

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

2022-23 Annual Report





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On the cover: Dr. Chanelle Rose, associate professor of history, guides Kathryn Seu, graduate student in the M.A. in Holocaust and Genocide Education program, during the Douglass Day Transcribe-A-Thon.

Above: High school students participate in the third Ethics, Policy and College Skills Workshop coordinated by the Department of Philosophy & World Religions.



Dean's message

I am delighted to present to you the 2022-23 Annual Report for the College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS). The report highlights our college's progress and significant accomplishments. Over the past year, CHSS has made tremendous strides in various areas, and we are thrilled to share these achievements with you. CHSS organized numerous conferences and workshops that reflect our faculty's commitment to student and community interests over the past year. Among them: a collaboration with the College of Education focused on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) training and grant writing workshops for South Jersey police departments led by Law & Justice Studies faculty. CHSS faculty also developed programs to engage students in real-world applications of their classroom learning. A shining example is our partnership with Red Bank Battlefield Park, led by Dr. Jennifer Janofsky, which enriches students' history and archaeology education through field experiences and community engagement.

The College remains dedicated to welcoming a significant number of minority and first-generation students, as well as offering extracurricular opportunities, such as our inaugural Douglass Day Transcribe-A-Thon.

Thanks to Dr. Chanelle Rose's efforts, we received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, enabling the development of an African American history and culture curriculum for teachers in South Jersey school districts. Additionally, we've expanded our offerings with the introduction of two new graduate programs, the Master of Public Policy (MPP) and the Master of Social Work (MSW), aimed at benefiting our students.

Finally, our report welcomes our new faculty, extends gratitude to retirees, and highlights the generous contribution of Stephanie Poe-Cerdan, an alumna of the Human Services program, to both her alma mater and the Rowan Thrive initiative.

On behalf of CHSS, I extend our gratitude to all of our stakeholders for their unwavering support. What I've briefly touched upon only scratches the surface of the incredible accomplishments from the past year. We trust that you will find this report enjoyable and informative as it delves deeper into our endeavors.

Dr. Nawal Ammar
Dean



A startling discovery: Historian leads recovery of human remains at Red Bank

The shocking discovery of a human femur during a June 2022 public archeological dig revealed to the world that Red Bank Battlefield Park in National Park, NJ, is home to a mass grave thought to date back to the Revolutionary War.

“I’ll never forget that moment,” said Dr. Jennifer Janofsky, History professor and director of the park. “It was stunning. It was overwhelming. It was sad.”

Registered Professional Archeologist Wade Catts led subsequent excavations, exhuming the remains of at least 15 individuals. The bones are believed to be the remains of Hessian soldiers, who suffered heavy casualties against American forces in the October 1777 battle.

New developments have occurred since the public announcement of the discovery. Grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission and Gloucester County’s Office of Land Preservation have funded further activities, including another round of public archeology events.

The New Jersey State Police Forensic Anthropology lab is in the process of X-raying recovered artifacts, and the first round of DNA testing of human skeletal remains is underway. Eventually, forensic anthropologists will create a composite rendering of

two individuals based on recovered skulls. The team is exploring the possibility of using stable isotope analysis to determine additional characteristics of these individuals.

Since the news of the discovery broke, public interest has been huge. Janofsky and Catts, now a Rowan adjunct professor, have spoken to hundreds nationwide about the discovery.

“This discovery has brought attention to what the history department is capable of doing,” Janofsky said. “I’m hopeful this project will give more visibility to how faculty members engage students outside the classroom and potentially direct more resources to these experiences.”

Janofsky and Catts are hoping the remains can be reinterred at Red Bank.



Above: Dr. Janofsky leads history major Raluca Muscan in examining artifacts discovered at the Red Bank Battlefield Park.

Right: Archaeologist Wade Catts leads excavations at the park.

A summer of learning in CHSS

Summer brought new opportunities for hands-on learning and research in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Rowan research on the road

In May, historian Dr. Bill Carrigan led undergraduate students Joy Acheampong, Abigail Ealer, John Reres and Emily Schmidt on a 12-day research trip through the south. The team drove 5,000-plus miles and searched six archives of historical records to learn more about lynching crimes following Reconstruction.

Despite the challenges of unearthing relevant information from the thousands of historical documents in the archives, the team made exciting discoveries. Their biggest find was court records from the 1877 case of the Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. Joseph Myrick, pertaining to a group of vigilantes who shot and killed a woman named Carrie Anderson.

