

**RCSJ's Student Newspaper**

# THE VOICE

## RCSJ PRESIDENT STRENGTHENS CONNECTION TO UNIVERSITY WITH TRANSITION TO ROWAN THIS JULY

**BY: LU GRAYSON**

President Fred Keating exits RCSJ to Rowan University, to serve as Vice President of Academic Affiliation, leaving behind a legacy of innovation, inclusion, and involvement after 15 years at RCSJ.

Equal opportunities and advancement are priorities for this president, who has ensured that RCSJ students received everything needed to get an education, and hopes to continue this mission at Rowan University.

Under President Keating's leadership, constant additions, partnerships, and new degree paths created exposure to more options for RCSJ students and increased the chances of them finding successful careers. A lifetime of leadership, educational experience, and overcoming the odds has given Keating the prestigious awards and success he is recognized for today.

RCSJ has changed a great deal since the college was founded, most significantly, the development of our premier partnership with Rowan University. Keating oversaw this entire partnership and has been hard at work ever since. The proof is visible to anyone on campus; construction, road work, and program additions are never-ending. The purpose of this growth mindset is to meet the needs of a diverse, growing community. President Keating called this a "student serving" perspective. He went on to say that RCSJ is the "emergency room" or "triage" of four-year colleges. If someone has no plans, funds, or ideas for starting college, RCSJ is here to "get them up on the floor again." Our President has even been recognized for his commitment to these issues, having received the NAACP Game Changer President's Award and South Jersey Biz Executive of the Year, twice.

Keating's sentiments about removing obstacles come from prior experiences as a student and leader. As the first in his family to receive a bachelor's degree, Keating pushed to make this experience easier for all first-generation college students.



### **Dr. Keating - President of RCSJ**

Students generally need aid with funds, books, and loans, but many also struggle with food, housing, and jobs. He uses a "wheel of life" mentality when serving his campus, highlighting that basic needs should be met for efficient learning and growth. This includes the neurodiverse and those on the spectrum, with the addition of the Academy of Neurodiversity. As a former Bankbridge Developmental Center staff member, Keating is well-versed in problems and barriers faced by the differently abled. This new initiative, which features housing, food, and furniture for tenants, also benefits the medical students involved. Ambitious projects like these are nothing new for this President, who's always looking for innovative ways to assist the student body.

Keating's perspective drives the school's expansion and culture. When asked how someone could live up to his track record, he finds it to be "no big deal" and that anyone who shares his mindset would prosper. A new candidate will inherit the culture, environment, and administrators that Keating has procured over the last decade, and he's looking forward to new ideas being brought to RCSJ. As for the next steps, his vice presidency at Rowan will be almost like a continuation of his current work; tightening all Rowan campuses' relationships, and extending opportunities as far as they can go.



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## THE FUTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BY: LINDSEY BLITHE

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The United States Department of Education is a cabinet-level department of the government. It was founded in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter. The Department of Education's roles are to disburse money in student loans, operate the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), guarantee equal access to education with their Office of Civil Rights, operate the Pell Grant Program, fund public charter schools, and collect data on education and student outcomes. According to CBS News, the Department of Education's FAFSA program is utilized by about 17 million students every year, while managing \$1.5 trillion in student loan programs.

On March 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at the dissolution of the department. It directed Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon, to take steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education and return control of education to the individual states.

President Trump is an outspoken critic of the Department of Education, claiming it is a "big con job." However, despite his personal opinions, the complete elimination of this department requires Congressional approval, as well as 60 votes in the Senate. However, President Trump can make alterations to the department, such as cutting staff and changing the department's oversight roles, on his own accord.

Since the Department of Education manages all federal student loans, this role will need to be transferred to another agency. President Trump has indicated that the Small Business Association (SBA), will likely be the organization that will now handle all federal student loans.

Additionally, the Trump Administration's Project 2025 indicates that income-based repayment plans should be phased out and there should be no loan forgiveness.



As for the FAFSA form, the Department of Education is required by law to release it to allow students to apply for loans and aid. Due to Congress passing the law that created the FAFSA, Congress would have to create a new law to abolish it, to date, this has not yet happened.

Also to date, the FAFSA must continue to be available for college students, and the dissolution of the Department of Education would not abolish student loans, just redistribute the duties from the DOE to another agency, most recently, the Small Business Administration (SBA).

RCSJ's students should continue to file for the 2025-2026 FAFSA as normal to receive financial aid, the link to the application is [here](#).



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## RCSJ STUDENTS ARE HAPPIER AFTER ONE YEAR OF FREE THERAPY

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BY: ALEX VACCA

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Rowan College of South Jersey, is filled with happier and healthier students following the college's partnership with Uwill Therapy to provide free mental health counseling for all students last year.

According to recently conducted surveys, there has been a significant increase in students who report feeling both happy and safe while at school. The college plans to continue their partnership with Uwill indefinitely due to the outstanding feedback they have received.

Rowan College of South Jersey, formerly known as Rowan College of Gloucester County, and before that Gloucester County College, was established in the 60s. However, last year marked the first time the college offered free, professional mental health counseling to students. Since then, an extremely positive response from students has been recorded consistently.

Trevor Granit, a business student in his third RCSJ semester, had some words regarding his feelings towards the Uwill partnership. "I have multiple friends who jumped at the chance for free therapy as soon as we heard it was being offered. They all seem to be in better moods after they've attended a few sessions."

Another student, Matthew Bartasius, has experience using the therapy program for himself. He stated: "After working with my counselor for a few weeks, I felt I was able to be more present in my life. This resulted in me feeling more joy in positive moments and also greatly improved my focus towards my schoolwork."



Uwill Mental Health and Wellness was founded in 2020 as a response to the lockdowns and quarantines caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The company was created with the goal of providing professional mental health support for students around the world as they tried to balance online schoolwork and the challenges of quarantine. Since then, Uwill has gained a reputation as the leading mental health and therapy provider worldwide, due to their ability to provide immediate appointments upon request for those in need of someone to speak to.

After the announcement of RCSJ's partnership with Uwill in 2023, students were asked to complete a survey regarding their feelings on their new chance for free counseling. The school received an even larger amount of positive responses than expected. Almost every student responded that they were happy about the partnership, and a staggering 43% reported that they were already considering scheduling an appointment. The college continues to encourage students to use the free therapy program as much as they need it.

For more information on Uwill and the many other resources RCSJ offers to students, **[click here](#)** to visit our Center for Wellness and Support page.



