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SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



# BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

GRADUATE NEWS & EVENTS,  
ALL IN ONE PLACE!



## Dean's Message

Dear Graduate Students,

Welcome to February—where the semester is officially in full swing and the campus is buzzing with energy (and maybe a little Valentine's spirit 💕). As we head into week three of the semester, this is a great moment to settle into your routines, reconnect with your goals, and show yourself—and your work—a little extra love. Whether you're celebrating Valentine's Day with others or treating yourself to some well-deserved self-care, we're glad you're here and excited to share what's coming up for our graduate community this month.



Please remember to Save-The-Date (**Wednesday, March 25th**) for our annual **Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Poster Symposium**. This year, the poster symposium will be followed by **Three Minute Thesis Competition**. As well, the day will feature a **Presentation on Excellence in Presenting**. We will have Presentation Awards, People's Choice Awards, and Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow **Networking Reception at the Owl's Nest** (in the Chamberlain Student Center).

Sincerely,

Tabitha A. Dobbins, Ph.D.  
Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy  
Rowan University  
Glassboro, NJ 08028-1701

## Resources

### 9th Annual First-Generation Symposium

**Registration is now open.**

Early registration deadline: **January 23, 2026**

Student Registration is **FREE** with student email, promo code: **STFGS2025**

[Register here](#) | Learn more about the symposium and the Flying First program on our [website](#).

**Symposium Theme:**

*Trailblazers Today, Leaders Tomorrow: The First Gen Future*

**Dates:**

📍 **February 12, 2026** (In Person)

💻 **February 13, 2026** (Virtual)

This year's symposium celebrates the voices, leadership, and innovation of first-generation students, faculty, and professionals. Together, we'll explore strategies to advance equity, belonging, and leadership development in higher education.

Join us as we strengthen first-generation connections and build a community where everyone is empowered to thrive.



Enter the 2026 Art of  
Research Contest

Get creative, get seen, get paid! The 2026 Art of Rowan Research Contest & Exhibition celebrates student-created imagery revealing the artistry of scientific research and creative inquiry underway at Rowan University. The top prize is \$500.

**What can be submitted:**

Submissions must be your original images of research affiliated with Rowan University. Entries may include microscopy, photographs taken in the lab or in the field, graphic illustrations or drawings. Rules and guidelines are posted at [go.rowan.edu/artofresearch](http://go.rowan.edu/artofresearch)

**Who can submit:**

Open to all Rowan-affiliated students.

**How to enter:**

Upload entries at [go.rowan.edu/artofresearch](http://go.rowan.edu/artofresearch)

**Deadline for submissions:** Feb. 25, 2026

**Department of Energy, Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program**

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) program offers PhD candidates the opportunity to conduct part of their thesis research at a DOE national laboratory, leveraging world-class facilities and expert mentorship while receiving supplemental support for travel and living expenses. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, enrolled full-time in a qualified STEM doctoral program, and collaborate with a DOE lab scientist prior to submission. For full details and to apply, visit: [science.osti.gov/wdts/scgsr](http://science.osti.gov/wdts/scgsr).



**First Gen Drawing for Regal Movie Passes**

Are you a first-generation graduate or professional student? Complete this quick form [here](#) to participate in the First-Generation Graduate and Professional Student Raffle! By entering, you'll have a chance to win Regal Movie Passes (a \$20 value). Drawing will be held on Jan 30th and winner announced by email and here in the Newsletter.

**December 2025 Winner!**: Riley Samantha Cowley. Congratulations!!!



**Rowan Rohrer College of Business Finance Industry Night**

Join the Rowan Rohrer College of Business for *Finance Industry Night*. This is your opportunity to engage directly with recruiters looking to recruit students for internships and full-time positions, learn about hiring timelines, and network with Alumni! Whether you're a first-year student exploring career paths or a graduating senior ready to launch your career, this event offers valuable face time with professionals, insight into hiring processes, and a chance to make a lasting impression. Read more [here](#).



The Graduate Student Government Association (GSGA) is excited to invite you to their Office Hours on Thursday, February 12th at 2:pm in the Student Center Creative Corner, Room 157 (and online)! **Join GSGA President Adriann Lai as she shares her experiences in investing in a talk titled "How to Be Hot and Rich"**. All graduate students are welcome, and we hope to see you there.

