

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY



CONVOCATION

*May 2017*



Graduate School  
of  
Education

2017  
Convocation



College Avenue Gymnasium  
May 15, 2017  
4:30 p.m.

## Order of Program

**Processional**..... Class of 2017

**National Anthem**..... Shock Wave  
*Student A Cappella Group*

**Welcome**..... Wanda J. Blanchett  
*Dean and Distinguished Professor*

**Distinguished Leader Award**..... Wanda J. Blanchett  
Penelope E. Lattimer *Dean and Distinguished Professor*  
*Director*  
*Rutgers Institute for Improving Student Achievement (RIISA)*  
*Rutgers Graduate School of Education*

**GSE Alumni Association Student Awards** ..... Jennifer Jones  
Evelyn Headley Award Kathleen Regan  
Angelo Tomaso Award *GSE Alumni Association*  
Arleen Urban Award

**GSE Student Awards** ..... Nora Hyland  
Nancy Higginson Dorr Award *Associate Professor*  
New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award *Learning and Teaching*  
2017 Nominees

**Student Speaker** ..... Paul Herman  
Alyea Pierce *Lecturer*  
*College Student Affairs* *College Student Affairs*

**Doctor of Philosophy Graduates** ..... Melinda Mangin  
**Doctor of Education Graduates** *Associate Professor & Ed.D. Director*  
*Education Theory, Policy and Administration*

**Education Specialist Graduates**..... Alisa Belzer  
**Master of Arts in Education Graduates** *Associate Professor*  
*Learning and Teaching*

**Master of Education Graduates** ..... Alisa Belzer  
 Adult and Continuing Education *Associate Professor*  
 College Student Affairs *Learning and Teaching*  
 Counseling Psychology  
 Dance Education  
 Early Childhood/Elementary Education  
 Educational Administration and Supervision  
 Educational Statistics, Measurement and Evaluation  
 English/Language-Arts Education  
 Language Education  
 Learning, Cognition and Development  
 Literacy Education  
 Math Education  
 Reading Education  
 School Counseling  
 Science Education  
 Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education  
 Social Studies Education  
 Special Education

**Alma Mater**..... Shock Wave  
*Student A Cappella Group*

**On the Banks of the Old Raritan**

From far and near we came to Rutgers,  
 And resolved to learn all that we can;  
 And so we settled down,  
 In that noisy college town,  
 On the banks of the old Raritan.

*Refrain:*

*On the banks of the old Raritan (my friends)*  
*Where old Rutgers evermore shall stand,*  
*For has she not stood*  
*Since the time of the flood,*  
*On the banks of the old Raritan.*

Then sing aloud to Alma Mater  
 And keep the scarlet in the van'  
 For with her motto high  
 Rutgers' name shall never die  
 On the banks of the old Raritan.

*(Refrain)*

**Concluding Remarks** .....Wanda J. Blanchett  
*Dean and Distinguished Professor*

**Recessional** ..... Class of 2017

## 2017 DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN EDUCATION

### *Penelope E. Lattimer, Ph.D.*

In September 2007, Penelope E. Lattimer joined the leadership team of the Rutgers Institute for Improving Student Achievement (RIISA) in the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and became the Director of RIISA in 2012. From 2003-2007 Dr. Lattimer held a number of positions at the NJ State Department of Education which included: Special Assistant to Commissioner William Librera and Assistant Commissioner for the Central Region; Chief of Staff and Assistant Commissioner for the Division of District and School Improvement working with Commissioner Lucille Davy.

Prior to joining the senior staff at NJDOE, Penelope Lattimer was employed by the New Brunswick City Board of Education as a high school principal, director of secondary education and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Dr. Lattimer's early career began in higher education working first at Georgian Court College (Lakewood, NJ) as an academic advisor and assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Fund program; Montclair State University as Director of the Urban Institute's Graduate Program for aspiring school counselors and Bloomfield College as Associate Dean of Students.

Penelope Lattimer's teaching specialty is French and Spanish language and culture. She holds a Master's degree in Student Personnel Services with a focus on school counseling. Her doctoral studies were done at Rutgers University and completed at Union Graduate School in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1972 Dr. Lattimer designed and served as the first principal for the demonstration high school, The Gibbons School, which was located on the Douglass Campus of Rutgers University.