## FINANCIAL AID UNCERTAINTY LEAVES RCSJ STUDENTS STRESSED, ANXIOUS, AND WITHOUT ANSWERS

BY: MASON EDELMAYER

Following a March 20th Executive Order by President Trump to close the Department of Education and shift control of schools to state and local governments, uncertainty surrounding financial aid has left RCSJ students stressed, anxious, and without answers.

Many RCSJ students now wonder about the future of federal aid.

“I can barely afford my classes without aid,” said Ella Fisher, a biology major, “It’s important to understand that if federal aid stops, so many people are going to be impacted.”

Charlie Ellis, a nursing student, expressed concerns as well.

“If there’s no financial aid, there’s going to be thousands of students who won’t be able to afford their educations,” Ellis said.

Their anxieties are not uncommon. These attestations echo the quiet panic that stretches across campuses nationwide, as students are left in limbo, unsure whether they can continue their education as planned. For many, the uncertainty about financial aid has become a question of stability.

“I’m just kind of hoping RCSJ can still give me what I need to graduate,” Ellis said.

For students like Fisher, the prospect of scaling back on their course load or putting their education on hold is an unfortunate reality.

Fisher, who received no financial aid this year, is a prime example of life for students without help. After a personal issue, which hurt her GPA, the

Office of Financial Aid denied her appeal for her return to school.

Now, Fisher pays out of pocket and is set to receive her associate degree two years after the expected time. If federal aid is eliminated, this will be the standard for eighty-three percent of RCSJ students, who share Fisher’s income bracket.

This uncertainty is further compounded by RCSJ’s silence.

“It would be a weight off my shoulders if RCSJ would say something,” said Ellis.

It’s difficult to tell whether the silence many college students are facing from their respective institutions implies uncertainty, bad news, or more. Regardless, it remains unknown how students might be affected.

“I’m just stressed about tuition,” Fisher said. “I want to be able to stay on track, and keep going at the pace I need to in order to graduate sometime this century.”

With no clear response to the federal changes, students like Ellis and Fisher are left to navigate an uncertain future, unsure whether the path to their degree will remain within reach. As financial aid hangs in the balance, the stability of countless students’ academic journeys is now at risk.





## STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE-GRADUATION 2025

BY: ACADIA COUCHOUD



Graduating students are preparing for commencement, scheduled for May 15 and 16 at the Cumberland and Gloucester campuses, respectively, as the 2024-2025 academic year draws to a close.

At Cumberland, the graduation ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 15. According to the website, “The Campus Commencement is a traditional ceremony where graduates wear ceremonial regalia. Following commencement custom, students will march, listen to graduation speeches, and be acknowledged on stage before the official conferral of degrees.”

No tickets are required for guests, and there is no limit on how many may attend. However, due to limited seating, guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. The ceremony is being held in Parking Lot L, and graduation begins at 6 p.m. For those unable to attend in-person, a livestream will also be available in the Guaracini Center Theater, in the gymnasium at the College and Enrollment Services Center, and in the Luciano Center room C107 at the Cumberland campus.

For Cumberland graduates, check-in begins at 4 p.m.; however, graduates are encouraged to arrive as early as 3 p.m. to account for heavier traffic; anyone arriving later than 5:30 p.m. will not be allowed to walk.

In the event of inclement weather, commencement information updates will be sent out via email to students. Similarly, at Gloucester, commencement will be held on Friday, May 16. As with Cumberland’s commencement, graduates at Gloucester will participate in traditional graduation events and commencement as well.

A livestream will also be available for remote viewing of the Gloucester Campus’ events on the commencement website. During the ceremony, a professional photographer will also capture each student’s moment on stage.

The Gloucester ceremony will be held in the College Plaza and Commencement will begin promptly at 11 a.m. Graduates are encouraged to arrive at 9:45 a.m. for line-up and robing behind the Education and Humanities center.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony may be delayed to later in the day on May 16 or postponed to either May 17 or May 18. Graduates will receive email notifications and the commencement website will be updated if this is the case.

Degrees will be awarded in July, 2025, and the diplomas will be mailed in August, 2025.

For many of these graduating students, commencement is more than just a simple ceremony – it’s a marker of their transition into the future and a step forward into new opportunities. Through commencement guests and current students alike can gather to show their support for the young men and women who work so hard to build their own futures.

Click here for links to the Commencement websites for **Gloucester** and **Cumberland**.



## RCSJ'S SPRING OPEN HOUSE 2025

BY: RAQUEL BLAIR

Rowan College of South Jersey held its biannual Open House on Wednesday, March 5th, at the Gloucester Campus, from 5-7 p.m. The same event also occurred at the Cumberland Campus on March 12th. New incoming students were invited to the school to explore the next steps in their education journey.

Students were greeted and checked in at the gymnasium doors, where they were given a tote bag and a guide to the layout of the tables that were set up. Visitors of this event had free will to come and go, and they were able to view whatever program caught their eye. The tables around the perimeter of the gym consisted of faculty and staff presenting information about the many programs of study RCSJ offers. There were a plethora of tables for student services in the middle of the gym, such as NJ Stars, Financial Aid, Dual Enrollment, the Internship Scholarship Program, Rowan Choice, and more. Clubs, sports, and activities for students were also displayed in the middle of the gym. Attendees also got the opportunity to visit and ask questions to representatives from universities like Rowan, Stockton, and Drexel, so that they could begin to plan their transfer options.

Usually, during an Open House, RCSJ offers multiple tours of the campus at designated times, but the school was unable to do that due to bad weather conditions. Despite that not occurring, an information session about the 3+1 Program was able to take place at 6 p.m. in the Eugene J. McCaffrey College Center. The 3+1 programs at RCSJ allow students to complete their BA degree from Rowan University at a fraction of the cost and primarily on the RCSJ campus.



One of the speakers during the presentation was Stephen Sweeney, the Assistant Director for the 3+1 Program at RCSJ. He discussed his role in helping students navigate their way through the program, and also gave tips about what they need to do to join. "If you are looking to go further with your education and pursue a master's degree or higher, there is no reason to break the bank on the bachelor's degree," Sweeney stated.

An important message he stressed to the audience was, "If we can help save you money now, so you can achieve your later academic goals, consider this with a very open mind... take that opportunity and consider it strongly because it is an excellent opportunity."

Also making an appearance was Applied Professional Communications alumna Alyssa Serrano, who spoke to prospective students about what the 3+1 Program has done for her. "I was able to work with local businesses and create content for them in my Senior Year...I'm proud to represent both colleges, RCSJ and Rowan University."

It was another successful spring open house for prospective students to figure out if RCSJ is the right school for them. We hope to see many of them find their home here at RCSJ. As our slogan says, "Find your Fit-- Find Your Future."





