felt an instant connection.”

The two remained friends through college and spent their time involved

in their studies and Greek life. By the summer of 2008, Jessica had graduated and David, who was involved in Rowan’s ROTC program, returned from basic training and medic school with the Army National Guard. He completed his Law & Justice Studies degree the following year and was commissioned as a military police officer.

By then, Jessica had moved to Colorado and worked in video production for the Colorado Rockies. David joined her. In 2011, they were married. Two moves later—to Alabama for flight school and a return stint to Colorado—they returned to New Jersey, where David now serves as co-commander in the Army National Guard. Additionally, David is a pilot for American Airlines. In 2014, he served in Afghanistan.

Choosing their first daughter’s name—



Thanks to college-days memories and continuing ties to David and Jessica’s alma mater, the Otero family is all-Rowan, all the time.

they also have a 6-year-old daughter named Riley Joanna—was a no-brainer, they say. Rowan’s middle name, Gabrielle, is the nickname Jessica took when she was paired with her Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority big sister.

In fall of 2019, David, who pilots Black Hawk helicopters, learned that his unit was doing a flyover at a Rowan football game on Military Appreciation Day. He lobbied to land the assignment.

“I told them I’d love to do that since I went to school there,” he says. He parked the helicopter on the grass near Rowan Hall, greeting administrators and Prof fans. From the air and on the ground, he was reminded of why he chose Rowan in the first place.

“I loved Rowan’s open campus,” says David, who played rugby at Rowan and belonged to Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. “When I went on my first tour of campus, I fell in love immediately.”

Rowan and Riley have yet to visit Rowan. But that’s a goal, they agree.

“They haven’t been on campus yet,” David says. “But we’d love to take them,” adds Jessica. “If it hadn’t been for our school, we wouldn’t be a family today.”



David Otero and President Ali Houshmand visited on campus when Otero flew a Black Hawk helicopter to participate in Military Appreciation Day at his alma mater in 2019.



Alumni bookshelf

LaVon Williams D'17 wrote with college students in mind. Note, p. 92.

High School and Barnegat High School, where he designed and implemented new curricular programs for physics, chemistry and physical science. He also served as a K-12 district science and technology supervisor at Barnegat and an assistant principal at Freehold Township High School. Angelozzi's wife, Dayna, is a high school biology teacher. They have three daughters.

Ariel Gordon Basch '14 and **Jacob Basch '14** welcomed their first daughter, Raegan, in Nov. 2020. Photo, p. 80.

Charlene Goddard '14 wrote and published "Magnificent Macie," a children's book. It's about a little girl who discovers that she is a superhero on a mission to help people around the world. Visit magnificentmacie.com.

Rachel White Giambrone '14 and **Steven Giambrone '14** married on March 20, after 12 years of dating. Rachel was part of Rowan Radio and Steven was on the math team. Photo, page 86.

Jason Love M'14 published his first book, "Slices of Americana: A Road Trip Through American Baseball History," at Sunbury Press. He thanks all the professors who helped him tighten his writing, especially Ed Moore and Richard Earl.

Greg Payton '14 is vice president for diversity and inclusion at PNC Bank and a Rowan adjunct professor. He also serves on Samaritan's Board of Directors. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix and a master's degree in entrepreneurship and innovation from Drexel University. A retired senior officer in the Army Reserve, Payton has numerous service awards and honors, including the Meritorious Service Medal.



Darryl A. Pratt II '14, M'16 is senior manager, social media strategy at Cognizant.

Rosetta Treece D'14 is superintendent of the Hopewell Valley Regional School District in Pennington. She

is the first African American to serve in this capacity and the second woman. Previously, she was assistant superintendent, director for curriculum and instruction, principal and vice principal. During her career at other schools, she was a high school English teacher, a literacy coach for secondary schools and a vice principal. She earned a bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey and a master's from Grand Canyon University.

Maria Brasco '15 and **Felix Wurmbach '14** are engaged to be married in May 2022. They met when Maria did football sideline coverage for RTN and Felix played for the Profs. Maria is social media manager for Mattio Communications, coordinating its broad cannabis industry portfolio. Felix earned his J.D. from Rutgers Law in 2019 and is an associate with Brown & Connery, where he concentrates his practice in various commercial matters. Photo, p. 86.

Ashley Force Case '15 and **Samuel Case '13, M'14** married on Sept. 1, 2019. They met while she was a resident assistant and he was a resident director. They are especially thankful for Residential Learning and University Housing. Because their classes were on opposite

sides of campus, they may have never crossed paths if it weren't for working together for RLUH. Photo, page 86.

Lauren Ferguson Case '15 and **James Case '16** married on Nov. 30, 2019. All wedding party members were Rowan alumni. Photo, p. 86.

Alyssa Hart Cowling '15 married Scott Cowling in November 2019. They moved into their first home in February 2020 and adopted a second dog. Photo, p. 86.

Nick Dennis '15 is the founder and CEO of fitDEGREE, a studio management software for fitness businesses. The software offers a unique and customer-centric approach to development. He had his startup funded before graduating.