“It’s a very different, laborious search process,” said Carrigan. “Students’ skills in deciphering 19th-century handwriting improved over time, but they also learned transferable skills in planning and prioritizing research in an archive and understanding how historical documents are structured.”

Examining skeletal remains in Chile

Under the guidance of Dr. Maria Rosado, professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology, students Nicole Abbott, Josie Doran and Archie Katz traveled to the Museo Arqueológico de La Serena in La Serena, Chile, for extensive hands-on work identifying human skeletal remains. Joined by research collaborator Dr. Anna Getler, the team studied skeletal remains belonging to the ancient Diaguita culture of 1,000 years ago.

It was Rosado’s 19th bioarcheological research trip to the museum. Since 2000, Rosado has served as co-director of the Rowan University-Museo Arqueológico de La Serena Bioarchaeology Field School. In addition to measuring, identifying and conserving the human remains, this year the team found a number of animal bones that will help shed light on the daily lives of the Diaguita people.

“Students built up their skill base not only through their bioarchaeology work, but also through the cultural experience,” Rosado said. “We want our students to be well prepared with all kinds of skills in scientific research.”

An introduction to ethics

In July, the Department of Philosophy & World Religions held its third Ethics, Policy and College Skills Workshops for High School Students. Through applied activities like small group experiences and role-playing, 22 high school students learned about philosophy and world religions and how to apply these subjects in a hands-on way to any career.

“The response from the community has been tremendous, and students were excited to learn what philosophy is all about,” said Dr. Ellen Miller, associate professor of Philosophy. “Through this experience, high school students learned more about how to articulate their views and how they align with traditional theories of philosophy.”

Battlefield Field School

Fifteen Rowan students conducted archaeological research at Red Bank during a summer field school at the battlefield.



“It was obvious that students wanted to get out of the classroom and get their hands literally dirty with history,” said Rowan public historian Dr. Jennifer Janofsky. “It’s a natural extension of the work we’ve been doing in the classroom.”

In the “Battle Lab: Archaeology and Public History at Red Bank Battlefield Park” course, students dug into the worlds of public history and archaeology. Each day began with an hour of instruction by Janofsky and adjunct professor Wade Catts. Then, students got to put into practice what they’d learned, digging for material culture in the field.

“This is about applying everything that we do at an instructional level to the real world,” Janofsky said.

Above: Rowan anthropology major Julie Foy (right) examines some finds with A.J. Kelley, a Gateway High School student. They worked together at a public dig at Red Bank Battlefield Park as part of the field school.

Douglass Day

Preserving access to Black history through digital archives

The Rowan community contributed to the preservation of 19th century Black history in a substantive way in the spring with the University's first-ever Douglass Day Transcribe-A-Thon.

Led by Dr. Jessica Mack, assistant professor of digital history, the February event brought together nearly 100 Rowan students, faculty and community members who gathered to transcribe historical documents pertaining to activist Mary Ann Shadd Cary.

Dr. Chanelle Rose, associate professor of history and coordinator of the Africana Studies Program, delivered an engaging lecture on Shadd Cary's historical context and her important role in American history. The Rowan event was part of the annual Douglass Day Transcribe-A-Thon, a hybrid event commemorating Frederick Douglass's birthday that includes more than 100 university groups nationwide.

"The idea of this event was to explore documents from an important but understudied African American historical figure and make her history more accessible

online," Mack said. "This was an excellent first event for the new Center for Digital Humanities Research because participants could take part in the process of making history—especially African American history—more available to the public."

Participants reading and transcribing the contents of archival manuscripts collaborated as they puzzled over the interpretation of 19th-century handwriting. The participatory nature of the event highlights the increased emphasis on experiential learning at CHSS and University-wide focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

"Many students said they felt like they were making history more accessible and bringing stories from the past to life," Mack said.

Above: Dr. Rose discusses activist Mary Ann Shadd Cary during the Douglass Day Transcribe-A-Thon.



Above: Law & Justice Studies major Patsy Watkins presents during the inaugural Interdisciplinary Case Studies in the Liberal Arts class.

Interdisciplinary case studies in the liberal arts

New course enhances experiential learning

A popular annual competition in CHSS has been reborn as a credit-bearing course students can use to fulfill experiential learning requirements.