## RCSJ FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS TAKE A LITERARY TRIP TO PRINCETON

BY: SIANI JULES

This February, a group of RCSJ students, professors, and academic staff spent a memorable afternoon at Princeton University for a deep dive into literature, history, and the writing process. The trip was organized by Professor Vinci with the help of Dr. Cara McClintock, Associate Director of Community College Engagement at Princeton. Dr. McClintock is deeply committed to opening up Princeton's academic resources to community college students and faculty, and Professor Vinci played a key role in designing and leading this enriching experience.

The group met at Firestone Library, Princeton's main library and home to its renowned Special Collections department. There, a Special Collections Librarian guided the group through an intimate exploration of materials related to F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. On display were items that spanned decades of Fitzgerald's life and creative process, his early journal entries, romantic letters to a woman believed to be the inspiration for the character of Daisy Buchanan, first-edition copies of *The Great Gatsby* filled with handwritten edits, and correspondence with his editors and printers.

The exhibit offered a rare, behind-the-scenes look into the emotional labor of a now-iconic writer. Even after extensive revisions, Fitzgerald continued to wrestle with the novel's imperfections, a reality that resonated deeply with aspiring writers in the group. "It was amazing to see so much documentation of this great writer's process," said English Professor Annette Amoroso.

In addition to Fitzgerald's work, students learned that Princeton's Special Collections houses an incredible range of materials, including an academic coin collection and manuscripts by their most frequently requested author, Toni Morrison. One highlight of the visit was learning that anyone, not just Princeton students, can request access to these archives by appointment. This accessibility left a lasting impression on the group, as it reframed how public and powerful these literary spaces can be.



Following their library visit, the group attended a reading by internationally acclaimed author Colm Tóibín, whose newest novel, *Long Island*, continues the story of Eilis Lacey from his beloved novel *Brooklyn*. *Long Island*, released in May 2024, was quickly named a New York Times bestseller and was selected for Oprah's Book Club. Over 100 people attended the reading, yet Tóibín's warmth and humility made the event feel personal and engaging.

"I hadn't read his work before," said Assistant Professor Stephanie Gomes, "but after hearing him read and speak about his writing, I picked up *Brooklyn* immediately. He was charming, funny, and so insightful."

RCSJ's visit was also featured in a write-up by Princeton's McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning. The article from their website can be found [here](#). Dr. Vinci expressed her profound gratitude to Ms. McClintock and Princeton University, particularly the Special Collections librarians, for welcoming our faculty, staff, and students to campus and providing such an amazing learning experience and insight into the mind of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's greatest writers.



## THE PANTRY AT CWS: SECURITY FOR HUMANE RESOURCES

BY: ADRYANNA COTTEMOND

At Rowan College of South Jersey, Kristen Wilson, head of *The Pantry* organization works to provide both quick meal-on-the-go options and take-home grocery items for students experiencing food insecurity. They also provide students with household hygiene products for daily use.

Last year at RCSJ 60% of students on campus indicated food, housing, domestic violence, and transportation issues. More than half of the student body indicated they are experiencing basic need issues.

Here at RCSJ we believe no student should go hungry to class, or lack for basic necessities. The Center for Wellness and Support runs *The Pantry* to provide students with their daily needs on campus. *The Pantry* supports college students who have food insecurity, which means they may not have enough food at home, or do not have the money to buy themselves food on campus. “36.7% of students at RCSJ worry that their food will run out,” Wilson said, “*The Pantry* is here to ease student concerns about where their next meal will come from.”

Many students are struggling financially and need help. The Pantry can provide free necessities to create accessibility to RCSJ students in need. They also ensure that all student information is completely confidential to ensure this is a safe place for students.

*The Pantry* has students meet with a case manager to assess their needs. Some students just need snacks or lunch on campus, but other students need lunch on campus and food at home as well. These students can come in once a week to pack grocery bags with food and hygiene products. “Many students share that the support they receive from *The Pantry* plays a crucial role in helping them stay enrolled in their courses,” Wilson said. If any students are looking for help to receive daily resources *The Pantry* is here to help!

Additionally, if you would like to donate to a cause, *The Pantry* is always accepting donations. Email [food@rcsj.edu](mailto:food@rcsj.edu) for more information.



### *RCSJ at Princeton - cont. from page 7*

His writing has earned international awards, including the International Dublin Literary Award and the Bodley Medal.

The day was a rare opportunity for students and faculty to step away from textbooks and grading and simply enjoy the beauty of literature. The visit to Princeton was more than an academic outing, it was a meaningful reminder of the creative process, the power of storytelling, and the importance of making space for inspiration.



## NATALKA PAVLOVSKY: THE WOMAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

BY: RAQUEL BLAIR

Former President Obama once said: “Music brings us together, helping us reflect upon who we are, where we have come from, and what lies ahead.” Music is a powerful tool that makes people feel, and it helps build experiences that will never be forgotten. It teaches people to connect, and it’s no wonder that someone would decide to make it their lifelong profession.

Dr. Natalka Pavlovsky, Professor of Music, tries to spread this love and appreciation of music and the arts to her students here at RCSJ. She has been teaching at RCSJ since 2005, when Rowan College of South Jersey was known as Gloucester County College. Just last year, she earned a promotion from Full Professor to a newly-created rank of Senior Professor. When asked, what it was about music that made her want to become a Music Teacher, she replied: “I love the depth of feeling that music elicits in people. I enjoy teaching something that brings them joy, rather than something they're needing to learn in order to do their job.” Everybody knows that discovering who you are, whether it’s as a student or a professional, starts with our individual education and backgrounds that build the foundation of whom we become. For Dr. Pavlovsky, this started with her Ukrainian roots. She found herself immersed in Ukrainian folk music when she was younger, and she grew up singing in choirs. By her mid-teens, she first taught other children to sing, and teaching became a passion of hers, along with vocal music.

Her time at RCSJ has continued her lifelong passion for music and teaching. Dr. Pavlovsky has been able to personally develop most of the courses that she teaches and the Music Program. When asked what her favorite course to teach is, she responded with: “This question is a little bit like asking a mom which of her kids is her favorite! They are special to me in different ways. The beginning theory course is a unique challenge in that different students learn in different ways. I do enjoy the creativity of that challenge.” Her love of teaching is clear, and her impact on the Music Program at RCSJ is invaluable.

As a music teacher, hearing various genres of music all day must make it hard to narrow down a favorite, but when asked just this, Pavlovsky said the one closest to her heart is Renaissance polyphony. She stated: “What I love about that style is that one can't do it alone; it requires



### Professor Natalka Pavlovsky

interacting with other musicians to bring the music to life.”

