

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CONFERENCE



FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

10:00AM - 3:00 PM

**LIVINGSTON STUDENT CENTER
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK**

SHOWCASING

**INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS THESES &
THE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAMS**



RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences
Honors Program

For more information, contact
honors@sas.rutgers.edu

School of Arts and Sciences

Interdisciplinary Research Conference

Friday, April 21, 2023 | Livingston Student Center

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:30 am – 10:30 am

LSC Gathering Lounge

MORNING SESSIONS

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Interdisciplinary Honors Theses:

Panel A, LSC 202A

Panel B, LSC 202BC

LUNCH BREAK

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

LSC Gathering Lounge

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

SASHP Career Lab Presentations:

LSC 202A

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Interdisciplinary Honors Theses:

Panel C, LSC 202BC

Interdisciplinary Research Teams:

LSC Collaborative Learning Center

Interdisciplinary Honors Theses

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Panel A: The Influence of Science | Chair: Jennifer Kim-Lee, Assistant Dean, SAS Honors Program

Gabriela N. Mulkay, *A Dissection of Artistic Canon: Misconceptions of Female Anatomy Due to Artistic Portrayal*

Advisors: Amber N. Wiley (Art History) and Cassandra Nelson (Biological Sciences)

Yongqi Chen, *The Relationship Between Parental Alcoholism and Offspring Somatization Through Mixed-Effects Models*

Advisors: Lei Yu (Genetics) and Steven Buyske (Statistics)

Sanjna Sadarangani, *The Mind in Marvel*

Advisors: Lyra Stein (Psychology) and George Schroepfer (English)

Panel B: Humanities & Creative Expression | Chair: Paul Blaney, Writer in Residence, SAS Honors Program

Noa N. DeOcampo, *Invisible Stories: Family Narratives, Colonial Legacies & The Haunted Autobiographical Selves of Filipino Americans*

Advisors: Richard E. Miller (English) and Jenevieve DeLosSantos (Art History)

Michele Scheer, *Instructions of the Fallen; the Forbidden Knowledge of Prometheus and the Enochian Watchers*

Advisors: Azzan Yadin-Israel (Classics) and Tuna Artun (History)

Olivia Young, *Gender and the Bounds of Platonic Love in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night*

Advisors: Ben Sifuentes-Jauregui (Comparative Literature) and Emily Bartels (English Literature)

SASHP Career Lab

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Capstone Presentations | Chair: Chuck Keeton, Academic Dean, SAS Honors Program

Adam Crawford, *The Effects of the Hybrid Work Environment on Employee Productivity and Well-Being*
Internship Site: Johnson and Johnson Global Procurement

Jahnvi Joshi, *A Corporate Experience through a Sociological Lens: My Internship Experience at Johnson and Johnson*

Internship Site: Johnson and Johnson Global Procurement

Interdisciplinary Honors Theses

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Panel C: Global & Contemporary Perspectives | Chair: Kathleen Sadowsky, Assistant Dean, SAS Honors Program

Zachary Goldman, *Sparks: Investigating the reasons undergraduate students choose their majors*

Advisors: Ananda Gunawardena (Computer Science) and Keiko Brynildsen (Psychology)

Aysha Zaher, *The Impact of Structural Racism: Communication of Maternal Health Services*

Advisors: Pamela Brug (Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Women's Health Institute) and Anita Franzione (Public Health)

Archi V. Parekh, *The Use of Moj in Indian Political Communication*

Advisors: Thomas Davidson (Sociology) and Kiran Garimella (Communication and Information)

Interdisciplinary Research Teams

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Session 1: | Chair: Jenevieve DeLosSantos, Director of Special Pedagogic Projects, SAS Office of Undergraduate Education

Provenance Archivio Boncompagni Ludovisi Online (PABLO)

Advisor: Corey Brennan (Classics)

