

The Spectemur

THE CAP & SKULL SOCIETY OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY



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Dr. Jeffrey Robinson welcomes new class at this year's Tap Day

New Brunswick, NJ: On April 28th, 2019 the Society welcomed friends, family, and alumni to Kirkpatrick Chapel to Tap 18 Undergraduates and welcome them to Cap & Skull. It was a gray day in New Brunswick with rain threatening, but mercifully avoiding Old Queens. Following the procession of the Undergraduates into the Chapel, and the introductions by Events Chair Allie Kroeper, and Chairman Joe Nedick, we welcomed Dr. Jeffrey Robinson to the pulpit. Dr. Robinson of the class of 1994 currently leads The Center for Urban Entrepreneurship & Economic Development and is an Associate Professor at the Rutgers Business School. (con't on page 8).

A Word from the Chair

Dear Skulls,

The mission and legacy of Cap & Skull – to recognize student excellence in leadership among the many diverse constituencies on campus – is thriving at Rutgers. As we enter the 2019-2020 Academic Year, and embark upon a year-long celebration of the 120th Anniversary since the founding of Cap & Skull, we stand at a point in the Society's history where alumni engagement and the drive towards advancing our purpose has never been greater.

At our annual meeting during Alumni Weekend this past Spring, I, along with our new co-Chairs of the Executive Committee, Gabrielle Rossi '14 and Jacob Nieman '15, introduced a new expanded Executive Board and committee structure and a vision for a series of programs to mark the 120th Anniversary of the Society, starting with our Founder's Day celebration on January 18, 2020 and culminating in a Gala Weekend to be held in November of 2020.

If you have been active with Cap & Skull over the years, I thank you for your dedication to Rutgers and to the Society. Cap & Skull functions only with the support of dedicated alumni volunteers and the generous contributions of our donors. I take particular pride that the alumni organization provides all the financial support that our undergraduate class requires to fulfill its mission on campus, and in turn the experience is such a formative one for the students and a source of pride for parents, family, and friends.

While the undergraduate experience, and ensuring the perpetuity of Cap & Skull on campus will always be our foremost responsibility, the Executive Committee is seeking to create a more robust alumni experience that provides a conduit for continued service and connection to Rutgers. Our Society is just a small microcosm of Rutgers' large alumni network, but with our common purpose and shared values of history, spirit, and tradition, there is great potential to leverage the talent and energy of our Society's members to enrich the lives of our undergraduate members, fellow alumni, and the broader Rutgers community.

Throughout its existence, Cap & Skull has been a model for leadership and service to Rutgers. In the years since our re-founding on campus, our Society's contributions have greatly enhanced the campus life of the University and provided opportunities for students. With the establishment of the Richard M. Hale Scholarship, the renovation and furnishing of the Cap & Skull Room in the Rutgers Student Center, the restoration of the historic Schanck Observatory, and support of other worthy programs and projects, including most recently, the Paul Robeson Plaza, Cap & Skull is an integral part of the Rutgers community.

I join with Gabby and Jake in sharing with you the Executive Committee's commitment to building on Cap & Skull's great legacy and laying the groundwork to continue to build the premier alumni organization at Rutgers. This 120th Anniversary year is the time to make a big push towards realizing those ambitions. I ask you seize the opportunity that this 120th Anniversary year provides, and to get involved to help us define the next chapter in Cap & Skull History.

Spectemur Agendo,
Joseph Nedick '05
Chair, The Cap & Skull Society of Rutgers

Meet the class of 2020

Our newest Loyal Sons & Daughters

Aasha Shaik, Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies majors

Aasha has served as President of the Women's Political Caucus, an RA, President of Rutgers Petey Greene, a captain of the Mock Trial Team, Student Coordinator of RU Voting at Eagleton, Aresty Research Assistant, Secretary of Safe Halo, President of Rutgers Odyssey, Honors College Diversity Peer Educator, and STEAM Ignite Speaker. She was awarded the Truman Scholarship.