Pavlovsky also had a hand in helping bring the Teaching Transfer program to RCSJ, which is an agreement with Princeton University that lets graduate students shadow an RCSJ professor for a semester, and then teach a course at the college. She referred to that opportunity as a “high point” and one of her proudest accomplishments in her professional career. She developed her connections with Princeton University when she earned her graduate degree there.

Outside of the classroom, Pavlovsky also enjoys painting, cooking, and kayaking, as these are hobbies that keep her physically and mentally active. She is also passionate about learning history - the foods, the literature, the art - all forms of history fascinate her. When asked what personal project she would dedicate more time to if she had the chance, she chose painting. It has been a “lifelong love” of hers, but because she dedicates most of her time to teaching people, it makes it hard to find time to do. Educators like Professor Natalka Pavlovsky do their best to not only help college students earn their degree, but to also share with them the power and creativity found in the arts. We hope she continues inspiring a love of music in RCSJ students for many years to come.



## FROM STUDENT TO FACULTY: EMILY MADDOX FOUND HER CALLING AT RCSJ

BY: SIANI JULES

Some students leave college with a degree, others leave with a lifelong connection to their school. For Emily Maddox, that connection found in college led her right back to Rowan College of South Jersey, now as a professor. Now an English Professor at RCSJ, Emily once walked the same halls as the students she now teaches. Though she originally pursued a Business Degree, she soon realized her true passion lay in English, thanks to the inspiration of her professors and her experience as a tutor. Her journey from student to faculty member wasn't just about earning degrees, it was about building a community and finding a way to give back.

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Emily, a Williamstown native, to hear more about her journey. Reflecting on her time as a student, she shared how her father had pointed out that business might not be the right major for her. "He told me, 'You love reading and writing. I don't think you'd be happy in business,'" she recalled. His words stuck with her, and as she spent more time working in the tutoring center, she found herself drawn to teaching. Encouraged by her professors and mentors, she decided to pursue a master's degree and return to RCSJ as an educator.

But Emily's role at the college extends far beyond the classroom. She serves as Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate, is an active member of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC), and co-advises the school's Horror Club. She stressed the importance of student involvement, sharing that she wished she had been more involved during her own college years. Now, she encourages students to take advantage of campus opportunities, just as she does through her many roles.

One of the liveliest moments of our conversation was when Emily spoke about the Horror Club. Originally started before the pandemic, the club lost traction over time. When a fellow faculty member approached Emily about helping to revive it, she didn't hesitate. "It's a fun space where we talk about horror, pick movies, watch them together, and just hang out - pizza included," she said with a laugh. The club even hosted a Halloween double-feature event, with hot dogs, snacks, and decorated spaces for students to enjoy. Emily hopes to do more events like these in the future.



### Professor Emily Maddox

Emily teaches a variety of English courses, including English Composition I & II (ENG 101/102), Readings in Literature (ENG 104), and Principles of English Grammar (ENG 107). Beginning Fall 2025, she will also teach two newly introduced courses on the Gloucester Campus: Introduction to College Reading and English I and II (ENGL 050 and ENGL 060). These developmental integrated reading and writing courses, transferred from the Cumberland Campus, will include lab components in a computer-equipped classroom. In addition to teaching, Emily will serve as the Course Coordinator for the Developmental English Program at Gloucester. The Horror Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 12:30 to 2:30. For those who can't attend but are still interested, Emily has a mailing list and welcomes any student inquiries via email at [emaddox@rcsj.edu](mailto:emaddox@rcsj.edu).

Emily Maddox's story is one of growth, passion, and dedication. From student to faculty, she has turned her love of learning into a career that not only educates, but also uplifts those who walk the same halls she once did. Through teaching, mentorship, and campus involvement, she continues to make an impact, one student at a time.



## JEANETTE RATTLE AND THE VARIOUS HATS SHE WEARS

BY: EMMY CHILDS

Jeanette Rattle had no idea how much impact joining her high school yearbook in ninth grade would have on her life. What seemed like a minute decision at the time actually kick-started her passion for design and marketing.

Rattle has been a great influence and mentor to me over the past few years. She is always willing to sit for an interview, and last year, during my senior-internship class, she allowed me to shadow her. She has helped me feel certain that I too want to go into a career in communications.

Rattle is the Executive Director of Design and Marketing here at RCSJ, as well as an Adjunct Professor for Graphic Design Classes. Growing up, Rattle had always wanted to become a teacher. However, in high school, she kept hearing that many teachers were having difficulties finding jobs, which left her feeling discouraged and unsure. It was around that time that she decided to join the production team for her high school yearbook and fell in love with editing, designing, and formatting the different pictures and information. She enjoyed this activity so much that she decided she wanted to major in Communications when she went to college. She chose to attend Rider University, which is where she earned her bachelor's degree. Rattle then continued her studies at Rowan University and earned her MA in Public Relations.

Rattle has been teaching for RCSJ since 1997 and started working as the Executive Director of Design and Marketing five years ago. The main part of her job is using advertisement tools such as billboards, digital ads, and social media to persuade prospective students to apply to RCSJ. She is tasked with "building the identity of what RCSJ is," as she puts it. She creates advertisements that craft the look and feel of what RCSJ is all about and highlights the small, but close-knit community of RCSJ. Rattle explains how the RCSJ website is the most important part of her job and how her next project will be to create a new website for RCSJ. Websites are the first places people look when wanting to learn more about colleges, so Rattle is trying to make the website attractive and interactive.

Rattle also has to "spend a lot of energy and money on digital ads." She describes these ads as ones you see on social media or online websites such as NJ.com because she knows lots of high school students are visiting this website to look at their athletic stats. She acknowledges that parents also go to NJ.com for news, and she knows persuading the parents is an important part of a



**Jeanette Rattle and Emmy Childs**

prospective student deciding on RCSJ.

Another role Rattle has is checking what the competition is doing, RCSJ's competitors are other county schools and even Rowan University. She checks other college websites and compares them to RCSJ's to ensure that RCSJ is on par with what she is seeing on other college websites.

Rattle has many different jobs tied to her role, which can make her life chaotic, but she makes sure to leave time for herself, her family, and her community. Rattle is married to her husband of 24 years and they have two sons. She is involved with their school, Gateway Regional High School, which is also her alma mater. As a member of the board of education, she presents annually at the school's "Career Day" about her job and experiences. She prioritizes giving back to her community because she wants to share herself in terms of skills and knowledge for the betterment of her community. Rattle recalls how Gateway was so influential on her life and helped her decide on her career, and how this has caused her to want to help the next generation of students.

