

To view this email as a web page, click [here](#).

R | RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK School of Communication and Information



Dean's Note

Dear alumni, friends, and supporters of our school,

It is hard to believe that another academic year has come to a close—a very challenging one for sure, but our school remained peaceful, civil, and strong, which is a testament to the character of our faculty, staff, and students!

We have so many reasons for pride and celebration—we just

graduated 884 undergraduate students, 214 masters students, and nine Ph.D. students in a joyful and uplifting ceremony!

Four of our faculty won university-wide awards:

- [Maria Venetis](#) (Communication) won the Presidential Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching
- [Marie Radford](#) (Library and Information Science) won the Chancellor Award for Excellence in Mentoring
- [Khadijah Costley White](#) (Journalism and Media Studies) won the Provost Award for Excellence in Community/Publicly Engaged Scholarship
- [Jen Theiss](#) (Communication) won the School of Graduate Studies Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring.

The excellence of our students (and the faculty who educate and mentor them!) shined during the [Chancellor's Student Leadership Awards](#) ceremony, when three of them were honored: Iqra Sajjad (ITI major) received the Chancellor's Leadership Award; Clifford Omoruyi (ITI major) received the Paul Robeson Renaissance Award; and Fianna Hertog (COM major) received the Competitive Excellence Award. In addition, [Mike Emanuel COM'90](#), Chief Washington correspondent for Fox News, was inducted in a very festive event to the [Rutgers Hall of Distinguished Alumni](#).

Many more members of our community—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—won significant awards and grants, had outstanding scholarship, educational, and service accomplishments, and contributed in significant ways to the public good! Check these stories on our [website](#).

We have also had many special co-curricular events in the school, too many to detail here, but allow me to highlight two of them. First,

we celebrated [Rutgers International Children's Book Day](#) in a uniquely inspiring event organized by [Marc Aronson](#). Faculty and students from across the campus read stories in a variety of languages from around the world, introducing us to the “voices of the world” and “expanding ourselves.” At a time when there is so much division, hate, violence, and grief around us, focusing on books that socialize children to human values and a better world for all brings so much hope and inspiration. Second, we held our [Annual Scholarship Luncheon event](#), where donors, students, faculty, and staff got a chance to chat and learn about each other and about the transformative value of philanthropy. The highlight of the event was a student panel that celebrated their individual journeys to success and the collective generous spirit of the SC&I community!

Research Highlights

- SC&I Library and Information Science Research Committee, headed by [Britt Paris](#), [Charles Senteio](#), [E.E. Lawrence](#), and [Kiran Garimella](#), held a symposium at Alexander Library entitled, “Rethinking the Future: People-Centered Information and Communication Practices.” [Read more.](#)
-

Alumni Highlights

- [Anne Washington MLIS'01](#), an assistant professor of Data Policy at New York University, recently published "[Ethical Data Science](#)," a book that empowers those striving to create

predictive data technologies that benefit more people. [Read more.](#)

- Nadirah Simmons JMS '16 is the author of "[First Things First: Hip-Hop Ladies Who Changed the Game](#)," a book chronicling the history of women in hip-hop. [Read more.](#)
- [Sun Kyong Lee Ph.D.'13](#), an associate professor at the School of Media and Communication at Korea University in Seoul, Korea, visited SC&I with some of her students. She presented a talk titled, "Can We Trust Machines? Insights from a Series of Experiments in Human-Machine Communication," and her students presented their work in [DaJung_\(DJ\) Woo's](#) class. [Read more.](#)

Student Highlights

- While pursuing a dual degree in Communication and Journalism and Media Studies, Jake Thistle '26 enjoys a career as a professional singer-songwriter; he performed at COMMchella. [Read more.](#)
- Yashi Srivastava ITI'25, co-founder of Incorruptible U, the only student-led organization focusing on raising awareness about the harmful consequences of smoking and vaping while providing substance-free events for the student body, is focused on making a positive impact on society. [Read more.](#)
- While pursuing a Master of Information, David Pérez MI'26 works as a full-time social worker at the Long Branch Free Public Library. He is also working with [Charles Senteio](#) on a New Jersey State Library project, "Social Work Informed Libraries in New Jersey ([SWILIB-NJ](#))," a collaboration between the NJSL and the Rutgers School of Social Work. [Read more.](#)
- Charles Wasilewski MCM'26, business writer and communicator specializing in insurance, reflects on his strong

Rutgers ties and multiple degrees. [Read more.](#)

There is so much more to write about and share, but you can explore these and other stories on our website. Please keep in touch by visiting our [news](#) and [events](#) pages and follow us on social media.

I wish you a healthy and restorative summer. Know that I am always very happy to hear from you—please write to me at dafna.lemish@rutgers.edu and I will respond!

Be well,
Dafna Lemish, Ph.D.

WE ARE YOU



[Contact Us](#) | [Update Your Info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 2024 Rutgers University, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you requested information from Rutgers University Foundation.
You can [unsubscribe and update your preferences](#) at any time.

Where to find us:

Rutgers University Foundation
335 George Street, Suite 4000
New Brunswick, NJ 08901