We also invite you to share your thoughts and ideas through two quick surveys:

- [Graduate Student Government Association \(GSGA\) Interests Survey](#) – to help us plan programming that fits your interests.
- [Graduate Organization Petition Process](#) – for students interested in starting new graduate student clubs.

Your feedback and participation make a difference—come be part of building a stronger graduate community!

Join many of our events, help us to build community among Graduate Students at Rowan University and be eligible for the "GSGA Graduate Cord" in May 2026!

We look forward to connecting with you this semester!

## Grad Mental Health & Well-Being Corner

w/ Shelyn Nieves



### Graduate Student Wellness and Well-Being

Hello Rowan graduate and professional students! I hope all of you had a refreshing holiday/winter break and that you were able to stay safe and warm throughout the recent snowstorm!

The Spring 2026 semester began not too long ago, and by now, many of you have started your classes again. As always, managing work, classes, experience, home, social life, and other responsibilities can be difficult. On top of that, climate— and not just the weather but the times and context we live in— adds more stress to our lives. Every year presents new challenges, but oftentimes previous challenges follow us into the new year. Two things we can do to combat our fears and stay safe during difficult times are to remain informed and learn how to protect ourselves and one another.

**The Rowan Student Government Association, Dean of Students Office, and the Center for Belonging & Student Engagement have partnered with Public Safety to host an ICE & Public Safety Education Workshop on February 10th, 2026 (Tuesday). This event will take place at the Chamberlain Student Center, Room G54A, Event Room A, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.**

The workshop aims to educate students on the safety and immigration resources available to them, serving as a response to recent and growing student concerns. Learn more about your rights, warrants, and how to be a good bystander, and receive guidance from RUPD should federal immigration enforcement be on campus. Resources and free refreshments will be provided.

This is an important opportunity for students to use their voice and be advocates for justice. Safely protecting and standing up for yourself and others are important and critical acts of self-care, as is exercising your right to stay informed. **Access Rowan's ProfLink for this event [here](#).**

Additionally, I would like to remind all graduate students of the RowanSafe app for your phone available through the Apple app store and Google Play Store! This is Rowan's official safety app which features the following: mobile BlueLight/Panic Button, on- and off-campus emergency contacts, safety/security reporting, safety notifications, emergency plans, campus safety resources and directory, police department-monitored Virtual Walk Home, Friend Walk (location sharing). Access more information [here](#).

Please continue to look out for this newsletter this semester, as the School of Graduate Studies will be sending out our annual Graduate Student Wellness survey in a few months! Please take care of yourself as much as you can, and I hope you have a peaceful semester!

Sincerely,  
Shelyn Alvarez Nieves  
Graduate Assistant in Mental Health, Wellness, & Wellbeing  
Rowan University | School of Graduate Studies



### Warning about making your research public on Rowan Digital Works (RDW) from the Rowan University Campbell Library

Check out the **Love Data Week 2026** listing of events hosted by the Campbell Library [here](#). Love Data Week is an annual international celebration held each February around Valentine's Day that highlights the importance of data in research, learning, and everyday life. This year's theme, "Where's the Data?", invites participants to think about how data is collected, stored, shared, and preserved while offering opportunities to explore data tools



and practices through engaging workshops and activities. Other upcoming library events are listed [here](#) including "Practical LaTeX for Academic Writing and Teaching" (read more [here](#)) and "Rescuing and Preserving Public Data with the Data Rescue Project" a talk given by Lynda Kellam, Co-Founder of the Data Rescue Project and Director of Research Data and Digital Scholarship at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries (read more [here](#)).

**Rowan Digital Works (RDW)** is an online platform managed by Rowan University Libraries that makes the university's research available to the world and allows work to be discovered and cited by Google Scholar. However, not all research is ready to be shared publicly. It is essential for you to be aware of your faculty advisor's plans for publishing, patenting, or commercializing the research you do together.

This warning applies to both your thesis or dissertation and to any posters you present at a Research Day. For a thesis or dissertation, you can delay making your work publicly available by up to 2 years by requesting an embargo. You must ask your advisor whether an embargo is needed before you submit your final thesis or dissertation to the School of Graduate Studies. For a poster, you may choose to not include the poster in Rowan Digital Works at all. If you have any questions about these issues, please contact [rdw@rowan.edu](mailto:rdw@rowan.edu).

