Meet our New Advising Deans

Jenny Kim-Lee

Kim-Lee joined SARSHP in 2015 as Busch campus coordinator. Originally from Bergen County, Jenny earned her Bachelor’s from Mount Holyoke College and Masters from Brandeis University, and while there became (gasp!) a Red Sox fan. She is a Rutgers alum, and her dog, Cooper.

Lauren Dudzak

Lauren Dudzak joined the Honors Program in 2014 as coordinator for the College Avenue Campus and director of our One-One Tutoring Program. At Livingston College, Lauren majored in History and Labor Studies and then completed an M.A. in Labor Employment Relations at Rutgers. Lauren enjoys spending time with her husband and two cats, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Women’s and Gender Studies. Her research interests include women’s economic rights, collective bargaining, and women’s career advancement within higher education.

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Featured Fall ’15 Courses

Who Makes our Stuff? Work and Labor in the Global Economy

Who makes your clothing, computers, and coffee? Students in Professor Kolben’s class explore political, legal, and ethical questions that swirl around global markets and supply chains.

The First Three Minutes after the Big Bang

What is the universe? How did the major building blocks, such as hydrogen, helium, and heavy atomic nuclei, form? Students in Professor Saltz’s class examine nuclear, particle, quantum, and astrophysics to find out.

Honors Program Alumni Gathering

Saturday, April 30, 2016 • 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Raritan River Lounge, Student Activities Center

Ways to get involved

We are excited to announce the new alumni charter group, Rutgers Honors Alumni Society—New Brunswick (RHAS). RHAS is dedicated to building a strong network of alumni, students, faculty, and friends. Alumni are encouraged to learn more about RHAS’s mission, constituency, and programs on their Facebook page: facebook.com/rutgershonors.alumni. SARSHP is also eager to welcome alumni back to campus through the establishment of our annual fall and spring signature alumni events, as well as through virtual activities such as the creation of an Online Book Club and the ongoing revitalization of the Alumni-webpage on the SARSHP website: sashonors.rutgers.edu/alumni. We’re always happy to hear about ways alumni want to stay connected—please e-mail hpsalumni@rj.rutgers.edu.

In Their Own Words:

Class of 2014 physics major, David Kolchmeyer, won a prestigious Churchill Scholarship to study cosmological inflation, extra dimensions, and black holes at Churchill College, Cambridge. David reflects on his experience at Cambridge and in SARSHP.

Upon graduating from Rutgers in 2014, I spent a transformative year studying theoretical physics at Churchill College, Cambridge. I had a first-class academic experience as I learned about cosmological inflation, extra dimensions, black holes, and other exciting topics. College life was an absolute pleasure; I met a wonderful group of friends, took part in traditional formal dinners, and learned the basics of rowing. As a member of two jazz bands, I performed in venues ranging from a club in Berlin to the unforgettable Mey Ball. As a Churchill Scholar, I enjoyed learning about Sir Winston at Chartwell and Blenheim Palace. None of this would have been possible without my preparation at Rutgers and my research in the physics department. I owe much thanks to the Honors Ambassadors program, one of my favorite extracurricular activities at Rutgers. With fund memories of both Rutgers and Cambridge, I look forward to starting a Ph.D. in physics at Harvard in the Fall of 2015.
Do you remember your first day of college?— finding your dorm? meeting your roommate? saying goodbye to your family? The incoming School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program Class of 2019 also had a first day that they will never forget. After hollers and goodbyes while moving into our SASHP Housing, they walked or rode the bus to the College Avenue Student Center for their Summer Reading Event and Inclusion Ceremony.

This year’s book Strength in What Remains, by Tracy Kidder, tells the life story of Deogratias “Deo” Nyirubagira, who survived genocide and returned to Burundi to found the Village Health Works. In July and August, students read the book and then began an online conversation about the book, sharing personal experiences while discussing compassion, perseverance, memory, family, and the importance of mentors.

