Global Capstone: A Great New Option for SAS Honors Scholars

Studying abroad can be a transformative learning and life experience for students. The recent addition of the global capstone option offers students an opportunity to incorporate their coursework or service-learning abroad into fulfilling their SAS Honors Program capstone requirements. Students must enroll in at least six credits of Rutgers-approved summer or semester study abroad experience. After their sophomore or junior year, students can declare their plans for option G with their honors advising dean. When they return to Rutgers, students take one cognate class related to the language, art, literature, religion, culture, history, anthropology, or politics of the country where they studied. Students conclude their experience with a final scholarly analytical report that reviews the learning experiences abroad and in the related coursework as the capstone project.

Summer Study Programs:

Jonathan Walsh ’21 reflects on his FUBiS and Bryn Mawr German study abroad and Russian intensive

“Language learning was a central theme of my experience at Rutgers. I was fortunate to be able to undertake two languages, German and Russian, during my time here. How I learned these languages diverged considerably, mostly due to the Coronavirus and its impact on travel and education. For German, I experienced a full-fledged summer
study abroad program, allowing me to live for several weeks in Berlin and travel around Germany and Europe while I was studying there. That trip highlighted a more colloquial approach to language learning, where I was embedded within a culture and picked up German mostly through my interactions in informal settings. On the other hand, with Russian, although originally intending to pursue a similar summer program, I was forced to take an online intensive language course instead. This exposed me to higher level Russian in a more formal setting, and developed my written skills more thoroughly.

For German, I took an Intro to Literary and Cultural Studies course allowed me to supplement the German acquired from my colloquial experiences in Germany with a more professional and academic German, which I encountered in the texts and essays that I had to write. Taking this course one of the students that I studied abroad with allowed us to relate many of our experiences in Berlin to the classwork and to discuss these experiences with the other German students and the professor, who was a German national.”

“For the Russian language, I took both a course taught in English about Russian literature and poetry, as well as a course taught in Russian about how Russians view America and American culture. This was a very interesting course as a vast majority of the people in the course were either native or heritage speakers of Russian.”

“These cognate courses provided something that neither my study abroad or summer course experience could: a new perspective on a culture and an understanding of their perspective in both an academic and linguistic sense. These courses supplemented what was lacking in each summer experience.”
Message from the Honors Dean

A year of remote work and learning was hard, to be sure. Yet the Honors Program community found wonderful ways to turn quarantine lemons into lemonade! For example, in Honors Colloquium we encouraged students to take advantage of virtual visits offered by museums around the world, including the Louvre in Paris, the Picasso Museum in Barcelona, and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. Students leapt at this new opportunity: “I have never been to Spain but I have always dreamed of going.” “As this is someplace I may never be able to see in person, I am thankful that there are virtual platforms with which I can experience this art.” And they found the visits quite stimulating: “It was an amazing experience to be able to virtually go around the gallery and find fascinating pieces of art... It has inspired me to take an art history course!”

There were also exciting new opportunities for current students to connect virtually with honors alumni around the world. We hope you enjoy reading about how much students appreciated those events!

Charles R. Kessee

In Their Own Words:

When the SASHP learned that students would be virtual during the ‘20-'21 academic year, the Honors Alumni community were committed to ensuring students remained engaged. The virtual format granted alumni the opportunity to transcend the logistical limitations of location in order to participate in the ‘20-'21 Virtual Honors Alumni Night Series. Interacting with students was a top priority for the Honors Alumni as they “zoomed” in and recorded from all parts of New Jersey, New York City, and as far as away as Connecticut, Tennessee, and Washington D.C. During this time of isolation from campus, students reflected on how they benefited from forming mentorships and establishing these connections.

Anthony Romanushko ‘24
Internship and Professional Development Workshop

“Rutgers Honors Alumna Grace Chi SAS’14 told us about her unconventional journey from her degree in art and psychology to co-founding a company involved in cyber security, an incredibly different field. She talked about how it was important to always seek opportunities and to network extensively so that more doors can be opened for you in the future. I also learned a lot of things, like how valuable Handshake and LinkedIn are as tools to find new job opportunities.”

Nathaniel Endick ‘24
Internship and Professional Development Workshop

“I really enjoyed the keynote presentation by alumna Grace Chi; She was able to take her skills and determine whether or not the work she was doing was productive and had value, and if her work didn’t fit that mold, she would adjust her skillset or work environment to improve her working situation.”
Muhammad Humza Nadeem ‘24
Honors Alumni Night: Medical Edition

“...Alumni spoke to us about their journey to get to med school especially during their undergraduate years regarding things like extracurricular activities, workload, and work-life balance. They even discussed ways they think are the best we can get involved during the pandemic and how medical schools may perceive the things we do during the pandemic.”