Before finishing our interview together, Rattle gave me a great piece of advice. She knows that I am a fellow communications student, and she told me that I should always "believe in and love the thing you are marketing" because you will not be truly able to effectively market something you don't believe in, and liking what you are marketing will make your job much more enjoyable.



## RCSJ COURSES AID STUDENT TO ACHIEVE CAREER GOALS IN EDUCATION

BY: LU GRAYSON

When she dyed her hair darker, the students were not pleased with this unexpected change, and it's common for children to be blunt. Still, neurodiverse people operate under consistency, and dying her hair a different color has shattered a part of this reality. This is a typical day in Alice Grayson's world.

Alice Grayson, my sister, an RCSJ student and teaching aid for Bankbridge Developmental Center, had just returned from an in-person class after her shift. For the last four years, she has worked in level-three nonverbal autistic classrooms, guiding students to improve their motor and social skills. Sitting in her bed, MacBook open, with blankets lazily draped over her, she tells me about the kids she's aiding.

"They just kind of tell you 'some kids are delayed, moving on!' in child development classes," says Grayson as she describes her experiences learning about differently abled children before higher education. She explains why the child psychology course at RCSJ is more rewarding because mental processes and emotional motivations are key aspects of the science. When she first started, she believed she wouldn't have the patience for those who needed more support, but knowing that her guidance and methods contribute to their growth makes it worth it. Since every child develops differently, she has to cater to all kinds of needs. "Six to eight-year-olds act like two-year-olds, and the twelve to fourteen-year-olds act six to eight," Grayson relays as she talks about her experience in getting used to age-related developmental delays. What happens if it gets to be too much? Neurodiverse and nonverbal children can get frustrated when they can't communicate their needs, and it is reciprocally frustrating for those trying to help them. Grayson recalls when she needed to step away from a child's meltdown once and used the moment to consider how the situation could have been handled differently. Incidents like these can often teach the aids, and Grayson believes she will never stop trying to understand more. "I can only grasp what they're experiencing through their parents, doctors, and therapists. I will never know what it's actually like to live their lives."

It can be hard to supervise and receive criticisms of your methods, which Grayson says she took personally early in her career.



**Alice Grayson 2025**

After four years, Grayson is accustomed to many types of behaviors and is ready to take on the role of head of the classroom while also getting her substitute certification from RCSJ.

Grayson mentions that RCSJ also has new courses and programs for educating on dysfunctions and autism, including housing for those who are afflicted when they reach adulthood. As the conversation came to a close, I asked about the purpose of the new buildings being constructed on campus. "Oh, that's for my kids," she interjects. When I asked what she meant, she said it would become an assisted living facility for the students she will work with once they graduate high school.

Wrapping up our conversation, she awkwardly answers questions regarding her personal life, having been professional and career-oriented for the entire interview. I joke with her as she considers her response, bringing up her favorite TV show, "Bob's Burgers", and her favorite animal, the Emperor penguin. Grayson lists her other hobbies, including playing video games such as Roblox and Fortnite, and going on dates with her boyfriend. However, most of her time is spent in class or doing homework as her graduation and certification are getting closer.

As I finish my notes and pack up, her night resumes before another day of teaching her students and being a student herself.



## CAROL WEINHARDT'S INSPIRING JOURNEY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

BY: GENEVIEVE MELANSON

Carol Weinhardt walks through the doors of Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) Gloucester Campus each morning with one goal in mind—ensuring that every student with disabilities has the resources and support they need to succeed. As Director of the Special Services Department, she has spent years transforming the college experience for hundreds, fostering an environment where all students can thrive.

Her journey began at Rowan University, where she earned a BA in Education, with a Minor in Sociology and certification to teach kindergarten through eighth grade. Initially focused on general education, she soon realized her heart was in special education. “Teaching was always my calling, but I found my true purpose in supporting students with learning challenges,” she said.

Her path into special education was shaped by an early experience at Cooper Hospital’s Child Life Department, where she worked closely with children with disabilities. “Working there opened my eyes to the unique needs of children with learning disabilities,” she said. In 2009, she joined the Special Services Department at RCSJ, where she quickly became a driving force for change. By 2021, she had risen to the role of director, overseeing programs that support approximately 450 students with disabilities. “Every day, I’m reminded of the importance of providing tailored support to students who need it most,” Weinhardt said. She ensures students receive critical accommodations such as notetaking assistance, extended test-taking time, and access to assistive technology. She also takes the time to personally introduce new students to campus life, fostering a sense of belonging from the very beginning. “I want students to feel comfortable coming here. Whether it’s for academic support or just a chat, my door is always open,” she said.

Faith plays a significant role in Weinhardt’s life and career. She credits her strong belief in God with guiding her path in education and special services. “I truly believe that God has placed me where I’m meant to be, helping students overcome challenges and find success,” she said. She sees her role at RCSJ as more than a job—it’s a calling. Her faith instills in her a deep sense of compassion, patience, and commitment to serving others.

Her colleagues admire her leadership and dedication. Kimberley Damminger, a special services tutor, describes



### Carol Weinhardt - Director of Student Services

her as, “always the best person to turn to whenever you need help on a problem. Mrs. Weinhardt is very knowledgeable about her field.” Kevin Marley, a department technician, adds, “Carol has always been very welcoming and always willing to listen to anyone about anything.”

For many students, including those who struggled academically before college, Weinhardt’s impact is undeniable. “Carol’s whole system at RCSJ made everything easier, from registration to finding classes,” said former student John Berger. “School was rough for me, especially going straight in after high school, but she created an atmosphere where students could feel comfortable in their individuality while navigating academic challenges.”

Beyond her work at RCSJ, Weinhardt has been an educator at Rowan University for eight years, teaching courses in differentiated instruction. “I teach junior and senior education majors how to address the needs of all learners, from struggling to advanced students,” she said. She plans to continue teaching at Rowan University after retiring from RCSJ, eager to focus on preparing future educators.

Through her unwavering commitment to inclusion and accessibility, Weinhardt has transformed the educational experience for countless students. “My goal has always been to make education accessible and meaningful for every student,” she said. She attributes her success not only to her hard work but to the faith that has guided her along the way. For the many lives she has touched, that goal has undoubtedly become a reality.



## ALEJANDRA VALENCIA'S JOURNEY FROM PERU TO ACADEMIC ADVISOR

BY: KANIAH MOSES

In the small town of Wenonah, New Jersey, Alejandra Valencia stands as a testament to resilience and determination. Born and raised in Lima, Peru, she made the bold leap to the United States at the age of 16 to pursue higher education. Today, she is not only an Academic Advisor at Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) but also a beacon of inspiration for students navigating the complexities of college life.

