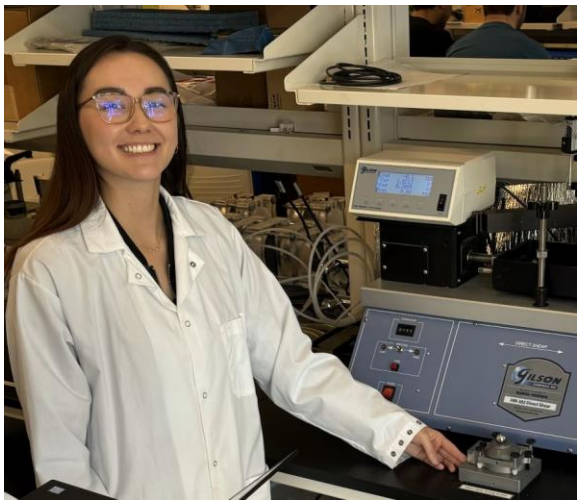
Agatha Julie Seretni uchi ('24) remembers working in Professor Lomboy's Concrete Lab



Agatha Julie Seretni uchi was born and grew up in Curitiba, Brazil. Her parents have operated a modest restaurant there for over 30 years. Agatha grew up helping in the restaurant. She came to the United States in 2019 with her husband, who was born in the US but has family in Brazil. After she arrived, she decided to go back to college. She was not confident enough to use her degree in Environmental Engineering from Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Curitiba Campus.

Agatha will complete her Rowan Civil and Environmental Engineering degree in May 2024. She was able to transfer credits from Brazil and finished in 2.5 years. The department has awarded her this year's Ralph Alan Dusseau Medallion Award. It is awarded each year to one CEE senior who demonstrated excellence through determination and ability to overcome obstacles, GPA, and service. Agatha has accepted a job offer from the South Jersey Transportation Authority. It runs the Atlantic City Expressway and Atlantic City Airport. Agatha will work in the Engineering Department. She plans to take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam as soon as possible.[1]

Agatha works part-time as a pet sitter.

I took an English as a Second Language course at Rowan shortly after I arrived in the US. I got to know the Rowan campus and community. I noticed the Engineering buildings, which inspired me to apply to CEE. I picked CEE because it included environmental engineering, which I was interested in from a young age.

Once I started taking classes at Rowan, my interests moved from environmental to transportation and geotechnical. I did all my Junior and Senior Engineering Clinics[2] with Professor Cheng Zhu on the iFROST mapper project.[3] We measured soil properties before and after freezing to verify the accuracy of a new non-destructive sensor. I also worked in Professor Gilson Lomboy's Concrete Research laboratory, mixing and curing batches of concrete in various forms. It was fun working with undergraduate and graduate students in the lab.

The professors at Rowan make sure you understand what is going on in class. They were very helpful to me, especially regarding my language skills. They cared about me.

Rowan was necessary for me. It is important to me. I feel a part of the Rowan community. When I came to the United States, I didn't have the confidence to start my engineering career. Now that I am graduating from Rowan, I am ready to go to work.

Based on an Interview with Jess W. Everett on 2024-4-15

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.

3. The iFROST mapper project “aims to use…the high-frequency (HF) EMI technique to characterize arctic soil and subsurface permafrost deposits.”