

# 2017 SENIORS OF DISTINCTION



**COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

# Program:

Reception

Dean's Welcome

Office of Alumni Engagement

Guest Speaker: Brian Mintey  
'07 Philosophy & Religion Studies' Alum

Presentation of Awards

Dean Ammar



The humanities and social sciences serve as the heart of liberal arts education and the essential foundation for professional and personal success. Our graduates possess the critical thinking, research, and communication skills that ensure they can navigate the seven or more career changes likely in their future, including positions that don't exist today. They also exemplify ideals common to all of our disciplines—placing ethics and compassion above material concerns, and demanding more of themselves in order to make our world a better place for all. In short, CHSS graduates are equipped to make a life, not just a living.

### **What is the Seniors of Distinction Award?**

Every year our programs have the tough task of choosing one student who stands out among their peers in the major—a student who not only demonstrates academic achievement but represents the best in the discipline. Receiving the designation of “Senior of Distinction” is indeed an honor but also a responsibility. We expect our Seniors of Distinction to make an impact as they progress through their careers and serve their communities. We also urge our Seniors of Distinction to stay connected with Rowan, with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and with their department or program so that we can celebrate their successes!

# CHSS Chairs & Coordinators



**Chanelle Rose**  
Africana Studies



**Emily Blanck**  
American Studies



**DeMond Miller**  
Disaster Preparedness &  
Emergency Management



**Joseph Coulombe**  
English



**Danielle Gougon**  
General Studies



**William Carrigan**  
History



**Loretta Mooney**  
Human Services



**Corinne Blake**  
International Studies



**Mike Weiss**  
Law & Justice Studies



**Sharon McCann**  
Liberal Studies: Humanities/  
Social Science; Human Services



**Marilyn Manley**  
Modern Languages &  
Linguistics; Spanish



**Ellen Miller**  
Philosophy & Religion Studies



**Natalie Reaves**  
Political Science & Economics



**James Abbott**  
Sociology & Anthropology

# Students

## Africana Studies



Cato Yancey

Cato Yancey is a non-traditional student with a double major in History and Africana Studies. He decided to further his education and provide a stronger role model for his children by pursuing a college degree after working in the maintenance department at CVS in Lumberton, New Jersey, for over twenty years. Affectionately, Cato has developed the well-deserved reputation as an informal student ambassador for Africana Studies because of his unwavering commitment to the program. Despite his busy work schedule, Cato has participated in many AS events and often volunteered to assist the coordinator in other events. I have had the distinct pleasure of having Cato in two of my courses, and in the service-learning course in Camden he exceeded my expectations. Indeed, his passion for Africana Studies and keen interest in learning about the history of people of African descent throughout the diaspora inside and outside the classroom is palpable. Cato is not shy about sharing his knowledge with others so much so that family members affectionately refer to him as “Mr. Africa.” Not only has Cato demonstrated with other students on campus to highlight the significance of the program at Rowan, but he has also participated in protests against police brutality in the broader community, and he routinely talks to the young people at his job about the AS program at Rowan.

In regard to his future plans, he would like to teach in the public schools of either Camden, Trenton, Willingboro or even Philadelphia.

## American Studies



Amy Trowbridge

Miss Trowbridge is our outstanding student in American Studies. Anyone who has had Amy in a class knows she is a lot of fun. She gets the jokes. She knows where you are leading the class before you get there. She is the first to have the “aha” moment, and she lets you know that she enjoys learning.

It’s not so surprising that she is the student who seems to enjoy the class most. She has had the opportunity to teach others as a certified autism therapist, as a reading specialist, as a music teacher for a private academy, and as a private tutor of Math, English, Writing, and History. She has spent more years doing those jobs than she has spent in college. Many of our American Studies students are also majoring in Education and this is also true of Amy. She wants to pursue a career in Education because she loves watching others learn – as she says, seeing the moment when the person makes the connection.

Amy plans to enter a Masters program in Child Behavioral Science within the next three years but is carefully investigating graduate programs before she applies. This is a wise young woman.

