



2026

Commencement

Thursday, May 21

PRUDENTIAL
CENTER
NEWARK





RUTGERS



GRADUATE SCHOOL

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES-NEWARK
(COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL-UNDERGRADUATE

May 21, 2026



Chancellor's Message

Welcome graduates, families, chosen families, friends, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and community partners.

Today, we gather to celebrate an extraordinary achievement. Commencement marks the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance, and growth, and it is a moment of great pride for our graduates and for the entire Rutgers University–Newark community. Each of you has reached this milestone through your own path, shaped by curiosity, determination, and a commitment to learning that will continue long after today.

Our graduates leave Rutgers–Newark at a pivotal moment in our world. You have pursued your education amid complexity and change, and in doing so, you have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and resolve. In classrooms, laboratories, studios, and community spaces, you have engaged deeply with ideas, challenged assumptions, and contributed meaningfully to our shared intellectual life. These experiences have prepared you not only for careers but for lives of purpose and impact.

Many of today's graduates are the first in their families to earn a college degree. Others bring with them stories shaped by sacrifice, responsibility, and hope. What unites you is your determination to move forward, to lead, to serve, and to make a difference. As Raiders, you are part of a proud Rutgers–Newark tradition grounded in access, excellence, and community engagement. That spirit, the conviction that together we rise stronger, will continue to connect you to this institution and to one another wherever your journey leads.

As your names are called and you cross the stage, know that you carry with you the strength and pride of this community. Faculty mentors, staff members, advisors, friends, and loved ones have walked alongside you, offering guidance and encouragement. We are grateful for their support and for the role they have played in helping you reach this day.

Graduates, wherever your path takes you into public service, research, industry, education, entrepreneurship, the arts, or further study, you leave here well prepared to lead with integrity, empathy, and courage. The world needs your talents, voices, ideas, and your commitment to justice, opportunity, and innovation. As you step forward, carry your Raider pride with confidence and remember that you will always have a home at Rutgers–Newark.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. RU Raiders! RU Raiders! RU Raiders!

In Community,

Tonya Smith-Jackson, PhD, CPE
Chancellor, Rutgers University–Newark



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photo: Anthony Alvarez

Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL

Mayte Green-Mercado, Associate Professor of History

Marshal

Clarity Brass

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Allyson Carvajal, Newark College of Arts & Sciences '03

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Tonya Smith-Jackson, Chancellor

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of Newark

REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

*Keena Arbuthnot, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Chief Academic Officer*

CLASS OF 2026 ADDRESSES

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

*Corlisse Thomas, Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor*

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

Tiffany Olivera, PhD in Chemistry, Graduate School - Newark '26

INTRODUCTION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

*Adrian Henry, Bachelor of Science, College of Arts & Sciences '26
and Student Governing Association President*

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER

Victor Agbara, Bachelor of Science, College of Arts & Sciences '26

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

*Bil Leipold, Interim Vice Dean and Special Advisor to the Provost
School of Criminal Justice and Office of the Chancellor*

Order of Exercises

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE AND COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jonathan T. Capehart, *Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author,
and co-anchor of "The Weekend"*

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Gregg G. Van Ryzin, *Interim Dean*

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION

Kaifeng Yang, *Dean*

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Nancy La Vigne, *Dean*

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES-NEWARK (COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES AND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

Jacqueline Mattis, *Dean*

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Lei Lei, *Dean*

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REMARKS

Brittnay Hale, *Alumni Group Liaison, College of Arts & Sciences '09*

CLOSING REMARKS

Jeffrey A. Robinson, *Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor*

RECESSIONAL

Members of the audience are requested to remain seated until the recessional has concluded.

The graduation ceremony for Rutgers Law School is being conducted on May 22, 10 a.m., at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Lists of graduates are correct as of May 7, 2026. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in compiling the lists in this program.

Commencement Speaker



JONATHAN T. CAPEHART
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Rutgers University-Newark is pleased to present an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to **Jonathan T. Capehart**.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jonathan Capehart is the co-anchor of “The Weekend,” airing Saturdays and Sundays from 7 to 10 a.m. ET on MS NOW. A longtime MS NOW anchor, he also serves as a political analyst on “PBS NewsHour” and is featured on the popular Friday segment, “Brooks and Capehart.”

Capehart has also hosted several MS NOW specials. In 2021, his MS NOW special “A Promised Land: A Conversation with Barack Obama” was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding News Discussion & Analysis. Additional specials include the “Pride of Stage and Screen” and “Pride of the White House,” the latter earning him a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding TV Journalism—Long Form in 2022.

Capehart was the deputy editorial page editor of the *New York Daily News* (2002 to 2004) and served on its editorial board from 1993 to 2000. In 1999, his editorial campaign to save the Apollo Theater earned him and the board the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing. Capehart left the *Daily News* in July 2000 to become the national affairs columnist at *Bloomberg News*, and took leave from this position in February 2001 to serve as a policy adviser to Michael Bloomberg in his first successful campaign for New York City Mayor. Capehart was also previously an associate editor and columnist for *The Washington Post*.