The spring saw the launch of Rowan's first Interdisciplinary Case Studies in the Liberal Arts course. Associate Dean Dr. Stephen Fleming taught the first offering of this course, which consisted of 19 students.

Throughout the semester, three teams of students from different majors within the humanities and social sciences explored the issues of social stratification and tribalism. Students drew upon the tenets of their majors to contextualize inequity in society and explore how inequity contributes to tribalistic behaviors.

"This experience broadens the application and the relevance of students' majors to any of the world's problems—local, national or international," Fleming said.

In the annual Case Study competitions that predated the course, students addressed issues like free speech on college campuses, a defense of the liberal arts, cybercrime and the impact of COVID-19 on college students.

According to Fleming, case studies are the kind of out-of-classroom experiences CHSS has been working to integrate into its undergraduate degree programs since the implementation of the experiential learning requirement in 2021. No other institution in the state of New Jersey has this requirement for humanities and social sciences, Fleming noted.

"Problem-based learning helps students develop a sense of belonging at the institution and a better understanding of their major which, ultimately, supports their path to graduation," said Fleming.

Above: Dr. Adam Straub, assistant professor of sociology, offers feedback during the case study presentations.



Model UN and African Union

Through immersion, students learn about global relations



What better way is there to learn about international relations than through firsthand participation?

Students in the annual Model United Nations and Model African Union courses in CHSS do just that.

In the spring, a delegation of 11 Rowan students attended the National Model UN Conference in New York City. They represented the Republic of Uzbekistan and served on committees focused on international security threats, economics and financial issues, humanitarian and social needs, human rights, the environment and atomic

energy. The Rowan delegation received an Honorable Mention for its work.

Additionally, six CHSS students traveled in the spring to Washington, D.C., for the International Model African Union Conference. The delegation represented the Republic of Mali, located in West Africa, and held a meeting at the Malian Embassy.

"Model AU and Model UN demonstrate how committed our college is to enhancing our undergraduates' learning experience," said Dr. Emily Blanck, associate professor of History and coordinator of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"Through this program, students get an immersive opportunity to see the world from a global perspective and interact with other college students around the world."

Above: Samantha Gross, dual major in economics and management, serves as a member of the 11-student Model UN delegation.

Throughout the College, first-generation students succeed—and shine

Despite the unique challenges first-generation students face, these students have excelled, earning recognition among the College's Seniors of Distinction.

Millie Martinez Sosa—Law & Justice Studies

Millie Martinez Sosa graduated at age 19 with her bachelor's degree and a perfect 4.0 GPA. She received a \$27,000 scholarship to Rutgers Law School in Camden.

Martinez Sosa, who has wanted to be an attorney since middle school, wants to become a prosecutor to serve Spanish-speaking populations. Her career goals were shaped by her internship at the Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office, which, she said, has no Spanish-speaking prosecutors.

"From every experience at Rowan University, you grow," Martinez Sosa said. "It's scary being a first-generation student, but I'm happy and less fearful about what my future holds now."

Kathryn Honnig—Economics

Kathryn Honnig completed her Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in music in three years. The accomplished violinist and dancer participated in the University's Dance Extensions company and Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble and won the 2023 Rowan University String Ensemble Concerto Competition. She was accepted into the Alvin Ailey American School of Dance and the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City.

In many ways, Honnig embraced "the unknown." "Everything concerning college was not only new to me but also to my family, which left me in an uncomfortable position, but it was also a place to grow," she said.

Tammy Loncto—General Studies

Tammy Loncto works full-time and is raising a family—including two children who are currently Rowan students. Loncto, who studied part time, credits the flexibility of online courses through Rowan Global as part of her success. She has over 20 years of administrative experience in higher education and has worked for Rowan since 2016.

"Being the first in my family to graduate from Rowan has boosted my confidence and allowed me to show my children anything is possible," Loncto said.

Maxwell Armstrong—World Religions

Maxwell Armstrong went to community college to please his parents, but to his surprise, he fell in love with learning there. Now, he's on what he hopes is a path to a doctoral degree.

At Rowan, Armstrong, who works as a bartender, couldn't choose between a major in World Religions and a major in Philosophy, so he pursued both bachelor's degrees.

"Learning was the last thing on my mind seven years ago," Armstrong said, "and now I have two degrees and have been accepted into the Master of Science in Education program at the University of Pennsylvania." Armstrong is eyeing an eventual doctorate in either World Religions or Philosophy and plans a career in higher education.