## Economics



Alec Napolitano

Alec Napolitano is a double major in Economics and Finance from Rockaway, New Jersey. As a sophomore, Alec was elected President of the Economics Society of Rowan and has continued in that role through his senior year. His experiences with the society and the economics classes he took as an underclass-man encouraged him to change his Economics minor to a major during his junior year. He serves as President of the Club Golf team and is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon and the Financial Management Association. Alec is currently an intern with CDW and has previously interned at Lincoln Financial Advisors. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf both competitively and recreationally. After graduation Alec plans on serving as the COO and Managing Director of a Real Estate Development start-up as well as eventually pursuing a Masters in Finance or Economics.

## English



Nicole Wyglendowski

Miss Wyglendowski is intelligent, hard-working, and accomplished. Since arriving at Rowan in her freshman year, she has excelled in academic and extracurricular work. She has won numerous awards, including the Maxwell Scholarship, the Student Government Association Scholarship, and the Tedd Importico Scholarship. She is the president of Kappa Delta Pi (the National Honors Society for Educators) at Rowan, and she serves as a Harley Flack Peer Mentor. In addition to working in Rowan's Admissions Office, Ms. Wyglendowski is employed at Rowan's Recreation Center, where she teaches exercise courses, such as Pilates-Yoga, and works at the Kids Rule Camp, where she was named 2016 Counselor of the Year. She is a certified New Jersey Substitute Teacher, and for the past year she has taught in this capacity at the Washington Township Elementary Schools. Anticipating graduation, Ms. Wyglendowski has applied for the Peace Corps as well as a Fulbright Scholarship.

## Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management



Jeffrey Dever

Mr. Dever is currently a senior Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management/History dual major at Rowan University. He will be the first person in the state of New Jersey to graduate with a traditional Bachelor's Degree in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management. Initially a subject matter education major, Jeffrey was drawn to the field of Emergency Management through his work as an Emergency Medical Technician, and was one of the first students in the program. Jeffrey currently works at Rowan University EMS, Mount Ephraim EMS, and Pennsauken EMS, and has worked as a fire-fighter in his hometown of Moorestown, New Jersey. While at Rowan, Jeffrey has served as a Sergeant in Rowan EMS and was an active Field Training Officer. He enjoys reading about World War II, hiking, swimming, and spending time with his twin brother, Jake. After graduation, Jeffrey plans on attending the Virtua School of Paramedic Sciences at Rowan College of Burlington County and working as a Paramedic with plans on pursuing a senior position in State or Federal Emergency Management.

## General Studies



Erin Christine Graham

Transferring to Rowan was one of the best decisions she has ever made. She started her journey in education at Burlington County College. After meeting her best friend Jennifer Bucko, they decided to transfer to Rowan together, and that's where Erin really found her home away from home.

Graduating on the Dean's List from BCC with an Associates degree in psychology made her realize that she has a lot of potential which she never gave herself credit for. She knew coming to Rowan that she wanted to be a special education teacher. After many obstacles, she decided that her best option was to change her major to general studies and get her masters in special education elsewhere.

Leaving Rowan this May is bittersweet. Erin was involved in NJSEA, Tau Sigma, and many other clubs that opened her eyes to so many wonderful things. Going on to the next chapter in her life, she will be attending graduate school in Brooklyn, New York as a New York City Teaching Fellow. The program will allow her to work full time as a special education teacher while taking night classes in order to obtain her masters. However, no matter what colleges she has attended or will attend in the future, Rowan will always be her home.



## History



Zachary Baer

Mr. Baer will receive a BA in History and a BA in Secondary Education. Zach came to Rowan with a deep interest in becoming a high school history teacher, but during his initial history classes with Dr. Carrigan and Dr. Morschauser, he quickly grew to appreciate the “history” side of his coursework most. Zach has written for the school newspaper, *The Whit*, is a member of the History honor society Phi Alpha Theta, and the education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi, and has volunteered as an academic coach at the Academic Success Network. Off campus, he has worked as a substitute teacher, as a volunteer docent at Carpenters Hall in Philadelphia, and during summer 2016, served as a research assistant for a historic preservation consultant. During the fall 2016 semester, Zach became the first student to complete an exchange program at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, where he excelled, and his first article was recently published in the history and culture journal, *SoJourn*.