Valencia's educational background is impressive. She started her studies at RCSJ before transferring to Rowan University, where she earned a BA in Modern Languages and Linguistics, with a Minor in Education and Psychology. Her pursuit of knowledge led her to Widener University, where she obtained a MA in Counselor Education, focused on higher education. "I was very fortunate during my junior and senior years in college to work as a student worker in the Advisement Office at Rowan University," she recalls. "That experience inspired me to become an Academic Advisor," said Valencia. "Being a first-generation college student, I faced many challenges," Valencia shares. "I didn't know much about financial aid, course selections, or scholarship opportunities. I learned the hard way, missing deadlines and opportunities. That's why I became an Academic Advisor: to ensure other students don't have to go through the same struggles I did," said Valencia. Fluent in Spanish and English, with knowledge of Italian and American Sign Language, Valencia values the power of communication. Valencia's family is a vital part of her life. While her immediate family, including her parents, grandparents, and stepbrother, live in the U.S., much of her extended family remains in Peru. "I come from a nonconventional family," she says. Her connections to her heritage shaped her perspective and motivated her to empower others. Valencia's role extends beyond advising, she also serves as the Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, guiding students in the Honor Society. Her commitment to student success is matched only by her passion for community service, which includes volunteering as a dog walker at a local animal shelter. "it's fulfilling to give the dogs a break from the kennel and proved them with some love and attention." When she's not advising students or volunteering, Valencia immerses herself in her love for reading and running. A member of several book clubs, she has set a



**Alejandra Valencia - Academic Advisor**

personal goal to read one book a month, reigniting a passion that had taken a backseat during her college years. "Reading has always been a part of my life, and I'm excited to get back into it." Alongside her literary pursuits, she runs four times a week and has participated in several races, including a 10-mile run in Philadelphia. This year, she aims to complete a half marathon.

Valencia's journey is not without its challenges. Balancing work, studies, and personal life requires discipline and careful planning. "I worked seven days a week to put myself through college. It was tough, but I managed to graduate with honors," she reflects. "Being disciplined and taking care of my mental health has been crucial. I learned to prioritize sleep and self-care, especially during stressful times like finals."

Her mantra, inspired by a beloved Disney quote, serves as a guiding light: "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." This belief in empowerment fuels her passion for helping students discover their potential.

As Valencia continues her journey, she remains dedicated to bridging the gap for students like herself, ensuring they have the support and resources needed to succeed. Her story is a powerful reminder that with determination and the right guidance, anyone can overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams.



## RCSJ GOLF SWINGS INTO THE 2025 SEASON

BY: JACKSON DIEHL

PAGE X

With back-to-back Region XIX and Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) championships in 2023 and 2024, the Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) Golf Team is entering the 2025 season with high expectations. Head Coach Guy Davidson and his squad have been hard at work in the off-season, preparing to build on their growing national reputation. Since taking over the program in 2021, Coach Davidson has led RCSJ to increasing success, culminating in an 11th-place finish at the NJCAA National Tournament in 2023 and an even more impressive 7th-place finish in 2024. With a strong core of returning players and an influx of top-tier talent, the team is poised to aim even higher this year. “We’ve done very well as a program,” Coach Davidson said. “This year, our guys have set their own goal, to win Region XIX and GSAC for the third year in a row. If we accomplish that, we’ll take our full team to Nationals, and from there, we’d love to finish in the top five in the country.” While talent is never in short supply, Coach Davidson has emphasized the importance of team chemistry and mental fortitude, especially in the transition from high school to college golf. “One might think our main focus is golf, but what I care about most is creating connections between teammates,” he said. “The players are talented enough that the golf takes care of itself. I’m making sure their academic and social lives are in order before the season begins.” That mindset has helped the team grow closer and perform well under pressure. The team’s captain, second-year player Nick Iulliucci (Hammonton), finished 31st at the 2024 NJCAA Tournament, which is the best individual finish for an RCSJ golfer since the 1970s. Iulliucci has already embraced his leadership role and helped integrate the team’s newcomers.

Among those new additions are some of South Jersey’s finest high school golfers. Two-time South Jersey Player of the Year Justin Forman (Washington Township), all-area standout Julian Boyer (Deptford), and Hammonton’s Connor Eberle, a key piece in his high school program, will bolster an already strong lineup. In addition to strengthening the men’s team, Coach Davidson has been instrumental in growing the women’s program at RCSJ. While other community colleges in the region have struggled to field women’s teams, RCSJ has managed to put together complete squads in two of the past three seasons. “Most of our women come from other sports, and we teach them the game,” he said. “It’s been an incredible opportunity for them to learn golf and be part of a team environment.” Second-year player Lanie Guzman (Vineland) will play a key leadership role in helping the new female golfers adjust to the collegiate level and prepare for postseason competition. One major adjustment for college golfers is learning to handle the diverse challenges posed by different courses. “The further north we go, the more elevation changes we face, uphill, downhill, sidehill lies,” Coach Davidson explained. “High school golfers also typically play nine-hole matches, while in college, they have to remain focused for a full 18.” To prepare, RCSJ has embraced the elements, holding optional range sessions as early as February, even in the snow. “There were days we were out there with snowflakes falling, but in my mind, doing things like that prepares you for whatever comes,” Coach Davidson said. “We want to be a team that can excel under any conditions, no excuses.”



# Sports

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## RCSJ GOLF CONT.

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PAGE 16



RCSJ will have plenty of competition this season, particularly from rival Community College of Morris, whose home course hosts the GSAC tournament.

“Coach Jim Chegwidden has had a lot of success there,” Coach Davidson said. “We’ve managed to squeak by them each of the past two years, but the road to success literally runs through CC Morris. We’ve developed a nice, friendly rivalry—as long as we win!” With a deep and talented roster, strong leadership, and an unshakable commitment to mental and physical preparation, RCSJ golf is set for another exciting season. If all goes according to plan, the team could be making history once again come Nationals.

The 2025 season is here, and RCSJ is ready to make its mark.

**For the full schedule of the men’s and women’s RCSJ Gloucester Roadrunner Sports Team’s, [click here!](#)**

**For the full schedule of the men’s and women’s RCSJ Cumberland Duke’s sports teams, [click here!](#)**

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## ROADRUNNER SOFTBALL CHARGES AHEAD

BY: EMMY CHILDS

The Roadrunner softball team never expected to begin the 2025 season with a 1-3 start. Head Coach Steve Depasquale, has ingrained in his players’ minds that he wants to win, continuously reminding them, “I hate losing more than I like winning.”

