Philosophy students at commencement have bright futures ahead of them.
Dear friends of Rowan Philosophy and Religion Studies,

We had another productive year in the department thanks to the hard work of our faculty, staff, students, and administrators. We are fortunate to have a fantastic group of majors, minors, and sequencers and our numbers continue to increase each semester. This year, we offered new courses in Spirituality and Healing and a section of Philosophy and Society focused on race, equality, and social justice. This summer we offered Intro to Philosophy through film for the second time. We reach thousands of students each year through our popular courses, and we continue to increase our quality online offerings. Our students are at the center of everything we do, and we appreciate your hard work both in and out of the classroom.

This year, our very own David Clowney received one of Rowan’s most prestigious Rowan awards, the Lindback Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching. Those who have had the opportunity to study with Professor Clowney know the award was extremely well-deserved, and we are proud to have him our department. One of our newer faculty members was also honored this year. Julia Pizzuto-Pomaco received the Sonia Sotomayor award for her outstanding service to the Rowan community.

Our Philosophy club and Honor Society continue to thrive under the leadership of Nathan Bauer. The club hosted talks on a wide variety of philosophical issues such as animal rights, censorship, emotions and morality, political philosophy, and the nature of the self. The club hosted parties, service activities, and other events throughout the year.

Ed Kazarian coordinates our popular Theorizing at Rowan Lecture series and last year we had a broad range of Rowan and guest speakers on topics such as climate change, Kant’s racism, feminism and religion, philosophy of death, and the history of Buddhism.

Our spirituality discussions are becoming increasingly popular due to the enthusiastic work of Julia Pizzuto-Pomaco. She leads regular discussion sessions centered on important everyday topics such as stress management, personal development, and career choices.

The department hosted our third annual Ethics conference and once again the conference was a huge success. It is always fulfilling to hear Rowan students share their original research on important ethical issues and dilemmas. Students and faculty were impressed by Dr. Tim Kirk’s keynote address on end-of-life ethical issues and hospice care.

In June, our department hosted Rowan’s first large international conference. The Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice conference brought together some of the foremost scholars in the history and philosophy of science. Our departmental organizing committee (Nathan Bauer, Bruce Paternoster) did a tremendous job planning this five-day event with the conference coordinator, Matt Lund.

I am grateful for the tremendous support we have received from our Dean’s office under the leadership of Deans Vito and Butler. We are looking forward to another productive year with our new CHSS Dean, Nawal Ammar.

We are excited about our new 30 s.h. major and hope this will encourage even more students to add our program as a double-major. This spring, we will launch 4 new 12 s.h. certificates: Ethics, Religion Studies, Philosophy, and Asian Philosophy and Religion.

As always, we enjoy hearing from Philosophy and Religion studies Alums and hope you will drop a line, become a fan of the department’s Facebook page, or stop by for a visit! If you’re on LinkedIn, please find me there. Thank you for your support – and best wishes for 2017 from all of us at Rowan Philosophy and Religion Studies!
DIANNE ASHTON

During the 2015-2016 academic year I continued to serve as the Editor of *American Jewish History*, the peer-reviewed journal of the *American Jewish Historical Society*. Published four times each year, the journal keeps me busy reading submissions, finding reviewers, corresponding with authors, writing my own introduction to each issue, and working with Johns Hopkins University Press, our publisher, to bring out each issue. Our book review editor, Rowan University history faculty member, Melissa Klapper, does her part but I compile and proof read each entire issue.

Despite the work of the journal, I have continued to press ahead on a research project that has interested me for some time. A diary written by a Richmond, Virginia woman, Emma Mordecai, during the tumultuous year of 1864-1865 remains unpublished and I am hoping to bring it to press in the near future. I have read and made copious notes on the diary itself and am slogging through reading significant secondary literature, including critical scholarly works on diaries as a genre.

I also am an active member of my professional associations and participated in two different sessions at the June Biennial Scholars’ Conference held at the American Jewish Historical Society June 2016.

NATHAN BAUER

A highlight of the past academic year was my receipt of a $1000 Frances R. Lax Faculty Development Award. I used this prize to deliver a talk (“Justice at the Margins”) on May 26 at the 4th Latin American Congress of Analytic Philosophy, held in San José, Costa Rica. I later submitted a paper based on this talk to the *Southern Journal of Philosophy*. I also submitted a separate paper (“Departed Souls? Tripartition at the Close of Plato’s Republic” to the journal *Logical Analysis* and both works are currently under review. During the year I served as faculty coordinator for our Student Philosophy Club.