Jess Durnian '15 is a morale, welfare and

recreation fitness coordinator for the Navy. The former Prof women's soccer player works at the Naval Weapons Station Earle in Colts Neck and the Leonardo section of Middletown. She provides fitness and sports recreational activities to active-duty personnel and their families.

Amber Mathes '15 has worked on a number of films and on various CBS TV shows as a camera department member. She was a camera crew member on "The Week Of," an Adam Sandler film, "The Irishman," with Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, and on CBS' "FBI."

Debra DeVoe '16, an advanced clinical educator at Virtua Health and Rehabilitation Center in Mount Holly, was interviewed by Nurse.com about a doctoral dissertation on Hispanic



West Coast network

Adam Chazen '08 dropped in at the Warner Bros. studio lot in Los Angeles to visit fellow communication alumni **Zugey Garcia '19** (left), **Maria Brasco '14** and **Lauren Rauffer Babcock '16**, all staffers at The Ellen DeGeneres Show, in 2019.

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class notes

nursing students. She is also a mentor for Thomas Edison State University.

Kimberly Hutchins

Erbicella '16 and John

"JP" Erbicella '16 married on Sept. 19, 2019. They have been together since the second week of classes. Photo, p. 86.

Courtney Mahnken '16

and **Nick Monguso '17**, who were born next to each other in the same New Jersey hospital 26 years ago, got engaged in November 2020 and plan to marry in June 2022. The couple attended the same elementary school, became friendly in middle school, broke up in high school, but always remained in contact.

Sammi Caramela '17

published "Some Place Like Home" with Metal Lunchbox Publishing, a story about a high school senior who has obsessive compulsive disorder. Her book is available on Amazon. She also has created an accompanying playlist to the novel, which is available on Spotify. Sammi is the content manager for digital marketing agency Lightning Media Partners. Before that, she worked as a business journalist and freelance writer.

Michael Manning M'17,

who teaches math and science to special needs students at Soehl Middle School in Linden, was

among those chosen as "Teachers Who Make Magic" by the New Jersey Education Association and the radio station Magic 98.3 FM.

Anthony Oliveira '17,

a Kearney police officer, was chosen 2020 Cop of the Year by the Kearny Police Department's Valor Committee. He also received several Narcotics Interdiction awards for seizing narcotics and currency and a Life Saving Award, along with other members of his tour, for their work in providing CPR to a person on Newark Turnpike.

Sarah Kalvaitis Schuh '17

and **Ricky Schuh '16** married on Oct. 16, 2020. They first met at Rowan Radio and have been inseparable ever since. Photo, p.86.

LaVon Williams D'17

published "Dreams of Being Hova," a book to help college students stay focused and achieve their goals. He is also the president and founder of nonprofit The Men of the Tenth Inc.

Nicole Wyglendowski '17

teaches special education in Philadelphia. As a Fulbright Scholar in Taiwan, she taught English in first through sixth grades.

Traci Denise Bethea '18

is a certified strength and wellness coach who owns Turtle Fitness

and Performance, a business she opened only three months after graduating from Rowan. Through her company, Traci services clients through a virtual studio that provides live and prerecorded classes for fitness and live health coaching sessions.

Shane Doherty '18 is a

Galway United soccer team member in Ireland.

Danielle Kelley Fala

'18 married on Feb.

14, 2019, and has a son. Photo, p. 80.

David Nipps '18 proposed

to **Angelica Ritorto '18** on Nov. 27, 2020, in front of Bunce Hall. The two have been dating since they met at Orientation in 2014. Before proposing, David sent Angelica on a scavenger hunt throughout memorable places at Rowan and the Glassboro area. The hunt included the courtyard of her first dorm, the football stadium, Cookie Munchers and other spots. It ended at Bunce Hall with rose petals, a violin duet, families hiding behind the bushes—and the proposal. Photo, above.

Meghan Wren '18 was

featured in a Yale Environment 360 article about residents of the Delaware Bay community of Money Island in Cumberland County. Story, p. 30.



Another memory made on campus

David Nipps '18 proposed to **Angelica Ritorto '18** at Bunce Hall. They met in 2014 as new students and have been together since. Note, this page.

Devon Dyer '19 is major events operations manager for Degy Booking International/ Degy Entertainment. Formerly, she was the entertainment coordinator at the Tropicana Atlantic City.

Tyler Fehsal '19 is a Camden County police officer. She lives in Cherry Hill.

David Filippone '19 is the athletic trainer and conditioning coach for the Spokane Chiefs, a member of the U.S. Division of the Western Hockey League. Before moving to Spokane, he was the head athletic trainer for the Clayton schools. While there, the softball team, as well as both the boys' and girls' track and field teams, all won New Jersey state championships. No Clayton team had won a state title since the school started in 1909. He also worked

as an athletic trainer at Camden County College and as a strength and conditioning intern at The Energy Lab in Pitman.