His *New York Times* best-selling memoir, *Yet Here I Am: Lessons from a Black Man's Search for Home*, was published by Grand Central Publishing in 2025. Capehart grew up in Newark, New Jersey where he attended St. Rose of Lima and St. Benedict's Preparatory School.



20
26

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEWARK ALMA MATER

*On the slopes of the academic hill, my friends
Where Rutgers stands and ever will
Standing proud and standing tall
Here for one and here for all
On the slopes of the academic hill*

*John Dana's dream for this old Newark
Of an educated human will
Lives on in sturdy walls
Of Rutgers' urban halls
On the slopes of the academic hill*

*On the slopes of the academic hill, my friends
Where Rutgers stands and ever will
Standing proud and standing tall
Here for one and here for all
On the slopes of the academic hill*



photo: Anthony Alvarez



photo: Arthur Paxton

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

William F. Tate IV

President

Tonya Smith-Jackson

Chancellor

Jeffrey A. Robinson

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

Arcelio Aponte

*Senior Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration,
and Chief Financial Officer*

LaToya A. Battle-Brown

Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Experience

Angelita Bonilla

Executive Director for Campus Operations

Beth Brody

*Senior Associate Vice President, Rutgers University Foundation
and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor*

Jennifer M. Bucalo

Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives

Joel Caplan

Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Collaboration

Amy J. Díaz

Chief of Staff

Kevin Dowlin

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Technology, Innovation & Learning Environments

John Gunkel

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Strategic Partnerships

Crystal L. Lopez

Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Operations

Shantè Palmer

Vice Chancellor for External and Governmental Relations

Luis M. Rivera

Vice Provost

Mary Tamasco

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget & Financial Planning

Corlisse Thomas

Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor

Erica D. Williams

Assistant Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Gregg G. Van Ryzin
Interim Dean

Kinna Perry
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services

Adriana Afonso
Assistant Dean for Finance & Strategic Development

Shelley Kurland
Assistant Dean for Professional Development and Special Initiatives

Alayna Higgs
Program Coordinator

Terri Kupersmit
Senior Program Coordinator

Alicia M. Picone
Senior Academic Program Coordinator

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION

Kaifeng Yang
Dean

Aaron Gibbs
Associate Dean of Student and Academic Services

Madelene Perez
Associate Dean for Finance and Administration

Reena Patel
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Alyssa Sofman
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Nancy La Vigne
Dean

Bil Leipold
Interim Vice Dean and Special Advisor to the Provost

Jimmy Camacho
Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs and Enrollment Services

Christal M. Harry
Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Enrollment Services

Dennis Ng
Business Manager

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Lei Lei
Dean

Jaideep Vaidya
Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and Research

Yaw Mensah
Professor and Vice Dean for Strategic Partnerships

Melissa Rivera
Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration

Shen Yeniyurt
Vice Dean for Academic Programs and Learning Assurance

Lucas Greeley
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program-Newark

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES-NEWARK

Jacqueline Mattis
Dean

Karen Caplan
Senior Associate Dean

Lynnette Mawhinney
Senior Associate Dean for Strategic Academic Initiatives

Sofia Pinto-Figueroa
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Academic Services

Elizabeth Rowe
Associate Dean of Academic Services

Mirela Ngjela
Associate Dean of Budget and Administration



photo: Anthony Alvarez

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

AMERICAN STUDIES

Jarrettia Nadine Adams ☞
Advisor: Frances Bartkowski, PhD
The Crime Without a Name: Genocide and the Black Radical Tradition

Anne Margaret Anderson
Advisor: Ruth Feldstein, PhD
Quaker City Surveillance: Vice, Vigilance, and Policing in Progressive-Era Philadelphia

Sydney Alexandra Johnson
Advisor: Melissa L. Cooper, PhD
"Montclair the Beautiful?": The Narrative Erosion of Black Women's Labors and Subjectivity within the Authorized Heritage Discourse of Suburban Montclair, New Jersey, 1806-1952

Soili Eva Smith ☞
Advisor: Mark Krasovic, PhD
Imagining Canaan: Anglo-Canadian Nationalism and the Discourse of Refuge

CHEMISTRY

Xu Chang ☞
Advisor: Fei Zhang, PhD
Self-Assembly of DNA Origami Based Nanostructure and Co-Transcriptionally Folded RNA Tiles

Oguz Kaan Kucukosman
Advisor: Huixin He, PhD
Modification of the Defect and Crystal Chemistry of WO₃ for Selective Hydrogen Atom Electrocatalysis and Ion-Storage Applications

Lirong Lin ☞
Advisor: Demyan Prokopchuk, PhD
Using Diamondoid Pincer Ligands as C(sp³)-H Bond Activation Models at Group 10 Transition Metals

Katherine Alexandria Lloyd ☞
Advisor: Elena Galoppini, PhD
Modulating Energy Alignment and Electronic Properties on Semiconductors Through Bridge Design in Organic Sensitizers

Conor Laurence Long
Advisor: Jenny V. Lockard, PhD
Probing Electronic Structure and Reactivity in Ti-based Metal Organic Frameworks