Alyssa Rivers, Communications major with International and Global Studies minors

Alyssa is a proud member of Lambda Pi Eta, and a member of Scarlet Council. Throughout her time at Rutgers, Alyssa has served as a Leadership Ambassador, Camp UKnight and Discovery Program Leader, a Peer Leadership Mentor, the Mark Conference Speaker Logistics Captain, and an Assistant Director within Rutgers University Dance Marathon.

Ayesha Qureshi, Political Science major with Computer Science and Arabic minors

Ayesha is an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate and a Teaching Assistant to a course on organizing for social change. She is teaching a first-year interest group seminar on community activism and civic engagement, and serves as President of the Muslim Public Relations Council. In the past she has conducted research through the Aresty program.

Benjamin Yang, Computer Science, Math, and Cognitive Science majors with an Astrophysics minor

Ben Yang is the current Outreach Director for the Undergraduate Student Alliance of Computer Scientists, the President of the Quantitative Finance Club, the Math Head for RU STEAM, and a Project Manager for Rutgers Enactus. He also served as a FIGS Peer Instructor for Exploring Computer Science and works as a iLab Assistant in the CAVE.

Brian Moran, Human Resource Management major with Labor Studies and Psychology minors

Brian Moran has served as the Director of Community Service for the RUPA, interned with the Department of Off-Campus Living and Community Partnerships, and served as the Director of Recruitment for the RUAA Scarlet Council.

Charles de Agustin, Filmmaking and Philosophy majors

Charles is the President of the Mason Gross Student Governing Association, where he founded the Mason Gross Mentorship Program and Intermedia Mayhem. His short films, performances, and installations have exhibited nationally, and he is currently in pre-production for his first feature film.

Daniel Milo, Mathematics, Economics, and Computer Science majors

Dan has served as the President of IDIA, the President of Knight's Table Civil Discourse, as a board member of QFC, and as a presenter for the Fed Challenge team. He worked as a researcher at Rutgers CAIT and is currently a researcher at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Ezekiel Medina, Public Health and Latino and Caribbean Studies major

Ezekiel has served as Treasurer for the Puerto Rican student union, mentor-in-residence at the Honors College, and has been involved with Rutgers Student Health as a Peer Mental Health educator. He is also on the executive board of the Student Wellness Committee at the Honors College and is currently the Junior Director-at-Large for the Robert Wood Johnson Auxiliary Board.

Hannah Calvelli, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry majors with Criminology minor

Hannah is a member of the Honors College, where she served as a Mentor in Residence and founded a Student Wellness Committee. She is a Biomedical Engineering research assistant, as past research intern at the National Institutes of Health. In the past she worked with the Scarlet Ambassador Program, the Department of Leadership and Experiential Learning, Youth Empowerment Services, and the Rutgers Rock Climbing Team.

Kaavya Krishna-Kumar, Electrical and Computer Engineering major with Computer Science and Political Science minors

Kaavya spends a lot of time in her research lab where she has been working and taking part in the Rutgers Institute for Domestic and International Affairs Club where she held the position of Director of Staff. She proudly holds the title of School of Engineering Student Body President.

Krishna Gotur, Electrical Engineering and Physics majors

Krishna is the co-founder and incoming president for the Rutgers Sustainability Coalition. Additionally, he has served as the Tanzania project co-lead for Rutgers Engineers Without Borders, the Society Affairs Chair for the Engineering Governing Council, and Vice President of Tau Beta Pi.

Larry Traylor, Political Science and Africana Studies majors

Larry served as President, Event Coordinator, and Vice President for the G.O.Y.A Project. He is now the President of the Rutgers NAACP and previously the Public Relations Chair. He is also the United Black Council representative for Black Men's Collective. Larry works at the College ave student center as a Building Operations Manager.

Mansi Shah, Cell Biology and Neuroscience major with a Certificate in Women's Leadership

Mansi has served as a clinical intern at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women at Rikers Island. She is the founding Director of the Correctional Health Internship Program for undergraduate students at Rutgers University. Mansi is also the Co-President of GlobeMed at Rutgers.