Team: Jacqueline Giz, Emilie Puja, Geetika Thakur, and Vaishnavi Vura

CSR a Customizable Statistical Report Template for Organic Chemistry

Advisors: Lawrence Williams (Chemistry) and Kim-Phuong Le (Chemistry)

Team: Sammy Hansali, Sai Kuchibhatla, Rohit Manjunath, Jeremy Prasad & Lionel Sequeira

Modern Implementations of Experiential Learning

Advisor: Veronica Armour (Information Technology and Informatics)

Team: Brianna Lischy, Rut Mehta, & Claudia Santacruz

Break: 10 minutes

Session 2: | Chair: Jenevieve DeLosSantos, Director of Special Pedagogic Projects, SAS Office of Undergraduate Education

Supplementary Mental Health Curriculum for Special Education Early Adolescence in Middle Schools

Advisor: Maurice Elias (Psychology)

Team: Lori Khadse, Maryum Khan, Tanaya Kulkarni, Farooq Naimath, Rutu Patel, Kashyap Rao, Chaya Stanislavsky, and Shrey Thakkar

Social Workers and Interpreters: Analysis of Training Needs and Development of a Curricular Intervention

Advisors: Laura Ramírez Polo (Spanish & Portuguese) and Lauren Snedeker (School of Social Work)

Team: Salma Elkilany, Brooke Goldwasser, Emily Liu, and Nikki Schmid

Conference Participants

Yongqi Chen (IHT) is double majoring in mathematics and statistics. She is the president of the Rutgers Chinese Traditional Costume. She was a peer leader for an international transition course (RU-FIT) and an international student orientation leader. She was a mentor for the Global Roommate Program and Language Engagement Program. During the summer of 2022, she participated in the Rutgers Summer Service Internship (RSSI) Program and worked as a financial and operation intern for a non-profit organization. She is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in statistics after graduating from Rutgers.

Adam Crawford (SASHP Career Lab) is majoring in human resource management and minoring in English. He works as a writing tutor for the Rutgers Learning Center and has interned at Connetic Ventures, a venture firm.

Noa N DeOcampo (IHT) is a graduating senior majoring in English and minoring in art history. She is the current director for the student-run media team in the SAS Honors Program and is the editor for the bi-weekly SAS Honors Program's newsletter. Noa has also been a constant contributor for Honors Blog since the fall of 2020, writing articles pertaining to student experiences and highlighting mental health awareness. Alongside Noa's passion for writing is a deep passion for music. She has been singing in the Rutgers University Choir since 2019 and serves as their current President. Following graduation from Rutgers, Noa plans to take a gap year, where she will spend time with her loved ones while considering what steps to take next in the academic and professional spheres of life.

Salma Elkilany (IRT) is an undergraduate senior double majoring in political science and Spanish, with minors in business administration and philosophy, politics, and economics. She has been a dean's list recipient throughout all four years, is in the top 10% of her class, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor

Society and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society. Salma has displayed a history of leadership and initiative evident through her contributions to organizations such as Rutgers Ladders—the career development initiative of the Muslim Student Association, the Pre-Law Society, the Undergraduate Law Review, and Thaakat Nonprofit Foundation. She also has extensive professional background showcased by her various intern roles at establishments such as Quorum Analytics, 314 Actions, the New York Senator’s office (John E. Brooks and John Mannion), and the New York Center for Law and Justice. Despite her diverse set of academic and extra-curricular interests, Salma plans to gain experience relevant to her field after graduation, before ultimately attending law school to become a corporate lawyer.

Jacqueline Giz (IRT) is a third-year student at Rutgers University’s Honors College. She is graduating in May 2023 with a major in art history and minors in classics, archaeology, and political science. She was accepted into the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies, where she has been working towards a master's degree in art history, with a concentration in cultural heritage and preservation studies. She will complete her master's in May 2024 and intends to pursue further graduate education in art history. Jacqueline is a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and recently received the art history department's Bdzak fellowship to support her research in Rome during the summer of 2023. Around campus, she is a lead changemaking mentor at the Honors College, where she cultivates a sense of community for a group of first-year students. She is also a docent at the Zimmerli Art Museum and vice president of communications for the RUAA Scarlet Council. Outside of school, Jacqueline enjoys going on runs and cooking.