In February, I was interviewed on the Rowan television show “On the Couch” to promote our club activities. I chaperoned two Honors Program field trips: to the Museum of Modern Art in New York (Feb. 20); and the Philadelphia Museum of Art (April 2). I also presented a Theorizing talk in March on the topic of “Dealing with Kant’s Racism”. In April I attended and chaired a panel at Yale University for the 13th annual meeting of the Eastern Study Group of the North American Kant Society. Finally, along with my colleagues Matt and Bruce, I helped organize and run the 6th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice, held June 17-19 here at Rowan.
DAVID CLOWNEY

I was honored to have been chosen as the recipient of the 2016 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award for demonstrated excellence in teaching. In March, I also presented a talk in the Theorizing at Rowan series entitled “Can We Get There? International Politics and Climate Change after Paris.”

Lindback Teaching Award Details

In the spring, Dr. David Clowney, professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, received the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award at the Celebrating Excellence Awards Dinner. Clowney relies on the Socratic method of questions and answers to guide students to deeper discussion and understanding. A former pastor, he helps students learn about themselves through their coursework. He teaches courses on logic, aesthetics, the philosophy of art, environmental ethics, and other areas, helping students discover their own voices and develop the confidence to use them. An advocate of experiential, service, and applied learning, he helped develop Rowan’s Environmental Studies program. His dedication to mentoring students has contributed to the department’s 100 percent graduate school placement record. Funded by the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation, the Lindback award honors a tenured faculty member with an outstanding record of teaching and a sustained record of commitment to student learning. Since the College was established four years ago, CHSS faculty have received this prestigious award twice.

ED KAZARIAN

I presented a paper on Félix Guattari called "Institution, Revolution, Unconscious" at the London Conference in Critical Thought this June at Birkbeck, University of London. I also continue to coordinate the Theorizing at Rowan lecture series, which hosted papers by David Svolba (Fitchburg State University, Massachusetts), Joshua Ramey (Grinnell College, Iowa), Axelle Karera (Pennsylvania State University), Nyasha Junior (Temple University), George Ciccariello-Maher (Drexel University) as well as six papers from my Rowan Colleagues. This year, I delivered the series’ first paper, “Encounters With Unrecognizable Signs: Deleuze and the Involuntary Beginnings of Philosophy.”

I have also been working on several writing projects: an article exploring the way in which philosophical reflection, according to Deleuze, has an involuntary beginning in an encounter; an article tracing the early history of both Deleuze’s and Guattari’s thought about institutions; and a review of Aaron Schuster’s new book The Trouble With Pleasure: Deleuze and Psychoanalysis. Finally, I have continued my work with Joshua Ramey on our translation of François Laruelle’s Mystique non-philosophique a l’usage contemporains for Palgrave MacMillan. In spring 2017, I will teach an upper-level course on Deleuze, Guattari, and Foucault.
MATTHEW LUND

The majority of my time and efforts in 2015-2016 were devoted to the local organization of the 6th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP), hosted by Rowan in June 2016. The conference brought over 200 scholars from around the world to Glassboro, and featured a pre-conference graduate workshop and a post-conference fossil dig at the Rowan Fossil Quarry. This was the first large academic conference to be hosted at Rowan, and we were proud as a department that it was so successful. I presented a paper entitled “Between the Empty and the Blind: N.R. Hanson’s Historiography of Science” as part of the symposium “In Pursuit of History” at the SPSP 2016 Conference. I was invited to be a member of the SPSP Organizing Committee after the conference was over, and I will happily serve in that capacity for an 8 year term. My research activities remain focused on editing new editions of N.R. Hanson’s works for Springer.

Two of these volumes, *Perception* and *Discovery and What I Do Not Believe*, and Other Essays, Expanded 2nd Edition will be released in 2017. The final edited volume in the series, *Constellations and Conjectures*, is concerned with the history of astronomy, and it will be released in 2018. Once these large projects are complete, I want to complete articles on arguments from authority and the epistemic innovations championed by E.W. Bessel in his accounts of the “personal equation” in observational astronomy and his demonstration of stellar parallax. On the teaching front, I enjoyed teaching Senior Seminar in Philosophy and Religion Studies, Philosophy of Science, and the new online version of Introduction to Symbolic Logic.