Anirudh Ramesh ‘23
Young Honors Alumni and Student Virtual Mixer

“After the recording, I got the chance to meet a number of really cool alumni, both related to my interests in medicine and research but fields where I didn’t know too much about it. Each alumnus had their spin on what life was like post-Rutgers and how to best succeed. One of the most important individuals that I met was a fourth-year medical student. I had asked him a variety of tips and different pieces of advice and by the end of the conversation, he had even given me his phone number to connect with him later on. Experiences like that seem to be the focus of this event and it was a great experience.”

Atharwa Musale ‘24
Honors Alumni Night: Medical Edition

“Dr. Cleary is an oncologist and some of the important advice he gave was that it is important to become comfortable with failing sometimes, but to have a network of friends who can support you. I think this is important advice especially during the pandemic because many of us may be less connected to friends at the moment (including me) so it highlighted the need to keep in touch and make new ones. He also mentioned that he switched majors in sophomore year and emphasized that it is important to pursue what you are truly passionate about. ...I even got the contact from one of the alumni without asking, which surprised me and showed me that people are willing and available to help if I have questions.”

Nikita Sanjiv ‘23
Pre-Physician Assistant Journey with Rushi Mehta SAS ‘19

“... Overall, Rushi’s talk made me even more eager to work towards my goal of becoming a Physician Assistant and much more informed on how I can make my application stand out among other students.”
Facts and Figures About Our 131 Graduates

**Top Majors**
- Computer Science: 16
- Psychology: 11
- Biological Sciences: 9
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE): 7
- Biomathematics: 7
- Double Majors: 32

**Top Minors**
- Psychology: 9
- Spanish: 7
- Economics: 5

**The Class of 2021**
- First year: 95
- New cont’l: 32
- Transfer: 4

1 Goldwater Winner
Brandon Gomes

120:11
SAS:RBS

19
DRC

12
Graduated with a 4.0 cumulative GPA

36
Grads Served as Tutors

77
Henry Rutgers Scholars

SASHP Around the World

Spring 2019: Northern Ireland: Partition, Sectarianism and Reconciliation

Spring 2019: A Tale of Two Uprisings Warsaw and Krakow, Poland

Spring 2019: Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

Fall 2019: Brazilian Culture: Conquest to Contemporary

Fall 2018: Dominican Republic

Winter 2018: South Africa
My Favorite Memory...

Kesha Amin
“The leadership opportunities offered to me have had the most significant impact on my college career, allowing me to take a more active and meaningful role within the SASHP. I am grateful I found my place in the larger Rutgers community and made lasting friendships from engaging with other honors students.”

Anjana Chandra
In the Finance Departmental Honors Seminar, Professors Winder and Hoffman taught me so much about researching, writing papers, reading scholarly papers and books, and finance in general. It was very helpful having a capstone where I utilized everything I learned as a finance major. I also had inspiring and helpful classmates who became professional contacts as well as close friends of mine.

Minjal Patel
“The plethora of opportunities that I have received through the SASHP has had the biggest impact on my college career. These opportunities have shaped how I engage within the community as well as my pursuit in academics.”

Tiana Rahi
“The specialized support and sense of community in the SASHP made all my accomplishments possible. Being a Rutgers Bonner Leader and RUPA assistant director taught me the importance of refining my communication skills. As an Honors Peer Mentor, I mentored two students that became classmates and friends at RBS. Coming full circle, my involvement allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and provide guidance to others.”
My Favorite Memory...

Barbara Shi
“It has been wonderful to share resources and advice with other first-generation and POC students like me as a peer mentor, as well as seeing them grow in confidence and take advantage of well-deserved opportunities.”

Giovanna Tsiolas
“...My trip to Poland through the interdisciplinary seminar has by far had the biggest impact on my college career. It not only has inspired me to travel more to places that are completely unfamiliar, but it has exposed me to incredible amounts of empathy.” “...Visiting Warsaw, Krakow, Gdańsk and Auschwitz humanized me and uncovered lots of life lessons I’m not sure I would’ve received elsewhere.”

Melanie Raush
“Between working with them as an Honors Ambassador, as a Peer Mentor, and in the office, and the advice they’ve given me in advising appointments, I wouldn’t have survived my four years at Rutgers without the honors deans. I’m so grateful for all of the leadership opportunities and the opportunities to work with the incredible SASHP staff.”

Madhumitha Sivaraj
“I vividly recall late nights studying for Honors Microeconomics in the Brett Hall Slounge with friends who became family, 6am breakfast runs at Brower to celebrate an all-nighter, and the supportive community I could always rely on to go with me to Artists Collective. 35 College Ave became my home.”