The Roadrunners are the reigning NJCAA Division III Region 19 champions. This accomplishment punched their ticket to the World Series hosted in Tennessee. They finished their 2024 season with a 26-10 record and placed fourth in the national tournament. The softball team has established a winning culture at Rowan College of South Jersey and has high expectations for this year’s team as well. In fact, Depasquale told his team at their first meeting back in July that he expects to make it back to the World Series – even before seeing his team take the field.

The Roadrunners began their 2025 season going 1-3. The team took some time to adjust to the fast-paced college-level competition, having seven errors in their first four games. Despite the troubling start, the team did not allow it to affect their mindset and went on to win nine of their next 10 games.

April will be a crucial month for the Roadrunners. It will set the seedings for Region 19 championship games in May. The top team will continue to the national World Series, hosted in New York this year. “The team is working hard, so hopefully it's just a matter of time when we put it all together,” Depasquale says. He is proud of his team and is confident they will continue to do well the rest of the season.

Recently, the Roadrunners have been facing tough competition by “playing up” and contending with many Division II teams. Depasquale believes that even if his team loses to these higher teams, they are still learning and improving by seeing better competition, making them a better team.

So far, the team has been strong against fellow region 19 opponents and has won nine out of the 12 conference games so far. Although there is tough competition, the Roadrunners have split doubleheaders with three different teams in conference. They are now preparing for their second rounds against region 19 opponents and hope to sweep those doubleheaders.

The Roadrunners know that every game is important and that they are improving with each match-up. Ultimately, they hope to win their region in May and set their eyes on the World Series.

Continuing to work hard, the Roadrunners practice every day they do not have games, only having off-days the day after a game to rest and recover. Depasquale states, “We have a full roster this season with 15 players, so we have some depth this season.” This differs from last season when the team had a roster of only 10 for the majority of the season, creating some difficulties and exhaustion. With so many players this year, Depasquale can have players rest and he has multiple players who play every position.





## ROWAN COLLEGE BASEBALL TEAM EYES CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2025

BY: LYDIA FITZGERALD

After winning back-to-back NJCAA Division III titles in 2023 and 2024, the Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) baseball team is looking to build on its success from the previous two seasons and make a significant impact in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) standings as they begin the 2025 season. At Falcon Park in Auburn, New York, the Roadrunners, led by seasoned coach Rob Valli, defeated No. 2 seed Dallas College-Eastfield 18-3 in May 2024 to win the NJCAA DIII National Title for the second time. The Runners won all four games in the national championship tournament, capping off the 2024 season with an incredible 51-8 overall record. With a strong roster and experienced coaching staff, the team is ready to compete at a high level again.

The RCSJ team, under the leadership of head coach Rob Valli with his motto: "We expect to win every time we play, but we always seem to find a way to run ourselves into a preventable loss or two early in the season," is working hard to refine their skills and improve their game strategy. The 2025 team shows a mix of returning players such as Gabriel Reyes, Mason Dobbs, and RJ Mustaro and talented newcomers like Gavin West, Kyle Mcsorley, and Nick Slogik. Notable players this season include freshman Luca Reyes, hitting two grand slams in the recent game against Montgomery CC where the RCSJ

Roadrunners won 21-5. Sophomore right fielder RJ Mustaro, one of the team leaders, notes that the goal is crystal clear among his teammates. All players have the potential to be key contributors throughout the season.

The team showed promising signs of success in their opening home game against Monroe University with a score of 14-2 in late February. Coach Valli stresses the value of discipline and teamwork both on and off the field, even though the team's performance on the field is significant. A number of the players on the RCSJ baseball team have high GPAs, demonstrating their commitment to academic and athletic success. The college is proud of the way that academics and athletics are balanced. The RCSJ community will closely monitor the team's development throughout the 2025 season. The baseball program has received much support from students, staff, and alums, and fans are eager to watch how the season unfolds.

The Roadrunners know that every game is important and that they are improving with each match-up. Ultimately, they hope to win their region in May and set their eyes on the World Series.





## FLY EAGLES FLY... INTO A DYNASTY?

BY: SIANI JULES

The Philadelphia Eagles have set their sights on joining the ranks of NFL dynasties. Fresh off a dominant Super Bowl victory, they now face the challenge of maintaining that momentum and solidifying their place among legendary franchises like the New England Patriots, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Kansas City Chiefs. The Patriots, with six Super Bowl titles and an undefeated regular season in 2007, set the gold standard for sustained excellence. The Steelers ruled the 1970s, capturing four championships in six years. More recently, the Chiefs, led by Patrick Mahomes, appeared in four Super Bowls between 2019 and 2023, narrowly missing a historic three-peat. Ironically, the Eagles have played spoiler twice, halting potential three-peats by defeating the Patriots in 2018 and the Chiefs in 2024. Now, the Eagles stand at a similar crossroads, on the brink of greatness but with plenty of obstacles standing in their way.

But before looking ahead, it's worth revisiting just how dominant the Eagles were on football's biggest stage. The Eagles left no room for doubt, solidifying their status as a powerhouse while shattering multiple records. Jalen Hurts set a new Super Bowl benchmark for the most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback. Meanwhile, the Eagles' relentless defense overwhelmed Patrick Mahomes, sacking him six times, the most he has ever endured in a single game, including both the regular season and playoffs. Notably, Mahomes became just the second quarterback in Super Bowl history to be sacked six times by four or fewer pass rushers. Despite the Chiefs' efforts to contain Saquon Barkley, the Eagles' offense had a countermeasure in place, exploiting defensive gaps to keep their attack unstoppable. Barkley's standout performance this season also earned him a lucrative contract extension worth over \$40 million, with \$36 million guaranteed, [according to ESPN](#). His deal sets a new standard for running backs, a position often undervalued and frequently traded, signaling a potential shift in how elite rushers are compensated across the league.



With dominance comes resistance. The Eagles' signature "Tush Push" quarterback sneak has become so unstoppable that rival teams are pushing to ban it altogether. The Green Bay Packers' proposal to outlaw the play, citing player safety and game pace, has sparked heated debate among league officials. "It looks like rugby scum," claimed Los Angeles Rams coach, Sean McVay. [According to ESPN](#), critics argue that the proposal isn't about fairness or safety, it's about jealousy. Few teams have been able to replicate the Eagles' fine-tuning of the play, and rather than adapting, some franchises want to change the rules to level the playing field. This controversy isn't just about a single formation; it's a reflection of the growing influence and power of the Eagles in the modern NFL. If history has shown anything, it's that dynasties aren't built without resistance.