She received awards such as the United States Fulbright-Hays Scholarship to study Chinese language and culture in the People's Republic of China, scholarship to study at Yad Vashem the worldwide center for Holocaust Education in Jerusalem, Israel; study of Japanese language and culture in Fukui and Tsuruoka, Japan. In addition, Johnson and Johnson Corporation asked Penelope Lattimer to visit South Africa for the purpose of reviewing BANTU educational sites that J&J supports.

Dr. Lattimer is also co-author of the newly released book, *Beloved Educators: Women of Color Who Inspire Us*. The book is available for purchase at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

Dr. Lattimer serves on the following Boards: Children's Specialized Hospital, George Street Playhouse (Board President), Grounds for Sculpture and Crossroads Theatre Company (former Board Chair, currently Board Member Emeritus), Vestry at Christ Church-New Brunswick.

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STUDENT AWARDS

Presented by Jennifer Jones and Kathleen Regan

## **Evelyn Headley Award for Outstanding Dissertation**

The Evelyn Headley Award for Outstanding Dissertation was named in 1986 in honor of a loyal alumna who graduated from the GSE in 1956. Evelyn Headley had a long career in education and was a leader in the Edison Township School District. She was a member of the Rutgers University Board of Trustees at the time of her death in 1985.

**Sally Wesley Bonet, Ph.D.**

Education Theory, Policy and Administration

*“Where are the Promises of America?”: Citizenship Education and Refugee Families*  
Dissertation Chair: Thea Abu El-Haj

## **Angelo L. Tomaso Excellence in Dissertation Award**

The Angelo L. Tomaso Award for Excellence in Dissertation was named in 1993 following the sudden death of Dr. Angelo L. Tomaso, who was a member of the Graduate School of Education Alumni Association Executive Committee and its membership chair. He had retired as Superintendent of the Warren Township School District in 1989 and was named a “distinguished alumnus” by the GSE Alumni Association. The Washington Valley School in Warren Township was renamed the Angelo L. Tomaso School in recognition of his service to the district.

**Michael Joseph Auciello, Ed.D.**

Education Theory, Policy and Administration

*In Their Own Voices: The Lived Personal and Professional Experiences  
Of LG[BT]School Administrators*  
Dissertation Chair: Catherine A. Lugg

## **Arleen H. Urban Excellence in Dissertation Award**

The Arleen H. Urban Excellence in Dissertation Award was established in 2017 to honor the life and work of Dr. Arleen Urban. Dr. Urban graduated from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education in 1986 with an Ed.D. She treasured the time she spent at the GSE and was active in GSEAA activities throughout her professional career. Dr. Urban completed a distinguished 41-year career as instructor and supervisor at the Somerset County Technical Institute. In addition to receiving many formal honors, including the GSEAA Distinguished Service Award and the Rutgers Alumni Meritorious Service Award, Dr. Urban was recognized as an outstanding teacher, known for her deep personal dedication to education and her kind and generous nature.

**Luis Antonio Leyva, Ph.D.**

Learning and Teaching

*“Mapping the Margins [in Mathematics]”: Examining the Gendered and Racialized  
Intersectionality of Mathematics Experience Among African American and Latin@  
Undergraduate Students in a Large, Predominantly White University*  
Dissertation Chair: Dan Battey

## STUDENT AWARDS

### Nancy Higginson Dorr Award

Presented by Associate Professor Nora Hyland

The Nancy Higginson Dorr Award was established by her son to honor graduates who show promise of being exceptional teachers. Nancy Higginson Dorr attended the Dearborn Seminary in Chicago in the 1860's and later became a remarkable teacher who, according to one of her children, "somehow kept alive the inborn curiosity and spirit of inquiry and exploration with which children are born." To the recipients of this award go "deepest wishes that you might get from it the same fullness of life which it helped bring to her."