Above, from left, Nicole Abbott, Prof. Anna Gettler, Dr. Maria Rosado, Josie Dorann and Archie Catts examine modern human skeletons.

Highlighting student research across CHSS

Students are making major contributions to the humanities and social sciences through research work that enhances their own studies as well as their field.

Anthropology

In the Physical Anthropology Lab of the Museum of Anthropology at Rowan University (MARU), anthropology majors Nicole Abbott, Josie Doran and Archie Katz conducted detailed forensic anthropological analyses on modern human skeletons used for teaching purposes. At the Sigma Xi-Student Research Showcase, Abbott, Doran and Katz—sophomore, senior and junior, respectively—gave a presentation on the ethics of handling human remains.

English

Kelli Hughes, a senior English and Writing Arts major and now a first-year graduate student, contributed to Dr. Dustin Crowley's work on his book on contemporary African science fiction primarily through the development of two annotated bibliographies. Master of Science in Teaching graduate student Zoe Neilson served as a pedagogical research assistant for lecturer Dr. Christina Solomon. Junior Writing Arts major and English minor Casey Wang and senior English major Ava Underwood contributed to Dr. Sierra Lomuto's research for her book "Exotic Allies: Mongols and Racial Fantasy in the Literature of Medieval England."

History

At the 2023 regional conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, John Reres (at right), a student in his final year of the BA/MA in History program, was awarded Best Paper in Early American History, and Emily Schmidt, a sophomore history major in the Martinson Honors College, was awarded Best Paper in Ancient History.





Redesigning teaching to make learning more inclusive through UDL

For today's college students, one-size-fits-all pedagogy doesn't work. Through its Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Initiative, CHSS inspired faculty to rethink not only what they do in the classroom but also how they conceptualize learning.

Although individual faculty members at CHSS have used UDL strategies for years, the 2022-23 academic year was the first time Universal Design for Learning was organized and funded in a formal capacity at the College level. UDL Fellows Dr. Whitney Cox, lecturer in the Department of World Religions, and Dr. Kelly Duke Bryant, associate professor in the Department of History, spent the year educating colleagues on incorporating UDL framework into their teaching.

"Universal Design for Learning is a way to think about designing your courses with students with disabilities and other limitations in mind—with the understanding that the people with official accommodations are not the only ones who will benefit from inclusion in course design," Cox said.

UDL strategies may mean allowing students to choose whether to read the text version of an article or listen to a recording, or to show what they have learned

Above: Through the Universal Design for Learning Initiative, CHSS faculty members are rethinking how to best maximize student learning in the classroom through innovative and inclusive course design.

through a multimedia research project instead of a research paper.

"We need to be able to meet students where they are instead of expecting them to meet outdated standards of what a college student 'should' be like," Bryant said. Cox and Bryant collaborated with the College of Education's Dr. Brianne Morettini, associate professor, and Dr. Amy Accardo, associate professor and inaugural director of the Center for Neurodiversity, on their project "The Professor of the Future."

Overhauling the way educators think about teaching is a big request—but CHSS faculty stepped up to the challenge.

"Approaching the classroom experience to maximize student learning has re-energized my teaching and allowed the focus to be less on whether students have the money to buy a textbook or know how to cite sources in a particular way and more on the core learning," Bryant said.

NEH grant to assist educators in teaching Black history in NJ

Black history is American history. But, even today, its place in the curriculum of many of the nation's primary and secondary schools is too small, too surface-level and in jeopardy.

Historian Dr. Chanelle Rose is working to change that with a new multi-pronged approach to teacher education funded by a \$133,748 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Rose, the grant's project director, is developing the interdisciplinary new Black Humanities in Education Initiative Through History and Culture at Rowan University.

Being able to teach Black history effectively requires deep content knowledge of the subject, Rose said. Educators in these new programs—both established New Jersey teachers and current education majors—will develop a deeper understanding of the contributions of Black Americans from pre-colonial times extending through today through exposure to source materials like photos, artifacts and historical letters.

The project is a collaboration between Rose and College of Education Professor Valarie Lee, co-PI on the project. Rose and Lee are also working in collaboration with the Professional Development Schools Network. Some of the teachers in the network made up the first

cohort of a summer graduate course that was part of the initiative.