Zachary Goldman (IHT) is graduating this May with a bachelor’s in computer science and a minor in quantitative economics, along with recognitions as a Phi Beta Kappa, and as a Scarlet, Excellence, and Druskin scholar. While at Rutgers, he co-founded Blueprint's Product Incubator and Product Fellowship, co-led the Rutgers University Film Productions Club, was the director of

Consulting for Tamid, an Arete fellow and researcher at the Effective Altruism club, a consultant at Rutgers Consulting Group, and a community service member of Circle K and Hillel. To help the Rutgers community, he built RUSTewed (a website to share recipes using dining hall ingredients), TheLX (a website for upperclassmen to share advice/resources with underclassmen), and WouldYouRecommend-WYR Rutgers (a website to help students choose class sections using course reviews). Zachary has been involved with the Office of Leadership & Experiential Learning as a LEX retreat leader and a first-year fellow. He also contributed to the SASHP community as a peer mentor, peer tutor, podcaster, and SAB member, also captaining the Brett Hall Intramural Soccer Team. Zachary founded and currently co-leads the Undecided and Exploratory Community Advisory Board through CES to serve the Rutgers Undecided population. His thesis research on student major choice was inspired by his own journey. He came into college considering political science and medicine after interning for a congressional representative and shadowing a physician. Soon after, he delved into finance through the Road to Wall Street Program before leaving and spending a summer at Deloitte Digital in Tel Aviv as an Excel fellow. After later settling on technology, he built a medical visit-tracking website through CARE Somalia, won the IEEE Hackathon of 2021 and Shark Tank 2023 Startup Pitch Competition, and interned last summer at Microsoft on the Edge Browser Team as a product management intern where he will be returning full time in the fall.

Brooke Goldwasser (IRT) is an out-of-state student from Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a senior majoring in social work with a minor in public policy. She is involved in the social sorority Alpha Gamma Delta where she was the vice president of philanthropy and is the current dance marathon liaison. She has interned at PK Management as a social service intern, Latet in Israel as an international relations intern, and is currently working at Catholic Charities in the Therapeutic Supervision program. She is also a tour guide on campus for prospective and admitted students. She loves traveling, hiking, and hanging out with friends. After

graduation, she is attending Fordham University to get her master in social work.

Sammy Hansali (IRT) is a 3rd-year chemistry major at Rutgers University. Sammy participated in the Aresty Summer Science Program and was a recipient of the award for Best Sophomore Performance in Organic Chemistry at Rutgers. Apart from the CARBON statistical report presented today, he is working on two projects. At the Xing Lab at Rutgers, Sammy has discovered new genes that likely cause autism (and similar neurodevelopmental disorders) and is in the process of validating them. Sammy is also doing remote work for the Levin Lab at Tufts, where he is uncovering the evolutionary dynamics that allowed for the transition to multicellularity to occur in biology. After graduating this May and defending his senior thesis, he will continue his work at Tufts— where he will help decode the bioelectrical communication of cells to inform a new understanding of tumorigenesis and cancer therapeutics.

Jahnvi Joshi (SASHP Career Lab) is a senior undergraduate student of the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program (SASHP). Jahnvi is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in chemistry, with minors in biological sciences and business administration. Jahnvi has enjoyed being a member of SASHP and being involved with their initiative of bringing students of SASHP together. She has served as an honors peer mentor for two consecutive years, and has also been a member of the honors peer tutoring service in order to apply her passion for student success. Jahnvi has also served as a learning assistant for physics lab in which she has helped many students understand physical concepts and their applications to real life. Jahnvi has also been involved in many research projects in various departments such as a classics investigation into the character of Aeneas and his connection to Julius Caesar, participation in literature research regarding ionic liquids in chemistry and the effect of mustard gas on skin blistering, and even conducting chemical organic synthesis and purification research for antibacterials. Aside from academics, Jahnvi has also served as a resident assistant (RA) on

