

# Making a DIFFERENCE

A Newsletter for Friends & Alumni of Rowan College of South Jersey-Cumberland Campus

FALL 2019

## Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Future

Fifty-two years after becoming the first community college in New Jersey to open its own campus, Cumberland County College marked another historic milestone. On June 28, Cumberland's Board of Trustees voted to close the college in preparation for the July 1 merger with Rowan College at Gloucester County.

The result was the establishment of Rowan College of South Jersey—one regional, dual-campus institution. The jointure of two community colleges is the first of its kind in New Jersey.

State and local government officials, administrators, educators, civic and business leaders, and members of the college community gathered to honor Cumberland's past and to celebrate the future of Rowan College of South Jersey.

"Joining these two schools to create one Rowan College of South Jersey is exactly the right thing to do," said New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney. "The students and residents will benefit from increased academic offerings and the opportunity for a seamless transition into Rowan University. I applaud the leadership of Gloucester County and Cumberland County for taking the initiative to create more affordable access to higher education for their residents."

The jointure brings to Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) more than 120 combined, unique degree and certificate programs—nine of which are fully online. With the combining of the two colleges, RCSJ students will benefit from more full-time faculty, more laboratories, and the potential for increased scholarship opportunities.

An innovative "3+1" partnership with Rowan University makes earning a bachelor's degree more affordable by allowing students in select majors to attend RCSJ for three years at the community college



rate, and then complete the final year of their baccalaureate program at Rowan University at the university rate.

RCSJ students also benefit from participation in the "Rowan Work and Learn" program that offers internships and stackable credentials to enhance work experience and career potential.

"The joining of Cumberland County College and Rowan College at Gloucester County marks an important milestone in the history of our state community colleges—the creation of a regional college in southern New Jersey," said RCSJ President Dr. Frederick Keating. "The merger of these two community colleges, in conjunction with an expanded 10-year premier partnership agreement with Rowan University, leads the way to a future filled with diverse and one-of-a-kind educational opportunities. Together these two campuses will provide students with a variety of degree selections, cost-saving initiatives, and scholarship and internship opportunities, at one of the lowest tuition rates in the state."





# Upcoming Alumni & Foundation Events

## RUN ALL THE WAY 5K RUN AND CAMPUS WALK

NOVEMBER 2

## DESIGNER HANDBAG BINGO

FEBRUARY 2020

## News &

## NEWS & BREWS

MAY 2020

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 2020

### Questions/Comments



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# Meet Our

FOUNDATION AND ALUMNI TEAM



*In the photo from left to right:*

Sheena Plummer, *Assistant to the Director*

Maria LeBlanc, *Director of Foundation & Alumni*

Brooke Mendibles, *Alumni/Event Specialist*

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Foundation is to enhance the College's image within the community, foster lifelong relationships with alumni and friends, and advance students in their career aspirations.

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# One College: Transforming Higher Education

Dear Cumberland Alumni and Friends,



An important milestone was added to the history of community colleges in New Jersey with the merger of Cumberland County College and Rowan College at Gloucester County on July 1, 2019. On that momentous day, the two institutions came together to create one regional, dual-campus college. It is a great honor to serve as the first president of Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ).

Although the name of the college has changed, its driving force has remained the same for more than 50 years: Student Success. Together, the two campuses open doors of opportunity for students who will benefit from more full-time faculty, more laboratories, and the potential for expanded scholarships and internship experiences.

RCSJ students can choose from more than 120 combined and unique degree and certificate programs—nine of which are fully online.

An innovative “3+1” partnership with Rowan University makes earning a bachelor’s degree more affordable by allowing students in select majors to complete their first three years at the community college tuition rate, and their final year at the Rowan University tuition rate.

An expanded 10-year premier partnership agreement with Rowan University leads the way to a future filled with diverse and one-of-a-kind educational opportunities. The “Rowan Work & Learn” program offers valuable internships and stackable credentials that prepare graduates to enter high-demand career fields.

The merger is projected to stimulate future economic growth for Cumberland and Gloucester counties with the creation of South Jersey’s only EDs, MEDs and Commerce Corridor along Route 55 which, with our community partners, will offer academic, medical and workforce training programs.

I look forward to having you join us as we embark on an important and exciting journey to transform higher education and create more opportunities for students in South Jersey and beyond.

Frederick Keating, Ed.D., President



Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) and premier partner Rowan University are working together to make earning a four-year college degree more affordable.

