

## **Brad Summerville ('01, '02 MS) is a Governor**

*Brad Summerville was born and raised in Pitman, NJ (where Professor Everett has also lived since 1998). His father was a union sheet metal worker in Philadelphia who worked his way up to be a union business agent. His mother is a dental hygienist. Brad has three brothers: One is a custom home builder, another operates a home health and personal care service for the elderly and Brad's younger brother works for Gloucester County.*



*Brad completed his Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) degree at Rowan in 2001, part of the second cohort. He stayed to complete a Master's in 2002. He then joined Duffield Associates, a geosciences consulting firm in Philadelphia mostly working in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He started out performing field work and site investigations and worked his way up to Junior Project Manager in the environmental department.*

*In 2012, Brad moved to PT Consultants in Bellmawr, NJ as a project manager. He is now a Vice President managing 15 people and leading site remediation projects. He established Summerville Engineering with help from PT to perform engineering services in New York City. Brad is a Professional Engineer<sup>1</sup> in New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York. He is also a Licensed Site Remediation Professional<sup>2</sup> in New Jersey.*

*Brad is active on the East Greenwich Township planning board and environmental commission (EC). Through the EC's work, East Greenwich Township became certified as a New Jersey Sustainable Community. Brad is extremely active in the American Society of Civil Engineers<sup>3</sup> (ASCE), becoming South Jersey Branch President in 2014 and New Jersey Section President in 2015. He is currently the ASCE Region 1 Governor for New Jersey. Brad enjoys interacting with the members of Region 1 through its branches, sections and student chapters. Region 1 encompasses New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Eastern Canada.*

I grew up near Lipari Landfill, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund<sup>4</sup> site that was remediated in the 1990s. The site contaminated nearby Alcyon Lake, which had been a popular recreation spot in Pitman. My friend's father was on the Pitman EC and related stories about the cleanup. This got me interested in environmental engineering. Rowan was one of the only schools in the area that had an emphasis in environmental engineering and, though it was almost too close to home, the cost was low enough that I convinced my parents to let me live in the dorms and get the full college experience. I really liked that the Rowan program was new and growing and that I could be a part of its development. As part of the second engineering class, I got to watch the construction of the original engineering building. The engineering programs moved into Rowan Hall my sophomore year.



The Rowan CEE students were very close. We worked together on homework and in study groups. I enjoyed being involved with the newly formed ASCE student chapter. I was on the concrete canoe<sup>5</sup> team that won regionals and traveled to San Diego for the national competition. I also enjoyed my Engineering Clinic<sup>6</sup> classes, especially the interaction with other engineering majors. One of my Clinics included field work in Alaska and Oklahoma, studying site cleanup at Altus and Elmendorf Air Force Bases. The hands-on experience in the field and the laboratory helped me stand out during interviews for my first job after graduation. The Clinics prepared me for teamwork as an engineering professional. As part of the final grade for those Clinics, we presented our findings to the professors and classmates. That helped me to become comfortable giving presentations and speaking publicly, which I now do routinely for clients, state officials and student chapters.

I look back on my time at Rowan fondly. I had a fantastic time. I made lifelong friendships. I continue to attend alumni events. I enjoy coming back to Rowan to talk to students. I see Professors Cleary and Jahan frequently when I return to campus and at ASCE events. I was also honored to be inducted into the Alumni Circle of Distinction for the College of Engineering. I am glad to see Rowan continue to grow. Engineering Hall<sup>7</sup> is a beautiful and substantial addition to the college. I am proud to represent Rowan in my roles of Vice President at PT Consultants and ASCE Region 1 Governor of New Jersey.

*Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on January 31, 2024.*

1. The Professional Engineer license (PE) is a “standard recognized by employers and their clients, by governments and by the public as an assurance of dedication, skill and quality...Only PEs can sign and seal engineering drawings...To become a Licensed Professional Engineer, you must do four things: graduate from an accredited engineering program, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, work with a professional engineer for four years and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.”
2. “In May 2009, the Governor signed the Site Remediation Reform Act (SRRA) into law...SRRA establishes a licensing program for Site Remediation Professionals (LSRPs) who have responsibility for oversight of environmental investigation and cleanups. The LSRP’s highest priority is protection of public health and safety and the environment. Although the law changes the administrative process, it maintains the existing NJDEP clean-up standards. The NJDEP continues to have final authority over the clean-up process by requiring that remediating parties comply with applicable regulations, but the day-to-day management of cleanups is overseen by LSRPs.”
3. The American Society of Civil Engineers is a professional body, founded in 1852, that represents members of the civil engineering profession worldwide. There are more than 500 chapters for professionals and students and over 150,000 members in 177 countries.
4. Superfund is the common name of a 1980 US Law that “allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites. It also forces the parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work.”
5. The American Society of Civil Engineers sponsors regional and national competitions in which college students design, make and race canoes made of concrete.
6. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering’s place in society and

fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.

7. Engineering Hall was completed in 2016, doubling the size of the Engineering College.