the Cook/Douglass campus for the past two years where she enjoys caring for her residents and ensuring their smooth transition into college. She has also enjoyed being a student language teacher for Gujarati as a member of her weekend language school for the past 10 years. She is an avid learner who enjoys learning new languages and skills as well, which led her to join University Choir and a Bollywood dance team known as Rutgers Jhoom. She also has challenged herself further through her volunteering efforts in the Emergency department at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital where she was able to help make rounds on patients in order to facilitate their care, and even took the opportunity to compete as a state finalist in the Miss New Jersey USA pageant. In her free time, Jahnvi enjoys the performing arts, baking, watching movies, and spending quality time with her friends and family.

Lori Khadse (IRT) is a sophomore at Rutgers, in the School of Arts and Sciences, majoring in biological sciences and minoring in psychology and public health. As a Crisis Text Line counselor and an EMT, her research interests include mental illness, substance abuse, and mental health, particularly in the context of youth, the education system, and healthcare providers. In the past, she has conducted research at the Keck Center for Collaborative Neuroscience and the Rutgers ABUSA/REHAB lab. Outside of school and research, she loves to spend her time writing for The Elysian Muse, a mental health youth literary journal she founded three years ago, and drawing greeting and holiday cards for The Arts Council of Princeton. This summer, she looks forward to interning at The Urban Health Collaborative as a public health research intern.

Maryum Khan (IRT) is a senior at the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, majoring in psychology and minoring in political science. She is currently writing her honors thesis in Non-Suicidal Self Injury (NSSI) and functions as a research assistant for the Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) Lab in the Youth Nation sub team to mentor adolescents in the exploration of their

opinions and their self-expression. Maryum has a plethora of experience in leadership positions displayed through her involvement in the Rutgers United Blood Initiative, Amnesty International, the Muslim Public Relations Council, the Douglass Welcoming Ambassadors, and Together Not Alone. She was the first Youth Development intern for the Council on American-Islamic Relations of New Jersey (CAIR NJ) and functions as events representative for the New Jersey Charity Week: For Orphans and Children team. Maryum is training to be an EMT and is involved in a variety of other activities. Regarding post-graduate plans, she will be working as an EMT during her gap year while simultaneously deliberating between pursuing clinical psychology or medical school, as she has fulfilled the requisites for both. In her free time, she enjoys trying new foods, reading, and learning new languages.

Sai Kuchibhatla (IRT) is a junior at Rutgers University majoring in computer science and minoring in data science and statistics. He has interned at Guardian Life Insurance as a solutions architect intern and is currently a frontend engineering director at an organization at Rutgers called Hack4Impact. Sai aims to continue with his education in a master's program from a well-reputed institution directly after graduating with his bachelor's degree. He enjoys watching TV shows, listening to music, and automating tasks using code.

Tanaya Kulkarni (IRT) is a sophomore studying biochemistry. She's currently on the e-board of Project Sunshine, a club that volunteers in pediatric units. She's also a proud member of OPA, a service sorority that spends time giving back to the community. Tanaya enjoys spending her time reading, tutoring and volunteering.

Emily Liu (IRT) is a student at Rutgers University majoring in Spanish and cell biology and neuroscience, and is also in the five-year BA/MA program for Spanish translation and interpreting. She currently works as an intake paralegal at Legal Services of New Jersey to bring legal services to low-income communities,

including individuals with limited English proficiency, and is a volunteer translator for the Global Center for LGBTI+ Freedom and Education. Emily is part of the social work and interpreting interdisciplinary research team, which aims to develop a curricular intervention that addresses prevalent challenges and concerns encountered by social workers and interpreters.