ELLEN MILLER

This fall, I presented a paper on Sylvia Plath’s poetry and medicine for the annual Geo-aesthetics conference at Towson University. I delivered a longer version of the paper for medical students and faculty at Rowan SOM and enjoyed sharing how Plath’s work is instructive for understanding mental illness and creativity. I completed a paper on philosophical questions concerning children’s play, gender, and environmental philosophy for the forthcoming Lego and Philosophy collection (Blackwell Publishers). Last spring, I delivered a paper version for our Theorizing at Rowan lecture series; it was wonderful to see faculty and students build Lego creations at the start of my talk. I always looks forward to coordinating our annual student Ethics conference, and this year’s conference had the highest attendance yet. Our students did an amazing job presenting their original research. In my Aesthetics classes, we had the chance to take several field trips to both Rowan art galleries and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. I am looking forward to teaching Senior Seminar this spring; it will give me the opportunity to guide our graduating seniors as they write their thesis projects.
JULIA PIZZUTO-POMACO

Having studied religion and cultural context with a focus on methodology and interpretation of sacred text at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, I am always interested in how we differentiate our biases from the culture around us. When studying sacred text one needs to recognize the preconceptions that already exist and acknowledge them before there can be any hope of a more objective interpretation. This type of training along with graduate and undergraduate studies in sociology/social work have predisposed me to hear the stories of others and encourage the examination of one's hidden biases. Particularly in this current religious environment where our society quickly makes judgments about a person's beliefs long before they even open their mouth. Perhaps their dress or their features might indicate a person is from a particular religion and all of a sudden they have been labeled. This type of discrimination is often happening because of lack of education and limited self-awareness.

It has been a great joy of mine to see students have “aha” moments when they finally get that they were holding preconceived notions and they start to turn those biases around. Much of my work in the classroom, through the Spirituality Discussions and Interreligious Dialogue sessions has been focused upon these goals. In the Spring of 2016, I will teach a new class in Interreligious Dialogue and am hopeful we will see students beginning to train one another in the art of listening and communication across diverse religions. I have also enjoyed serving as a member of the SMART (Stress Management and Response Team). It not only allows me to assist in times of crisis but there is a great cross section of

BRUCE PATERNOSTER

With two of my colleagues in the Philosophy and Religion Department and other Rowan staff in fall of 2015, I helped finalize preparations for Rowan University’s first international academic conference, The Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) 2016 conference. The conference was held June 16-20, 2016, and was a complete success, according to reports from many of the approximately 165 attendees. The conference was also a great learning experience—attending presentations of the most recent research in science studies gave me content and insight that I have incorporated into my philosophy of science classes.

In the spring semester, 2016, I was given an opportunity to teach a Selected Topics course, so chose to present the later dialogues of Plato (Parmenides, Theatetus, Sophist, Statesman) in seminar context to a class of about a dozen advanced students. Our discussions were lively and inspiring to me as a teacher. Students became excited about metaphysical and epistemological issues that one would normally think to be very dry and uninteresting. In the class I tried to present Plato as a dramatist who portrayed historical figures and created mythological images to make difficult ideas clear through entertaining dialogues.

May through July 2016, I continued to teach the summer sections of philosophy of science. This summer I taught one class face-to-face and another, larger class online. I am excited about the new online Logic of Everyday Reasoning class I am designing with Abe Witonsky. This year, I’m continuing my participation in our Philosophy Club discussions and enjoy working with students in our club and Philosophy Honor Society.

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I recently co-wrote a paper with Dr. Sarah Whitman titled “Lucretius' Symmetry Argument: An Analysis of Jeremy Simon's Response and a Better Content-Related Reply”. I have submitted it for publication to the journal "The Philosophical Forum".

I helped a Rowan student named Sarah Derdock get some paid work to code videos of chimp behavior for Dr. Robert Lurz, a philosopher at Brooklyn College doing research on animal minds. I’m currently working with three Rowan students (Eliakah Kakou, Roberto Gonzalez and Brooke Brown) and Dr. John Robinson, all from Rowan’s Department of Computer Science, to develop an attendance app. The app will let the student and the professor know exactly how many classes the student has missed. We expect to finish a web-based program by the end of this semester, after which we will set out to build the app for both Android and iOS devices.