**Anna Achampong  
Steven Concepcion  
Kimberly Dombrowski  
Shawn Elwood  
Celina Fanik  
Drew Forgash  
Bong Kim**

**Lauren Kramer  
Jennifer Nisita  
Allison Spadaro  
Megan Tartarilla  
Sean Villegas  
Kiersten Zinnikas**

### New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award

2017 Nominees Presented by Associate Professor Nora Hyland

The New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award is a prestigious honor presented jointly by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Preparation. This annual award publicly recognizes the top fifteen graduates of New Jersey's teacher preparation programs. The nominees for this award have all demonstrated outstanding achievement during their student teaching placement. An independent panel of educators will evaluate the credentials of each nominee and select fifteen statewide award recipients in June. The following students have been selected to represent the GSE in the statewide competition:

**Shawn Elwood  
Celina Fanik  
Drew Forgash**



## Doctor of Philosophy

**Rosa Aghekyan**

*Exploring High School Students' Science Identities, Motivation in Science  
and Environmental Attitudes*

Dissertation Chair: Angela O'Donnell

**Lokman Akbay\***

*Identification, Estimation, and Q-matrix Validation of Hierarchically  
Structured Attributes in Cognitive Diagnosis*

Dissertation Chair: Jimmy de la Torre

**Diana Wright Cano**

*The Role of the State Education Agency (SEA) in Influencing the  
Statewide Adoption of Computer-Based K12 Accountability Assessments*

Dissertation Chair: William A. Firestone

**Phyllis Julie Cipriani\*\***

*An Analysis of Pedagogical Moves for Facilitating the Development of  
In-service Middle School Mathematics Teachers' Recognition of Reasoning*

Dissertation Chair: Carolyn A. Maher

**Alexandra E. Daniel\***

*Key Influences on the Quality and Outcomes of Preschool Education for  
Dual Language Learners: Professional Development and*

*Bilingual Staffing Patterns*

Dissertation Chair: W. Steven Barnett

**Amanda Dillon\***

*The Impact of Accountability Based Reform on Social Justice Education:  
A Case Study of Two New York City Teachers*

Dissertation Chair: Nora Hyland

**Eliot J. Graham**

*"In Real Life, You Have to Speak Up": The Civic Significance of  
No-Excuses Classroom Management Practices*

Dissertation Chair: Beth Rubin

**Dessislava N. Kirova\***

*Meaning-Making as a Critical Process in Educational Reform  
Implementation: Insights from the Development of Standards-Based  
Student Growth Objectives*

Dissertation Chair: Drew Gitomer

**Kristen Marie Lew\***

*Conventions of the Language of Mathematical Proof Writing  
at the Undergraduate Level*

Dissertation Chair: Juan Pablo Mejia-Ramos

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**Meredith Clay McConnochie**

*ASSESSMENT, LITERACY, AND IDENTITY IN THE NEW LATINO  
DIASPORA: An Ethnographic Study of Emergent Bilinguals in their  
Homes and Elementary-School Classrooms*

Dissertation Chair: Ariana Mangual Figueroa

**Jamie M. Reuter**

*Classroom Preschool Science Learning: The Learner, Instructional Tools,  
and Peer-Learning Assignments*

Dissertation Chair: Rochel Gelman

**Cheryl K. Van Ness\*\***

*Creating and Using VMCAalytics for Preservice Teachers' Studying of  
Argumentation*

Dissertation Chair: Carolyn A. Maher

**Immanuel J. Williams**

*A Speededness Item Response Model for Associating Ability and  
Speededness Parameters*

Dissertation Chair: Youngsuk Suh

**Doctor of Education**

**Heba Abdo**

*Lessons Learned from the Implementation of a Formative  
Teacher Evaluation System*

Dissertation Chair: Alisa Belzer

**Chimaobi Obilo Amutah**

*Screaming from the Sideline?: Parental Voice and Class  
in the Age of Accountability*

Dissertation Chair: Tanja Sargent

**Zulejka Baharev\***

*The Effects of Cornell Note-Taking and Review Strategies on Recall and  
Comprehension of Lecture Content for Middle School Students  
with and without Disabilities*

Dissertation Chair: Angela O'Donnell

**Antoinette Elaine Barriga**

*Collaboration Leads to Change: A Student-Teacher Partnership &  
Its Work on Boys' Literacy Underachievement*