Brianna Lischy (IRT) is a sophomore at the Rutgers Business School studying business analytics and information technologies (BAIT) with a concentration in global business and sales. Her passion for business development is reflected in her active involvement with the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Academy (I.D.E.A.) and Road to Silicon Valley Program (RSVP). She has successfully run pet care and custom art commission businesses for five years, leading her to seek a career in sales. Through the Interdisciplinary Research Team at Rutgers, Brianna is currently exploring the neuroscience of learning and EdTech integration with extended reality platforms. She is also a co-founder of SageTech, a Rutgers EdTech startup working to increase the accessibility of experiential learning through supplemental virtual reality lessons. In her free time, Brianna enjoys painting and drawing, playing guitar, scouting out live music, and thrifting with her friends.

Rohit Manjunath (IRT) is a junior at Rutgers University, majoring in computer science and minoring in data science. He is interning at Oracle Advertising as a software developer this summer and hopes to secure a full-time position with Oracle once he graduates. He enjoys playing field hockey and coding personal projects during his free time.

Rut Mehta (IRT) is a sophomore double majoring in business analytics and information technology and Computer science with a minor in mathematics. He is the MARK conference intern, responsible for overseeing and running the annual Rutgers MARK Leadership Conference. He is also currently a service design intern at NASA Ames Research Center. Furthermore, he is a co-founder of SageTech-- an experiential learning VR startup, and

the co-studio lead of Rutgers DFA. He is interested in entrepreneurship, research, design, and interdisciplinary fields requiring unique problem solving.

Gabriela N Mulkey (IHT) is a senior at Rutgers University, majoring in biological sciences and minoring in art history. She has held the position of chapter secretary of the National Honor Fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi, for two years and is currently the president of the Rutgers American Sign Language club. She has been the recipient of the Rutgers SAS Excellence award for two consecutive years. In the fall, she plans to attend medical school and carry with her the lessons she learned during her undergraduate experience into her future career.

Farooq Naimath (IRT) is a sophomore at Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences majoring in psychology. He is interested in research that involves adolescent cognitive development, social influence and identity, and how education plays a role in stress. In the past, he has helped with launching a one-week pilot curriculum at Lincoln Elementary through a Rutgers club called Healthy Kids. This curriculum strived to promote mental health wellness and awareness in youth through art and writing. He is also an autism peer mentor at Rutgers through the CSP program.

Archi V Parekh (IHT) is a senior majoring in computer science with minors in economics and South Asian Studies. At Rutgers, Archi has been involved in the computer science community as a mentor, iLab assistant, and former president of USACS. She developed her technical skills through software internships at Oracle, Deloitte, and Cognition IP. Archi's interests lie in the societal impacts of technology, which she explored as a Lloyd C Gardner fellow at Rutgers. After graduation, Archi will be working as a tech-consulting analyst at Deloitte. In her free time, Archi loves to bake and watch Bollywood movies.

Rutu Patel (IRT) is a sophomore at Rutgers on the pre-med track, pursuing a major in cell biology and neuroscience and a minor in computer science. Her long-term goal is to become a surgeon.

The focus of his major is neuroscience, opening up research and work opportunities to mental and physiological health. Rutu is interested in how drugs affect cognition and physiology, neuron regeneration, and neuroplasticity. She has volunteered as a safety ambassador for RWJ's Injury Prevention program; created curriculums for elementary students and presented them in classrooms. Outside of her academics, she enjoys drawing, painting, dancing, and reading. Fun Fact: Rutu can draw realistic portraits of people!

Jeremy Prasad (IRT) is a senior studying computer science and minoring in data science. His research interests include predictive analytics, machine learning, and data management. In addition to the SAS IRT program, Jeremy is an active member of the Intelligence Community, working on a joint research initiative between the Rutgers' political science department and the National Intelligence University to mitigate threats to user data on social networks. Last summer, Jeremy interned in the operations division at the nation's premier media analytics and audience measurement company, while participating in his first research program administered by the Laney Graduate School at Emory University. After graduation, Jeremy will be working as a data analyst at AT&T and is looking to obtain his master's degree in data science.