Jessica Andrea Martinez Bernal ☞
Advisor: Michele Pavanello, PhD
Density Embedding and Other Electronic Structure Methods for Condensed Phase Chemistry

Tiffany Rocio Olivera
Advisor: Fei Zhang, PhD
Self-Assembly of DNA Origami for Templating Hybrid Materials and Creating Dynamic Rotary Nanodevices

Ashutosh Sahoo
Advisor: Frieder Jaekle, PhD
B-N Lewis Pair-Functionalized Dihydrophenazines

Yuzhuo Sha ☞
Advisor: Michal Szostak, PhD
Development of N-Heterocyclic Carbene Ligands for Transition-Metal-Catalysis

David S. Tresp ☞
Advisor: Demyan Prokopchuk, PhD
Manganese and Iron Carbonyl Complexes with Amine-Rich Cyclopentadienyl and Dicarbene Ligands: Synthesis, Reactivity, Redox, and N-H Bond Thermochemistry

Qi Yang ☞
Advisor: Fei Zhang, PhD
Self-Assembly of Nucleic Acid Tiles for 2D Tessellation, Dynamic Reconfiguration, and RNA Sensing

Shiyi Yang ☞
Advisor: Michal Szostak, PhD
Selective Activation of C-O and C-S Bonds by Highly Reactive Air- and Moisture-Stable, Well-Defined Palladium (II) - N - Heterocyclic Carbene (NHC) Catalysis

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Julia Chresso Bowling
Advisor: Robert Apel, PhD
Prison Industries: Purpose and Practices

Rosheka N. Faulkner
Advisor: Ebony Ruhland, PhD
Restorative Justice and Religion: The Intersection of Black-Faith Practice and Restorative Justice

Tyler Nicholas Keller ☞
Advisor: Joel Caplan, PhD
Place, Police Force, and Underreporting

Carolina Ribeiro Caliman
Advisor: Colleen M. Berryessa, PhD
Bridging the Gap: Navigating Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Criminal Justice System

Sandy Shengyi Xie ☞
Advisor: Colleen M. Berryessa, PhD
Perceptions of Neuroscience and Mental Health in Courts: Implications of Bias, Stigma, and Other Factors on Defendant Outcomes

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Henry Emerson Moore ☞
Advisor: Lee D. Slater, PhD
Do Minerogenous Groundwater Discharges from Post-Glacial Structures Influence Pool Hydromorphology in Raised Northern Peat Bogs?

Khondaker Md Nur Alam ☞
Advisor: Evert Elzinga, PhD
A Detailed Investigation of Divalent Trace Metal Sorption onto Green Rust

Joshua Howard Thompson ☞
Advisor: Lee D. Slater, PhD
Hydrogeophysical Investigations of Subsurface Nutrient Transport Pathways in Low-Relief Agricultural Landscapes on the Delmarva Peninsula

Ying Yao
Advisor: Yuan Gao, PhD
Airborne Microplastics and PFAS: Distribution and Interactions in the Urban Atmosphere

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Abdullah Azizi
Advisor: Gregg G. Van Ryzin, PhD
Capabilities and Government Effectiveness: A Study of Large-Scale Reform in Afghanistan

Hanaa Fawzy ☞
Advisor: John Cantwell, PhD
International Business Strategies For Governance In International Branch Campuses: Ethics, Diplomacy, and Reputation Management

Dina M. Nehme
Advisors: Mary Curran, PhD and Timothy Eatman, PhD
Perceptions, Stigma and Help-Seeking Intentions Surrounding Mental Health Among Middle Eastern International Students in Universities in the United States

Tania S. Quinones ☞
Advisor: John Cantwell, PhD
Analyzing the Effects of Weak Intellectual Property Rights, Reciprocity, and Proximity Across Various Dimensions, on a Country's Innovativeness

Ene Christabel Unobe
Advisor: Alex Hinton, PhD
Gendered Multilateralism: Centering Localization in Transitional Justice

MANAGEMENT

Guo Chen
Advisor: Priyank Gandhi, PhD
Two Essays on Credit Default Swaps and Corporate Policies

Berkay Kaplan
Advisor: Michael Katehakis, PhD
The Transformative Potential of Networked Technologies in Firefighter Safety, Internet Diagnostics, and Explorations in Public Health

Andrea Karayianni Tsentides ☞
Advisor: Helen Brown-Libur, PhD
ESG Assurance in an Evolving Landscape: Navigating its Impact on Performance and Stakeholder Perceptions

Meehyun Kim ☞
Advisor: Helen Brown-Libur, PhD
Faces of Sustainability: Visual Cues in Disclosure and Their Impact on Perception

Maksym Orest Lazirko ☞
Advisor: Miklos A. Vasarhelyi, PhD
Cryptocurrency Chronicles: Innovations in Financial Integrity & Regulatory Compliance Using Web 3.0 Technologies

Peng Li ☞
Advisors: Yao Zhao, PhD and Lian Qi, PhD
Optimization and Strategic Design of Service Systems: Queueing Models, Digital Platforms, and Two-Sided Markets

