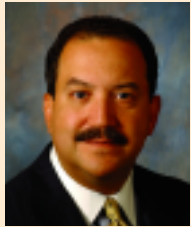


CLAS *notes*

The newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Message From the Dean

There is always something exciting happening in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) – whether in the classroom, in the lab or in the field.

As the largest and most programatically diverse college at Rowan University, CLAS at some point in time educates every undergraduate student on campus. All students pass through our doors in order to meet general education requirements. And this year, 4,127 students are majoring in at least one of our disciplines.

Those disciplines are broad-ranging. CLAS houses 15 departments that are as varied as Law/Justice, Biology and Political Science. In effect, CLAS is educating our future lawyers, doctors and diplomats, as well as our future psychologists, language teachers and computer programmers.

As you can imagine, a college this expansive encourages students to explore a wide range of interests, enables faculty to collaborate on multidisciplinary projects and encourages all members of the college to investigate fields outside their primary area of interest.

Indeed, there is always something exciting going on in CLAS. This, our first newsletter, will introduce you to just a few of the people and projects that make our college unique. I hope you enjoy it.

Dr. J. A. Harper, Dean

RU CSI Teaches Investigative Basics

Lying flat on their bellies on a damp Saturday in October, 10 Rowan students systematically scooped up soil from a pit they had excavated earlier, trying not to disturb a crime scene while they searched for the remains of a murder victim.

The students were members of the Rowan Crime Scene Investigation Team, and their goal was to find a dead body (in reality a Halloween skeleton buried on the campus) and determine its cause of death.

They evaluated clues, flagged and bagged potential evidence and taped the perimeter where they thought the body was buried. The team coordinator, senior psychology major Elizabeth Rodriguez, probed the suspected gravesite, its softer soil indicating some disturbance. With team site manager Jessica Levin, a sophomore history major, Rodriguez led the team in unearthing evidence and the skeleton, which they removed to a “crime laboratory” – the anthropology lab in Bosshart Hall – for further analysis.

This work was part of a new forensic anthropology course taught by Drs. Diane Markowitz and Maria Rosado, associate professors of anthropology. In the class-

room, Markowitz and Rosado taught their students the techniques needed for their first field investigation, focusing on osteology (studying bones to learn their tales of age, sex, height and life history) and taphonomy (what happens to a body after death). Guest lecturers provided additional information on soil sampling, mapping and legal protocols.

Markowitz and Rosado also enlisted members of the New Jersey State Police, who spoke to the class prior to the onsite work and provided guidance at the field investigation. Lt. Steve Hildebrand, a 1979 Rowan graduate and supervisor for Crime Scene Headquarters Investigation Unit Troop A, Buena Vista, said that police use the same procedures as anthropologists, but for a different purpose: “We want evidence to solve a crime rather than evidence for historic information.”

Rosado said forensic anthropology helps people understand what may have happened to a person before and after death. Markowitz added, “Forensic anthropology is about identification, and field investigation takes the classroom material and puts it to work.”



Rowan Crime Scene Investigators dug a recent project: unearthing a “body”.

Caswell Brings Political Science Alive at Rowan

Political science is more than theory and facts in Dr. Bruce Caswell's classroom; it's also a lively look at government, political process and more.

In his course American Politics, for example, Caswell described being at the 2004 Democratic Convention in Boston. Through stories and campaign press releases, which led to discussion and questions, he engaged students in the classroom and provided current meaning to political theory.

"I made it come alive for the students," the associate professor said.

Caswell, at Rowan since 1989, has extensive personal knowledge of the political scene from work at the Institute for the Study of Civic Values, a nonprofit education and research foundation, and as an urban planner, policy analyst and intergovernmental relations specialist at the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He keeps up to date by attend-



Dr. Bruce Caswell

ing political events and participating in political science associations.

Caswell has found that talking with people who knew politicians provides immediacy to historic events, such as the 1948 Democratic Convention in Philadelphia when Hubert Humphrey made Civil Rights a plank of the Democratic Party. Caswell said that he learned firsthand from convention attendees that Humphrey already had his eye

on the presidency and wasn't sure he wanted to deliver that speech, which put him in the spotlight. In 1960, Humphrey lost the Democratic nomination in some southern states to Kennedy, who took an ambiguous position on Civil Rights. Said Caswell, who earned a Ph.D. in political science at Rutgers, "Kennedy's politics worked for him. Humphrey's principles may have cost him the presidency."