Dissertation Chair: Beth Rubin

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**Keith Eric Benson\***

*Better for Whom? Present and Prospective Camden Resident Perspectives'  
on State-Mandated Renaissance Charter Schools and  
Recent Camden Development*  
Dissertation Chair: Beth Rubin

**Carissa M. Conroy\***

*Outside the Lines and Beyond the Classroom: African American Football  
Student-Athletes' Experiences with Race in Academia*  
Dissertation Chair: Tanja Sargent

**Cecilia Inés Crespo\***

*Distributed School Leadership and Its Influence on Teaching Capacity:  
A Case Study from Teachers' Perspective*  
Dissertation Chair: Bruce Baker

**Darrell Robert DeTample\***

*Using an Anti-Racist Education Strategy to Counter Prejudice  
Against Arab and Muslim Americans*  
Dissertation Chair: Thea Abu El-Haj

**Kevin S. Doyle**

*Why and How Do Parents Decide to Send Their Children to the Interdistrict  
School Choice Program at the Magnet Program for Math and Science*  
Dissertation Chair: William A. Firestone

**Jordan Leigh Draper\*\***

*SaVE Our Campus: Analyzing the Effectiveness of an Online  
Sexual Violence Program*  
Dissertation Chair: Sandra Tomlinson-Clarke

**Mary M. Farah**

*Accountability Issues and High Stakes Standardized Assessment: Practices,  
Challenges, and Impact for English Language Learners*  
Dissertation Chair: Mary Curran

**Amy M. Hnasko**

*The Instructional Coaching Model in Early Childhood Education:  
A Comparative Case Study*  
Dissertation Chair: Sharon Ryan

**Peter Hughes**

*Evaluating the Impact of the K-Excel Program Evaluation  
in Mount Olive Public Schools*  
Dissertation Chair: William A. Firestone

**George Ellis Jackson, Jr.\***

*Interdisciplinary Middle School Teams as Professional Learning Communities*  
Dissertation Chair: William A. Firestone

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**Jennifer M. Kim-Lee**

*Students' Perspective of the Second Year and the Role of Advising*  
Dissertation Chair: Saundra Tomlinson-Clarke

**Amy Dugan Lewis\*\***

*Preparing Preservice Teachers to Teach Elementary School Science*  
Dissertation Chair: Sharon Ryan

**Matthew Charles Mortimer\*\***

*Education in the Wake of Disaster: A Case Study in the Post 9/11 Era*  
Dissertation Chair: Beth Rubin

**Justin Gerard Negraval**

*Different Worlds: An Examination of Students' Experiences in Tracked  
"Global Studies" Classrooms*  
Dissertation Chair: Sharon Ryan

**James Parry**

*AchieveNJ and the Middle School Principal*  
Dissertation Chair: William A. Firestone

**Jennifer Eve Rich\***

*A Promising Practice: Social Emotional Learning in Teacher Education*  
Dissertation Chair: Alisa Belzer

**Robert J. Search\***

*Student Comprehension of Mathematics Through Astronomy*  
Dissertation Chair: Keith Weber

**Mark A. Stanton**

*Worldview of Inclusivity: The Barriers and Paths of Including  
Traditionally Marginalized Students in a Christian School*  
Dissertation Chair: Catherine A. Lugg

**Daniele Vingelli**

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to My Dissertation:  
A Performance of Third Wave Teacher Leadership in a Bureaucracy*  
Dissertation Chair: Carrie Lobman

**Mildred Faulkner Waale\*\***

*Supporting Differently-Abled Students in Two New Jersey  
Community Colleges*  
Dissertation Chair: Melinda Mangin

**Thea Rachel Zunick**

*Assessing Academic and Personal Outcomes from Men Engaged in the  
Sigma Phi Epsilon Residential Learning Community*  
Dissertation Chair: Richard De Lisi

