

# Innovation in EDUCATION

FALL 2016



Access, Success and Equity ... Turning Research Into Practice



## Message from the dean

This year is off to an exciting start! As we celebrate new beginnings and our legacy of giving, our mantra — “Access, Success and Equity ... Turning Research into Practice” — guides us in all we do.

Enjoy our newsletter as we highlight a new service delivery structure to enhance our supports in teacher education, our highly talented new faculty and a few of our outstanding alumni.

Read about our Office of Educator Support and Partnerships, which was created to develop the infrastructure to support our teacher candidates and P-12 constituents while working to provide local solutions to national problems.

Learn more about how each of our new faculty will contribute to our effort to address the most persistent issues in public education.

Celebrate our outstanding alumni, who make us proud through their service to the College and the profession.

I'm honored to serve as dean of Rowan University's College of Education. Every day, I leverage our resources to engage in transformative scholarship, innovation and community engagement. I hope we can count on your continued support.

In service,

Dr. Monika Williams Shealey  
Dean

## OESP takes proactive approach to preparing future educators

Preparing top-notch teachers for an ever-changing educational environment requires a synchronized effort — encompassing faculty, advisors and numerous programs. To streamline this process, the College of Education introduced the Office of Educator Support and Partnerships (OESP) this fall.

“All programs or initiatives related to teacher preparation will come through the OESP,” said Dr. Stacey Leftwich, executive director. These include: the Office of Clinical Experiences, Professional Development School Network, edTPA Performance Assessment, Teacher Pipeline Programs and Recruitment, Praxis Lab and Teacher Education Advisory Council.

“The state is requiring a full-year residency for clinical experience in 2018-19,” Leftwich said. “We are in a transitional time, so I think it is necessary to have this office to oversee these transitions. It is a significant change for faculty, advisors and students.”

Within weeks of launching, the OESP welcomed Glassboro's Dorothy L. Bullock School into Rowan's Professional Development School Network. Bullock brings the total of Rowan professional development schools (PDSs) to seven, including Glassboro's Bowe School, which joined last fall.

PDSs immerse future educators in a dynamic learning community, where they develop a comprehensive set of skills for the future. Furthermore, PDS programs influence education throughout the region.

“Any time there's a new initiative, it is helpful to be able to pilot it within our PDSs,” Leftwich said. For example, Rowan established the year-long residency at PDSs Johnstone Elementary School in Vineland and Holly Glen Elementary School in Williamstown long before it was mandated by the state.

“We're able to do some innovative things in this network of schools before we take them to districts outside of our PDS network,” Leftwich said.



From left, **Richard Taibi**, Bullock principal; **Dr. Stacey Leftwich**; and **Eshe Price**, Rowan professor in residence, along with Bullock students, celebrate the school's welcome as a Rowan Professional Development School.

# New faculty tackle varied challenges in education



Dr. Brent Elder

## **Brent Elder, PhD, assistant professor, Interdisciplinary & Inclusive Education**

Last year, Dr. Elder traveled to Kenya as a Fulbright scholar, conducting his doctoral research on sustainable inclusive education practices in under-resourced schools. He continues this research, focusing on how disability and poverty influence education.

## **Sarah Ferguson, PhD, assistant professor, Interdisciplinary & Inclusive Education**

Dr. Ferguson applies advanced research methods to educational topics. Investigating individual differences research in psychology and curriculum and instruction research in education, she is focusing on ways that students' personal attributes affect learning in STEM.



Dr. Sarah Ferguson



Dr. Hajime Mitani

## **Hajime Mitani, PhD, assistant professor, Educational Services & Leadership**

In his research, Dr. Mitani examines educational policy and leadership and international and comparative education. Recently, he studied the predictive validity of Tennessee's principal evaluation system and how effective principal preparation programs are.

## **Jennifer Rich, EdD, assistant professor, Interdisciplinary & Inclusive Education**

In addition to teaching undergraduates and performing research, Dr. Rich is co-coordinator of Rowan's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The center promotes awareness of the Holocaust and genocide, as well as providing professional development activities for educators.



Dr. Jennifer Rich



Dr. Cecile H. Sam

## **Cecile H. Sam, PhD, assistant professor, Educational Services & Leadership**

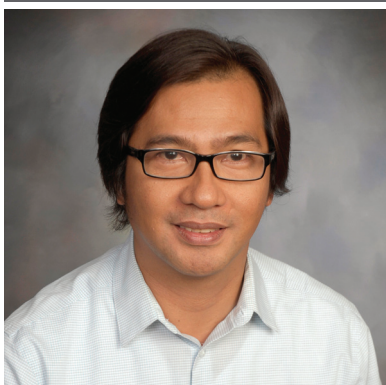
As a researcher, Dr. Sam focuses on grassroots leadership, faculty work and educational policy, as well as the role of ethics in these areas. Before joining Rowan, the former middle school teacher was a research specialist at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Hae Min Yu, EdD, assistant professor, Interdisciplinary & Inclusive Education**

In her research relating to early childhood, Dr. Yu concentrates on cultural diversity, Asian American immigrant families and communities, qualitative research, sociocultural theory, teacher education and arts-integrated curriculum.