Rowan is among the first institutions of higher education in New Jersey to have a program where the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and the College of Education are partnering to provide content knowledge to education majors and teachers in the profession, according to Rose. She hopes that the program will set a precedent for how institutions of higher education can equip graduates with content knowledge of African American history and address gaps in knowledge among those already in the teaching profession.

"In a political climate where you have anti-Critical Race Theory legislation and the banning of books that deal with subject matter relating to race, depending on where you live, you may not be able to learn some of this history. So it's important to have something that's institutionalized like this to hopefully ensure that teachers and our education majors are still getting that information," Rose said.

"Black history has always been relevant, but in post-George Floyd America, with issues of race, diversity, inclusion and equity bubbling to the surface, this type of initiative is even more timely."

Faculty members earn grants

Faculty members throughout the College of Humanities & Social Sciences have earned grants from numerous funding sources. They include:

Dr. Kathy Javian, Political Science, "#Rowan Votes" (National Conference on Citizenship).

Dr. Kul Kapri, Economics, "SNJ Perinatal Populations Mental Health Data Hub" (Rutgers, New Jersey Institute of Population Health and South Jersey Institute for Population Health).

Dr. Yupeng Li, Economics, "Automatic Aortic Aneurysm Screening Using Deep-Learning Models" (National Science Foundation).

Dr. Lawrence Markowitz, Political Science, continuing grant: "Global Security and International Studies: Integrating Health, Environment, and Emergency Response"

(Undergraduate International Studies Foreign Language Grant, U.S. Department of Education).

Dr. Jeanna Mastrocinque, Law & Justice Studies, "Gun Violence and Health among Black Men in Southern New Jersey" (South Jersey Institute for Population Health); and continuing grant: "Utilization of a Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Program to Provide Resources to Victims of Crime at a Level 1 Trauma Center" (U.S. Department of Justice).

Dr. DeMond Miller, Sociology, "Making the Invisible Visible: Using Augmented Reality Visualization to Look Behind the Scenes at the

Community Impacts of the Opioid Epidemic on the City of Camden" (South Jersey Institute of Population Health); and "Proposal in Response to the New Jersey State Energy Security Plan" (New Jersey Board of Public Utilities).

Dr. Ellen Miller, Philosophy, "Ethics and College Skills Workshops" (Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization).

Dr. Chrissy Saum, Law & Justice Studies, "Process and outcome evaluation of the Police Athletic League Program in El Salvador" (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

Dr. Debbie Sharnak, History, "Strengthening Humanistic

Literacy in the Study of Sport: Developing a Minor and Certificate in Sports and Society" (NEH Humanities Connections).

Dr. John Shjarback, Law & Justice Studies, "An Evaluation of Co- and Alternative-Responding Models for those Experiencing Mental/Emotional Health Crises in Millville: (South Jersey Institute of Population Health); and "A Spatial Examination of Gun Violence in New Jersey" (Rutgers, New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center. The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education).

Training police departments to land grant funding

Even though police departments could benefit from more funding, most law enforcement personnel aren't trained in grant writing.

"Grant writing and crime data analysis are not something you learn in the police academy," said Assistant Professor of Law & Justice Studies Dr. Evan Sorg.

Inspired by a request from United States Congressman Andy Kim (NJ-3), Sorg and his colleague, Dr. John Shjarback, associate professor of Law & Justice Studies, put together the first Law & Justice Grant Writing Course at CHSS. Representatives from 25 South Jersey police departments attended the event in the spring.

Most existing grant writing training programs cover the components of grant applications and how to put together a grant application. Rowan's course helped law enforcement personnel develop a long-term process, allowing them to identify forthcoming funding

opportunities and map out what grants they want to apply to throughout the year.

Law enforcement grants can fund everything from hiring more personnel to purchasing advanced technology that makes policing safer and more efficient, according to Sorg.

"This was an opportunity to have a potentially immediate impact on the lives of not only the police but, more importantly, the communities that these departments are serving," Sorg said.

Above: Congressman Andy Kim (NJ-3) meets with law enforcement representatives during the grant writing training.



Evaluating the impact of legalizing cannabis

In the two years since New Jersey citizens voted to legalize recreational cannabis use, there's a lot to talk about. That's why the Social-Behavioral, Security and Law Enforcement Cannabis Center (SSLC) at CHSS held "Assessing the Legalization of Cannabis in New Jersey on its Two-Year Anniversary" last fall.

