Monday, April 18, 2022

Dear SAS Honors Program Students,

With Earth Day coming up this Friday I wanted to take a bit to highlight something that has consistently wowed me about this planet: the beauty... more specifically, the views. Be it in the Adirondacks in New York, the nearby Catskills, Shenandoah, or the Great Smokies, I’ve teared up at more than a few views in my time. Something about being there with this vast expanse of land in front of you puts into perspective how awesome this planet is. Wherever you are, try to get out there this week and enjoy some of the views. (P.S. South Mountain is only 30 minutes from Rutgers)!

The week ahead is coming into view, and I see a bunch of great events/announcements on the horizon. SASHP seniors looking to do some networking should stop by the upcoming Honors Alumni Gathering. Deciding on the right capstone option for you? Check out The Conversation Tree Program, a great way to fulfill SASHP requirements while doing good for the community. Take a piece of the Earth with you (in your own custom decorated pot) by attending the upcoming Buds to Bloom event. Looking to join the very media team that puts out this newsletter? Applications are open for the paid Social Media Coordinator and Head Blog Editor positions. Hear about Senator Raymond Lesniak’s journey through Jersey politics at the next Scarlet Speaker Presentation: Cultivating Justice in the Garden State.

Warm Regards,
Justin Confalone
Your newsletter editor
Honors Alumni Gathering
As a senior approaching graduation, I cannot help but see the value of networking/building a community with alumni. Fortunately, the SASHP is hosting an Honors Alumni Gathering on Rutgers Day (April 30). This event, taking place from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM in Deiner Park (behind the river dorms on College Ave), will give seniors the opportunity to chat with the honors alumni community (and provide a gift + light refreshments). Interested students can register here by Sun, Apr 24, or simply show up the day of. Students interested in volunteering at the event can contact Dean Kim-Lee at jmkim@sas.rutgers.edu.

The Conversation Tree Program
If you are undecided about how to fulfill the capstone requirement of your Honors experience, there is still room in an exciting and unique program called The Conversation Tree. Students who enroll are prepared as a team to facilitate conversation practice with local community members who are new to English. The sessions are casual and easy-going in nature and are conducted in safe and welcoming environments known as Conversation Cafes. Some examples of prior topics for sessions include travel, gastronomy, hobbies, and lots more! Prior knowledge of a second language is not required.

The Conversation Tree Program offers Rutgers students an engaging way to connect with and learn from members of our local community. Individuals from diverse nations such as Mexico, Honduras, Turkey, China, India, and many others attend the weekly Conversation Cafes. These participants show up to improve both their fluency in English and their cultural knowledge of the U.S. Rutgers students learn more about the demographics in our local community, the language and culture learning process, and gain skills for interacting with people from linguistic and cultural backgrounds different than their own. These skills are helpful for all majors and future careers. Being a successful facilitator is not measured by difficult exams or putting in all-nighters studying. Rather, sharing some smiles and laughter during a discussion is a satisfying measure of accomplishment.

Interested students can check with their Honors dean about capstone plans, then register for 05:300:406 Community-Based Language Learning for the upcoming fall 2022 semester. For more information and a special permission number, contact Professor Mary Curran of the Rutgers Graduate School of Education at: mary.curran@gse.rutgers.edu.
Buds to Blooms Event
Speaking of Earth Day, students who are interested in adding a little bit more green to the planet should stop by the upcoming Buds to Blooms event. This event, taking place this Thurs, Apr 21 from 5 PM at Bishop on College Ave, will give students the opportunity to decorate a clay pot and plant their own flower in it. There is no registration required, so show up anytime around 5!

Job Applications: Social Media Coordinator; Head Blog Editor
The SASHP is now accepting applications for two paid positions: Social Media Coordinator and Head Blog Editor. Starting in fall of 2022, the Social Media Coordinator will be in charge of SASHP’s social media presence and crafting visual content for all of our channels (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). Also starting in the fall, the Head Blog Editor will be responsible for leading a team of staff writers who create content for the SASHP blog. This will involve copyediting published blog posts, coordinating with the team, and maintaining a constant flow of content for the blog. Both applications are due next Mon, Apr 25. Apply for the Social Media Coordinator position here and the Head Blog Editor position here.

Cultivating Justice in the Garden State
Join Senator Raymond Lesniak as he speaks about his new book at the next Scarlet Speakers Presentation: Cultivating Justice in the Garden State: My Life in the Colorful World of New Jersey Politics. The book of the same name recounts Senator Lesniak’s 40-year journey as a state legislator including the many causes he championed and his time as a key advisor to both Bill Clinton and Al Gore’s presidential campaigns. This event takes place this Thurs, Apr 21 at 12 PM EST via Zoom. Interested students can register here.