## **Carmelo Callueng, PhD, NCSP, assistant professor, Educational Services & Leadership**

In his research, Dr. Callueng concentrates on promoting students' well-being within a multi-tiered model of support services, test use and adaptation, and international school psychology. He comes to Rowan from the University of Nebraska and De La Salle University-Manila, Philippines.



Dr. Carmelo Callueng



Dr. Hae Min Yu

## Scholarship supports special educators

**D**ecades after Dr. Marilyn Gonyo, '65, dreamed of teaching her own students during her undergraduate years, she returned to the same campus to establish a scholarship to help those with similar ambitions.

She funded the Dr. Marilyn Gonyo Scholarship for Excellence in Education for Rowan elementary education majors with an endorsement in special education.



**Dr. Marilyn Gonyo** (left) and **Dean Monika Shealey** at the Rowan University Foundation Scholarship Dinner.

“It was at Glassboro that I received my roots. It provided a strong foundation that gave me the skills I needed to become a successful classroom teacher and then the desire to pursue all of the additional certifications and degrees that I received,” said the resident of Monroe Township, Middlesex County.

A retired professor from Georgian Court University and former reading specialist, Gonyo touts the universal benefits of special education. “Students with special needs are increasing, but they need to be part of the mainstream, so teachers are being trained to provide general and special education at the same time,” she said. “All children will be helped and enabled to deal with people who have all kinds of needs as they advance through life.”

Senior Nicole Wyglendowski of Washington Township, Warren County, who is majoring in elementary education and English while earning an endorsement in special education and a certificate in middle school education, received the first scholarship.

“Part of what I’m looking for is students who are well rounded and highly motivated. I want them to take those skills and a high level of energy and motivation and become role models for their students in the classrooms,” Gonyo said. “I want them to help their students develop not only better learning skills, but better life skills.”

## Class of '51 alumna challenges classmates

**T**his spring, as John Quinesso captivated alumni with stories from Teach and Discover India, the College’s popular study-abroad program, Dolores Johnson, '51, was struck with an idea.

“Not only were students helping people to love learning and reading, they were there to help the people. That impressed me because I am a people-oriented person,” said Johnson, who retired from the Cinnaminson School District, with more than 40 years as an educator, and served as a vice principal of two schools during her tenure. “I just wanted to be one of those who helped them.”

In response to Quinesso’s presentation during Rowan’s Golden Years Reunion, the Lawnside resident contributed \$100 to the program and challenged her Class of '51 classmates to do the same. “If alumni donate \$100, 100 people times \$100 is a good way to get started,” she said.

The program benefits rural communities in India, as well as Rowan students. “Teach and Discover India gives our Rowan education majors an opportunity to experience not only the educational system of rural India, but also the culture of a village in India,” said Quinesso, instructor, Interdisciplinary and Inclusive Education. In addition, with donations from partnering schools and families, they have provided books, educational materials and a water system to the school.

When Quinesso returns to India in January, he will bring 16 students, who will be teaching and learning with the Diane Raj School students.



Last January, Rowan students met and taught pupils at the Diane Raj School, a K-8 school.

To donate to this fund electronically, please use the following link and in the “Designation Instructions,” please specify “Teach and Discover India, for student travel expenses, etc.”:

<https://secure.rufoundation.org/s/1653/general/foundation.aspx?sid=1653&gid=2&pgid=654&cid=1514&dids=595>

To donate by check, please make check out to “Rowan University Foundation.” In the memo section, indicate that your donation is for “College of Education – Teach and Discover India, for student travel expenses, etc.” Please mail to Rowan University Foundation, 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08028.



Dreary weather failed to dampen the College's Homecoming celebration: From left, back row: **Jennifer Bitz, Dana Baglivo, Michael Bornstein and Rebecca Schnier.** Front row: **Leah Walker, Samantha Mickens, Diane Doorman and Erin Anderson.**



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## College honors renowned alumni

College of Education alumni continue to impact the future of education. Two of these influential graduates — Dr. Robert Belle Jr., '58, and Dr. Joseph Renzulli, '58 — received Lifetime Service Awards during the Golden Years Reunion in May.

Having served as a collegiate, state and national administrator, Belle has received numerous prestigious awards. He has been a steadfast advocate for students who were underserved or denied access to higher education.

He is associate director of the Southern Regional Education Board State Doctoral Scholars Program and the National Science Foundation's Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate.

A groundbreaking leader in gifted education, Renzulli applied gifted teaching strategies to all students.

The American Psychological Association has listed him among the most influential



**Dr. Joseph Renzulli (left) and Dr. Robert Belle Jr.** display their Lifetime Service Awards with **Dean Monika Shealey.**

psychologists in the world, and he received the noted Harold W. McGraw Jr. Award for Innovation in Education. In addition, Renzulli was a consultant to the White House Task Force on Education of the Gifted and Talented.

His work is widely recognized in the professional literature and has provided the foundation for noted learning programs. Renzulli is a professor of educational psychology at the University of Connecticut and director of the Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education and Talent Development.

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