YOURU (CHARLIE) WANG

I had the opportunity to teach a new course I developed called Spirituality and Healing this spring. This is a course that only a handful of universities offer, such as Harvard, Emory, and Boston University. I was pleased that the course has been so popular that it has a waiting list for interested students. I will offer two sections of this course in Fall, 2016. Currently they are already full. I submitted my manuscript of Dictionary of Chan Buddhism to Rowman and Littlefield Publications this summer. This is the first Dictionary of Chan Buddhism in the English language, consisting of about 550 pages, including entries on schools, figures, events, rituals, temples, teachings, and terminology in a history of about 1600 years, and chronology, bibliography, glossary and historical introduction; it will be published next year. I served as the department chair of curricular committee and the member of the Humanities Curricular Committee, helping the revision and approval of 6 proposals from our department and 18 proposals from other departments. I continued to serve as the member of advisory board for the International Studies Program and for the Asian Studies Program. I continued to serve as the member of editorial board for a leading journal in the field of Asian philosophy--the Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy published by the Springer. I gave a lecture of “Rewriting the History of Chinese Zen Buddhism” for the Theorizing at Rowan series in fall 2015.

ABE WITONSKY

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Amanda Roesley, Class of 2013, works as an Autism Support Trainer in the Mt. Laurel School District with The Learning Well. She received her M.A. in School Psychology from PCOM in June 2015. This degree extends research she began at Rowan where she examined ethical issues in contemporary education. In the winter she will apply for BCBA certification (Board Certified Behavior Analyst), and will hopefully transition into a position as a BCBA shortly after. Amanda is entering her third year of graduate school. She is now pursuing an Ed.S degree in School Psychology from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. After she completes this academic year, she will begin a full-time, year-long internship working directly under a certified School Psychologist. She expects to graduate in June of 2018.

Hurr Jaffry, Class of 2013, is currently finishing his Master's in Philosophy at Temple University where he received a scholarship and teaching assistantship. He plans to pursue adjunct teaching for the upcoming year and will teach symbolic logic at Rowan this fall. In addition, Hurr is pursuing research in humanistic psychology.

Bill Sihr, Class of 2014, is currently an MA student in the Philosophy Department at Temple University. He will complete his master's degree this summer and apply for Ph.D. programs in the fall. He specializes in political philosophy, ethics, and economic theory.

Jordan Stangle, Class of 2014, is currently a graduate student and research assistant at George Mason University. He is a student in their Master of Public Administration program with concentrations in environmental science and public policy. He received all As during his first semester and will pursue a PhD in environmental policy after he completes his MPA. Currently, he works as a research assistant at George Mason University. He is working on a project that is meant to evaluate the effectiveness of current legislation on limiting sexual assaults on college campuses. Most of his work centers around database administration and legislative research. He also works as a research assistant at Insight Policy Research. This company primarily focuses on program evaluations for federal agencies in the fields of education, healthcare, and nutrition. They also focus on advocating for underserved populations within these topics. He shared that the work atmosphere is great, and most days are interesting; however, he is still drawn to developing a career in the environmental sector.

David King, Class of 2014, is currently completing his Masters degree in philosophy at San Francisco State University. He was appointed a Graduate Teaching Assistant in spring 2015, and has been teaching philosophy classes at SFSU since then. He has taught six classes so far and will be teaching two more in the fall. He has completed his class work and will write a master's thesis in order to complete the program.

Katelyn Sullivan, Class of 2015, is currently working as the administrative assistant in the International Center here at Rowan University and will start her MA in Higher Education Administration at Rowan this fall. She loves her job and deeply appreciates the opportunity to meet students and faculty from around the world. She has found the knowledge she learned from her world philosophy and religion courses to be particularly useful in better understanding and making connections with international students and staff. Katelyn recently moved to Glassboro, where she lives with her husband, Isaac, their newly adopted dog, Emily, and a large number of tropical fish.
**Student Activities**

**Student Ethics Conference**

This April our department sponsored our Third Annual Undergraduate Student Ethics Conference. Students from across campus presented their original research on topics such as war and terrorism, literature and ethics, capital punishment, gender and ethics, and medical ethics. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Timothy Kirk (City University of New York, York College), presented an engaging talk on ethical issues surrounding hospice care. The Ethics conference is open to students in any major.

(L-R): Ellen Miller, conference coordinator, with our student presenters and Keynote Speaker: Brandon Fishbaum, Tyriese Holloway, Stephen Schram, Kim Rafine, Allayna Nofs, Dr. Timothy Kirk (photo credit: ???)

