Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Dear SAS Honors Program Students,

First off, welcome back! After more than a year away from Rutgers, I cannot be happier to see life come back into the campus. There is one piece of advice I have for all students, old and new alike: make it a thing to quite literally do every social thing you have the option to (safely) do. As we all begin to step away from pandemic limbo, the social potential offered by a fully vaccinated campus feels like such a luxury compared to the past year-and-a-half. Clubs are meeting, classes are in person, shows are back on, and busses are (thankfully) back to their original routes. Having a fully vaxed campus is a privilege right now, so make the most of it.

In that spirit, I would like to take today’s newsletter to go over some key advice for the freshmen as well as club recommendations for everybody. This is advice I wish I knew freshman year so give it a read!

Warm Regards,
Justin Confalone
Your newsletter editor

Good luck with classes everyone!
Make this semester a good one!
Academics are for the most part easiest this year, so spend a large amount of time trying to find something that makes you feel like you belong there (while keeping your grades up). Having a sense of home here helps tremendously as you progress through your four years.

You/your family are paying a LOT to be here, so don’t skip class unless you absolutely have to.

Be meticulous and consistent with how you schedule your day, I’d recommend getting a list together of all you have to do for that week then scheduling your day out every morning from that list.

Put some thought into decorating your own space. Many classes are still online this semester so having a comfortable study area is essential.

Everyone is equally as eager to make friends, so talk to anyone you can every chance you have. I had friends who would keep their dorm room open when they are home to signal that all are welcome there.

Talk to your professors. I know this one is generic but honestly, there have been 3-4 classes that I would not have passed if I didn’t frequent office hours (looking at you Calc).

And finally, find something that makes you comfortable here, but, don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone to find that thing. It sounds counterproductive, but I was never a frequent backpacker before joining the Rutgers Outdoors Club, but then the outdoors club became my second home freshman year. There’s a LOT of people here, so I guarantee you that there is some club or group that offers something you have always wanted to try... so do it!
Events

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Club Recommendations From the Editor:

* These are two clubs that I’ve frequented during my first three years. Give them a look!

**RUOC: Rutgers University Outdoors Club**

My home away from home away from home here on the banks. While the club didn’t run at its full potential during COVID, it is now back on track to its former glory. Historically, RUOC runs a whole host of (Covid-conscious) excursions including weekend backpacking trips, beach camping, canoe camping, outdoor cooking trips, and day hikes. Additionally, the club is one giant family that is always eager to welcome new members.

**Martial Arts Club**

I haven’t been around here much since the start of COVID, but meetings start very soon and I’m eager to get back. For anyone inclined towards martial arts, the club heavily focuses on some of the more common MMA arts: including Muay Thai and grappling. Training together always brings a group closer, so this is a great opportunity to meet some new people!

Want us to feature some of your favorite clubs? Tag us on social media using #honorsfamous as we see what honors students are up to this year!