The conference—the first of its kind at Rowan—drew a crowd of 50 attendees. Experts from a multitude of perspectives came together to discuss the legal, social, business and equity implications of the legislation. Contributors addressed issues such as equity in arrests, litigation in the workplace and how measuring impairment thresholds affects policing.

"The impact of recreational cannabis legalization is far-reaching and crosses disciplines," said Dr. Kimberly Houser, associate professor of Law & Justice Studies and director of the SSLC. "We are in the very early stages of assessing the impact of this legislation on the criminal justice system, crime and communities."

The conference has inspired new events, collaborative partnerships, research efforts, the development of new courses and programs at Rowan and an upsurge of student interest in research opportunities and future events planned by the SSLC, according to Houser.

Above: Panelist Fruqan Mouzon, J.D., shares insights at the cannabis forum.



Above: Dr. Elaine Zundl serves as the coordinator for the new Master in Public Policy program.

Preparing students for careers in social work, public policy

Meeting the demand for skilled practitioners and policy analysts across New Jersey and beyond, CHSS recently launched two innovative graduate programs that emphasize hands-on skills and interdisciplinary coursework to prepare students for careers in social work and public policy work.

Master of Social Work

The Master of Social Work program, which launched in the fall, has already achieved "pre-candidacy" status with the Council on Social Work Education, putting it on the path to eventual accreditation.

"Interest has been robust," said Dr. Mary Kay Tuohy, professor of Professional Practice and Social Work. "This program will fill a regional void."

The demand for social workers continues to outpace MSW graduates nationally—particularly in South Jersey, where no new accredited MSW programs have been added in the past decade, Tuohy said.

The MSW program specializes in mental health, equity and well-being and emphasizes integrative and transdisciplinary social work models. Students will devote nine required elective credits to transdisciplinary study and have the option to pursue optional certificates. More than 30 students are part of the inaugural MSW cohort at Rowan.

Master of Public Policy

The Master of Public Policy program launched in the spring with six students enrolled. In the fall, 13 students were matriculated in the MPP program, and two additional students were part of the combined BA/MA program.

The goal of the program, professor and program coordinator Elaine Zundl said, is to "train the future leaders of New Jersey to create policy solutions and analyze policy problems."

Designed with students interested in careers in public service, advocacy and private-sector government relations in mind, the MPP program encompasses coursework in the areas of policy analysis, quantitative analysis, economics and public finance, plus options for research or an internship.

The curriculum encompasses 12 credits of coursework in one of eight policy subfields, which include areas as diverse as engineering, criminal justice and sustainability.

"Public policy is a discipline that borrows from a lot of other disciplines to solve social problems," Zundl said. "Concentrations that are in other academic disciplines help students gain hands-on practical skills that allow them to participate in the policy arena."



Welcoming new faculty to CHSS

CHSS welcomed new faculty across six departments in the 2022-23 academic year.

Dr. Jessica Mack, assistant professor, History (Digital Humanities), earned her Ph.D. from Princeton University and served as a postdoctoral fellow at George Mason University's Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media. Mack, who is writing a book about the construction of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, is leading the launch of Rowan's Center for Digital Humanities Research.

Dr. Adam Straub, assistant professor, Sociology, earned his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. His research interests include the intersection of nature and social power in the context of disasters and resilience. Straub is writing a manuscript on risk society and risk communication in the context of Hurricane Fiona.

Dr. David Weinfeld, assistant professor, Philosophy & World Religions, earned his doctorate from New York University and has taught at the university level for a decade. Weinfeld, author of "An American Friendship: Alain Locke, Horace Kallen, and the Development of Cultural Pluralism," is writing a book about how Jews in the American South participated in Confederate commemoration.

Dr. Claude Willan, associate professor, English (Digital Humanities), earned his doctorate at Stanford University. He worked at Princeton University and the University of Houston before coming to Rowan, where he is assisting Mack with the launch of Rowan Center for Digital Humanities Research. His next book is on digital architectures of ignorance.

Staci Fattore, LCSW, lecturer and director of social work field education, Sociology & Anthropology, has practiced in the field of social work for 23 years. Before joining Rowan in the spring, Fattore was a vice president at the Center for Family Services.