Zeyao Luan
Advisor: Sophia Zhengzi Li, PhD
The Power of Information in Trading and Return Dynamics

Sitao Min
Advisor: Jaideep Vaidya, PhD
Advances in Missing Data Imputation over Federated Data Networks

Jiahui Xu ☞
Advisor: Miklos A. Vasarhelyi, PhD
Advancing Continuous Monitoring and Auditing: Integrating Emerging Technologies for Enhanced Business Risk Management and Financial Integrity

Zheng Zeng ☞
Advisors: Xiaowei Xu, PhD and Lian Qi, PhD
Three Essays on Operational Strategies and Performance Improvement

Guangyue Zhang
Advisor: Miklos A. Vasarhelyi, PhD
Three Essays on Data-Driven Assurance

Chenhao Zhou
Advisor: Lei Lei, PhD
Toward a Contingency Theory of Healthcare Operations: How Context, Configuration, and Coordination Shape Performance

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Jaeyun Bae ☞
Advisor: Anastasiia Tsvietkova, PhD
Diagrammatic Unknotting Number is NP-Hard and Computational Link Problems

Samantha Artemis Pease
Advisor: Chen Wan, PhD
The Local Gan-Gross-Prasad Conjecture for General Spin Groups

NEUROSCIENCE

Orhan Batuhan Erkat ☞
Advisor: Pierre-Olivier Polack, PhD
Disentangling the Effects of Passive Exposure and Behavioral Training on Representation of Oriented Visual Stimuli In the Primary Visual Cortex of Mice

Elif Beyza Guven ☞
Advisors: James M. Tepper, PhD and Maxime Assous, PhD
The Role of β 2-Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors in Striatal Microcircuits and Striatum-Dependent Behaviors

Beenish Mahmood ☞
Advisor: April A. Benasich, PhD
The Effects of Early Acoustic Experience on the Developing Brain and its Relationship with Infant Language Development

Jaleesa Sarah Stringfellow ☞
Advisor: Travis E. Baker, PhD
Neural and Behavioral Correlates of the Reward Positivity

NURSING

Annmarie Azepeha Johnson-Rowe ☞
Advisor: Rula Btoush, PhD
Job Satisfaction and Intent to Leave Among Primary Care Nurse Practitioners

Jacqueline Therese Norrell ☞
Advisor: Olga F. Jarrin Montaner, PhD
Examining Racial Disparities in GVHD and Mortality After Cell Therapy for Hematologic Cancers

Leslie Wright-Brown ☞
Advisor: Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins, PhD, RN, FAAN
An Investigation of Healthcare Encounter Experiences of African Americans with Hypertension or Diabetes in Acute and Ambulatory Care Settings: A Mixed-Methods Study

PHYSICS, APPLIED

Armin Kalita ☞
Advisor: Claudiu A. Stan, PhD
Studying Freezing, Cavitation and Ablation in Water Drops with X-ray Lasers, Optical Imaging, and Numerical Modeling

Rishi Vivek Rao
Advisor: Li Zhu, PhD
Design and Exploration of Strongly Correlated Systems Through Machine Learning Computational Acceleration

PSYCHOLOGY

Wesley Ameden ☞
Advisor: Elizabeth Tricomi, PhD
The Influence of Social Factors on Willingness to Exert Effort

Chénqí Gāo ❖ *Management*
Advisor: Luis M. Rivera, PhD and Oliver J. Sheldon, PhD
A Dynamic Interactive Account of Attractiveness-Based Bias in Impression Formation of Women in Masculine-Typed Jobs

Elif Sümeyra Ulutaş
Advisor: Samantha Heintzelman, PhD
The Psychological Experience of Parasocial Friendships

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Monica Paz Aldea Espinoza
Advisor: Norma M. Riccucci, PhD
Meritocracy in Practice: Social Equity and Senior Executive Recruitment in Chile

Tong Chen
Advisor: Yahong Zhang, PhD
The Portrait of Public Corruption in the U.S.: What Does Big Data Reveal?

Zachary Curinga
Advisor: Lindsey McDougale, PhD
Tales of Nonprofit Change and Disruption: Institutional Work in Voluntary Associations

Nicolás Francisco Lagos Machuca Sr.
Advisor: Yahong Zhang, PhD
Exploring the Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Public Administration: Insights from Public Officials

Valentine Akinyi Lamar
Advisor: Yahong Zhang, PhD
Three Essays on Citizens' Corruption Perceptions

Ying Liu
Advisor: Norma M. Riccucci, PhD
Essays on Women's Representation and Its Bureaucratic Outcomes

Vishal Trehan
Advisor: Gregory A. Porumbescu, PhD
Citizen Motivations, Digital Skills, and Government Responsiveness: Three Essays on Digital Equity in Public Service Delivery

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

URBAN SYSTEMS

Ang Liu

Advisor: Jason Barr, PhD

*The Hidden Leveraged City: Financialized
Housing, Urbanism, and Governance in
China*

Mary Flora Malyska

Advisor: Laura Krystal Porterfield, PhD

*Embedded Versus Standalone Digital
Literacy Curriculum Design - Impact on
Elementary School Academic Outcomes for
Economically Disadvantaged Student
Populations*