## Earn a Bachelor’s Degree for less than \$30,000

### Eligible Programs

- Exercise Science\*
- Nursing
- Inclusive Education\*
- Psychology
- Law and Justice\*
- Radio, Television and Film

*\*Majors currently available only on the Gloucester Campus*



# Scholarships

*Helping Students in Cumberland County*



## Designer Handbag Bingo

The CCC Foundation and Alumni Association held its 2nd annual Handbag Bingo event on Friday, March 8 at the Millville Elks Lodge. The event was SOLD OUT and raised close to \$10,000.

A very special thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, Alumni Association Committee members, and patrons for making this successful event a fun night of Bingo. The winners received a wide array of Coach, Kate Spade, Michael Kors, and even a Luis Vuitton Jackpot handbag along with door prizes and baskets donated by CCC Alumni and employees. Our next Designer Handbag Bingo event will be held in February 2020.



## School Counts! Golf Classic

The Foundation held its 19th *School Counts!* Golf Classic at the Union League National Golf Club in Swainton, NJ on Wednesday, June 5. The golf tournament assists the Cumberland County Campus Educational Foundation in raising awareness and support for the *School Counts!* program which encourages students to develop workforce readiness habits deemed necessary by area employers. Students have the opportunity to earn a *School Counts!* certificate for each year in high school if they accomplish a higher than 95% attendance record, complete Algebra 1, achieve a grade of C or better in every course, and graduate from high school on time. Students who earn four consecutive *School Counts!* certificates are eligible for a two-year tuition scholarship to Cumberland Campus. This year's event raised more than \$45,000. A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Newfield National Bank, Foundation Board members, all sponsor levels, and community leaders for supporting our *School Counts!* program. Congratulations to Steve Ahrens, Bryan Kruysman, Rob Rone, Andy Kerestesy of the Wendy's Foursome who were the winners of this year's event.







## President's Scholarship Reception

The Foundation President's Scholarship Reception honored more than 100 RCSJ-Cumberland Campus students and high school students totaling more than \$120,000 in scholarships from the Cumberland County Campus Educational Foundation on Wednesday, May 15 in the Guaracini Performing Arts Center. Students received scholarships as hundreds of their peers, family, and faculty honored their achievements for the 2018-19 academic year. Scholarships were awarded based on academics, athletics, student life and more. The event culminated with the presentation of the High School Scholarships awarded annually to the students who have consistently exemplified qualities of leadership, creativity, resourcefulness, and dedication to education and leadership that will transfer to their achievements in college.

Thank you to all our donors, community leaders, and partners in making this scholarship ceremony a memorable event each year. For more information about making a gift to the Foundation or establishing a scholarship, contact Maria LeBlanc, Director of Foundation/Alumni at 856.200.4556 or via email at [mleblanc@cc.rcsj.edu](mailto:mleblanc@cc.rcsj.edu).

*"The Catherine J. Arpino Scholarship has made it possible for me to afford my education without using student loans! Their generosity hasn't only helped me pay for my expenses this semester, but also made a lasting impact on my finances for the future. I am very thankful for their investment in my education!"*

**Cristina Velazquez, Nursing Student**





## CUMBERLAND DUKES



### Cumberland Baseball claims their first ever National Championship.

It was a special night for both Cumberland County College and Rowan College at Gloucester County as the two teams faced off in the NJCAA DIII Baseball World Series in Greeneville, TN on the campus of Tusculum University. Adding to the night was the thought of both team representing the Garden State Athletic Conference, Region XIX, and the state of New Jersey on the national stage. The stage could not have been bigger.

The win is the first championship won by the at-large selection as Cumberland finishes with a 47-5 season record, the best winning percentage in program history.

## Student Life Updates

### Cumberland Theatre

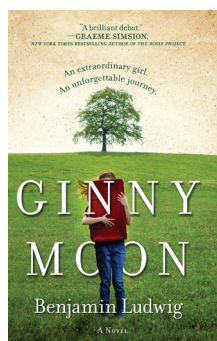
#### NOMINATED FOR THE PERRY AWARD

The RCSJ-Cumberland Campus Theatre Department is excited to announce that it has received six New Jersey Association of Community Theater nominations for its production of "Play On!" The nominations are in the categories of Outstanding Production of a Play, Outstanding Direction of a Play, Outstanding Costume Design of a Play, Outstanding Scenic Design of a Play, Outstanding Lead Actor in Play and Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play. The Perry Award Winners will be announced September 15, 2019. Best of luck to all the nominees!

#### DISNEY PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE

The RCSJ-Cumberland Campus Theatre Department is thrilled to be invited back to Disney World in Florida to attend the Disney Performing Arts experience in January 2020. Disney performances and workshops set the standard for which all other performance opportunities are measured. However, we need your help to make this opportunity a reality! We need to raise \$15,000 to cover hotels, transportation, food, tickets and fees. All attendees will also be investing money of their own to help offset the costs associated with this "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity. 100% of any gifts you make to the Foundation Theatre account will go directly to supporting this worthwhile experience.

