It is a great pleasure to present you with the first School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program newsletter. This newsletter will appear each semester and is designed to inform you about the Program as it develops as well as to keep you updated on the many Honors Program activities.

The goal of the SAS Honors Program, in a nutshell, is to challenge our students to think creatively as well as analytically beyond the classroom. We aim to give them opportunities to apply their learning through research, study abroad, national or international internships, and other Honors projects.

Our graduates move on to prominent positions in both the public and the private sectors, becoming research scientists, medical doctors, writers, scholars, captains of industry, and educators. Just as important, they go on to make lasting contributions to intercultural understanding through collaboration, partnerships, and networks. Speaking for myself, as Dean of the SAS Honors Program, I would say our mission is nothing less than to educate future generations of the world's leaders, intellectuals, and scholars.

Students in the Honors Program enjoy a special sense of fellowship as they join together across disciplines in the common pursuit of knowledge. In Interdisciplinary Seminars and departmental Honors courses they are exposed to the widest possible range of ideas, methodologies, and ways of thinking about science, social science and the humanities. First-year students take part in weekly colloquia where they discuss research methods as well as the global issues that challenge our world. And classroom-based learning in the Honors Program is complemented by cultural enrichment as small groups of students visit museums and attend lectures or theater performances.

Our students enjoy all the resources of a large research university while remaining part of an intimate, invigorating intellectual community. I'll leave it to them, and to our wonderful faculty, to tell you in their own words (see pp. 2 and 3) what makes the SAS Honors Program at Rutgers so very special.

With all my best wishes,

Sarolta A. Takács
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program
Professor of History
When I came to Rutgers, I had a clear objective; I wanted to create my own major. It was only with the guidance and aid of the deans and faculty in the Honors Program, however, that I was able to make this happen. I’ve compared my experience with those of friends at other universities and colleges. They’ve all been amazed by how closely I am able to interact with deans and faculty.

The honors seminars I’ve attended have been remarkable not just for their subject matter but also for the way in which they were conducted. They feel less like classes than discussions between peers about ideas and opinions. Subjects we’ve discussed have ranged from the impact of corporations on Western cultures to Art as a gateway to reality.

What I’ve learned is that obtaining well-rounded knowledge is like building a bird’s nest. Branches and twigs constitute the majority of the nest structure, but there are many other bits of material—pieces of colorful string, ribbons of newspaper—that fill in the gaps to make a firm foundation for the creation of new life. Knowledge is developed in much the same way. Academic life provides a base of intellectual stimulation and curiosity; the Honors Program adds supplementary materials that fill in the areas books and lectures cannot.

As a student in the Honors Program, I’ve been exposed to dozens of interesting seminars and trips. I’ve had to work hard to maintain my GPA but the enriching experience I’ve had in the Honors Program has rewarded my efforts many times over.
MEET THE STAFF

DEAN SAROLTA TÁKÁCS
Dean Takács received her BA in Classics from the University of California, Irvine, and her MA and PhD in History from UCLA. She also attended the University of Heidelberg and the Free University in Berlin. Before coming to Rutgers, she taught at the University of Oregon, at UCLA, and at Harvard where she also held the position of academic dean. Professor Takács studies the Roman and Byzantine world, and teaches in the department of History. Her newest book investigates the power of rhetoric through the traditional virtues of the ancient Romans (the mos maiorum). Professor Takács is also the editor of a monograph series (Roman Studies: Interdisciplinary Approaches). She is the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program.
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DEAN MUFFIN LORD
Dean Lord, who is the administrative director of the SAS Honors Program, has a varied academic career. She graduated from Drew University with a BA in English, and received two Masters degrees from SUNY Buffalo: one in English and one in Social Work. Most recently, she received her Ed.D. in Counseling Psychology from Rutgers Graduate School of Education. She has been at Rutgers since 1988 and loves working with students. She has two sons and is an avid cyclist.
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MS. VANESSA COLEMAN
Ms. Coleman, the SAS Honors Program administrative assistant, keeps us all organized! She received her BA from Douglass College in Communication and Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies. She enjoys spending time with her family (ask to see pictures of her daughters), traveling to tropical destinations, going to the gym, cooking, coaching cheerleading, and reading fashion magazines.
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DEAN KAREN DENTLER
Dean Dentler is the campus coordinator for Honors on College Ave. She holds a BA in Philosophy from Colgate University and a Masters in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs from the University of Michigan. Before coming to Rutgers, she worked at Program, University and Carnegie Mellon University. She also spent one year working in “Silicon Alley” in NYC at a “start-up” internet company. She lives in central NJ with her husband and six-year-old daughter.
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DEAN GEORGINA FOWLER
Dean Fowler is the campus coordinator on the Douglass Campus. She has been with the university for 25 years and thoroughly enjoys working with students. Both Dean Fowler herself and four of her five children are Rutgers graduates. As well as being the treasurer and founder of an investment club, she currently owns a racetrack, which has lost every race so far. Her hobbies include reading, spending time with her six grandchildren (two more are expected by the end of this year), going to the beach, and riding her bike.
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DEAN MAHASTI HASHEMI
Dean Hashemi is the coordinator for Honors on the Livingston Campus. She was born and raised in Iran, though she has lived in the U.S. for most of her life. She loves Rutgers—her daughter graduated from the Honors Program! She has a BA and MA in Economics, and received her PhD in Sociology from Rutgers, where she wrote a dissertation on Asian female immigrants in the U.S. She loves to travel, read, swim, roller-blade, and walk.
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DEAN JULIO NAZARIO
Dean Nazario coordinates outreach and co-curricular programs for SAS Honors. He is also an amateur photographer (he earned his BA in Philosophy from Queens College, CUNY) and is famous on campus as the only dean with an MFA (from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers). He has exhibited his photography all over the country. He served in Vietnam and believes in the therapeutic power of art that makes us really look at the world and teaches us something important about being human.
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DEAN LISA SANON-JULES
Dean Sanon-Jules is the campus coordinator for honors on Busch. She earned her BS from the Rutgers University School of Business, her Masters degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, and her doctorate from the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University. She worked for a number of years at The College of New Jersey as an admissions counselor, coordinator of the Student Ambassador Program, and the assistant director for career services. Most recently, Dean Sanon-Jules served Rutgers University as the interim director of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program and as a senior counselor with the Educational Opportunity Fund Program. She lives in East Windsor, NJ with her husband, six-year-old son, and the family greyhound, Crabble.
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MR PAUL BLANEY
Paul Blaney’s main vocation is as a fiction writer but he also writes travel journalism and, more recently, has turned his hand to teaching, editing, and publishing. Born and raised in London, he has lived and worked in Lisbon, Hong Kong, and Eugene, Oregon, and now lives in New Jersey with his wife Karen. His short fiction has been published in anthologies from Pen & Inc, Fish Publishing, Biscuit Publishing, Social Disease, Litro, and The Small Press Review. Other stories are forthcoming from Serpent’s Tail. His awards include the Tom Gallon prize from the Society of Authors, and a prize from the Islamic Society of Great Britain.
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