For the first time, Alumni joined our online summer reading discussion. If you would like to take part, email hpalumni@sas.rutgers.edu.

At the Summer Reading Event, Deo’s inspiring lecture flowed into a reception that lasted until over 500 students had the book signed and received a hug—a thrilling event for our new students! As Jennifer Jones (pictured above) expressed, “Meeting Deo was incredible... when I found out we were reading his book, I was so excited that I finished it in just a week.” At the Inclusion Induction Ceremony, our new students became full members of our program by reciting our Integrity Pledge. It was an unforgettable first day—and a great start to their college experience at Rutgers!

In August 2015, the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program welcomed its largest incoming class in Rutgers’ history, nearly 600 strong. In addition, over 500 high-achieving first-year students have made the beautiful new Honors College on the College Avenue Campus their home.

Many students, faculty, parents, and alumni have asked about the relationship between our traditional Arts and Sciences-based Honors Program and the new Honors College. As higher education boomed in the decades after World War II, many universities developed college- or school-based Honors Programs. The creation of honors programs at Rutgers College, Douglass College, Livingston College, and University College were part of this movement in higher education. With the transformation of undergraduate education at Rutgers in 2007, the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program (SASHP) became the largest school-based honors program at Rutgers.

“Honors Colleges” are a newer phenomenon at major research universities. Barack, the Honors College at Arizona State (1988), was the first residential honors college in the United States, and functions much like a free-standing college with over 5,000 students. Some honors colleges, like the Ogden Honors College at Louisiana State University, have their own district campus. Many of the newer honors colleges, like Schreyer Honors College at Penn State (1997) and Macaulay Honors College at CUNY (2006), draw on faculty from throughout the university. At some universities, traditional school-based honors programs and newer universitywide honors colleges flourish together, as they will at Rutgers.

The Honors College, Rutgers—New Brunswick’s newest honors community, is designed to meet the needs of some of the most gifted students from schools throughout the Rutgers—New Brunswick campus. All incoming Honors College students are required to live in the new residential Honors College during their first year, alongside live-in faculty fellows. High-achieving students admitted to the School of Arts and Sciences are invited to join either the SAS Honors Program or the Honors College. In general, admission to the Honors College is more competitive than admission to the SAS Honors Program. For example, all students who accept a Presidential Scholarship, the most prestigious scholarship awarded at Rutgers, will join the Honors College.

SASHP and the Honors College have been working closely together, planning courses and collaborating on projects that will provide all honors students at Rutgers—New Brunswick with enriching opportunities both in and outside the classroom. We offer Honors Seminars jointly, and our students take the same department-based honors courses. Everything that our students have come to love about SASHP is continuing to flourish. We welcome outstanding sophomores and transfer students to join our program. Our students may choose to live in our designated honors residences on the College Avenue, Douglass, Livingston, and Busch campuses, or they may choose to live in other special-interest housing, live off campus, or commute.

In sum, the SAS Honors Program is alive and well. The opening of the new Honors College will raise the profile of honors education and open new opportunities for outstanding students to achieve their goals at Rutgers. As I hope you can tell, SASHP is excited that “honors is in the air” this fall at Rutgers.

In Their Own Words:

What can a triple major in English, Political Science, and East Asian Studies do with their B.A. Judith Foo, SASHP Honors Scholar Class of 2014, knows that the sky is the limit. This past year, she taught English in South Korea on a Fulbright grant, tutored North Korean students, and traveled around Asia. This fall, Judith starts law school at Yale, and plans on practicing international public interest law upon graduation.

I credit SASHP for some of my closest college relationships, including friends I made during the years I lived in McCormick Hall and the dozens I met during four years of working at the SASHP office. The HP also piqued my interest in cross-cultural exchange. Scholarships from the Honors Program allowed me to study abroad in England and Japan. Those experiences, in turn, prepared me to actively participate in South Korean society as a Fulbright grantee.