Kayvon Jahanbakhsh '19 and **Mike Lombardo '18** produce and market Halfday, a healthy tea. Designing their own drink evolved due to Jahanbakhsh being diagnosed with a digestive disease. He had to give up many things he enjoyed, including iced tea. To help his digestive system, he started incorporating prebiotic ingredients or natural herbs into teas, with the same flavor profiles as other iced teas. After launching in 2018, Jahanbakhsh and Lombardo overhauled the brand, focusing more on incorporating prebiotics and changing the name from Topos to Halfday. Halfday is now in more than 150 stores across New

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class notes

Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

Tiffani Mironski '19, a second lieutenant in the New Jersey National Guard is the Guard's first female armor officer and joins only a handful of women serving as a combat arms leader.

Scott Roseboro '19 is the owner and operator of HardPlaceVisuals LLC, a traveling multimedia company based in Orlando, Fla. The firm produces commercials, short films, headshots, brand photography and concept shoots. He earned a master's degree in film and production from Full Sail University.

Connor Schmiegel '19, associate director of public affairs at the NJ Food Council, was named to InsiderNJ's "Millennials to Watch," which lists up-and-coming political insiders in the state. Connor joined NJFC in December 2019 just after finishing a campaign in one of New Jersey's 2019 legislative races.

Rbrey Singleton '19, a student at the University of Massachusetts Law School, received the Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland Leadership and Juvenile Advocacy Award from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association. The award supports the develop-

ment of students who have exhibited a commitment to outstanding leadership and a passion for juvenile advocacy. At Rowan, Singleton was an Achieving the Dream Scholar and received awards including the Thomas E. Robinson University Leadership Medallion.

Kaitlyn Trimble '19 is an engineering planning associate at Lockheed Martin.

20s

Shelby Money '20, former Rowan women's soccer goalkeeper, is playing for the Racing Louisville Football Club of the National Women's Soccer League. Money previously was a reserve player for the Washington Spirit and a nonrostered goalkeeper for Sky Blue FC and OL Reign. She also was the goalkeepers coach at St. Joseph's University. While at Rowan, she was named to the United Soccer Coaches Association All-America third team and the Scholar All-America second team. She was chosen the New Jersey Athletic Conference Goalkeeper of the Year and tied the University record for career wins (50).

Forest Lai DO'20, was recognized as part of the



Because they're there

Donald Brasco '19 (right) summited Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro in June 2018 with fellow Rowan Police Officer Michael Bonstead. Since then, the two also climbed peaks over 14,000 ft. in Bolivia and Colorado. Last December, they completed a 50K run to raise funds for suicide prevention among law enforcement professionals.



On the road again

Steve Solkela '19 continues to make music on his accordion ... sometimes as a one-man band and sometimes with friends. His post-Glassboro gigs have taken him to Arizona for the VW Jerome Jamboree (above), as well as to Michigan, Wisconsin, North Dakota, all across his home state of Minnesota, and even to Finland. Along the way, he continued to build his YouTube channel, learned how to walk on stilts, and attempted to set a world record for running a 5-K while playing the accordion.

Exceptional Moments in Teaching program of Penn State Health and Penn State College of Medicine. He is an internal medicine resident at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

Abby Leyh '20 wrote, directed and sound-designed "Colors in the Dark," the Bellarine Theatre Co.'s first production since 2019.

Alyssa Sullivan '20, was crowned Miss New Jersey in June. She won the on-stage interview/social impact pitch preliminary award for her Peer Challenge Commit to Character program. She also won a talent award for singing "Gimme Gimme" from the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie." This was the sixth time she competed in the state pageant.



Camryn Hadley '21 was awarded the 2020

PRSA NJ Future Public Relations Professional of the Year scholarship, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson. This annual award recognizes an undergraduate student who demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of public relations and commitment to the profession.

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Remembrances

Fond eulogies of campus friends offered by AFT colleagues

Gene Elliott

Psychology Department

Gene V. Elliott, 89, longtime Glassboro resident, died January 23, 2020, in Onancock, Virginia. Dr. Elliott taught at Glassboro State/Rowan University from 1963 to 1998. He served as department chair for several years before retiring.

Dr. Elliott held a B.S. and M.S. from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. He served four years in the Marine Corps and was a member of the Glassboro School Board. He was instrumental in establishing the Together Crisis Hotline and the Together Youth Shelter in Glassboro, one of the first shelters in the nation for run-away and homeless youth. He also served as director of the Newark district YMCA Kamp Kiamesha. He was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pitman.

A talented clarinetist and saxophone player, he often performed with his late wife, Constance. He enjoyed playing tennis year-round for many years.

Dr. Elliott is survived by children Steven, Richard, Mary Lynne and Susan; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donations may be sent to the Michigan State University Crew Club through the Red Cedar Rowing Foundation, 308 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Richard Meagher

Biology Department

Richard Meagher, 79, of Glassboro, passed away March 24, 2020. Dr. Meagher taught at Glassboro State and Rowan University starting in 1969. During his 38 years on faculty, he was a mentor and friend to many.

Dr. Meagher earned his B.S./M.S. from Fairleigh Dickinson University and Ph.D. from St. Bonaventure University. In 1970, he created the Pre-Professional Program, serving as advisor until

retirement. Over the years, he assisted more than 300 students gain entrance to schools of medicine, podiatry, optometry, and dentistry, among others. He built relationships and affiliations with local, national and international universities.