### Rowan Library Citation Management Workshops

Rowan University's Campbell Library offers workshops to help students, faculty, and staff learn to use various reference managers to support their research. These websites and programs allow researchers to keep their sources organized and easily accessible, and make creating a reference list or bibliography as simple as a click of a button.

To register for a workshop and learn about citation managers like Refworks and EndNote, please click here: <https://rowan.libcal.com/calendar/libraryworkshops?cid=5463&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=5463&ct=65990&inc=0> (Check back for more offerings throughout the semester!)

### Library Renovation

The Campbell Library building has begun a [major renovation project](#) which affects some building services, but all digital resources (journals, e-books, & databases) will continue to be available as usual through the [library website](#).

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## West Campus Master Planning Survey

### [Glassboro Campus Graduate Student Survey](#)

Rowan Facilities is currently working on a **Master Plan** for the **West Campus** and conducting outreach to different stakeholders to understand possibilities for this area. A Master Plan can take many forms, but includes a **vision for future development**. To integrate current graduate student experiences within this process, the following survey was developed by a course within the **Master of Urban and Regional Planning program**, in collaboration with Facilities. Please take a moment to share your experience as a Rowan University graduate student and any ideas for West Campus. Survey data will be shared with Facilities as part of their Master Plan engagement, and there is no identifying information within the survey.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Associate Teaching Professor Megan Bucknum ([bucknum@rowan.edu](mailto:bucknum@rowan.edu))



**Graduate Student Events Calendars** available for download from [here](#). Listed are all approved events graduate students can attend and most, if not all events, are FREE! Students who purchase a Grad Pass gain access to undergraduate funded events, including events hosted by Student University Programmers and Rowan After Hours.



**Monday, Feb 2, 2026**  
**Time: 3 to 5:pm**  
**On Zoom**



## Show Up and Write!: Graduate Writing Groups

**Day:** Monday, Feb 2nd  
**Time:** 3 - 5: pm  
**Location:** Online via Zoom

Meets on all Mondays, Spring 2026 from 3pm to 5pm via Zoom 1/26/2026 through 5/4/2026

- Write without distractions
- Work on any project
- Find community with other graduate students
- Create your own writing group

Graduate-level writing can be a nerve-wracking, isolating experience. This is some of the most high-stakes writing you've ever done, and you're doing it mostly alone, with occasional input from your advisor. If you find yourself having trouble getting motivated to work on your thesis, dissertation, or any other writing you have to do, then you aren't failing, and you aren't lazy. That experience is common to all graduate students — and truthfully, to all writers. Some of us are better at hiding it than others, but all of us struggle with productivity. The answer is to find ways to make space for writing in your life. Show Up and Write is one of those ways. By incorporating Show Up and Write into your schedule, you can be sure that you will make at least two hours' worth of progress on your writing project every week. It may not seem like much, but it does add up — and it is miles more progress than zero hours!

Take a chance, join us, and see if a write-in or a writing group is effective for you.

For more information, please visit <https://go.rowan.edu/SUAW>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jenn Tharp at [tharp@rowan.edu](mailto:tharp@rowan.edu).

**Tuesday, Feb 3**  
**Time: 9:15 pm**



## View n Chew Movie Nights

**Day:** Tuesday, Feb 3, 2026  
**Time:** 9:15 pm  
**Location:** Chamberlin Student Center Ballroom  
**Movie Showing:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Grab some popcorn, put on some comfy clothes, and go watch a movie with your fellow Profs! Rowan University hosts Free Movie Nights in the Student Center Pit or the Ballroom!

Upcoming Dates:

- Tuesday, February 17 - Harriet
- Tuesday, March 3 - Legally Blonde
- Tuesday, March 10 - Superman (2025)
- Tuesday, April 7 - But I'm a Cheerleader
- Tuesday, April 21 - Zootopia 2

**Friday, Feb 6, 2026**  
**Time: 2 to 3:pm**

## Coffee, Tea, and Talk with Graduate Students

**Day:** Friday, Feb 6th  
**Time:** 2 - 3 pm  
**Location:** Bole Hall Conference Room



Discussion Topic: Love Yourself: Let's Talk about Wellness and Well-Being Resources

Stop by for networking and discussion. Door prizes and raffle prizes are given.

