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Dean's Note

Dear alumni and friends of SC&I,

Here at Rutgers, we just embarked on a new academic year with a vibrant campus and buildings full of energetic students and eager faculty and staff. While it always takes a special effort to adjust to the changes in the rhythms of the days and weeks and face all the responsibilities of the school year and the renewed bombardment of emails and service expectations (and the heavy traffic!), it's reinvigorating.

This academic year we welcome a dynamic and bright cohort of new faculty (learn about them by clicking on their names): [Jianing Li](#) in the Department of Communication; [Brooklyne Gipson](#), [Gina Marcello](#), [Alyse Shorland](#), and [Celeste Wagner](#) in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies; and [Denise Agosto](#), [Eiman Ahmed](#), [Alex Lu](#), and [Brendan Mahoney](#) in the Department of Library and Information Science. They bring innovative ideas and expertise and will enrich the lives of our students and the scholarship we produce.

In addition, there is added excitement over the anticipated search for a permanent dean to embark on this fall—it will stimulate reflections about who we are, what we have accomplished so far, and where we are headed. Lots to think about and discuss! We started these inspiring conversations during a two-day leadership retreat in August. We also devoted a special discussion to the ways to build our relationship with the alums of the school, like yourself. Watch for news of our collaboration with SC&I [Alumni Association](#).

It brings me great pride and joy that the SC&I community is collegial, civil, respectful, inclusive, and supportive of each other, and I look ahead to another year with optimism. While there are unique challenges ahead of us with global wars and national elections that impact members of our community, these circumstances only serve to recommit us to the important work we are all doing in investing in a hopeful future educating young people, cultivating democratic citizenship, and contributing to knowledge that makes the world a better place for all. We will continue to do the best we can, each one of us in their role in this big enterprise. Rutgers as a whole is recommitting to its core values, as expressed by the leadership in multiple forms of communication. Please take a few moments to explore the new website dedicated to [Free Expression at Rutgers](#).

Check out the selected stories below of news from the school and our alums—and let us hear from you! Feel free to write to me directly at dafna.lemish@rutgers.edu.

I wish every one of you a peaceful fall,
Dafna Lemish, Ph.D.

Program News

- SC&I leads the Societal Impact Track for the new Rutgers-New Brunswick [Data Science Program](#), an interdisciplinary undergraduate program of study offered by the School of Arts and Sciences, jointly managed by the Departments of Computer Science, and Statistics, the School of Communication and Information, the School of Engineering, and the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. [Read more.](#)
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Faculty News

- [Jessica Yi-Yun Cheng](#) and her colleagues received a \$150,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. [Read more.](#)
- [Richard Dool](#) was elected incoming president of the New Jersey Communication Association for 2024-2025, a post he held in 2020-22. [Read more.](#)
- [Kiran Garimella](#) received the 2024 Adamic-Glance Distinguished Young Researcher Award from the

International Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. [Read more.](#)

- [Kathryn Greene](#) was named a fellow of the International Communication Association. [Read more.](#)
- [Charles Senteio](#)'s work exploring algorithmic bias and social media at SC&I was featured in the September/October 2024 issue of *Diversity in Action*. [Read more.](#)
- [Vivek Singh](#) and two Rutgers colleagues won the Best Full Paper Award at the 16th ACM Web Science Conference 2024. [Read more.](#)

Student Highlights

- Stephanie Hague, a senior who is double majoring in Communication and Journalism and Media Studies and minoring in Digital Communication, Information, and Media at SC&I and Jewish Studies at the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, spent the summer working as a communications intern for the office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and as an editorial public relations intern at Michele Marie PR, a fashion boutique public relations agency based in New York City. [Read more.](#)
- Andrea Olavarrieta, a junior majoring in Information Technology and Informatics with a minor in Critical Intelligence Studies, was one of 15 individuals selected by the U.S. Department of State for the Foreign Affairs Information Technology Fellowship 2024 cohort. [Read more.](#)

Alumni Highlights

- Arella Guirantes JMS'20 competed as part of the 12-person 2024 Puerto Rican National Olympic Women's Basketball Team. [Read more.](#)
- Jabil Kandula JMS'22, an aspiring professional pilot and aviation journalist, was crowned Miss New Jersey USA in June. [Read more.](#)
- Jinkyung Katie Park, Ph.D.'22, was runner-up in the 2024 iSchools Doctoral Dissertation Award for her dissertation "Design Intervention to Reduce Online Incivility." [Read more.](#)
- Assistant coach Denise Reddy COM'93 and goalkeeper Casey Murphy COM'17 won gold with the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team. Murphy, a DCIM minor, was one of four team captains for the U.S. [Read more.](#)
- Cheyenne Riehl MI'21, BS'18 is putting her Rutgers education to wonderful use. Currently the Student Success Librarian at Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey, Riehl shares the circuitous route that led her to her dream job. [Read more.](#)

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