He served as department chair for years and was passionate about helping students reach their goals, encouraging them even after he retired in 2007.

Dr. Meagher was an avid Rowan sports fan, a fixture at football games with Coach Wackar and colleagues in the “breakfast crew.”

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carole, and children Kelley (Joe Perucki), RJ (LisaMarie), Erin (John), and Mark (Christine), as well as 13 grandchildren and other loved ones.

Memorial donations may be made to the Richard Meagher Scholarship at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University via Rowan University Foundation, 201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro, NJ 08028, or the charity of your choice.

David Kapel

School of Education

David E. Kapel, 88, of Henderson, NV, died Dec. 24, 2020. Kapel joined the Secondary Education and Foundations Department in 1988 and retired in 2002 as professor. He also served as dean of the School of Education & Related Professional Studies.

Kapel held a B.S., M.Ed., and Ed.D. from Temple University. He returned to teaching after serving as dean and after retirement became an early member of the AFT Retirees Chapter, serving as treasurer.

Before coming to Glassboro State College, Kapel taught junior and senior high school mathematics and social studies for 10 years in the Philadelphia Public Schools. He published extensively in the areas of education, teacher education and educational research, and

is co-author of *The American Educators' Encyclopedia*.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn, as well as other family members.

David Longacre

Registrar's Office, Education Department

David Wilson Longacre, 91, of Trinity Oaks, Salisbury, North Carolina, died Feb. 26. Mr. Longacre was a member of the Department of Education and served in the Registrar's Office from 1961 until retirement as assistant registrar in 1989.

He received his B.A. from Gettysburg College and M.S. from University of Pennsylvania.

He is remembered by retirees as a “conscientious administrator with a true concern for disadvantaged students.”

Longacre is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Chloe, daughter Karen DeFrank, (Len); daughter-in-law, Leslie Longacre; several grandchildren and a great-grandson. He was a member of Kimball Lutheran Church in Kannapolis, N.C., where memorial contributions may be made.

Janet Caldwell

Mathematics Department

Janet Lynn Hudson Caldwell, 71, of Wallingford, Penn., passed away March 13. She joined the Mathematics Department at Glassboro State College in 1983, where she taught and mentored generations of aspiring teachers in mathematics. She also consulted with school districts to improve curriculum development in mathematics at the state, regional and national levels. She was the recipient of numerous awards during her 33 years of service and retired in 2016 as professor.

Caldwell earned a B.A. from Rice University, where she majored in mathematics, education and French; and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in math education research. She founded and directed the

STEM Center of Rowan for mathematics, computer, and science education outreach (McSiip). She received approximately \$11 million in grants to fund various projects during her tenure at Rowan. A prolific author, she wrote books, journal articles and book chapters.

A memorial scholarship for math education majors has been established at Rowan University. Please send contributions to the Rowan University Foundation, with a note on the memo line that says: Janet Caldwell Scholarship.

Chester "Chet" Zimolzak *Geography Department*

Chester E. "Chet" Zimolzak, 83, of Elizabethtown, passed away March 25. He was a member of the department of Geography, Planning & Sustainability from 1974 until his retirement in 2007 as associate professor.

Mr. Zimolzak held a B.A. and M.A. from Pennsylvania State University and M.A. from the University of Wisconsin.

Always a proud member and officer of the AFT Local 2373, he also served as president for four years. He lived in Pitman for many years, where he was an active member of the community, and also, for several years after retirement, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

He is survived by children Matthew, Thomas and Joanne, and five grandchildren. Donations may be made to the American Kidney Fund or Rowan University AFT Local 2373 Scholarship fund in his memory. Memories may be shared in the online guest book at thompsonfuneralhomelebanon.com

Eugene T. Simpson *Music Department*

Eugene Thamon Simpson, 89, of Sicklerville, passed away on May 2, 2021.

A vocal professor and conductor of several choral ensembles, Simpson joined the Glassboro State College Music Department as chair in 1975, serving until

1980 and retiring as professor of voice and choral literature in 2000.

Simpson held degrees in piano and vocal performance, with a B.M. from Howard University, a B.M. and M.M. from Yale University, and an Ed.D. from Columbia University. He enjoyed a versatile career as a professor, pianist, singer, conductor, arranger and author.

A personal friend, protégé and biographer of the esteemed conductor and composer Hall Johnson, he conducted his spirituals around the world, sang them in recital, and recorded them. Simpson appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and toured the world, entertaining troops with his Melodaires Quartet. He won a Tanglewood Fellowship and performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He recorded with major artists from Leontyne Price to James Brown.

Simpson is survived by children Eugene Tyra (Monica Harold) and Adrienne Adele, and three grandchildren. The family requests memorial donations be made to The Philadelphia Orchestra: philorch.org.

Lee A. Dinsmore *Chemistry Department*

Lee Alfred Dinsmore, 81, of Pedricktown, died May 27. He joined the Department of Chemistry & Physics in 1971 at Glassboro State College and during his tenure served as department chair. He also served as acting dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences for two years. He retired in 2002.