☞ *October 2025 Graduate*

☞ *January 2026 Graduate*

❖ *Dual Degree*

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

Lisbeth Marie Abreu ☒
Stephen John Alworth
Linda Dempf
Nicholas Joseph Dennis ☒
Nicholas Sullivan Duva
Pierfrancesco Giannini
Manuela Gomez ☒
Nicholas James Happel-Terzariol
Dianniris Lorenzo
Anjali Madgula

Moujan Moghimi
Mary S. Mousa
Ronald Nayda ☒
Vivian June Rigoh Ndirangu
Kelly Notine
Rani Maline Persaud
Sara F. Pokorny ☒
Ryan Thomas Potts
Kaitlyn Price
Alexa Michelle Ramos

Shannan Marie Rawcliffe ☒
Samantha Rose Simon
Scott Andrew Stohlman Jr.
Batughan Tatar
Elif Sümeýra Ulutaş
Alexa Maria Valdez
Yebin Won
Chelsea Hoi-See Wong
Beth Margaret Zak-Cohen

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Darryl Martin Semple Jr. ☒

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Cristian Jesus Alba-Dominguez
Gabriela Carson
Adam Elliott
Gregory Ferbrache
Maya Elizabeth Garcia Fisher

Anna Gergen
Ariadne Herrera
Ruby Hogue
Anthony Yunsung Kang
Quincy Kitson

Nadia Renee Legros
Noel Munguia-Moreno
Steven Porrello
Maggie Zhu

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE

Samuel M. Arkin
John Michael Carroll ☒

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

Jared Ira Austerlitz ☒
Johana Paola Bonett Jimenez ☒
Maria Davradou ☒
Angela N. Dinh ☒
Kevin David Dykstra ☒
Haoyun Gao
Ajay Jain
Rutva J. Joshi ☒
Rebekah Leigh Livengood-Stanley ☒

Anwar Nabil Nakhla
Tiago Pires Neto
Nuray Öncül ☒
Zurich Jouret Rodriguez Enamorado ☒
Vaishnavi Shesham
Keyri D. Villegas
Meiyan Wang
Imtiaz Zahan Chowdhury

☒ October 2025 Graduate

☒ January 2026 Graduate

Awards & Honors

GRADUATE SCHOOL

2026 DEAN'S OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

For outstanding doctoral dissertation.

Rishi Vivek Rao *Physics, Applied*

DANIEL S. LEHRMAN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship in memory of Daniel S. Lehrman, a leading psychobiologist, member of the National Academy of Sciences and founder of the Institute of Animal Behavior.

Wesley Ameden, *Psychology*

Elif Sümeýra Ulutaş, *Psychology*

DEAN'S DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

Highly competitive dissertation completion fellowship.

Anne Margaret Anderson, *American Studies*

Julia Chresso Bowling, *Criminal Justice*

Xu Chang, *Chemistry*

Tong Chen, *Public Administration*

Orhan Batuhan Erkat, *Neuroscience*

Chénqí Gāo, *Psychology*

Sydney Alexandra Johnson, *American Studies*

Armin Kalita, *Physics, Applied*

Nicolás Francisco Lagos Machuca Sr., *Public Administration*

Valentine Akinyi Lamar, *Public Administration*

Lirong Lin, *Chemistry*

Ying Liu, *Public Administration*

Ang Liu, *Urban Systems*

Zeyao Luan, *Management*

Jessica Andrea Martinez Bernal, *Chemistry*

Dina M. Nehme, *Global Affairs*

Joshua Howard Thompson, *Environmental Sciences*

Qi Yang, *Chemistry*

Shiyi Yang, *Chemistry*

GLASSER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to graduate students in the Master's Program in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Manuela Gomez, *Peace and Conflict Studies*

GRADUATE SCHOOL-NEWARK ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Awarded to graduate students based upon academic merit and financial need.

Samuel M. Arkin, *Business & Science*

Zahra Booyavi, *Management*

Ene Christabel, *Global Affairs*

Sydney Alexandra Johnson, *American Studies*

Rutva J. Joshi, *Chemistry*

Meehyun Kim, *Management*

Valentine Akinyi Lamar, *Public Administration*

Rani Maline Persaud, *Political Science*

Dina M. Nehme, *Global Affairs*

Chenhau Zhou, *Management*

Awards & Honors

GRADUATE SCHOOL

GRADUATE SCHOOL-NEWARK DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to graduate students based upon academic merit and financial need.

Tong Chen, *Public Administration*
Maria Davradou, *Biology*
Meehyun Kim, *Management*
Ene Christabel, *Global Affairs*

HAROLD I. SIEGEL FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to doctoral students in Psychology based upon academic promise and financial need.

Elif Sümeýra Ulutaş, *Psychology*

HAZEL VERA DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP

Fellowship in memory of Hazel Vera Dean to provide financial assistance to graduate students who are from New Jersey.

John Michael Carroll, *Business & Science*

INGE GAMBE SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to graduate students based upon academic merit and financial need.

