

Hannah Gamba ('20) remembers that "Rowan just felt right"

Hannah Gamba was born and grew up in Toms River, NJ. Her parents own an embroidery and screen-printing business. Her younger brother graduated from Princeton University last year and works for Amazon in Seattle, WA. Her older half-brother lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and two-year old daughter.



Hannah completed her Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering degree in 2020, during Covid. She secured a job at FWH Associates in Toms River, NJ before Covid shut most things down, and started work in the summer after graduation. FWH is a full-service land development, design, and diagnostic engineering inspection firm with around 100 employees (at least 4 others are also Rowan alumni!). Professor Cleary sent an email mentioning the open position and she applied and got the job, in her hometown! Hannah is a Design Engineer in a small but busy Structural Engineering Department (they're hiring!). She does mostly design work and CAD plans, with some field work. The work is mostly residential homes and condos: steel and concrete repair, renovations, taking out load bearing walls to open up rooms, as well as structural design of new buildings for architects. Hannah is an E.I.T. and is taking the PE Exam to become a licensed professional engineer in May.¹

Hannah loves to rock climb, both indoor and outdoor, and is interested in photography, art, gardening, and caring for her many pets (including a cat, snakes, geckos, fish, and ducks!)

I did walk throughs at a couple of colleges. Rowan just felt right. I liked being there. It wasn't in a city and I could go home on weekends. I got a nice scholarship. The engineering college had a good reputation. The open house presentations and Engineering Clinics² were impressive, and the engineering buildings were exciting.

I had always been a math and science person. I went to the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science in Manahawkin, NJ for high school, where many of my fellow students went on to college for engineering. I have always had an interest in architecture but the structural and design side of Civil was more my style.

Professor Cleary taught me a lot and I enjoyed his classes, they really helped solidify my interest in structural engineering. Professor Jahan pushed me to be more social and get involved in things I wouldn't have done otherwise. She got me involved with mentoring first-year students, and I helped with open houses. My high school had encouraged us to focus on writing skills, and Engineering Clinic was a good opportunity to keep working on communication skills and learn to work in teams. Both are important skills that I use daily in my career.

I really enjoyed my time at Rowan and I am very happy with the choice I made for college. The Civil and Environmental Engineering faculty and classes were great and set me up well to begin my career.

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-3-18

1. The Professional Engineer license (PE) is a “standard recognized by employers and their clients, by governments and by the public as an assurance of dedication, skill and quality...Only PEs can sign and seal engineering drawings...To become a Licensed Professional Engineer, you must do four things: graduate from an accredited engineering program, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, work with a professional engineer for four years, and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.”

2. Engineering Clinic is a hallmark of Rowan University. Students take a Clinic class each semester, eight total. Many are interdisciplinary. All are hands-on. First-year Clinics focus on engineering’s place in society and fundamental engineering skills. Sophomore Clinics merge communication coursework with an engineering design experience and are team taught by engineering, writing arts, and rhetoric faculty. Junior and Senior Clinics have students work in teams on research or design projects, usually externally funded.