Post-doctoral Fellows are welcome to attend!

**SAVE-THE-DATES:**

On Friday, Feb 20th, "Topic: Rowan Annual Day of Giving: How Community Support Shapes the Graduate Experience"

*These events are held every two weeks. All upcoming dates will be announced .*

**Tuesday, Feb 3  
Time: 6 pm**



### **Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition**

**The deadline to enter into the competition is 2/3/2026.**

Win \$300 by explaining your thesis or dissertation in three minutes!

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition for graduate students. Participants work to convey their research and its significance in a 3-minute presentation that is understandable by a general audience, assisted only by one PowerPoint slide. Each presentation is judged on a specific set of criteria focusing on both the content of the speech and the quality of its delivery. 3MT is an excellent way for students to cultivate their academic, presentation, and research communication skills, on top of showcasing the incredible work being done by graduate students at Rowan University.

3MT was originally developed by the University of Queensland in Australia, and has since spread to over 900 universities in over 85 countries around the world. The School of Graduate Studies at Rowan is very excited to add our name to that list, and we can't wait to hear about the work you're doing!

All entries will be judged according to the judging criteria found [here](#) in order to choose 5 Master's Thesis and 5 Doctoral Dissertation presentations. Those ten entrants will then move on to the live 3MT event on March 25th, where they will deliver their presentations, and the final winners (one Master's student and one Doctoral student) will be chosen to win \$300 each. There is also a People's Choice winner, who will be selected by the audience to win \$100!

#### **The Event**

**Date:** March 25th, 2026 (Research Day)

For information about competition rules, eligibility, submissions, and examples of winning presentations, please visit the 3MT webpage

here: <https://sites.rowan.edu/sgs/graduate-research-services/three-minute-thesis.html>

#### **Three-Minute Thesis Drafting Workshop**

This workshop, presented by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), will help you to hone the first draft of your presentation before submitting for consideration. If you would like assistance with your draft, please reach out to SGS at [graduateresearch@rowan.edu](mailto:graduateresearch@rowan.edu).

For parking instructions, email to [graduateschool@rowan.edu](mailto:graduateschool@rowan.edu)

**Thursday, Feb 12, 2026  
Time: 2 to 4:pm**

**Graduate Student Government Association  
(GSGA) Office Hours**



Day: Thursday, Feb 12  
 Time: 2 - 4 pm  
 Location: Student Center (Expansion), Room 157  
 Topic: **Join GSGA President Adriann Lai as she shares her experiences in investing in a talk titled "How to Be Hot and Rich".**

The Graduate Student Government Association (GSGA) is excited to announce **weekly drop-in office hours every Thursday from 2–4 p.m.** in the **new Student Center Expansion, Room 157!** Stop by for **snacks, conversation, and rotating programming**—including discussions, guest speakers, and more.

**Wednesday, Feb 4th**  
**Time: 9 pm**



### **Profs Place Trivia Nights**

**Day:** Wednesday, Feb 4th, 2026  
**Time:** 9 pm  
**Location:** Chamberlin Student Center Ballroom  
**Theme:** Around the World

Think you have what it takes to be a trivia champion? Every Wednesday, teams of up to 5 Rowan students can compete for free to win Rowan Bucks! The more you play, the more points you'll earn; the teams with the most points at the end of the semester can win the grand prize! Join SCCA every Wednesday night throughout the semester as we test your knowledge and crown a new champion each week! Check-in begins at 9:00 pm, and trivia starts at 9:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome!

When you arrive, you'll be assigned to a team.

Alternatively, feel free to join an existing team if you prefer.

Upcoming dates (and Theme):

- Wednesday, February 11 - Black History Month
- Wednesday, February 18 - Winter Olympics
- Wednesday, February 25 - Mad Science
- Wednesday, March 4 - Award Shows
- Wednesday, March 11 - Host Choice
- Wednesday, March 25 - History
- Wednesday, April 1 - April Fools
- Wednesday, April 8 - Sci-Fi
- Wednesday, April 15 - Pride
- Wednesday, April 22 - Earth Day

**Thursday, February 26th**  
**Time: 10 am - 2 pm**



### **All Major Spring Career Fair**

**Day:** Thursday, February 26th, 2026  
**Time:** 10 am - 2 pm  
**Location:** Chamberlin Student Center

Join your fellow Profs at the biggest career fair for the spring semester! Open to all majors! More information to come, i.e., vendors!