Valentine Akinyi Lamar, *Public Administration*
Rebekah Leigh Livengood-Stanley, *Biology*

MASTER'S TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

In recognition of outstanding achievement and potential for graduate study.

Lisbeth Marie Abreu, *Political Science*
Linda Dempf, *American Studies*
Pierfrancesco Giannini, *History*
Manuela Gomez, *Peace and Conflict Studies*
Nicholas James Happel-Terzariol, *History*
Dianniris Lorenzo, *Peace and Conflict Studies*
Anjali Madgula, *American Studies*
Moujan Moghimi, *Political Science*
Ronald Nayda, *History*
Kelly Notine, *English*
Rani Maline Persaud, *Political Science*
Ryan Thomas Potts, *American Studies*
Kaitlyn Price, *History*
Alexa Michelle Ramos, *Political Science*
Vivian June Rigoh Ndirangu, *Peace and Conflict Studies*
Darryl Martin Semple Jr., *History*
Scott Andrew Stohlman Jr., *History*
Batughan Tatar, *History*
Alexa Maria Valdez, *Political Science*
Chelsea Hoi-See Wong, *American Studies*
Beth Margaret Zak-Cohen, *American Studies*

Awards & Honors

GRADUATE SCHOOL

NIH – GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING INITIATIVE FOR STUDENT ENHANCEMENT (G-RISE)

Competitive program to develop a diverse pool of scientists earning a PhD for careers in the biomedical research workforce.

Mary S. Mousa, *Psychology*

Tiffany Rocio Olivera, *Chemistry*

Jaleesa Sarah Stringfellow, *Neuroscience*

NORMAN SAMUELS FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship established to honor Provost Emeritus Norman Samuels. It is a highly competitive award given to only one outstanding applicant to a doctoral program at Rutgers University-Newark as an incentive to attend.

Sandy Shengyi Xie, *Criminal Justice*

NSF - BRIDGE TO THE DOCTORATE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP – LOUIS STOKES ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION (LSAMP)

Competitive program to diversify the STEM workforce through the development of highly competitive students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines.

Tiffany Rocio Olivera, *Chemistry*

PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP

Competitive award for newly admitted students who have demonstrated outstanding academic accomplishments and exceptional promise for success in research in their chosen discipline.

Julia Chresso Bowling, *Criminal Justice*

David S. Tresp, *Chemistry*

School of Public Affairs and Administration

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Sophia Valenzuela ✦
Teresa Verbout ◇
Kerly Zeas Rueda ☼

- ☼ *August 2025 Graduate*
- ☼ *January 2026 Graduate*
- * *cum laude (3.5-3.699 GPA)*
- ✦ *magna cum laude (3.7-3.849 GPA)*
- ◇ *summa cum laude (3.850-4.0 GPA)*
- π *Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society*
- ☼ *Honors College Graduate*

Honors College Graduate applies to students who have completed the Honors College program.

School of Public Affairs and Administration

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Ying Liu
Vishal Trehan

☞ October 2025 Graduate

☞ January 2026 Graduate

π Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society

Awards & Honors

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION

PI ALPHA ALPHA

Pi Alpha Alpha is the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. There are more than 160 chapters located around the world at Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration member schools.

The purpose of Pi Alpha Alpha is to encourage and recognize outstanding scholarship and accomplishment in public affairs and administration. Its objectives, such as fostering integrity, professionalism, and effective performance, promote the advancement of quality in the education and practice of the art and science of public affairs and administration.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION HONOR SOCIETY CRITERIA

Undergraduates – GPA of 3.5 or higher in public affairs, administration, policy, or related academic major effective Fall 2015
Master Students – GPA of 3.85 or higher effective Fall 2016

PI ALPHA ALPHA OATH

I pledge my support for the intellectual and professional advancement of the art and science of public administration and public affairs. I shall honor and respect the virtues and values of public service and those who serve.

I shall uphold the eternal need for education that imbues public administrators with traditions of democratic governance. Moreover, as a member of Pi Alpha Alpha, I shall uphold the highest ethical standards applying to public service and will endeavor to encourage and engage in meaningful interaction with other members.

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George Zapata

FACULTY SERVICE AWARD

Diego Galego

FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Suzanne Piotrowski

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Karen Perez

OUTSTANDING MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STUDENT AWARD

Michael McCarty
Sidra Anam Razzaq

OUTSTANDING DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY STUDENT AWARD

Nicolas Lagos
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School of Criminal Justice

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Jasroop Neelvi ☒
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Saman Zamir ☒

MA CERTIFICATES

DATA ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS CERTIFICATE

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Kayla Nicole Blas

FINANCIAL CRIME CERTIFICATE

Mihajlo Bebekoski
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Chace Glenn Davis
Frendy De Leon
Sandra E. Doss
Kim Theresa Gastelu
Alexa L. Hicks

Natalya D. Johnson
Kaylah Brianna Jones
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Deborah C. Regan

- ☒ August 2025 Graduate
- ☒ October 2025 Graduate
- ☒ January 2026 Graduate
- π Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society
- ☒ Honors College Graduate
- ☒ Military Connected

Awards & Honors

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Shane Burns	Jasmin Mendez
Samantha Chicaiza	Patrick Pantusco
Karla Contreras	Nalleli Peguero
Franchesca De La Cruz	Samantha Presutto
Beatriz De Sousa Lobo Barbosa Lima	Gurleen Sodhi
Tabitha Destinoble	Nicholas Torres
Danielle Keens	Briza Ulloa
Govanna Keryakes	

DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL AND PRACTICAL EXCELLENCE

This award is presented to recognize outstanding contributions by a graduate student who influences or contributes to the field or profession of criminal justice while earning a Master's degree.