**Philosophy Club and Honor Society**

The past year was very successful for our department’s Student Philosophy Club and our local chapter of the Phi Sigma Tau honor society. Last year, we held a ceremony inducting eighteen new students into Phi Sigma Tau. The Club met most weeks during the year for lively discussions of a wide range of topics: from the ethics of eating meat to perceptual skepticism to the status of the social contract. It provides an opportunity for students to explore their views in a friendly, casual setting. The club is popular both with our existing majors and new students with an interest in philosophy. Nathan Bauer serves as faculty advisor for our club and Honor Society.
Rowan hosted the 6th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP) from June 17-19. The conference was preceded by a Pre-Conference Graduate Workshop and followed by a Fossil Dig. As the largest conference hosted by Rowan to date, organizing it was a big job, but the event was a great success. As one attendant put it: “All went smoothly—and the invisibility of the organization is, ironically, the best indicator of how well it was done.” Many attendants commented positively on the intimate environment and the excellence of the accommodations. With over 120 talks, 4 plenary lectures, and a guest lecture from Dr. Kenneth Lacovara about deep time and fossil hunting, the conference had a lot to offer. The SPSP Organizing Committee was very pleased with the conference, and Rowan has now become a household name in the History and Philosophy of Science international community.

**Theorizing at Rowan**

Our popular Theorizing at Rowan lecture series brings Rowan and guest speakers to campus for lively discussions on a wide-range of topics and issues.

- **10/14/2015** - David Svolba, Assistant Professor of Humanities, Fitchburg State University, “Frankfurt on Moral Responsibility.”
- **10/28/2015** - Joshua Ramey, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Grinnell College, “Money and Metaphysics.”
- **12/02/2015** - Abraham Witonsky, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Rowan U., “A Response to Lucretius’ Argument Against the Fear of Death.”
- **02/04/2016** - Nyasha Junior, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Temple University, “Beyoncé, Black Women, and the Bible.” – event co-sponsored by Africana Studies, Philosophy and Religion Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies.
- **02/17/2016** - George Ciccariello-Maher, Associate Professor of Politics, Drexel University, “Decolonizing Dialectics.”
- **03/02/2016** - Nathan Bauer, Instructor in Philosophy, Rowan U., “Dealing with Kant’s Racism.”
- **03/23/2016** - David Clowney, Professor of Philosophy, Rowan U., “Can we get there? International politics and climate change after Paris.”
- **04/06/2016** - Ellen Miller, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Rowan U., “Building and Dwelling with Lego Toys.”
- **04/20/2016** - Dwight Murph, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Rowan U., “The Epistemic Racial Gap.”
Back to the Boro: Philosophy and Religion Studies Gives Back

Every year Rowan has a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty and staff to give back to the community in which our university is situated. Many students who take Philosophy and Religion courses are motivated to make an impact in our world and to be involved in service activities. This annual event is a perfect chance to bring together our students and faculty outside of the classroom. This year we had several students and faculty members work on a member of the community’s yard; weeding and putting down mulch so that the family was freed up to do other important tasks that they had not had time to complete. It was wonderful to get out and talk to the community and we learned that the family’s son was applying to Rowan for the Fall. We were able to hear about his interests and offer assistance in whatever help we could once he found himself on campus.

Our department is small and so it gives us the opportunity to attend to our students’ academic needs and get to know them in more than a cursory way. Back to the Boro spurred us into starting a new club this coming Fall which will be student run and will allow the students to discuss topics of interest that arise out of their religion coursework and provide opportunities for students to serve together in community projects several times in the year.

2016 Student Awards

Philosophy and Religion Studies department offers awards and scholarships for students in each of our programs. We are very proud of each student we have the opportunity to teach, especially those who choose to take enough classes for a major or minor.

Congratulations to our 2016 student award recipients:

- Philosophy and Law Award - Ryan Boonstra
- Philosophy Minor Award - Stephen Schram
- Sophia Award - Marianne Schottenfeld
- Ethics Award - Kim Rafine
- Philosophy and Religion Studies Sequence Award - Rhonetta Haygood
- Charles Wei-Hsun Fu Memorial Scholarship in World Philosophy and Religion - Jouvens Celestin and Alex Watson
- Senior of Distinction - Josiah Domico