Dinsmore was a member of the AFT Retirees Chapter and a generous supporter of the scholarship programs. He graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Texas. He wrote a grant that helped establish the first computer lab in Bosshart Hall, among other research-oriented grants.

After his retirement, Lee and his wife, Jane, purchased a five-acre property

where they transformed a mostly open space into a legendary garden.

Dinsmore is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jane; children Joanna and Eric; two grandchildren and three brothers. A private celebration of his life was held. Visit htlayton.com to leave a note of condolence to his family.

Michael F. Kelly *Theatre & Dance Department*

Michael Francis Kelly, 89, of Ocean City and Glassboro, passed away June 30. Kelly joined the Department of Speech & Theatre at Glassboro State College as chair in 1961. He taught theatre history, directing and public speaking for some 40 years until his retirement in 1998 as professor.

He founded the much beloved Glassboro Summer Theater, serving as producer and frequent director for over 25 years. Kelly also founded and led an annual theatre tour in London for over 35 years, as well as other sites in Europe and around the world, popular with faculty, friends and devoted travelers.

Kelly held a B.A. from Elmhurst College, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the State University of Iowa. He was a fervent supporter of the arts in Philadelphia as a donor and subscriber.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 27 years, Barbara Rainear; his first wife, Verne Kelly; children Shawn (Biner), Kevin, Patrick, Terence and Darin; stepson Rus Rainear, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A public memorial service was held at Rowan on Oct. 10. Memorial gifts may be made to any local theatre company, including 1812 Productions in Philadelphia. Visit godfrey-funeralhome.com to share condolences with family.

Our sympathies

This issue's sympathies list is particularly, painfully long for three reasons: COVID-19 interrupted our publishing schedule, so we list losses from before our last issue (Fall 2019); improved records and research are finding more alumni obituaries; and the pandemic likely claimed many of our own among its victims. We are sad to share such an overwhelming list of friends lost. We trust that each name brings to mind a precious person who will be remembered with thanks and who inspires us to live life well and for the good of others.

Florence Zehyer Beddall '24
 Eleanore Hedrick Davey '26
 Minnie Gerson '27
 Elizabeth Newman '28
 Mildred Redlius '31
 Cordelia Howard Bounds '32
 Kathryn Soistmann '32
 Bertha Mackay Bradford '33, '56
 Esther Brenner Freed '33
 Elfie Hanson Larkin '33
 Esther Wolstencroft Aitken '34
 Edythe Guenther Drummond '34
 Elsie Steelman '34
 Hazel Walker Rowand '35
 Alice Scates '35
 Frances Levenson Seidman '36, '39
 Gladys Whilden '36
 Anna Cassano '37
 Dorothy Sickler Corrie '37
 Grace Moncrief Gravino '37
 Margaret Frankhouser Hill '37
 Evelyn Starky Nanassy '37
 Doris Godfrey Nolder '37, '55
 Doris Barrett Vanderslice '37, '52
 Betty Sullivan Wenger '37, '67
 Marie Tomlin Fluharty '39
 Doris Foster Frasier-Evans '39
 Mary Seeds Humphreys '39
 Pearl Litwak Lemberg '39
 Alma Peterson Moyer '39
 Anne Nickles '39, M'50
 Anne Sutton Parkes '39
 Eleanor Browne Totten '39
 Phyllis Dandois Bacher '40
 Marion Norcross Clark '40
 Elmira Howard Davis '40
 Helen Hearing Dyer '40
 John Mullin '40
 Elaine Claypool Elliott '41
 Juanita Browne Neal '41
 Marie Kirby Staulcup '41
 June Moehring Telaar '41
 Grace Driver Anderson '42
 Eleanor Werle Bayardi '42
 Doris Finkel Berkowitz '42
 Betty Emley Clark '42
 Elizabeth Thorpe Donahue '42
 Verna Shinn Hoblitzell '42
 Mary Vagliani Iacovelli '42
 Dorothy Baker Lamp '42
 Edith Frohboese Nelson '42
 Anne Sutton Parks '42
 Edythe Nickles Reinheimer '42
 Esther Roberts Rhodes '42