## International Studies



Marisa Dtkov

International Studies is proud to present Marisa Dtkoff, an outstanding student and member of the first cohort of International Studies graduates! An International Studies major with a specialization in Asian Studies as well as a second major in Sociology and a CUGS in Japanese, Marisa is passionately interested in Japan, especially Japanese language and culture. In spring 2016 she studied abroad at Musashi University of Tokyo, where she wrote a monthly blog for International Studies Abroad (ISA), published a short story in an independent Japanese comic publication, and created an award winning video entitled “The Place I Live.” She has also participated in Rowan College at Gloucester County’s KotoriCon, sponsored by the college’s Japanese Anime Guild. Marisa’s senior thesis for Seminar in International Studies focuses on how Western and Japanese popular culture has impacted Japan. According to her Seminar professor, “Marissa’s research demonstrates the importance of taking an interdisciplinary approach to our global world, and she has excelled at studying Japanese culture from multiple perspectives.” Ultimately, she hopes to earn a master’s degree in Teaching English as a Second Language and teach English in Japan--or possibly work for the State Department. In addition to her strong academic skills, Marisa is an avid photographer and videographer as well as an accomplished seamstress: she’s currently developing an online store for custom, hand-made dolls and clothing which she plans to open by the end of the semester.

## Law & Justice Studies



Lexxus Matos

The Law and Justice Department has selected Lexxus Matos as our 2017 Senior of Distinction. We feel that Lexxus proudly represents the highest achieving students in our department, CHSS, and Rowan University. Throughout her time at Rowan, Lexxus has thrived academically and has taken advantage of many educational opportunities fully encompassing the idea of a liberal arts education including a minor in Psychology and a CUGS in Spanish, all while maintaining a spot on the Dean's List. She was also recognized on the President's Scholar of Excellence list. Lexxus truly embodies the CHSS motto, "leading the way to wisdom" as she is an incredibly active member of the Rowan community. She is the President of Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society and a member of three other honor societies. She is also a leader in terms of her athletic achievements. Lexxus has been captain of the Women's Track and Field team for the last two years and has been named both an All American and All Academic Athlete by the NCAA. She also volunteers in her local community offering her service at various churches, non-profits, and shelters.

## Liberal Studies: H/SS



Marissa Cartier

Miss Cartier joined the Rowan community as a transfer student in Fall 2015 and will be walking with university honors this May, earning a BA in Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Sciences with sequences in Sociology and Business and a minor in Psychology. In her second semester, Marissa joined the Student Alumni Association and has been active with many campus events including Homecoming weekend, Run for Rowan 5K, and Boro in the Lights. She has truly appreciated the opportunity to get involved and make connections with other students, faculty and alumni.

After graduation, Marissa's goal is to help people and give back. While her immediate plans are not finalized, she has been researching volunteer opportunities abroad and is also considering going back to school or beginning her professional career. Marissa is excited about the possibilities and wants to continue to explore what makes her happy and above all, live her life with passion and grace.

## Modern Languages & Linguistics



Thomas Hill III

Mr. Hill graduated in Fall 2016 with a double major in Spanish and Modern Languages & Linguistics, the German Studies Minor, International Studies Concentration, and Certificate of Undergraduate Study (CUGS) in Japanese. He was the Fall 2015 recipient of the Rosemary Geri '77 Foreign Languages Scholarship and studied abroad in Granada, Spain, in Fall 2016. His extracurricular activities include serving as President of Rowan's Spanish Studies Association (SSA), as Vice President of Rowan's Japanese Culture Club, and as a member of the Tau Sigma Honor Society. With the SSA, he volunteered at Unidos Para La Familia in Bridgeton, NJ, teaching writing and math classes to Spanish-speaking immigrants. He also completed an All About Meaningful Experiences Higher Education Internship with the Offices of Family Connections, Student Leadership, and Business Advisement. He plans to pursue a Master's and Ph.D. in Translation and eventually become a Professor of Translation.

## Philosophy & Religion Studies



Kyle Sullender

Mr. Sullender is a double major in Journalism and Philosophy and Religion Studies (Philosophy specialization), with a minor in Political Science and an Honors concentration. He is a thoughtful and fair thinker with exceptional public speaking skills. He started at Rowan as a journalism major hoping to find a career in sports writing and broadcasting, but became consumed by contemporary and classic issues in politics, religion, and philosophy after his first year. He has been honored as a member of Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy National Honor Society. Kyle continued to practice journalism via internships with WHYY-Philadelphia and The Courier-Post Newspaper, and by freelancing for The Retrospect Newspaper and WHYY Newsworks until deciding to consider pursuing a Master's degree during the summer of 2016. In his senior year, he is the editor-in-chief of The Whit (Rowan's campus newspaper) and is preparing to pursue a Master's in Public Policy from one of several universities in the area to which he has been accepted. He has already been accepted at the University of Delaware, George Mason University, and George Washington University. The department is confident he will make a positive mark on the world through his writing and policy work.