Kayla Nicole Blass
Yulanda K. Spencer

DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT

This award is presented to a graduating MA student who has achieved the highest academic standing in the Masters of Arts in Criminal Justice Program and who has demonstrated an applied understanding of course materials through their written work completed during their time in the MA Program that they believe exemplifies their strongest academic performance.

Deborah C. Regan

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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School of Arts and Sciences - Newark

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Krista Jackson ☼	Milan Lazaro ☼	Panashe M. Meck
Namradha Jairam ☼	Hermes Lazo ☼, †	Katie J. Medina *
Jessica Janeiro	Ariana E. Leones	Sabrina Medrano *
Julie Y. Jang ♦	Samantha Levine ☼, †	Katrina Mejia ☼
Dieudonne Jean Jacques ☼	Harry Li ☼	Iskinder Mekonnen ☼
Jessica A. Jean Joseph	Rujin Li ☼	Leyla Melecia ☼
Maherlie Jean Louis ☼	Adriana Liberato Orozco ☼	Tania Melgar †
Omima Jehangir *	Kim Limos ☼	Mariam Meligy
Sanaa A. Jennings ♦	Asia M. Little	Erika Mendez ☼
Andrew Jerome ☼	Suze Liu ☼	Janisa A. Mendez-McGee †
Diana Jimenez	Bryan A. Llerena	Valerie Mendieta
Michell Jimenez †, ☼	Jocelyn E. Loarte †, ☼	Vallery Mendoza
Deanna Johnson ☼	Margaret J. Loftus	Alyssandre Mertz ☼, †
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Kyla Jones ☼, *	David M. Lopez	Maurice Metivier ☼
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Saranah Joseph ☼	Lesly O. Lopez *	Maro Mikhaeil ☼, ♦
Jonnathan J. Josias *	Rosemary E. Lopez *, ☼	Mekhaiel Mikhaiel ☼, ♦
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Vamuya Kamara ☼	Rui Ma *	Sameer Mittal ♦, ☼, ☼
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Nareg Armen Kassardjian *	Zahur Ahmad Malik	Mikayla R. Montano
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Damanjit Kaur *	Dariana Manzo ☼	Ciara A. Morales
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Paraspreet Kaur †, ☼	Sabina Marino ☼	Josephine A. Morales
Mina Kelleny ☼, ♦	Lara Marques	Tiffany Morales ☼

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Monica A. Mousa ✧
Kareim T. Moustafa 📖
Angie N. Moya ✦
Monaliza A. Mprah 📖
Haaris Muhammad
Yasmine Muheisen ✨
Emiliano Munoz ✨
Leslie Murillo 📖, ✦
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Mahamed A. Musse
Fahad Nadeem
Mehrael N. Nagib ✧
Jennifer Naket ✧
Loren Nakhla Hanna ✨
Rabiah Nasir ✨
Shabina Nasiri ✨, ✨
Gnagna Ndiaye 📖
Gabriel A. Nembhard
Brian Ngai ✨, ✨
Meagan C. Ngetich
Jia Ni
Sahell Nickzad 📖, ✧
Yohangil E. Nolasco 📖
Issis A. Nunez
Ngozi C. Nwachukwu
Chiamaka Nwanoro 📖, ✨
Seoane Oaxaca ✨
Chinwe T. Obietiala
Oluwatamilore O. Ojo ✧, 📖
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Dilanur Okumus ✨, ✨
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Angel D. Opoku
Carl-Isaac Opont ✨
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Maria Paguay ✨
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Khushleen Pannu 📖, ✦
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Raiin R. Parsons ✧
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Aryan K. Patel
Avi Patel ✨
Bhumi H. Patel

Dhruvi S. Patel
Dolly M. Patel
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Karna Patel 📖
Kush Patel ✨
Lekh Patel 📖, ✧
Monali Patel ✨
Prayosha M. Patel
Rajvee N. Patel
Ria Patel
Nihaal-Ahmed Pawaskar ✨
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Tanika People ✨
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Isaac Perez
Neyda Perez Moreno 📖
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Joshua Phillips ✨, ✨
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Brianna Ponton ✨
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Maria Quispe Palomino 📖, ✦
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Christina Reid ✨
Jhoan Reyes ✨
Justin A. Reyes 📖
Veronica Reyes ✨
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Sanaa Rozier ✨
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Malaika Saint Fort 📖
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Mohraeil G. Salama ✧
Afnan A. Saleh ✨
Mohammad Saleh 📖, ✧
Nesreen Salem 📖
Alexander M. Salgado ✨
Sha-Tiah Sampson ✨
Jaidelys D. Sanchez
Jason Sanchez
Omar Sanchez 📖, ✧
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Fnu Sanketh 📖
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Edward Sarkisov 📖
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Bilgen Sazci 📖
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Diamond Scott
Mark Scott 📖
Rmoni J. Scott
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Maria Seif
Jammie R. Senario ✦
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Yamen Shaban ✨