Jane Riggins Bradway '43
 Emily Godfrey Conklin '43
 Marvin Creamer '43
 Jennie Mokrynski '43
 George Oldham '43
 William Schwab '43
 Mary Webb Wright '43
 Eleanor Johnson Cole '45
 Elinor Warrington Dilks '45
 Elizabeth Pedrick Evans '45
 Florence Ritter Ferrarie '45
 Doris Waters Givens '45
 Marie Bullock Jamieson '45
 Jeanne Lewis '45
 Miriam Wilkinson Parker '45
 Jane Nack Challender '46
 Grace Goldy '46
 Irene Elliott Rickert '46
 Herbert Gansz '48
 Coletta Berger '49
 Jane Hickman Cafarelli '49
 Doris Beck McLarnon '49
 Arlene Drake Measley '50
 Alma Channell Taylor '49
 Agnes Boyle '50
 Marie Cairns Filippello '50
 Margaret Graham DiMatteo '51, M'68
 Wilma Jackson Farmer '51, M'69
 Reinhold Fehrenbach '51
 Dorothy Adams Heinze '51
 Barbara Campbell '52, M'76
 Audrey Clark '52
 Janet Snodgrass Hughes '52
 Dolores Luhrs '52
 Alf Rix '52
 Irene Benac '53
 Alta Dill Bogush '53
 Jeanette Carr '53
 Joan Giampietro Cotanis '53
 Barbara Davison '53
 Alice Goffredi Fellenbaum '53
 Frank Jaggard '53, M'63
 Doris Perini Luzietti '53
 Laurel Dirkes Nealer '53
 George Sevastakis '53
 Donald Tonkin '53
 Ruth Carroll Asselta '54
 June Fitzhugh Cobb '54
 Norma Whitcraft '54
 Doris Young '54
 Joseph Chinnici '55, M'64
 Edward Colangelo '55
 Ruth Cullen '55
 Anita Eberhart '55

Jean Foer '55
 Barbara Scarpa Gana '55
 Charlotte Neib Hann '55
 Dorothy Leslie Leslie Gernon '55
 Patricia Wright Ogle '55, M'66
 Richard Wiedmann '55
 Patricia Moorehouse Aristone '56
 Elizabeth Delrossi Martin '56
 Ruth Moir '56
 Helen Weidner Villec '56
 Charles Wiemer '56
 Josephine Gantt Wilson '56
 Barbara Dunn Conover '57
 Patricia Cunningham '57
 Kenneth Florentine '57, M'62
 Robert Freno '57
 Eulah Murray '57
 Isabella Craig '58
 Leonard Diloia '58
 Joan Smith Ferrante '58, M'69
 Ruth Bostic '59
 Donald Farnelli '59
 Dolores Harris '59, M'66
 Helen Ward Loeb '59
 Louis Mazzola '59, M'65
 Eugene McCann '59, M'69
 Marcia Pumpelly '59
 Nancy Steelman '59, M'85
 Jean Washington '59
 James Baine '60, M'68
 Maria Spinnato Bruge '60, M'82
 John de Vecchis '60
 Judith Harker Diloia '60
 Thaddeus Klepac '60
 Roger Maxwell '60
 George Patton '60, M'73
 Lois Schoeck '60
 Mary Backenson Sheppard '60, M'70
 Connie Stanko '60
 Alice Warech '60
 Elizabeth Martin Anderson '61
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 Geneva Johnson '61
 Tyson Kinsell '61
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 RoseMary Soltis Cheek '62
 Elizabeth Howard Delo '62
 David Dilks '62, M'67
 Barbara Sallard Gilliam '62
 Robert Kirkbride '62, M'66
 David Mooney '62
 Marjorie Rocap Parkhurst '62
 Elizabeth Riday '62
 Howard Shelton '62, M'80
 Gwen Bakos '63
 Marie Cronin Cronin-Hull '63
 Leo Polisano '63
 Margaret Savidge '63
 Maureen Schuler '63
 George Stoll '63, M'67
 Dorothea Valk '63
 Stephen Bobbins '64, M'71
 Lawrence Broomall '64, M'73
 Loreto Coia '64

Carl Evans '64
 Beth Ann Henrie Gambogi '64
 Susan Goodman Magod '64
 Constantino Rauzzino M'64
 Frank Young M'64
 Mary Setzer Bargerhuff '65
 Irene Bullock '65
 Anthony Butterhof '65, M'68
 Edwin Eckerson '65, M'69
 Richard Holladay '65
 Florence Hillman Meyer '65
 Judith Fisher Nidorf '65
 Kenneth Sobolowski '65, M'72
 Jacqueline Brandt DeClementi '66
 George Moore '66
 Martha Palmer M'66
 Bruce Pratt '66
 Gertrude Berret Randazzo '66
 Mattilyn Rochester M'66
 Ivan Subin '66
 John Swider '66, M'73
 Diane Stiles Cosaboon '67
 Gloria Rieger Dehaut '67
 Charles Fleischan '67, M'80
 Carole Gunby '67
 Lucille Harvey '67
 Ronald Manno '67, M'72
 Donald McGinnis '67
 Michael McHugh '67, M'03
 Frank McSorley M'67
 Ginnie Mitchell '67
 George Pratt '67, M'72
 Mildred Dorman Raich '67
 Peter Rose '67
 Joseph Schreiner '67
 Sherry Lankitus Warner '67
 Gus Bader '68
 Janice Bianculli Bader '68, M'79
 Anthony Calandra '68
 Raymond Gambone '68
 Michael Grobelmy '68, M'72
 Thomas Hatcher '68
 Peter Herral '68
 Lloyd Hildebrand '68
 Dennis Long '68
 Joanne Mossman Mathers '68, M'89
 Wayne Miller '68, M'73
 Diane Molnar '68
 Roseann Olive-Di Meglio '68
 Eileen Battaglia Paretto '68
 Jill Price '68
 Rosemarie Meloi Roffis '68
 Eve Shultzberg Rose '68, M'72
 Sandra Williams Benware '69
 Jean Brozina '69, M'75
 John Deangelis '69, M'75
 Lucian Janik M'69
 Rose Mayer '69
 Thelma Otto '69
 Lorraine Riesenbach M'69
 Marie Trombadone Arleth '70
 Rozena Bates '70
 Helen Bauer '70, M'73
 Anthony Cocove '70
 Stephen Combs M'70
 Diana Demianenko M'70
 Marlyn Dennison '70
 Paul Devine '70, M'71