Elaine Zundl, lecturer, Political Science & Economics, earned her master's degree and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. from Rutgers University. She is the coordinator of the Master of Public Policy Program. She was project manager at the Harvard Kennedy School's Shift Project and research director of the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers.

Above: Dr. Jessica Mack, assistant professor of history, is among the many new faculty who are already making an impact on scholarship and teaching.



Historian represents CHSS on 'Jeopardy!'

Professor of History and coordinator of Women's & Gender Studies Melissa R. Klapper appeared on national television in March as a "Jeopardy!" contestant, winning \$60,100 as a three-day champion.

Klapper, a 22-year Rowan professor who has written books on the experiences of American Jewish women throughout history and the social history of ballet, is already knowledgeable about many subjects. Still, to hone her vast knowledge, she studied for "Jeopardy!" by reading children's books on science and geography.

"My experience as a contestant on 'Jeopardy!' demonstrates the importance of the humanities to all forms of knowledge," Klapper said.

Above: Dr. Melissa Klapper poses with host Ken Jennings on the "Jeopardy!" set.

Professors complete impactful careers at Rowan University

After decades of tireless work and significant contributions to instruction and research, three CHSS faculty members retired during the 2022-23 year.

Dr. Jim Abbott, professor, Sociology, worked for Rowan for 34 years and formerly chaired the department. Abbott was renowned for his teaching style, which he applied when he taught Introduction to Sociology, Classical Sociological Theory and Sociology of Knowledge. Abbott's research interests included sociological theory, sociology of art and culture and sociology of knowledge. He was recognized with multiple "Wall of Fame" teaching awards.

Dr. Scott Morschauer, professor, History, began his Rowan career in 1994. He taught courses in Western Civilization, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Rome, Medieval Europe, the Crusades, and the Search for the Historical Jesus while conducting research into Ancient Egypt and the Bible. Morschauer published two books and 35 articles, received several "Wall of Fame" awards recognizing his teaching, and served in many leadership roles. He was also the graduate coordinator for the History MA program for many years.

Dr. Wanda Foglia, professor, Law & Justice Studies, devoted 29 years of service to Rowan. Foglia most enjoyed teaching the theory courses required for undergraduate and graduate Law & Justice Studies programs and helping develop the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program. Much of her research focused on how capital jurors decide whether to impose the death penalty, which resulted in her testifying as an expert witness for the defense in over 50 state and federal capital cases. Foglia was inducted into the Department of Law & Justice Studies Hall of Fame and also was named to the "Wall of Fame for Teaching and Advising Excellence."

Faculty accept research, teaching, service awards

Historian James Heinzen was recognized twice during the past academic year for his research on modern Russian history. Last November, he received the CHSS Senior Researcher Award. In the spring, Heinzen became the second CHSS professor to receive the Rowan University Research Achievement Award.

Heinzen, who is director of the Hollybush Institute for Global Peace & Security, was among the first foreign historians to do research in Russian archives after the collapse of the USSR. His work has focused on topics such as bribery and black markets in modern Russia.

“It’s been a real honor to have had my body of research recognized with these awards, especially at the time of the Russia-Ukraine war, when the world’s eyes are on this part of the world,” Heinzen said.

Above: Dr. James Heinzen researches modern Russian history.



CHSS Excellence Awards

Excellence in Teaching Awards

Professor Jody Russell Manning, lecturer, History, and Dr. Adam Straub, assistant professor, Sociology & Anthropology, received the Excellence in Teaching Award.

Excellence in Research Awards

Dr. Yupeng Li, assistant professor, Political Science & Economics, received the Junior Researcher Award and Dr. James Heinzen, professor, History, received the Senior Researcher Award

Excellence in Service Awards

Dr. Danielle Gougon, assistant professor, Political Science & Economics, and Dr. DeMond Miller, professor, Sociology & Anthropology, received the Excellence in Service Award.



Left: Excellence in Teaching Award winners Dr. Adam Straub and Professor Jody Manning pose with Associate Dean Stephen Fleming and Dean Nawal Ammar.

Right: Excellence in Service Award winner Dr. Danielle Gougon is joined by Senior Associate Dean Corinne Blake and Dean Ammar.



