

CLAS *notes*

The Newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Message from the Dean

Lifelong learning. Leadership. Excellence. These qualities go hand in hand with the work of our College. As we continue to celebrate 40 years of liberal arts education here at Rowan, this issue of CLAS Notes highlights and celebrates these themes.

Our College values lifelong learning, and the new CLIO and COGS programs illustrate its application in our history department. Through CLIO, a freshman history major can now be part of a like-minded group, and through COGS, a history teacher can further his or her education by earning a certificate of graduate studies.

Excellence comes to the forefront in the work of Dr. K.V. Ramanujachary ("Chary"), whose discoveries have resulted in an award that will take him to consult with peers in India and advance materials science research there. He, like other LAS professors, stands out in his field.

LAS also nurtures the qualities that mold students for future success, including those who become leaders. Alumnus Dr. William Frawley's stellar leadership skills have taken him to the position of president of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va. He is profiled here.

I hope you enjoy this celebration of our College.

Jay Harper

Sincerely,
Jay Harper

From CLIO to COGS: History Department Adds New Programs

When Chris LeMay, a freshman from Howell, N.J., arrived at Rowan, he knew he would live and study with like-minded students as part of CLIO, the University's new Community of Learning in Operation for history majors.

After he graduates, LeMay can continue his education through classes in history or world history and earn a certificate of graduate study through the department's COGS (Certificates of Graduate Study) program.

"The best part about CLIO is that the classes you're most comfortable in are with people as into history you are," LeMay said. "We talk about history a lot because it's a common interest. We come to each other for help. It's a close-knit group."

CLIO adviser Dr. William Carrigan, associate professor of history, said the CLIO experience has been positive for freshmen.

"CLIO helps them adjust to college life," Carrigan said. "The students like to study,

network and socialize together. It has paid off in the classroom in their involvement. In class, students question more and seem less reticent to discuss a subject."

Soon after the CLIO freshmen finish their first year, a new group of graduate students will begin summer courses through COGS. They can enroll in the colloquium on American history, focusing on U.S. historiography, or in a global history course examining race and identity in Asia.

Open to teachers and others pursuing graduate work, COGS requires 15 credits to earn a certificate and will be offered in the evening during the academic year and also in the summer. For teachers, the certificate helps with tenure, recertification, promotion and development.

According to Dr. Q. Edward Wang, professor and chair of the History Department, the inclusion of world history in COGS was a popular request of teachers. "We did a survey which indicated that most school teachers would like global coverage."



Dr. William Carrigan, associate professor of history, enjoys lunch with CLIO freshmen.

Rowan an Important Stop for Law School Recruiters

Although only in its second year, Rowan's Law School Fair welcomed representatives from 20 east coast and Midwest law schools, and close to 200 students attended. Rowan's Pre-Law Society, along with adviser Dr. Michael Weiss, assistant professor of Law and Justice Studies, coordinated the event, which included representatives from such law schools as Rutgers-Camden, Villanova, Ohio Northern University, and Fordham, among others.

“It's great that people would drive five or six hours or fly in to speak to our students. That speaks volumes about Rowan.”

“The law school fair is very important to future law school students. It gives prospective students a chance to meet with law school representatives, ask questions, and get a feel for law school. For students who are further along in the application process, it allows them to find out what credentials they need to get into a particular law school, or to research law schools that they feel would be a good fit for them,” said Joe Manney '07, president of the Pre-Law Society and a political science major from Mt. Olive, N.J.

Manney said that the Pre-Law Society created advertisements for the fair, decided on the ballroom layout for the event and promoted it nonstop. In addition to the fair itself, a panel provided an additional opportunity to ask about credentials for an application.

“The recruiters were impressed with the fair and the students, and their good questions,” Weiss said. “It's great that people would drive five or six hours or fly in to speak to our students. That speaks volumes about Rowan.”

Fulbright Recipient from China Shares Language and Culture With Students in LAS

The professor wore red to celebrate the Spring Festival, but the setting was a classroom far away from her native China.

“Language is closely connected to culture and I'm so glad to share my culture with my students.”

Yan Yu, at Rowan through a Fulbright award, took the opportunity recently to talk about her homeland's most important festival, also known as Chinese New Year, which is a weeklong celebration with special food and family reunions. Combining language and culture is gratifying for Yu.



Professor Yan Yu celebrates China's Spring Festival with her Rowan students.

“Language is closely connected to culture and I'm so glad to share my culture with my students,” she said.

Yu came to Rowan from the coastal city of Qingdao, where she teaches English to Chinese students at the Ocean University of China. This year at Rowan, she is teaching courses in elementary and intermediate Chinese.

In addition, Yu has been working in the foreign language laboratory. According to Dr. Sonia Spencer, associate professor and chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures, “Yan's presence on campus, her teaching in the department and her work in the lab have been positive in all ways. Through her mentoring, many students have been encouraged to pursue their study of Chinese.”