Elsie Greenhalgh M'70
 Laura Jester '70
 Jeanne Koslowsky '70
 James Kovalsky '70
 Betty Long '70
 Joan Markowitz '70
 Janet Martz '70
 Diane McMahon '70
 Vera Murray M'70
 Bonnie DeEugenio Petroni '70
 John Roberts M'70
 William Ruebinger '70
 Patricia Sampoli '70
 Frances Ingram Satchell '70
 Jane Spoto '70
 Nina Spotts '70, M'72
 Linda Stewart '70
 Mark Tallant '70
 Joseph Visalli '70
 Marjory Marshall Wajda '70
 Christine Money Washkevich '70
 Margaret Wilson '70
 Edwin Bearer M'71
 Charles Beatty M'71
 Joann Monte Bisti '71
 Eleanora Cheney M'71
 Michael Chisarik '71
 Pamela Loeffel Erbe '71
 Elsie Ezzo '71
 Paul Frasnelli '71, M'75
 Bruno Gattuso M'71
 Robert Hanula '71
 Henry Haug M'71
 Betty Farr Henningsen '71
 Michael Killeen M'71
 Walter Kulba M'71
 Judith Lapihuska Monahan '71
 Evelyn Ready Perodeau '71
 Mary Previte M'71
 Dorothy Resnick '71
 Betsy Rogge '71
 Karyl Saulnier M'71
 Sara Stiles '71
 Kenneth Taylor M'71
 Deborah Oliphant Abdullah '72
 Norman Allison M'72
 Suzanne Kremin Bourque '72
 Andrea Burnbauer M'72
 Charles Bussom M'72
 Eleanor Casazza '72
 Grace Collins '72, M'82
 Mildred Drummond Cooke '72
 Brian Coopersmith '72
 Robert Daniels '72
 Janice Umosella De Nafu '72
 Joy Moore Downey '72
 Olive Eady '72
 Kerry Emgenbroich '72
 Kenneth Hahn '72
 William Hoin M'72
 Lynn Zimmerman Imgem '72
 Kyran Killian '72
 John Manning '72
 Janice McCann '72
 Tina Pierpont '72
 Joseph Rugarber M'72
 Garrett Scarpa '72
 Jeanette Sindoni '72
 William Sloan '72
 Gerald White M'72