## Political Science



Danielle Davis

Danielle Davis is a Political Science major with a minor in Geography and a concentration in International Studies. Danielle has been very active during her time at Rowan. As a commuter, Danielle immediately got involved in commuter issues and took a leadership role in the Rowan commuter club. She has served on the e-Board since her second semester holding the position of senator, vice president and most recently president of the Commuter Club.

Danielle also believes in community service and has been active in volunteer efforts offered at Rowan. She participated in a volunteer project to Florida; and she is currently the Rowan University trip leader for 2017 Alternative Spring Break, working to ensure a meaningful experience for the entire Rowan team.

Danielle has also served as a student worker in the Office of Student Life and the Registrar's office. She was recently elected to be the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at Rowan University which helps students to have their voices heard and advocates for more scholarships, tutoring, networking and academic development.

Danielle has been a great ambassador for Rowan and has helped welcome new members of the Rowan community in her role as a member of Rowan University's Peer Referral and Orientation Staff. Danielle has served as an orientation leader and helped facilitate the transition of students and family members to life as part of the Rowan community. Her future plans include pursuing a Masters in Higher Education Administration at Rowan University.

## Sociology & Anthropology



Evy C. Tolentino

It gives us great pleasure to recognize the numerous accomplishments of Evy Tolentino, our department's choice for this year's Senior of Distinction award and the recipient of the Witchell Medallion. Throughout her four years at Rowan, Evy has demonstrated that she is an extremely bright, dedicated student who is driven both for academic success and by a strong desire to promote social change that will create a more inclusive world for all. Evy has worked as a peer tutor to facilitate tutoring sessions for undergraduate Sociology courses to help her peers cope with academic challenges and stress. She also worked as a volunteer for the Rowan Camden Clinic, offering translation services to assist medical students with Spanish-speaking patients. Evy served as an intern within the Office of Senator Robert Menendez as well as with the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC).

It is evident that Evy is tireless in her commitment to community outreach, given the numerous other activities that she has engaged in addition to her internship experiences. She recently started a community education project across South Jersey to assist a greatly underserved area with large immigrant communities.

During her time at Rowan, Evy has been active in a number of programs and scholarly organizations, including the Achieving the Dream Scholarship Program, the EOF Program, Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, the Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, the Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society and the Spanish Studies Association.

# Spanish



## Caileigh Mulligan

Caileigh Mulligan will graduate in Spring 2017 with a double major in Spanish, with the Applied Spanish Concentration, and the Major in Modern Languages & Linguistics, the French Minor, the German Studies Minor, and the International Studies Concentration. She was the Fall 2016 recipient of the Rosemary Geri '77 Foreign Languages Scholarship and studied abroad in Granada, Spain, in Spring 2016. She is a member of Rowan's Spanish Studies Association and of Sigma Alpha Lambda, an academic leadership and honor society with which she has engaged in volunteer activities, including collecting canned foods for food drives, writing cards to U.S. soldiers, beautifying Glassboro through landscaping, and participating in the Relay for Life. She also currently serves as an intern for Literacy NJ of Gloucester County, where she helps to recruit students for their ESL classes. She has plans to eventually work as an interpreter for the United Nations.

## Programs

- **English** (B.A.)
- **Foreign Languages & Literatures**
  - Modern Languages & Linguistics (B.A.)
  - Spanish (B.A.)
- **History** (B.A.)
- **Interdisciplinary Studies**
  - Africana Studies (B.A.)
  - American Studies (B.A.)
  - General Studies (B.G.S.)
  - International Studies (B.A.)
  - Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Science (B.A.)
- **Law & Justice Studies** (B.A.)
- **Philosophy & Religion Studies** (B.A.)
- **Political Science & Economics**
  - Economics (B.A.)
  - Political Science (B.A.)
- **Sociology & Anthropology**
  - Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management (B.A.)
  - Human Services (B.A.)
  - Sociology (B.A.)



## THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES



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