Monday, April 19, 2021

Dear SAS Honors Program Students,

You know, maybe it was the uncanny amount of American Pickers my family watched growing up or this one youtube video I liked where a chef took a totally rusty knife out of the trash and restored it to this beautiful shining kitchen necessity, but, I've always liked the idea of reusing. While I would never dumpster dive (I'd come close though), there is this incredible appeal about happening upon a desk chair, a new painting, or a totally bizarre item thrown curbside while going about your day. In fact, just last week my family member found this beautiful 24x24in watercolor painting of a forest in fall. Or, my personal favorite was when a family member trash-picked a guitar that I ended up fixing up. Once it was restrung, the saddle was the proper height, and the guitar was polished, we found out that it was a $300 guitar. Point is, there is so much value in the things we take for granted, push to the side, or otherwise discard, and, if everyone saw the value in these things we'd probably all be a little happier.

While you're here, uncover some upcoming opportunities! Sign up for the Study Buddy Session to take the edge off of finals prep. Learn all about study abroad opportunities in the post-pandemic world at the next Happening @35 event. The class of 2021 can meet their predecessors at the Honors Alumni Gathering. Get back on the banks next academic year by signing up for Honors Housing by today. Join Pulitzer prize winner, Isabel Wilkerson, as she discusses Critical Conversations on Black History. CNN host Don Lemon will be talking about the book This is the Fire: What I Say to My Friends About Racism. Learn all about Xiangyue (Max) Wang with the most recent Senior Spotlight. Give something back by signing up for Community Service Week.

Warm Regards,
Justin Confalone
Your newsletter editor
Study Buddy Session
Ready or not, finals are on the not-so-distant horizon! If you can't quite find that focus or want a nice change of pace, stop by the upcoming Study Buddy Session. Trust me, I know this can be an insanely stressful time, but, having people there (virtual or not) does some incredible work to make you feel accountable for work and boost your productivity. This event takes place Sat, Apr 24 at 2pm EST. Get the gears turning by joining the zoom call here.

Happening @35 Study Abroad
Been inside too long and ready to venture into the unknown? Stop by the next Happening @35 event, this time with a special focus on study abroad opportunities. Join members of the Rutgers Global-Study Abroad team as they discuss opportunities for traveling and studying abroad in the upcoming academic year. Obviously, I'm not in communication with university higher-ups, but, after the recent vaccine requirements for the 2021-2022 academic year, I think there's a strong chance of study abroad in the not-so-distant future. This event takes place next Tues, Apr 27 at 12:30pm EST. Start thinking about it now, and when the time comes, join the Zoom call here.

Honors Alumni Gathering
This event is only open to Class of 2021 students. Meet, talk to, or reconnect with old and new friends alike at the upcoming Honors Alumni Gathering. This event will feature numerous honors alumni (including students from the 2020 graduating class) and pair attendees together in a series of networking speed one-on-one video sessions. Students looking to attend should check here for more information. This event takes place Sat, Apr 24 at 4pm EST. RSVP here.
Honors Housing Info

THIS IS NOT A DRILL. The campus is on its way back! Apply now for on-campus housing for the upcoming **2021-2022 academic year**. The deadline to obtain your selection number is **Mon, Apr 19**. Honors housing is available in Brett Hall on College Ave, McCormick Suites on Busch, Jameson Hall through the Douglass Residential College, and very limited spaces on the 8th floor of the North Tower on Livingston. Honors housing is exclusively for SAS Honors Program students and a great way to connect with others in your community! Get the gears rolling by clicking [here](#).

Critical Conversations on Black History

Join Pulitzer Prize and National Humanities Medal–winning journalist **Isabel Wilkerson** as she discusses **Reflections on Caste** at the upcoming event, **The Dean’s Series: Critical Conversations on Black History**. Wilkerson has written an incredible number of bestselling books on the issue of race and its relation to America's history. Stop by this awesome event, taking place today, **Apr 19 at 6pm EST**. Learn all about Wilkerson’s journey, and register for the event [here](#).

A Book Talk With CNN’s Don Lemon

Join NYU professor of neuroscience, Dr. Andre Fenton, as he speaks at the upcoming event, **Talk and Small Group Mentoring**. Dr. Fenton investigates the molecular, neural, behavioral, and computational aspects of memory. He studies how brains store experiences as memories, how they learn to learn, and how knowing activates relevant information without activating what is irrelevant. This event will start with a conversation about Dr. Fenton’s research, then turns into a Q&A session, and finishes with a mentoring event with MIND mentors and speakers. RSVP [here](#).
Events

Those looking to give something back should sign up for the Virtual Community Service Week - running from Apr 19-25. With opportunities ranging from clothing drives to spreading gratitude, there is an opportunity for everyone this year! Find out more info on all of the events here. Since this is open to all SASHP students, be sure to spread the word!

Community Service Week

Follow Us!

Senior Spotlight: Xiangyue (Max) Wang

Show some love to this month's Senior Spotlight featuring #honorsfamous Xiangyue (Max) Wang. With a double major in math and physics (and a minor in philosophy!) Max plans to take the skills he learned at Rutgers to NYU, where he will be studying data science. Additionally, Max is a member of the SASHP Student Advisory Board, a Peer Mentor, a Rutgers University SENATOR, former member of the Dream Project (gave me some great advice when I was preparing for my own Dream Project trip), and a co-founder of CIRCLE (a start-up that uses tech to empower farmers and reduce food waste). Read all about Max by checking out the spotlight here.

For a full list of opportunities, click here.