Ember Hubbs ('24) remembers an independent study with Professor Lomboy

Ember Hubbs was born and grew up in Mantua, NJ. Her mother is a nurse. Her father is a doctor. Her older sister is a grant writer. Another older sister went to Rowan for teaching but has been a homemaker for a while. She's currently back at Rowan College of South Jersey with plans to become an ultrasound technician. Ember's fiancée is an artist and they currently live together in Mantua, NJ.

Ember will complete her Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering degree in May 2024. She has accepted a job with McCormick Taylor in Mount Laurel, NJ in highway design. She passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam this winter and wants to become a licensed Professional Engineer as soon as possible.[1]

Ember plays Dungeons and Dragons in her spare time. She also enjoys creative writing and has published a few short stories here and there. She wants to write a novel someday.

I went to Rowan College of South Jersey (RCSJ) Gloucester County campus for Liberal arts with a History focus. I planned to transfer to Rowan University and pursue a History degree. The plan was to be a History professor, eventually. Though it is still a passion of mine, when I finished RCSJ in 2017 History wasn't clicking for me anymore and I knew it would take extra years of college to become a professor. Instead of transferring immediately to Rowan University, I started working full time at a TV station. In 2019, I switched to working for a politician and got to experience work in the public sector. During Covid I had a moment where I realized I needed to get a college degree to be successful and do meaningful things with my life.

My stepdad was an Electrical Engineer. Engineering was something I was always interested in. I also wanted a degree where I could get a job in South Jersey. CEE was my best option. I took some engineering courses at RCSJ-Gloucester County. Gayle Hughes was very helpful.

It was a little overwhelming starting at Rowan. I had been out of full-time college education for a while. The pace at Rowan was faster than what I was used to. I was fortunate enough to do an independent study with Professor Lomboy that first semester. He helped me build up the work ethic I needed to succeed in Rowan Engineering.

I did a different junior/senior Engineering Clinic[2] every semester to have as many different experiences as I could. I did a Sustainable Facilities clinic (Structures), an Engineers Without Borders clinic (Community Development), an iFrost Mapper clinic (Geotechnical), and an LGBTQ+ students in STEM clinic (Engineering Education).

I learned so much during my time at Rowan. It was a super busy time for me--especially since I took some extra classes so I could finish in two years--but I'm going to miss it. I enjoy learning! The professors were very open. Professor Cleary was very helpful, both as an advisor and a teacher. My Rowan degree got me what I wanted, a great job in South Jersey.

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-4-18

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.