Caswell's students also experience today's government in action on trips to Trenton, where they meet Rowan graduates who work in the field. Caswell said former Rowan political science majors have gone on to important administrative roles in government, helping his students see what they might do in the future.

This year's presidential campaign provided Caswell with future lesson possibilities. He participated in the Iowa caucuses, and that experience soon may lead to a classroom caucus in one of his courses.

Nurses Get the Education 'Booster' They Need

Rowan Begins RN-to-BSN Program



Dr. Barbara Benjamin addresses a class of nurses.

It's here: Rowan's RN-to-BSN program, a collaboration between Rowan University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). The initiative is in its first semester, and, noted Dr. Barbara Benjamin, Rowan site coordinator and UMDNJ associate professor, "I'm getting calls every day about it."

"... a local BSN program is needed to help alleviate the current shortage."

Designed to respond to the growing need for registered nurses with a bachelor's degree, the program allows potential students to begin in either the fall or spring semester and attend full time or part time. As a result, nurses can work and take courses that will enhance their current practice as well as prepare them for a possible future in nursing education or nursing administration or as nurse practition-

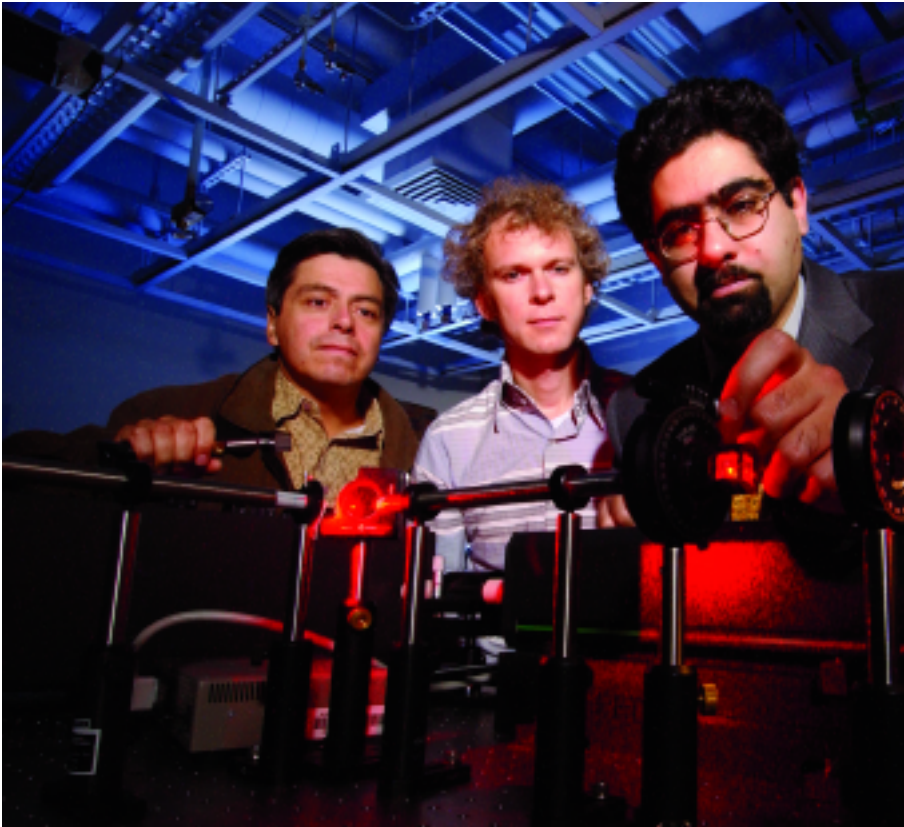
ers, midwives or nurse anesthetists.

"We have a BSN shortage nationally and in New Jersey," said Dr. J. A. Harper, dean of Rowan's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. "Rowan and UMDNJ administrators believe this is strong evidence that a local BSN program is needed to help alleviate the current shortage."

Benjamin said that the courses – on leadership, research, health policy, health care finance and nursing informatics, including a community health emphasis – provide the additional knowledge base that nurses need for the 21st century.

Nurses interested in this new opportunity must have graduated with an associate's degree or diploma from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and hold a license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey. Individuals licensed as registered nurses in other states must be eligible for New Jersey State Board of Nursing licensure as a registered professional nurse.

Rowan Team Helping to Revolutionize Quantum Physics



Visiting Research Professor **Dr. Shahriar Afshar** (right) works with **Drs. Eduardo Flores** (left) and **Ernst Knoesel** on the laser beam experiment.