### One Book, One College



Save-the-date for October 16, 2019, 7 p.m. The author, Benjamin Ludwig, will visit the Cumberland Campus for a talk and book signing. The event is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. *Full of a great big heart and unexpected humor, Ludwig's debut introduces the lovable, wholly original Ginny Moon who discovers a new meaning of family on her unconventional journey home. Ginny Moon is available for borrowing from RCSJ campus libraries and for purchase from campus bookstores and online retailers.*



### Arts & Innovation Center (AIC)

#### ARTISANS' CRAFT MARKET (SEPTEMBER 2019)

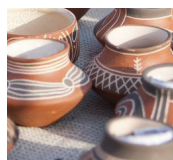


In partnership with the Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts, the Clay College of Rowan College of South Jersey (formerly Cumberland County College) will host an Artisans' Craft Market in the Open Flex Space on September 21 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the second floor of the Arts and Innovation Center. This event will feature local fine art and craft artists displaying work in a variety of mediums.

#### EXTRA BOLD EXHIBIT AT AIC GALLERY (NOVEMBER 2019)



"Extra Bold," an exhibition showcasing the power of graphic design for social justice will open on November 1 until December 1, 2019 in the Arts & Innovation Center. A reception will be held on Friday, November 15, 6-9 p.m.



#### ART OF THE TABLE (APRIL 2020)

The Clay College will host an opening reception and oyster fundraiser for an exhibit titled "Art of the Table" on Friday, April 10, 2020, from 5-8 p.m. The event will be held in the Open Flex Space on the second floor of the Arts and Innovation Center.

Attendees will enjoy oysters harvested locally from the Delaware Bay and a selection of wines and ales from area wineries and breweries. An impressive group of regional, national, and international ceramic, glass, and fiber artists have been invited to show their elaborate tablescapes to be viewed at the Arts and Innovation Gallery. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of a gas kiln and for youth and adult program support.





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Samantha Cocove

Samantha Cocove is a 2017 Cumberland County College and *School Counts!* alumna. After graduating from Cumberland Regional High School in 2015, Samantha worked as a teacher's assistant at Cumberland's Summer Academy for Kids and enrolled in classes the following fall semester.

While at Cumberland, she took a full load of courses and completed the Student Pathways Leadership Institute. In her second year, she was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, participated in a service-learning course, was a student worker in the Admissions' Office, tutored several developmental and undergraduate courses, served on Student Senate, kept score for the Duke's men's basketball team. Cocove always kept her Cumberland spirit and love of learning.

In 2016, Samantha served with AmeriCorps at Castleton University in Vermont as the Mentor Coordinator. In that role, she implemented an innovative text-mentoring program for incoming first-generation and low-income freshman students and supported existing programs at the college.

Samantha was drawn to Cumberland because of the *School Counts!* Scholarship program, the quality

instruction from professors with industry experience, and the ability to explore multiple disciplines. Samantha received the Judy R. Dallago, and Seidner for Citizenship and Civility scholarships in 2016. In 2017, she graduated with a general liberal arts associate degree, joined Cumberland's Workforce and Community Education department as an administrative assistant and transferred to Rowan University to continue her education.

At Rowan, she completed an internship with the Cumberland County Department of Planning and was inducted into the Political Science honor society before graduating in 2018. Her position at Cumberland ignited her passion for community partnerships, increasing access to higher education, interdisciplinary learning, and the transformative effect education can have on individuals and communities. While working at Cumberland County College, she joined former President Yves Salomon-Fernandez and several staff members on a trip to Massachusetts to visit Google Cambridge, Harvard, and Boston. Samantha instantly fell in love with Massachusetts and applied to attend graduate school at Merrimack College.

Samantha completed her Masters of Higher Education Administration at Merrimack College. She served as a graduate assistant for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at MC. After her recent graduation in May 2019, Samantha is currently backpacking in Peru and visiting a few historical universities. She will join Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts as their first Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) resident. When she is not studying or working, Samantha loves to travel, read, try new foods, hike, walk dogs, and binge watch "The Office."

Want to be a part  
of the Alumni  
Association?

**JOIN TODAY!**



### CUMBERLAND CAMPUS

ATTN: Foundation/Alumni  
3322 College Drive  
Vineland, NJ 08360

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I want to hear more from Cumberland Alumni.

Apply at: [www.rcsj.edu/cc/alumni](http://www.rcsj.edu/cc/alumni)



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*Thank you* to everyone who made  
this year memorable!

*Making a DIFFERENCE*