Marisa Joel, Cell Biology and Neuroscience major with Psychology minor

Marisa Joel is a member of the SAS Honors Program. She is a varsity coed cheerleader, a volunteer at Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital and an Honors Program tutor. She is a researcher at the Child Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Emergency Department.

Matthew Civile, Public Health major with Human Resource Management minor

Matthew is a member of the SEBS Honors Program and an RA for the SEBS Honors floor in Nicholas Hall. He has served as an Alternative Break Site Leader, Orientation Leader, SEBS Ambassador, Research Assistant studying food insecurity in the New Brunswick School District, and a brother of Alpha Phi Omega.

Riti Suresh, Music Education and Psychology majors

Riti has taught a FICS course on music, is the music director of Rutgers RAAG, and has served on the Kirkpatrick Choir council for two years where she currently presides as president. She is a fierce advocate for equal treatment of students at Rutgers, particularly at Mason Gross.

Simone Brooks, Communication major with Digital Communication, Information, and Media minors

Simone is a Scarlet Ambassador, Chapter President of Alpha Gamma Delta, and the Area Manager for the Rutgers Meetings and Events Office. She has served as an RA for the Lynton Towers, Logistics Intern for New Student Orientation, and handler for Rutgers Companion Animal Club.

Tiffany Yang, Chemical Engineering major with Classics and Math minors

Tiffany is in the Honors College. She is the Internal Vice President of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and President of the Society of Women Engineers. She is a Scarlet Ambassador, Senior Ambassador for the School of Engineering, and Lead Ambassador for the Honors College. In the past she has interned at the Phillips 66 Oil Refinery in Linden, NJ.,





Cap & Skull 120th Anniversary

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celebrating the history, spirit, and tradition of Rutgers University

November 7-8, 2020
New Brunswick, New Jersey

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Save the Dates

we have so much happening and we want you to be there! RSVP at capandskull.org/events

- We're kicking off our 120th anniversary with a Founder's Day celebration on **January 18th**. Join us at the Rutgers Club if you're local or celebrate across the country with our regional groups.
- Our speaker series will showcase alumni from a wide array of professional backgrounds in conversations with each other. Interested in joining the lineup? Email jjpaulino1766@gmail.com.
- Make time on Rutgers Day, **April 25th**, to join us for our Annual Meeting to hear about what's happening within the organization.
- Welcome the class of 2021 during Tap Day at Kirkpatrick Chapel on **May 3rd**.
- Come back to campus! Our 120th anniversary culminates with our Anniversary Weekend & Gala on **November 7-8th**.



Join a committee!

- **Events**, Gabrielle Rossi ('14)
gabrielle.e.rossi@gmail.com
- **Alumni Relations**, Jose Paulino ('12)
jjpaulino1766@gmail.com
- **Communications**, Zack Morrison ('14)
zmorrison18@gmail.com
- **Awards & Scholarships**, Caryn Burstein ('11)
carynfmler@gmail.com
- **Fundraising**, Tom Mueller ('91)
rutjm@yahoo.com

Summer Mixers

Alumni of all generations gathered from coast to coast!



Regional Chairs

You don't have to be on the Banks to stay connected to your fellow Skulls.

Boston, MA Aditya Parikh ('16) aparikh0694@gmail.com

Chicago, IL Maryann Dernlan ('15) maryanndernlan@gmail.com

Los Angeles, CA Zack Morrison ('14) zmorrison18@gmail.com

New York, NY Alex Mahgoub ('06) mahgoub.alex@gmail.com

Bay Area Vetri Velan ('15) velanvetri5@gmail.com

Baltimore & Washington, D.C. Area Saad Shamshair ('15) saadshamshair@gmail.com

Interested in starting a group in your area? Email gabrielle.e.rossi@gmail.com to learn more.

Tap Day (con't)



Dr. Robinson spoke with wit and wisdom. Recounting how his mom, a devout woman was concerned about the Skull, in Cap and Skull, she was put at ease though when she learned that Paul Robeson (1919) was one of the Society's proud sons. He told of his winding path from being the young idealistic roommate of Randal Pinkett ('93), to working as an engineer for a pharmaceutical firm, and to finally having the opportunity to put into action his dreams from his Undergraduate years. Today, Jeffery works with the Center, and "with private capital, government, and non-profit sectors to develop citywide resources and bring renewed economic growth and vitality through urban entrepreneurship. [They] promote and foster a new generation of urban entrepreneurs who actively seek socially conscious urban renaissance."