Emilie Puja (IRT) is a sophomore double majoring in classics and information technology and informatics, with a minor in archaeology at the Rutgers University Honors College. In addition to being on the Provenance Archivio Boncompagni Ludovisi Online team, she is an Aresty research assistant for the Archivio Boncompagni Ludovisi, researching both the family's funerary inscriptions and their collection of ancient epigraphy. Emilie is also part of the Rutgers Public Speaking Organization executive board and competes in speech tournaments with the Rutgers Forensics Team. She has received a scholarship for her involvement in RPSO and an award from the fall 2022 Seton Hall SNAFU tournament.

Kashyap Rao (IRT) is a sophomore at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, majoring in biotechnology. He is passionate about writing, teaching, and music. He has performed, organized, and coordinated numerous concerts to fundraise and raise awareness towards causes like children's leukemia and lymphoma, breast cancer, and the homeless. On the side, he also tutors and teaches violin. His research interests are in chemistry and biology but he has always felt strongly about the importance of mental health and helping others. For his future career aspirations, he hopes to work for a pharmaceutical company or biotechnology company in drug development.

Sanjna Sadarangani (IHT) is a senior majoring in marketing at Rutgers Business School. Sanjna chose her respective thesis research topic because she believes that the media that we consume can have a big impact on our perceptions of the world around us. She hopes that her work will highlight the accurate portrayal of mental health and mental illnesses in pop culture and help to erase the stigma surrounding this topic. Sanjna is currently interning at NBCUniversal in Ad Sales and she really enjoys her work. After graduation, she hopes to continue with a job in marketing and later get her MBA.

Claudia Santacruz (IRT) is a Rutgers undergraduate student majoring in cognitive science with a double major in information technology and informatics (ITI). She is an honors program student as well as a first-generation student. She is an active member in the Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA) and the Road to Silicon Valley Program (RSVP). Claudia is passionate about the intersection between principles of cognitive science and advancing technology. Which has led her to begin an independent research team and obtain a fellowship to study the cognitive workings of experiential learning with extended reality technologies. Being involved in the innovation space at Rutgers, she has experience in design thinking, agile management, and academic research. She is also cofounder of EdTech startup SageTech, a platform for hosting virtual reality

educational content. Claudia plans to pursue graduate studies as well as a PhD in cognitive science with a concentration in mind machines and computation. Outside of academia, Claudia is an equestrian who has grown up show jumping. She enjoys painting in her spare time, reading, and attending an occasional cars and coffee event.

Michele Scheer (IHT) is currently a senior at Rutgers, double majoring in classics and linguistics and minoring in history. She has participated in the history and medieval history clubs and is an active participant of the Hillel on campus. Over her time at Rutgers, she has gained experience in editing through two editorial internships. Her plans after graduation are to enter the publishing field with the goal of working with educational materials such as textbooks.

Lionel Sequeira (IRT) is a rising junior majoring in biotechnology, with a concentration in bioinformatics, and computer science. He is currently looking for and applying to internships for data science positions, with hopes of landing a position at a biopharmaceutical firm. His plans for graduating from Rutgers are, as of this moment, to land a solid and long-term position at a biopharmaceutical firm in an informatics-related field or complete a master's program to refine his passions and secure a more demanding job position.

Chaya Stanislavsky (IRT) is a graduating senior at Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences majoring in psychology and minoring in education with a concentration in exceptional learners. She has been a field research assistant at the Social-Emotional and Character Development (SECD) Lab since 2021, working to collect observational data in New Brunswick elementary schools and South Brunswick High School's inclusive art class. In the spring 2022 semester, Chaya interned at UBHC Rutgers Day School, supporting a self-contained classroom with at-risk students and children in the resource care system with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. In the fall of 2022, she served as a FIGS Peer Instructor for a course titled "Exploring Psychology." Chaya

has worked part-time as an applied behavior analysis (ABA) technician at Star Therapeutics and Encore Support Services for almost three years. She volunteered time during her senior year as a student manager for the women's basketball team at Rutgers. Additionally, Chaya is the president and founder of the Mental Health Awareness Club through Rutgers Hillel and co-president of Chabad House at Rutgers student board. She enjoys fostering dogs, reading, dancing, playing basketball, and painting in her spare time. After graduation in May, Chaya will start graduate school in the fall to pursue her Doctorate of Psychology in school psychology!