Research by the numbers



7
MONOGRAPHS
AND EDITED
VOLUMES

113 Conference presentations
and academic presentations
at other universities

56 Refereed articles
and book chapters



31
BOOK
REVIEWS AND
ENCYCLOPEDIA
ARTICLES



18
PRESS EDITORIALS
OR COMMENTARIES

70 Community talks and
knowledge dissemination
events

6 External review of MA
or PhDs (4) or external
tenure files (2)

80 Lectures, talks and/
or panel discussions
at Rowan

19 Faculty editing or serving on
editorial boards of academic
journals

42 Peer reviews of monographs,
academic papers and textbooks



21
FEDERAL,
STATE
AND OTHER
GRANTS

Fellowships, research stipends and other faculty accomplishments

Dr. Edward Wang, History, was named the first CHSS Eminent Professor at Rowan. The professorship recognizes teaching and research achievements. Wang’s research includes comparative studies of historiography (how history is written) around the world, as well as research on the history of chopsticks. His most recent research focuses on how sweet potatoes shaped population growth in Asia and Africa.

Dr. Debbie Sharnak, History, received a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend to pursue her project, “Jewish Intenationalism and the Southern Cone Dictatorships.” Additionally, she earned the Marshall T. Meyer Research Travel Grant from the Human Rights Archive at Duke University; a Duke Jewish Studies Library Research Fellowship; and the Rabbi Joachim Prinz Memorial Fellowship from the American Jewish Archives.

Dr. Carla Lewandowski, Law & Justice Studies, was selected as one of only 16 professors nationwide to participate in the immersive 2023 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program to Mexico.

Dr. Sierra Lomuto, English, was accepted to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton for 2023-24 through a Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors. She is the second Rowan CHSS faculty member, and the first pre-tenure, chosen for this honor.

Dr. Jessica Mack, History, was selected as a Mellon Seminar Fellow at the Price Lab for Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. The fellowship includes a \$5,000 research fund to support a digital mapping project connected to her upcoming book.

Dr. Melissa Klapper, History, earned a Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute.

Meeting human services needs all over New Jersey

A Rowan education in human services became the key to expanding Stephanie Poe-Cerdan's business and better serving at-risk populations statewide.

Poe-Cerdan established the human services agency Devani Home Care Solutions, located in Deptford, NJ, in November 2014 to service the elderly population. She already had over a decade of work experience in the field of behavioral health, but a missing educational credential held her agency back from becoming an authorized provider with the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

This requirement brought Poe-Cerdan to Rowan. The nontraditional student took mostly night courses to earn her bachelor's degree in human services in 2019 while juggling parenthood and full-time work.

Today, Devani Home Care Solutions is an authorized provider with Medicaid and the DDD. It provides community-based supports, individual supports, supported employment and respite services to 39 individuals 21 and older with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

"My obstacles have been a way to connect with a lot of people," Poe-Cerdan said. "You can use your traumatic experiences as an excuse to fail, or you can use them to be positively impactful to others."

Yet another way Poe-Cerdan is making a positive impact is by donating to Rowan's Thrive program and establishing an annual scholarship for first-generation students in the Human Services program at Rowan.

Above: Stephanie Poe-Cerdan, a distinguished 2019 CHSS alumna, founded her own human services agency.



Advisory Board supports CHSS

The CHSS Advisory Board to the Dean brings together a variety of perspectives to help CHSS continue to innovate. The board includes the following members:

Chrissy Buteas, '04, served as Chief Government Officer of the NJ Business and Industry Association (NJBIA) and is currently vice president of Government Affairs at Altice.

Muqaddas Ejaz, '15, was the first Muslim elected to the Cherry Hill Democratic Committee and champions causes like interfaith work and Muslim community rights.

Dr. Paul Grand, a chemist-turned-artist, has been awarded approximately 20 US patents and developed a body of work encompassing 1,600 fine art photographs. Grand and his wife, Dr. Sunitha Menon-Rudolph, established the Autism PATH Program for Rowan students in 2019.

Dr. Sean Fischer, '05, has been an institutional ambassador at Rowan University since 2015, most recently serving as Director for Strategic Partner Engagement at the University.

Ashanti Jones, a social worker and equity strategist, serves as senior policy and advocacy manager at SchoolHouse Connection and policy analyst for criminal justice reform at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Robin Suydam served as managing partner at Suydam Insurance Agency from 1982 through 2016 before retiring. She still serves as director of Franklin Mutual Insurance Company, a role she has held since 1993.

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Associate Vice President, University Advancement

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201 Mullica Hill Road
Glassboro, NJ 08028
chss.rowan.edu