He discussed how, while folks may know what they want to do, they may not be able to take a straight line. He used his own story, first, studying engineering, hoping to rebuild, and revitalize communities, then working the business world and feeling dissatisfied before he was able to take the leap he needed to be able to get to his ultimate goal, of working to rebuild, and revitalize communities.

Following Dr. Robinsons inspiring words we enrobed, and capped each member of the Class of 2020, and each member of the class of 2019 received their stolls. After the traditional tapping around the Cannon, we retreated to Geology Hall for a reception with all those who attended. A change of pace for the Society, which has traditionally hosted the newly inducted members and their families at Winants Hall. It was a great opportunity to explore one of Rutgers little known gems.

Class Notes

Alison Rodriguez formerly **Buckley ('05)** has been keeping busy! Living in NYC with her husband, Allison's house is bustling with two babies, two cats, and two dogs.

In July 2017, **Karen Biala ('11)** relocated to Tel Aviv, Israel where she's now working as a project manager at Sheba Medical Center's Innovation Center.

As the founder of The Dream Project, **Gabrielle Rossi ('14)** works to get college students giving back to their community through biking. This summer, eleven Rutgers students biked across the country to Portland, Oregon having raised tens of thousand of dollars to combat food insecurity across the state. Learn more at thedream.bike.

Ashley So ('14) just finished up a Fulbright fellowship in London. She recently entered her first hack-a-thon and successfully created an app to treat postpartum depression in Northern India in a way that reduces the stigma around mental health.

Having just moved to Los Angeles, **Zack Morrison ('14)** won an Emmy for best student comedy of the year in the 39th College Television Awards for his film *Everything's Fine: A Panic Attack in D Major*.

Sharlina Keshava ('15) wants everyone to visit her in her new house in northern Virginia.

Kristal Wong formerly **Mohammed ('15)** is a Missile Combat Crew Commander at F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. Kristal got married on September 10, 2018 to Palmer Wong, an astrophysicist and Space Officer in the USAF. Kristal will promote to the rank of Captain in November of this year.

Madison Little ('16) is currently working on his DPhil/PhD in Social Intervention & Policy Evaluation at Oxford University.

Hope Celeste McCraw ('18) just came back from Taiwan as an English Teaching assistant with the Fulbright program.

Alexander Lopez-Perez ('18) just completed a Fulbright grant in the tropical setting of West Sumatra, Indonesia. Back on the Banks, he's now completing his masters of education through the Graduate School of Education.

Share your news with us! Email editor@capandskull.org.

Founded just about 120 years ago, Cap and Skull now functions as a senior honors society for undergraduate students at Rutgers. Every year, 18 rising seniors- one half of one percent- are “tapped” by the outgoing classes based on their excellent achievement in academics, athletics, the arts, public service, and leadership both on and off-campus.

During their time on the Banks and beyond, Skulls have been recognized by the community as intellectuals - earning a Nobel Prize as well as Goldwater, Gates Cambridge, Truman, Fulbright, Rhodes, and Luce Scholarships. They have pioneered gene splicing, represented New Jersey in Congress, captained an NFL team, dreamt up cross country fundraising bike rides, won The Apprentice, been lauded for their work with NASA, had their work showcased at an international film festival, CEO-ed major companies, earned Olympic gold medals, worn the crown of Miss New Jersey, built the first personal computer, founded their own companies - among many, many other accomplishments.

Skulls are activists, artists, athletes, authors, darers, doers, dreamers, editors, educators, entrepreneurs, inventors, mentors, musicians, performers, philanthropists, politicians, researchers, scholars, scientists, writers - loyal Sons & Daughters of Rutgers University.

Help us ring in our 120th anniversary with a gift to the organization that'll allow us to strengthen and expand our capacity to serve you as alumni.

support.rutgers.edu/supportcapandskull