Shrey Thakkar (IRT) is a sophomore at Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences majoring in cell biology & neuroscience on a pre-med track. Shrey is an undergraduate research assistant at a research lab in RWJMS Department of Neurosurgery. He currently volunteers at Saint Peter's University Hospital and serves as a peer mentor for autistic students at Rutgers. Shrey is also a part of a podcast that aims to showcase undergraduate research to the Rutgers community. Outside of school and research, his hobbies include reading, speedcubing, and dancing. Fun Fact: Shrey is fluent in three languages-- Gujarati, Hindi and English!

Geetika Thakur (IRT) is a senior majoring in computer science. Besides being a member of the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Team Program, she is also a member of the Women In Computer Science (WiCS) and the Undergraduate Student Alliance of Computer Scientists (USACS). She also served as a member on the Douglass Dean Diversity Board and as a Barbara Voorhees mentor. Additionally, Geetika worked in a start-up and launched a website, to which she credits to being the "most fun, liberating, and eye-opening experience" for her. Outside of school, Geetika enjoys going to museums, solving puzzles and trying new cafes. After graduation, Geetika plans on working as a software engineer.

Vaishnavi Vura (IRT) is a junior studying computer science at the Rutgers University Honors College. At the Honors College, she

serves as the president of the Professional Development Council and as the lead ambassador for Prospective Students and Outreach. Vaishnavi also serves as the director of communications for the RUAA Scarlet Council. This upcoming summer she will be working at PNC as a technology intern. In her free time, Vaishnavi loves to cook, watch Netflix, and spend time with her friends and family.

Olivia Young (IHT) is a current senior at Rutgers University studying English literature with a minor in comparative literature. As exemplified through her interdisciplinary honors thesis, her current research is occupied by investigations of human relationships in literature, specifically those that defy marriage-bound, heteronormative structures. Central to this work are modern and historical explorations of gender, which translate into her role as founder and president of Feminist Liberation of Rutgers, the university's first student organization dedicated to feminist education. In addition to enriching experiences as an editor for Rutgers' undergraduate journal, Dialogues, and as a Writing Center tutor, she currently serves as a research fellow under Professor Andrew Goldstone, working on his upcoming project entitled, "Wastes of Time: Genre and the Literary Field since 1890". Upon graduation in May, she hopes to continue her passions for literary research and teaching by pursuing a Ph.D. in English literature, through which she hopes to continue working in academia.

Aysha Zaher (IHT) is a biological sciences major in the School of Arts and Sciences. During her time at Rutgers, Aysha has served her community in both a service capacity such as volunteering to pack perishable goods during COVID-19 for her hometown and by working as a medical assistant at a local doctor's office. Aysha has also held various peer mentoring and tutoring roles throughout her years at Rutgers as she has found enjoyment in helping others succeed in areas they may be struggling in or unfamiliar with, similar to the help she received when she first came to Rutgers. Aysha says that it is important to pay things forward, which she has made sure to do during her undergraduate career. After

graduating with an undergraduate degree from Rutgers, she aspires to obtain a graduate degree to work in healthcare.



School of Arts and Sciences

Thank You

With thanks for the generous support of the IHT and IRT faculty advisors, Paul Blaney for his work with IHT students through the year in Research Workshop, Alan Grossman for his generous support of the Interdisciplinary Research Teams, the SAS Honors Program staff, and SAS Office of Undergraduate Education.

WEBSITES

[SAS Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis Program](#)
[Interdisciplinary Research Teams](#)

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