The Eagles' dominance has put them in the league's crosshairs, with rivals looking for ways to slow them down both on and off the field. But perhaps the biggest challenge to their continued success isn't external, it's the natural cycle of roster turnover.



## FLY EAGLES FLY...CONT.

BY: SIANI JULES

Key players who contributed to the championship run are either leaving or retiring. Notable losses include backup quarterback Kenny Pickett, who stepped up when Hurts was injured, along with key defensive players like Isaiah Rodgers, Josh Sweat, Milton Williams, Chauncey Gardner-Johnson, and Darius Slay. Additionally, team veteran Brandon Graham announced his retirement, leaving a significant gap in leadership. These departures mark a turning point for the Eagles, testing their ability to reload and remain dominant in the seasons ahead. True dynasties endure these moments, finding ways to adapt and continue winning. Now, the question is whether the Eagles can do the same.

Their biggest threat moving forward may be the Los Angeles Rams, who gave the Eagles a scare in snowy conditions—a setting unfamiliar to them. Despite the challenging weather, the Rams kept it close, with the Eagles narrowly escaping with a 28-22 win. Just one more touchdown could have flipped the outcome. However, they aren't the only ones eyeing the Eagles' throne. The Washington Commanders, a direct division rival, are coming off a strong 12-5 season. After suffering a humiliating 55-23 blowout loss to the Eagles in the NFC Championship, they may be looking for redemption, and circling like sharks in the water. Head Coach Nick Sirianni has proven he can adapt and maximize talent, but the question remains—can the Eagles sustain their success? Last season, Sirianni and his coaching staff orchestrated one of the most well-rounded teams in the league. Offensive Coordinator Kellen Moore, despite being known for his passing game, built an elite rushing attack. Defensive Coordinator Vic Fangio transformed the defense from one of the worst in the league into a dominant force. Individual players like Saquon Barkley, Jalen Hurts, Zack Baun, and Jalen Carter had career-defining seasons, a testament to strong coaching and player development.



Looking ahead, Sirianni must continue building depth and making adjustments to ensure the Eagles remain at the top. While the team has lost key players, the foundation is still strong. Vice President and General Manager Howie Roseman's front office has a track record of assembling competitive rosters, and Sirianni's leadership will be crucial in keeping the team focused throughout the inevitable challenges ahead in the 2025-2026 season.



## A MUST-SEE MOVIE THIS SUMMER

### JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH

BY: LINDSEY BLITHE

Dinosaurs - the wide range of different shapes, sizes, roars, and clickety claws have been on our silver screens since 1993's Jurassic Park. Director Gareth Edwards brings us into a whole new world of these prehistoric menaces. Five years after the events of 2022's Jurassic World Dominion, this standalone sequel takes us to the island research facility of the first Jurassic Park. With an all-new cast, featuring Scarlett Johansson, Jonathan Bailey, and Mahershala Ali, we uncover the sinister secrets that have been hidden for years.

Zora Bennett (Scarlett Johansson) and her team of experts are tasked with searching for the last remaining dinosaurs to gather DNA to save human lives. Unfortunately, the DNA they require is from the three biggest dinosaurs, making this expedition even more deadly. Dr. Henry Loomis (Jonathan Bailey) reveals that the dinosaurs that remain on this island were far too dangerous for the original Jurassic Park. From the official trailer, Loomis states, "the worst of the worst were left here" (Universal Pictures). This island research facility is riddled with genetic mutations of our beloved creatures and of course, a new dinosaur.

The new Jurassic team encounters the iconic Tyrannosaurus Rex, infamous raptors, Dilophosaurus, and the Mosasaurus. With the new beast, fans have already been calling it "D-Rex", the gigantic, razor-toothed, smooth skulled monster briefly appeared in the trailer. Take a few minutes to watch the new trailer for yourself and mark your calendars for July 2nd when Jurassic World Rebirth hits theaters.

My childhood is filled with memories of watching the original films. I remember being terrified, watching the first Jurassic Park with the kitchen scene of the kids, Tim and Lex, being hunted by the velociraptors. Hearing the ear-piercing roar of the T-Rex sent chills down my spine. After watching the movies, I swore, as a 7-year-old that I would be a paleontologist one day. That dream changed, but I still



absolutely love rewatching all the films, and I cannot wait to see this upcoming, new world to the franchise. I believe that this revamped cast will be a breath of fresh air that was definitely needed. With great actors like Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Bailey, I am sure we will not be disappointed.



## WHAT TO STREAM NOW!

### COMPANION: A MOVIE REVIEW

BY: JACKSON DIEHL

Any film that dares to reference *Barbarian* and *The Notebook* in its marketing is bound to turn heads, and *Companion* absolutely delivers on that promise. Drew Hancock's feature debut is a clever, darkly funny, and surprisingly poignant mix of sci-fi, horror, and romance that keeps you guessing at every turn. The less you know going in, the better it is, trust me. Even if you stumble across its secrets beforehand, it won't lessen the thrill ride of this film. As of March 11th, *Companion* had grossed 35 million worldwide, and I believe over time this movie will start to gain more of a cult following and popularity.

#### A FUN, CLEVER, SCI-FI THRILLER WITH TWIST AFTER TWIST

The film opens with a classic rom-com setup, Iris (Sophie Thatcher) and Josh (Jack Quaid) meet in a grocery aisle in a flurry of rolling oranges and awkward glances. Fast-forward to their weekend getaway with Josh's longtime friends at an isolated lakeside mansion owned by Sergey (Rupert Friend), and from the start, there's something off. Josh's friends are wary of Iris; Sergey is a little too intense; and the air hums with an unspoken tension. Then, things take a shocking turn when Iris returns to the house covered in blood. What happens next is better left unspoiled.

#### THIS ENTERTAINING THRILLER IS BUILT TO LAST

What makes *Companion* stand out isn't just its twists, but the way it layers them with social commentary and character depth, which isn't always seen in this genre. At its core, the film is about control - who has it, who abuses it, and what happens when someone (or something) fights



back.

Without giving too much away, Iris is not the idealized dream girl Josh (or the audience) may have thought she was. She's something more, and as the film barrels forward, it becomes clear that *Companion* is less about romance and more about survival.

Simply put, *Companion* is a must-see. It's thrilling, funny, unsettling, and packed with surprises that will have audiences talking long after the credits roll. If you're looking for a film that defies expectations while delivering pure genre fun, this is the one to watch.

**STREAM IT ON AMAZON  
PRIME NOW !!**



***RCSJ's Student Newspaper***

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# **THE VOICE**

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