Einstein was right!

At least that's what the work of Dr. Shahriar S. Afshar, a recent visiting research professor at Rowan, may prove about an 80-year-old debate that had Einstein on the losing side.

In the world of physics and academia, that's big news.

Einstein claimed that quantum physics was incomplete. Afshar, who has been working with Drs. Eduardo Flores and Ernst Knoesel, Rowan physics professors, has proposed an experiment that can test Einstein's claim.

Afshar conducted his initial work at Boston's Institute for Radiation-Induced Mass Studies, where he is a principal investigator, and verified his work at Harvard University as a visiting scholar.

In his experiment, Afshar uses a laser beam and a screen with two small pinholes. A particle goes through a pinhole and eventually hits a screen for detection. Afshar can tell what pinhole the particle goes through, and at the

same time he can show that the particle's path is affected by both pinholes. According to the standard theory of quantum physics, this is not possible. If the results hold true, quantum mechanics is still incomplete, which was Einstein's long-held view.

Afshar, Flores and Knoesel recently finalized an experiment in Rowan's Physics Department that validates Afshar's initial findings for single photons.

In the Rowan experiment, the team used a single photon source instead of a beam because some critics pointed out that the laser beam experiment results could be explained in terms of classical physics. Thus, using single particles was critical in determining the validity of Afshar's claims.

Afshar's work at Rowan and elsewhere has garnered attention in science communities around the world. And his next experiment? One to probe the existence of photons and perhaps put to rest the debate on the nature of light.

International Center Features Many Opportunities

“Studying abroad changes you in profound ways,” said Dr. Edward Smith, interim director of Rowan's International Center, “and the presence of international students and faculty at Rowan enriches the University.”

The center, organized this year, is designed to support and coordinate all of Rowan's international and intercultural initiatives. It offers students the opportunity to study in 170 programs in more than 50 countries, and its direct exchange options include programs in Germany, Ecuador and Korea. This year alone, Rowan has signed exchange

“Studying abroad changes you in profound ways.”

agreements with the University of San Francisco at Quito (USFQ) in Ecuador and Korea University (KU) in Seoul and has developed a relationship with the University of La Serena in Chile.

Smith said Quito provides an excellent opportunity for Spanish majors to enhance their language and cultural knowledge and offers biology majors interested in environmental sciences a rigorous program at its satellite campus on the Galapagos Islands. USFQ students also will be able to take courses at Rowan. This also is true for the Korean program, which hopefully will involve faculty in teaching exchanges and collaborative research and scholarship.

Other Rowan exchange programs also include collaboration with the University of Osnabrueck in Germany.

Smith noted that he is working to raise awareness of the International Center and its opportunities. “For the first time, Rowan students and faculty have a central location where they can learn about study and volunteer programs abroad, the International Studies program and the International Honor Society,” he said.

Geography Prof's Book Just Ghostly

Autumn's sharp shadows and early twilights seem to call for a good ghost story, and tales of things that go bump in the night appear in the new book, "Haunted New Jersey: Ghosts and Strange Phenomena of the Garden State." Dr. Charles A. Stansfield, Jr., Rowan geography professor, and Patricia A. Martinelli, a 1978 Rowan graduate, freelance writer and historic resource interpretive specialist at Wharton State Forest, collaborated on the collection of state tales.

Stansfield's interest in ghost stories was piqued while researching the Jersey Shore and hearing of such tales as that of the apparition called the "Woman in White," involving a woman whose beloved sailor was on a ship she helped draw to its doom. That story found a place in the new book. Martinelli's interest in the supernatural was fueled at an early age by authors like Edgar Allan Poe and television shows like "The Twilight Zone," which inspired her to write her own scary tales.

County atlases from the 19th century were important sources for Stansfield, who found many of them in the Stewart Room of Rowan University's Campbell Library. Such atlases typically feature histories of prominent families but lots of other information, including spectral stories.

Stansfield and Martinelli found more stories than just those printed in "Haunted New Jersey," which includes such tales as those about the Jersey Devil, the state's most familiar legend; the apparition of the revolutionary rebel Captain Huddy, wrongly hanged by the British; and Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother, who is said to have held ghostly parties at his one-time home north of Bordentown. All are gripping reading for a foggy night.



Want to Learn More?

To learn more about the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Rowan University:

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www.rowan.edu/las

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