Yu is taking Rowan courses on English as a second language and delving into teaching methodologies in Chinese and English. “For the Asian Studies program, I gave a lecture on language and thinking, which compared the differences between Chinese and English. My conclusion was that a second language changes you, since languages tend to shape the thoughts of the people who use them.”

Spencer hopes that another Fulbright candidate will come next year to build on Yu's contributions to the LAS Chinese program, and Yu is pleased about that. “I'm glad the Chinese program at Rowan will continue to develop,” Yu said.

Dr. William Frawley Builds on Rowan Experiences to Lead UMW

Dr. William Frawley gained some important insights from his undergraduate years at Rowan, then Glassboro State College.

“I experienced the value of closely mentored teaching, encouragement always to try to achieve things that might even seem out of reach, and the fact that a sharp mind is the best equipment for the future,” Frawley said.

Inaugurated last September as the seventh president of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., Frawley, also a distinguished university professor of linguistics, said UMW and Rowan are similar.

“They are alike in that they provide high-end liberal arts education and tailored graduate education for a whole region.”

While at Rowan, Frawley majored in English, but also studied Spanish, French and German. “There, I also had my first linguistics courses, which made my interests in English and languages come together,” Frawley said.

Frawley graduated magna cum laude in 1975 with a degree in English. “I had excellent and inspiring teachers in English – Jim Haba, Ed Wolfe, and Don Yannella among them,” he said.



The University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., inaugurated Dr. William Frawley '75 (left) as its seventh president last September.

A master's degree in linguistics from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. in linguistics from Northwestern University followed, as did academic and administrative positions at the University of Delaware, and most recently, a position as dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences at The George Washington University.

While his “day job,” including his freshman seminar, “Minds, Brains,

Machines,” keeps him busy, Frawley finds some time to work on a book about higher education. “As I get things more unified and moving here at UMW, I will turn again to writing this book.

“My undergraduate experience showed me the values of seriousness, respect for knowledge, focused inquiry, and the power of ideas,” he continued. “I hope I can keep to those values as I now lead an institution.”

LAS Dean Appointed to Board of Council of Liberal Arts Colleges

Dr. Jay Harper, LAS dean, has been appointed to a one-year term on the board of directors of the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS). The group is an association of 481 liberal arts colleges in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, France, Mexico and the United Kingdom that grant baccalaureate degrees.

“The board of directors helps shape the future of the organization, and I appreciate being part of it,” Harper said. He added that his experience on the Rowan Master Plan Committee and the Academic Master Plan group is enriching his

CCAS board participation.

The organization, housed at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., fosters the arts and sciences as a leading influence in American higher education. The council serves as a forum for exchanging information among nearly 680 deans, and it supports programs to improve the stature and understanding of the arts and sciences.

“If I have a question, I can call a dean who may have dealt with it or I can put it onto a listserv,” Harper said. “Likewise, they call me. CCAS is a group of deans helping deans...to dean.”



Dr. Jay Harper, dean of LAS, is serving a one-year term on the CCAS board.

Professor To Collaborate with Indian Scientists

Materials science in India will receive a boost from the expertise of chemistry professor Dr. K.V. Ramanujachary (“Chary”), thanks to an award from the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India. Over the next three years, Chary will travel to his homeland for 12 weeks each year to help advance their programs.

This June, he will meet with scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science to begin their collaboration on materials science.

Materials science focuses on improving the critical components of advanced technology, such as the components that make computers faster and hard drives larger. That includes everything from magnetic parts to superconductors, Chary said.

“We are the people who design the materials, who understand structure in the properties of materials. Our job is to find the relationship between the physical properties of the crystals and the way atoms arrange themselves in a solid,” Chary said. “We play with the chemistry that is the composition of these materials. We fine tune the composition to improve the properties and functionality of the materials.”

Chary relishes the opportunity to work with his collaborators abroad. “This is one of the most prestigious awards I have won,” he said. “The project will enhance the capabilities of Indian scientists to prepare them for global competitiveness in materials technology while providing Rowan undergraduates the experience of working with materials for advanced technologies.”



Dr. K.V. Ramanujachary (“Chary”) will travel to India in June as part of a three-year consultancy with scientists there.

CLAS Notes
Volume III, Issue II Spring 2007

Jay Harper
Dean

Jin Wang Associate Dean
Cindy Lynch Assistant Dean

Barbara Baals Editor
Cicely Enright Writer

Traci Belli Designer
Craig Terry Photographer

Contact:
(856) 256-4850
(856) 256-4921 (fax)
www.rowan.edu/las

CLAS Notes is published twice a year by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to highlight the achievements of its faculty, staff, students and alumni. Send suggestions and comments to:

College of Liberal Arts
& Sciences
c/o Editor – CLAS Notes
Rowan University
201 Mullica Hill Rd.
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
201 Mullica Hill Road • Glassboro, NJ 08028



As part of the 40th anniversary of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Nobel laureate Dr. William Phillips presented “Time, Einstein and the Coolest Stuff in the Universe.” Phillips demonstrated the freezing effects of liquid nitrogen during the talk.

Non-Profit Org.
Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bellmawr, NJ
Permit #1047