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## Education Specialist

Barry S. Bullis\*

## Master of Arts in Education

Rosa Aghekyan

Kara Lynn Teehan\*\*

## Master of Education

Anna Achampong  
Jessica L. Acilio  
Alyssa D. Acree  
Michaela Adams  
Dominy R. Alderman  
Courtney L. Allen  
Maria L. Allen\*\*  
Megan M. Ambrosy  
Abdullah Asilkalkan  
Zarina E. Bamji  
Steven T. Barati  
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Tameka Bazile  
Caroline G. Bennett  
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Alejandro Berrio  
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Jacob B. Torsiello  
Paige E. Townley  
Nadejiah Z. Towns  
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Megan T. Watts  
Alison M. Welch  
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Zachary Wong  
Bicheng Yao  
Dominique Yi  
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## ABOUT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

For nearly a century, Rutgers Graduate School of Education (GSE) has been a national leader in preparing educators, researchers, and leaders who create effective and equitable learning opportunities for diverse learners. The GSE's motto, "Advancing Excellence and Equity in Education" is realized through our new Urban Social Justice Teacher Education Program. This five-year program is the premiere teacher education program in New Jersey. It is the first program in the state to meet new requirements for educator preparation programs set by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The program is designed to prepare teachers to be engaged in and committed to excellence, equity, and social justice in their teaching practice. This program also includes the Community School Partnership Network (GSE-CSPN), a select network of seven school districts that partner with the GSE to support the education of P-12 students and advance the practice of high quality teaching and learning for pre-service teachers.

The GSE is consistently ranked among the best schools of education in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Our centers and institutes also advance excellence and equity in education, creating new knowledge and harnessing the research at the GSE to help educators implement better policies and practices. GSE centers and institutes include the National Institute for Early Education Research, the Robert B. Davis Institute for Learning, the Center for Effective School Practices, the Rutgers Institute for Improving Student Achievement, and the Center for Literacy Development.

Our world-class faculty has mentored some of the most influential education practitioners, researchers, and leaders of our time. GSE faculty serve in leading editorial roles in several scholarly research journals, and are continually asked to share their expertise in national media. Members of the faculty have also recently won prestigious awards including the Annie and John Selden Prize for Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education, and the Robert A. Millikan Medal.

Our graduates are highly sought after - the NJDOE reports that GSE graduates consistently have one of the highest rates of employment in New Jersey's school districts. Students at the GSE are dynamic contributors to education, presenting at conferences and taking leadership roles in professional organizations such as the American Educational Research Association.

The GSE's programs prepare effective practitioners, transformative leaders, and accomplished researchers. The GSE is home to over 60 different programs of study, including Ph.D., Ed.D., master's, and non-degree programs.

We have over 16,000 living alumni, 9,000 of whom reside in New Jersey. GSE alumni have gone on to become outstanding and transformative education leaders in the United States and throughout the world. Whether serving as school district superintendents, school principals, and in leadership roles at the NJDOE and other government agencies, GSE alumni are advancing excellence in research, policy, and practice.

We are very proud of our graduates and appreciate the positive response they have received in schools, universities, and other professional settings throughout our state, nation, and the world. Keep in touch with the GSE via LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Pinterest by visiting [gse.rutgers.edu/onlinecommunity](https://gse.rutgers.edu/onlinecommunity).



## *Congratulations, Class of 2017!*

Welcome to the Rutgers University Alumni Association (RUAA), the universitywide alumni organization that all Rutgers graduates are members of—**for free, for life!** You are joining a powerful network of more than 490,000 alumni worldwide, a legion of scarlet enthusiasts who have shared many of the same experiences and traditions that have made your time at Rutgers memorable.

As you embark on this new chapter in your life, the RUAA website and social media channels will help you stay connected with your Rutgers family. Be sure to visit [RALumni.com](http://RALumni.com) to explore networking opportunities, social outings, exclusive discounts, career resources, volunteer experiences, and many diverse alumni groups across the United States and abroad.


**Congratulations on this momentous achievement  
and welcome to the RUAA!**

**Follow the RUAA social media channels today for a chance  
to win a \$100 gift certificate to [RutgersAlumniShop.com](http://RutgersAlumniShop.com).**

 RutgersAlumni

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 Rutgers Alumni Group

**Your Rutgers experience doesn't end today.**

*scarlet forever*<sup>™</sup>





RUTGERS