Monday, January 24, 2022

Dear SAS Honors Program Students,

After being encouraged by my housemates, social media, and just about every RU student imaginable, I have officially jumped on the Wordle bandwagon. For the uninitiated, the browser-based game gives players six tries to narrow down the word of the day. A typical progression to find the day’s word (in the case of Sunday, crimp) might be something like this: adieu -> prick -> crisp -> crimp. Wordle guesses are always five letters and can range from obvious to totally obsolete (and oddly enough the last three days all had i’s in the middle: prick, wince, crimp). With add/drop extended until the 27th, I wanted to use the guess and check feature central to Wordle as a metaphor of sorts. As we approach week two of classes, it is okay to take the next few days to feel out your current courseload as syllabus week is not always reflective of the class. If something seems too challenging and you don’t have the mental space for that, drop it and find a better fit. If something seems too easy and you want a challenge, drop it. Add/drop is your chance to figure out your academic needs in a trial by fire scenario, so don’t be afraid to find what works best for you.

Speaking of guessing, figure out what works for you with some of this week’s events/announcements. Brush off some of the social rust by attending the upcoming peer leader-hosted Coffee Chat. Future class of 2023 grads (that’s you juniors) can jumpstart their networking early by attending the upcoming event: Zoom with Honors Alumnus Edward Vergalasov SAS ’21. Stay ahead of the curve by taking advantage of priority registration for the upcoming HackHERS Hackathon. Apply to be a spring 2022 Peer Tutor or request Peer Tutoring. Honors advisors are STILL available to help you get ready for a successful semester. Read the latest SASHP blog post: Getting My Life Together: Resetting for the Semester & Settling Into a New “Productive.”

Warm Regards,
Justin Confalone
Your newsletter editor
Welcome Back Coffee Chat
Let's face it, we all got a little rusty over break. Well, now is the chance to start anew with some folk from the SAS Honors Program at the upcoming, Honors Peer Leader hosted event: Welcome Back Coffee Chat. Bring your favorite mug and settle in for an afternoon of some much-needed conversation. Fortunately, the chat won't be using Zoom and will instead opt for a website called Gather Round, which is more focused on promoting conversation. This event takes place this Fri, Jan 28 at 12 pm EST. Register via the link here.

Zoom with Honors Alumnus Edward Vergalasov
Meet Honors alumnus Edward Vergalasov SAS ’21 and learn about his journey from economics and cell biology & neuroscience double major to a career in insurance/reinsurance. During his senior year, Ed interned at Arch, a primary insurance carrier, in their medical malpractice underwriting division. All juniors from all majors (especially those seeking summer internships) are welcome to come and get some advice. This event takes place Fri, Jan 28 at 4 pm EST, contact jmkim@sas.rutgers.edu for the link.

HackHERS Hackathon
Adding another tier to the incredible 8-year run, HackHERS 2022, Rutgers' famous women-centric hackathon is RIGHT around the corner. Any readers in women-centric organizations (Women in Computer Science, Women in Business, sororities, and other related programs) have first dibs at reserving a spot. This incredible event takes place Sat-Sun, Feb 19-20, and fills up fast. Interested hackers can register here before the Feb 1 deadline.
Peer Tutor/Peer Tutoring App
Still breaking off the inevitable winter break rust? Consider signing up for SASHP Peer Tutoring! The service is totally free for SASHP Students and offers peer tutors for everything from the humanities to computer science. This service is something that I feel is not utilized enough by SASHP students, so make an appointment here. Similarly, anyone interested in becoming a volunteer tutor can fill out the application form here.

Honors Advisors
Speaking of add/drop, any students who need to meet with an advisor to strategize before the Jan 27 add/drop deadline can book an appointment here with an honors advising dean. Deans can help you plot out the best course of action for your academic goals.

New Blog Post: Getting My Life Together: Resetting for the Semester & Settling Into a New “Productive”
“To be frank, this past semester (fall 2021) kicked my butt,” writes author Noa Deocampo. “Apologies for the lack of eloquence, but the sentiment is genuine.” Read the rest of this relatable post on the dangers of hustle culture and how to break the work-centric paradigm here.

***Honors housing application dates have been postponed- more info coming soon!