Throughout my Rutgers journey, there were many moments where I needed advice and support, and the honors deans have been incredible in assisting and providing the guidance that I needed. Seeing how much the deans and staff care about the students is heart-warming and really makes the SASHP feel like a family on campus.
Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Click the link below to check out the SASHP senior slideshow

go.rutgers.edu/zux951of

Yasmeen Abdul-Razeq
Alexis Achenbach
Patrick Adly-Gendi
Irene Ahmed
Sandra Alex
Rachel Allen
Simona Alomary
Kesha Amin
Samuel Berger
Sruti Bezawada
Atul Bhattiprolu
Emily Blum
Amarnath Bodempudi
Anyta Bolden
Klaudia Bunkowski
Anjana Chandra
Nithisha Cheedalla
Alexandra Collado
Lucas Cuitino
Carson Cummins
Parthi Dasondi
Surabhi Dattatri
Cara Del Gaudio
Monica Dias
Jessica Dicker
Raquelle Dickson
Yuting Ding
Abigail Dupre
Sara Dweck
Therese Loise Dy
Greer Egan
Israh El Hady
Shuxiang Fan
Daanyal Farooqi
Lucia Firbas Torres
Samuel Friedman
Arielle Fuhrman
Ljubinka Gallardo Petkovich
Brandon Gomes
Naomi Gray
Noah Green
Danielle Greene
Timbre Griffin
Samarth Gupta
Noah Guralnik
Xiaoxiao He
Luke Hinrichs
Morgan Horner
Justin Hsieh
Deeraiya Islam
Priya Jain
Simran Jasnani
Christine Jensen
Yosef Kagedan
Troy Karanfilian
Elia-Ramzey Karnoub
Matthew Kim
Lisa Knigge
Zachary Kotzker
Anuska Lahiri
Arianna Lapp
Soo Lee
Sarah Liang
Beatrice Liang-Gilman
Anny Lu
Joy Lu
Tianyi Luo
Abishek Mankar
Megan Mantha
Elaine Martz
Julia Mcmillan
Dhriti Mehta
Hena Mehta
Shane Meledathu
Mirai Mikhail
Elaine Joy Milan
Jillian Moran
Sarah Moynihan
Sruti Mukherjee
Rebecca Mulwa
Darshan Nagaraj
Sri Narayanan
Maria Nicholas
Zurwa Nishat
Benjamin Park
Gauri Patel
Janaki Patel
Minjal Patel
Rahul Patel
Rutu Patel
Shivani Patel
Sanjana Pendharkar
Izilda Amber Pereira-Jorge
Brian Quigley
Mazin Rafi
Tiana Rahi
Zabir Rahman
Raaga Rambhatla
Rajat Ramekar
Melanie Raush
Rakshaa Ravishankar
Gabrielle Reznick
Justin Rodriguez
Navya Ronda
Bennett Rosner
Alexandra Schindewolf
Barbara Shi
Ruchi Singh
Madhumitha Sivaraj
Amy Smaldone
Audrey Somalwar
Avraham Sommer
Rahul Somni
Aishwarya Sridhar
Risa Takino
Yenny Tavarez
Matteo Tavella
Monisha Trousdale
Giovanna Tsiolos
Alison Tu
Mary Turkot
Apthika Vaseeharan
Harish Venkatesan
Edward M. Vergalasov
Jonathan Walsh
Austin Wang
Xiangyue Wang
Neha Yunus
Riyam Zaman
Yongqi Zhou
Yuqing Zhou

School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program

Fall 2021
In Memoriam

On August 2, the Rutgers and honors communities lost a profound leader. Joyce Kohler was an honors graduate of University College in 1988. As an originator of the Rutgers Honors Alumni Society–New Brunswick and acting secretary, Joyce was instrumental in pulling the pre-SAS honors alumni communities together. Joyce also served as vice president of the University College Rutgers New Brunswick alumni association and an officer in the beta zeta chapter of Alpha Sigma Lamda Honors Society at Rutgers. The RHAS executive board reflects, “Joyce maintained a positive, forceful, and inquisitive spirit and a life-long dedication to Rutgers and the alumni community. Her contributions will certainly be missed.” Joyce was fiercely committed to our mission, and actively partnered with the SASHP to connect honors alumni and undergraduates. She was a spirited presence at every honors alumni gathering, including the most recent virtual event in April. Memories of Joyce will be forever etched in the framework of our community and we are grateful for her generous and creative contributions over the years.
How do the events of early 1990s Los Angeles impact and inform the events of today? That is one of the questions incoming Honors Program students explored as they read this year’s Summer Reading selection, *Your House Will Pay*, by Steph Cha. The book tells the story of two families—one African American and one Korean—whose past and present are interconnected. Through online written and synchronous Zoom discussions, new students explored themes of race, revenge, family and justice raised by the book. The experience culminated with a virtual lecture from author Steph Cha.

Spring Honors Colloquium centered on the premise that good questions are central to inquiry and learning. Students heard from faculty across the School of Arts and Sciences and Rutgers Business School about how they approach questions in their fields. The scholars offered surprising but important advice: “Research is all about failing.” “You need to be persistent but not stubborn.” The discussions conveyed a stimulating spirit of interdisciplinarity that resonated with students. One student wrote, “I was reminded [of] how connecting ideas and approaches from multiple fields can be helpful to tackle complex problems.” An aspiring doctor wrote, “as a physician, it is just as important to understand political, economic, and cultural structures as it is to understand biomedical sciences.” The term ended with students posing their own questions in an exciting (and friendly) “Three Minute Question” competition.