Please keep up to date with the newsletter in order to receive updates on this exciting event and future career fairs!

**Wednesday, March 25th**



### **Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Poster Symposium followed by Three Minute Thesis Competition, Presentation on Excellence in Presenting, Awards and Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Reception**

Day: Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

Save the date!

Thursday, April 30th  
Time: 10pm - 6am



### Cram Jam

Day: Thursday, April 30th 2026  
Time: 10:pm - 6:am  
Location: Chamberlain Student Center

Your favorite end-of-semester de-stress tradition is back —just in time for finals! The Student Center will stay open all night so you can settle in for **free food and coffee, raffle prizes, the Game Room**, and a chance to earn the iconic “**I Survived Cram Jam**” t-shirt. Take a break from studying with relaxing **massages, haircuts, mellow music**, dedicated **study rooms**, and more. And of course, the beloved **hourly Candy Cart** will be rolling through with sweet treats to keep you going. You won't want to miss it!



### Searching for who is your Advisor and/or your Graduate Program Coordinator?

If you're in search of your advisor or program coordinator, your search ends here! You can find comprehensive lists of :

- **OASIS Advisors** on the website: <https://sites.rowan.edu/student-success/global-learning-and-partnerships/departmentlisting.html>
  - In "Search by Major" select "Graduate Programs".
- **Program Coordinators** on the website: <https://sites.rowan.edu/sqs/about-us/grad-program-coordinators.html>.



### Campbell Library Renovation Project

The Campbell Library building has begun a [major renovation project](#) which affects some building services, but all digital resources (journals, e-books, & databases) will continue to be available as usual through the [library website](#).

### Graduate Student Travel Fund

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) recognizes the importance of having graduate students present research or a creative/artistic product to a professional body or organization. The travel fund is meant to offset the costs of travel to present at conferences. The Graduate Student Travel Fund is competitively allocated to help students with this financial burden. Awardees will be given up to \$600 to assist with their travel costs. Due to availability of funds, not all applicants will receive an award. Read more about how to apply for these funds [here](#).



### Shuttle Service

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and well-being of our graduate student community, we strongly encourage you to utilize the University Shuttle Service for all your campus and regional travel needs, especially in areas where sidewalks are scarce or non-



existent. Whether you're heading to a late-night study session, returning from a community event, or simply navigating your daily commute, the University Shuttle is a reliable, secure, and convenient mode of transportation designed with your safety in mind.

Read more about shuttle service [here](#)-- including schedule, live tracking app, and stop locations.



### Doctoral Degree Defense Dates

SGS is pleased to announce that we are now archiving defense dates for Doctoral Degree candidates on our website. You can find the archive [here](#). This archival process is optional, and students may choose to complete the form to archive their defense data either before or after the defense has occurred. The archive serves multiple purposes; it can assist current students who may wish to attend a defense to understand what a successful defense entails, and it also provides an opportunity for the Rowan community to attend and learn about the engaging topics being presented by our doctoral candidates. Students may register their defense dates on the SGS website by utilizing the Google Form available [here](#)<sup>10</sup>.



### RowanSafe App

We encourage all graduate students to download the RowanSafe App—a valuable resource to help you stay safe and connected on campus. The app offers an abundance of tools, including Virtual Walkhome (so campus police can keep an eye out while you travel), quick access to support resources, campus maps, parking information, and much more. Take a moment to download it today and keep these important resources right at your fingertips.



### Pedestrian Safety Vests

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS), in partnership with the Divisions of Public Safety and Student Life, are committed to the safety and well-being of our students, particularly those who commute on foot or by bicycle after dusk. To enhance your visibility and safety, we are giving away "Pedestrian Safety Vests" on a first come first serve basis to graduate students. These bright, reflective vests are designed to make the wearer more visible in low-light conditions, significantly reducing the risk of accidents. They are lightweight, foldable, and can easily be stored in a backpack, making them convenient for students to carry and use whenever needed. Stop by the Dean's office— in room 104 Bole Hall to pick up yours today. (Other on campus safety vest distribution locations will be announced in the future).

[rowan.edu/sgs](http://rowan.edu/sgs)