Ann McPherson Battaglia '73
 Gary Branin '73
 Doris Brown '73
 Michael Bull '73, M'75
 Maxine Carter '73
 Charles Ebbecke '73, M'75
 Janet Goetaski '73, M'77
 Doris Goodwin '73
 Kathryn Horner '73
 Sandra Gross Huston '73
 Marie Scott Keen '73
 Kenneth Macgregor M'73
 Bebe Lehmer Markman '73
 Esther Kauffman McCormick '73
 John Mockus M'73
 Robert Moore '73
 Bernard Ostmeier M'73
 Robert Platoni '73, M'78
 Kenneth Riggione '73
 Gertrude Saunders '73
 Isabel Bischoff Sickerott '73
 Susan Chell Speers '73, M'77
 Gloria Spinella '73
 Nancy Klimenok Virtue '73
 Mary Woodson Yallah '73
 Geoffrey Young '73
 Mary Albanese '74
 Dorothy Boris Avis '74
 Sharon Johnson Bond '74
 Richard Brown '74
 Janet Dipietro '74
 Gerald Donahue '74, M'76
 Theresa Ricca Donahue '74
 Carl Farrell '74
 Martha Musiano
 Graham '74, M'76
 Betty Halpern '74
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 Charles Ferrillo '75
 John Finnegan '75
 Pat Summerill Gionet M'75
 Maxine Bartie Hartley '75
 Lesley Iles '75
 Virginia Knepp Koroly '75
 Joan MacFarlane '75
 Michael Morse M'75
 Flora McClendon
 Parker '75, M'91
 Meryl Deutsch Salkin '75, M'79
 Elizabeth Schwamb '75
 Raymond Shivers M'75
 Ruth Burton Spencer '75
 Nicholas Teti '75
 Peter Washington '75
 Anne Thomas Wilson '75
 Joan Abbott '76
 Floyd Bagby '76
 Patricia Dalrymple Batanian '76
 Ronald Braxton, Sr. '76
 Susan Burton '76
 Patricia Connolly Ewart '76
 Grace Counsellor M'76
 Edmund DeLussey '76
 Rita Dougherty '76
 Joseph Flannery M'76
 Albert Gentilini '76
 Robert Gubitosi '76
 Donna Harmer '76
 Clifford Hasenfus '76
 Frances Hinman '76
 Virginia Hundley '76
 Charlotte Liftman M'76
 Alyce Money Rolland '76
 Joan Pallante '76, M'80
 Nicholas Pappas M'76
 John Singer '76
 Marilyn Sweeten M'76
 Marianne Thomas M'76
 Nelly Toll '76
 Joyce Kroeker Tricomi M'76
 Dorothy Wadsworth M'76
 Jeanne Whitney '76
 Helen Boffi Camarota '77
 Cedric Dunbar '77
 June Dupnock '77
 Donna Eisenlohr '77
 Margaret Golas M'77, M'87
 Brenda Bayly Guenther '77
 Rudolph Harris '77
 George Homa '77
 Kenneth Hudson '77
 Grace Gallimore Leonida M'77
 David Mattioli '77
 Francis Pallante '77, M'79
 Andrew Roesler '77
 Ricardo Taylor M'77
 John Wylie '77
 Edwin Aley M'78
 Dominic Antonini '78
 Robin Bertonazzi '78
 Helen Carstensen '78
 David Gest '78
 Virginia Grammer M'78
 Eugenia Hann '78
 Steven Hennessey '78
 Barbara Pacifico '78
 Patricia Quigley '78, M'03
 Anthony Renzulli '78
 Sandra Tice '78, M'94
 J. Williams M'78
 Anne Hahn Cantino '79
 Arthur Malanga '79
 Caroline Ringo M'79
 Caroline Shontz '79
 Richard Tesaurio '79
 Maria Zakula '79
 Gerald Baker '80
 Harold Berezin '80
 Anne-Marie Zitelli Bottazzi '80
 Susie Burton '80
 Karen Kinard Dodson '80
 Cathy Smith Eagan '80
 David Hirst '80
 Lula Holmes M'80
 Kenneth Pye M'80
 Susan Schaller '80
 Christine Schechter '80
 Mark Smith '80
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 Hedy Alban '86
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 Krystyna Grabski '91
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 Palmieri '96
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 Andrew Moser '94
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 David Jost '95
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 Marylynn Danze '96
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 Virginia Schilling '98
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 William Nicholson '99
 Rommae Ray '99
 Shane Sarte '99
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 Jody Cummings '00
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 Brenda Maltman '02
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 Daniel Giovanisci '09
 Adam Vendzules '11
 Andrew Knorr '12
 Susan Kuhnreich '12
 Daniel McCormick '13
 Sean Clancy '14
 Danielle Harrison '15
 Barbara Mease '15
 Stephen Asbury '16, M'16
 Nicole Hilliard '18
 James Bennett '19
 Manuel De La Rosa '19
 Assane Drame '19
 Korianno Mcneal '19
 Eric Yesner D'19
 Sonnie Sheahan '20

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 Elsie Brusco
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 Joseph Giordano
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 Ernest Rydell
 Helen Valentine Scull
 Stephen Seidler
 Robert Semler
 Eugene Simpson
 Henry Smith
 Charles Stansfield
 Beatrice Swartz
 Kathleen Taddei
 Chester Zimolzak

Hope for what lies ahead

For only the second time since Rowan Magazine began, this page, reserved for alumni essays, yields to speak to the pressing—sometimes crushing—moment we live in.

Twenty years ago, we paused here to honor the lives lost in the September 11 attacks.

Now, between what we've lived through and what lies ahead, we acknowledge the toll of COVID-19: as of press time, more than 4.5 million lives lost worldwide, more than 700,000 in the United States. Our University community grieves for family, neighbors, colleagues and the countless we will never know. They all left behind lives and loved ones just like us.

The virus still grips millions and continues to wring out of nearly everyone on Earth any sense of normalcy. And yet, many recover. Many survive. New life arrives with joy and boundless potential.

So, we dream, we strive, we try and try again to make a difference.

It may have been decades since our last first day of school. But for many, summer's end and the new school year both signal the start or restart of many things that promise growth and progress, another chance to achieve, explore, contribute.

With Nancy Ohanian's "Breakfast" speaking visually for us, we offer a last comment in this issue on the precious blessing of each new day and new season ahead. Let's cherish the memory of those precious to us and live to honor them. No matter the uncertainty, chaos or crisis around us, may we all find—and bring to others—hope, purpose and the opportunity to begin again. ■

—Ed.

Nancy Ohanian is an award-winning artist and senior member of the art department faculty.



OHANIAN

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Feels like school spirit

Whether they showed up for the 2021 football season opener, the fireworks after the game or just for a break from studies, Rowan fans piled into the home stands in September with raucous, joyous roaring in Stadium Drive.

Shoulder to shoulder in the open air, students and families, faculty and borough boosters

cheered the team—and not surprisingly, each other. With masks optional, it looked and felt like the old days. So familiar and welcome, yet so strange to see and experience.

And, of course, it was just what everyone hoped to find after so long away.

Resilience and grit, innovation

and ambition get most of the credit for keeping instruction and research going since the pandemic started. True, also, professionalism and duty, compassion and commitment kept the Rowan community on track.

But school spirit counts for a lot, too. It was there all along. It was wonderful to feel it again.