

ALUMNI CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION

'25

INDUCTION CEREMONY

OCTOBER 18, 2025

Rowan
University



HENRY M. ROWAN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

The Alumni Circle of Distinction, established in 2023, recognizes Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering alumni with distinguished career accomplishments, contributions to the growth of the college and service to the community. Circle of Distinction inductees are selected every year based on nominations solicited from faculty, staff and alumni.

PROGRAM AND INDUCTEE BIOGRAPHIES

WELCOME

Dr. Giuseppe Palmese

Dean, Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering

BREAKFAST

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Ken Gemmell '00

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Brighid Burgin Hoempler '12

Chemical Engineering

Margaret Hunter '00

Civil & Environmental Engineering

Kristin Phillippi '01

Chemical Engineering

Caitlin Terry '05

Civil & Environmental Engineering

Ken Gemmell '00 **Electrical & Computer Engineering**

Ken Gemmell is an engineer and business leader with extensive experience in software and hardware design, operations, and team efficiency. He earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rowan University, an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University, an MBA from the University of Maryland, and a Doctorate in Business Administration from Drexel University, where he studied the efficiency of software teams. His academic and professional background has fueled his focus on operational efficiency and the software solutions that drive it.

Gemmell currently leads a digital marketing agency specializing in mortgage clients, creating integrated sales and marketing systems that improve performance and efficiency. Previously, he directed IT software development teams building tools to connect multiple databases and optimize laser and optical equipment manufacturing. He has also managed electronics manufacturing teams coordinating more than \$100 million annually. Earlier in his career, he developed software for testing satellite equipment and military radios and contributed to the development of commercial aviation RF base stations.



Brighid Burgin Hoempler '12 **Chemical Engineering**

Brighid Burgin Hoempler is a Strategic Global Account Manager at ExxonMobil. She began her career in 2012 as a fuels and lubricants product developer in Paulsboro, NJ, and now focuses on connecting cutting-edge research with the consumer experience to improve lives worldwide. A strong advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, she champions women in STEM globally through the Society of Women Engineers.

Hoempler earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Rowan University in 2012 and an MBA from Rutgers University-Camden in 2016. She serves on the Rowan College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Board and spent seven years on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Since 2020, she has been a member of the Rowan University Foundation Board of Directors, where she works to enhance the student, faculty, staff, and alumni experience at her alma mater.



Margaret Hunter '00 **Civil & Environmental Engineering**

Margaret Hunter is Director of Engineering Capital Planning at New Jersey American Water, where she has more than 23 years of experience in water and wastewater resource planning, sustainability, and capital investment management.

She chairs the New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association's Water Efficiency Committee and is a member of the national AWWA Water Loss Control Committee. Hunter has contributed to updates of key industry reference manuals and has served on several Water Research Foundation Project Advisory Committees in areas including demand forecasting, water efficiency, and sustainability.

A 2000 graduate of Rowan University, Hunter also earned a master's degree in engineering management from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She has remained closely connected to her alma mater, serving on the Industry Advisory Board for Rowan's Civil & Environmental Engineering Department.



Kristin Phillippi '01 Chemical Engineering

Kristin Phillippi is the Facilities and Engineering Manager at GGB North America, where she leads the Manufacturing Engineering, Machine Shop, and Maintenance teams across two manufacturing facilities in West Deptford, NJ. GGB is a global leader in advanced plain bearings and tribological solutions, serving industries from automotive to aerospace.

Phillippi began her career at GGB as a Process Engineer and, over the past 20 years, has advanced through roles of increasing responsibility. She has led process and equipment transitions driven by evolving chemical industry regulations and supported growth initiatives through strategic capital investments. Her leadership has been recognized with the company's prestigious President's Award of Excellence on two occasions.

She earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Rowan University in 2001 and an MBA with a concentration in marketing from Rutgers University. A certified Six Sigma Green Belt and Black Belt, Phillippi remains deeply engaged with Rowan's College of Engineering. She has served on the External Advisory Board for the Mechanical Engineering Department, is a current member of the Industrial Advisory Board for Chemical Engineering, and has hosted industrial clinic projects and recruited Rowan students to GGB, strengthening the university-to-industry pipeline.



Caitlin Terry '05 **Civil & Environmental Engineering**

Caitlin Terry, P.E. is the Chief Operating Officer of Hydromissions International, a faith-based nonprofit delivering water and sanitation programs to remote communities worldwide. A Civil & Environmental Engineering graduate of Rowan University, she credits her Rowan experience—especially the teamwork skills she developed—with preparing her for the challenges of working across five continents.

For more than 15 years, Terry has designed and implemented sustainable, low-tech water systems in regions too rugged or isolated for conventional drilling equipment, while training local communities to ensure long-term success. She also serves on an International Disaster Assistance Response Team, providing emergency water and infection-prevention systems in disaster and epidemic zones. Inspired by her first trip to Guatemala in 2008, she left her corporate engineering career to dedicate her life to equipping vulnerable communities and reminding them they are not forgotten.





2023 INDUCTEES:

Christina Bowen

Mechanical Engineering

Anthony Marino

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Jeff Miles

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Bryan Nese

Mechanical Engineering

Brad Sumerville

Civil Engineering

2024 INDUCTEES:

Matthew DeNafo

Civil & Environmental Engineering

Nicholas Jankowski

Mechanical Engineering

Michael Muhlbaier

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Keicha Muriel-Barreto

Civil & Environmental Engineering

Catherine “Cat” Ni

Mechanical Engineering

Amol Shah

Electrical & Computer Engineering

Krystal Wrigley

Chemical Engineering

Founded in 1995, the
Henry M. Rowan College
of Engineering is renowned
national leader in
engineering education.

With an internationally acclaimed
curriculum, faculty, and
students, our progressive
initiatives set new standards in
engineering education.

Since 2013, we have doubled student
enrollment and full-time faculty,
invested over \$92 million in academic
and research infrastructure,
and achieved remarkable success.



**DISCOVER WHAT WE HAVE
TO OFFER, AND MAKE OUR
SUCCESS YOURS!**

Please contact Dan Drutz at drutz@rowan.edu if you would like to nominate a Rowan Engineering alum for the Alumni Circle of Distinction. Nominations are always being taken for consideration in the future.



**HENRY M. ROWAN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

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