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 Nancy M. Shehata
 Yue Shen ✦
 Abraham Sheriff
 Lillian M. Sherry
 Rofiat Shonibare ☒, ☒
 Jaclyn Shrubbsall ☒
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 Hajra Siddique ☒
 Mahnoor Siddiqui ☒
 Mohammad Annas Siddiqui
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 Kylie Silvani ☒, ✦
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 Harmeet Singh
 Harpreet Singh ☒
 Priyanka B. Singh ✦
 Amira H. Siyam ✦
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 Cydney A. Smith
 Kariem Sobhi
 Ebunoluwa D. Sobowale
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 Tristan Soogrim
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 Sriram Sunkavalli ☒
 Olivia R. Szentirmay ☒
 Dina Taghavi ☒
 Maria Tahrani
 Nirali C. Tailor ✦
 Firas Asmi Tajudeen ✦
 Paola Tamayo ☒
 Jiaheng Tan
 Jack Tarna ☒
 Catuxa Tato Montemuino ☒
 Maxiel Tavarez Marrero ☒
 Illiana Taveras ☒, ✦
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 Nadine Tawfik ✦, ☒
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 Saleeph Toure ☒

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 Ronold Tsui ☒
 D'Asia Tucker ☒
 Phyllis Tuffour ☒
 Ahmad Tummalei ☒
 Maruf Uddin ✦
 Khushbu Upadhyay ☒
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 Princewill Uzoaru
 Saifa A. Valencia ☒, ✦
 Kevin D. Vaquero ☒
 Alessandro C. Varco ✦
 Ashley Vargas ✦
 Junell Vargas ✦
 Juan Vargas Cordero
 Jeremy Vasquez
 Leshly Vega ☒
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 Marilyn Y. Verdugo ✦
 Dayannara D. Vilchez
 Neissa Vilius ✦
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 Fatima Villantes
 Allyson M. Volpe ✦, ✦
 Vishwa Vyas ☒
 Mohammed Wadud ☒
 Jaafar Wahab ☒
 David Wahba ☒, ✦
 Sade D. Walker
 Jahira Wallace ☒
 Taylor Ware Roman ☒, ☒
 Juna J. Weedon
 Janine Weekes
 Adam L. Weldali ✦
 Maison Whitehall ☒
 Emma Wider ☒, ✦
 Keyon Williams ✦
 Joshua E. Wilson
 Brandon Wong ✦
 Vivian Y. Xie ☒
 Swaraj Yalamanchili
 Omar Yanes ☒, ✦
 Fatima Yassein ☒
 Giovanni Yousef ✦
 Camilla Zarzuela ☒, ✦
 Clefmael J. Zephyr
 Camilla Zolotoff

- ☒ August 2025 Graduate
- ☒ January 2026 Graduate
- ✦ cum laude (3.5-3.699 GPA)
- ✦ magna cum laude (3.7-3.849 GPA)
- ☒ summa cum laude (3.850-4.0 GPA)
- ☒ Honors College Graduate
- ☒ Honors Living-Learning Community Program Graduate
- ✦ Military Connected
- ☒ BA/MD Scholar

Honors College Graduate applies to students who have completed the Honors College program.

School of Arts and Sciences - Newark

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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Cristina L. Asuncion ✦	Germanya Mejia ☼
Seklan Azeem ☼, ✦	Wendy M. Mendez
Chinoy O. Baker	Dakarai A. Mitcham ☼
Jacob P. Bardinas *	Marly-Ann Ortiz *
Jose E. Bermudez	Love Philippe
Ashley A. Bloodgood ◇	Jessica Sanchez ✦
Racine N. Boxer	Martha Santana ◇
Douglas H. Calabrese	Kavan D. Shah
Heidi Castellanos-Meza ✦	Evelyn J. Tapia
Erica S. Conover ✦	India N. Thompson *
Jillian E. Conti	Steven Torres ☼, ✦
Lexington M. Cowie *	Amelia Vogt
Chelsea A. Crytzer *	Carleisha White ☼
Jennifer Rose Agostino ✦	Shakena Williams
Norman Davy ☼, *	
Julie Devenny ✦	
Laura E. Devincenzo ◇	
Brianna M. Dudley ◇	
Erica Estrada ☼	
Angalina Ferrer ◇	
De'Aira K. Fleming	
Noah D. Gradl ◇, ☼	
Jamie Guartazaca	
Giselle Hoyos-Ceballos *	
Victoria Huey	
Cynthia M. Huggins *	
Brilliza Jimenez ✦	
Manuel Jimenez ☼	
Roxann Johnson	
Athena Konstantaros ☼, *	
Yifan Liang ☼	
Daniel B. Lloyd	
Gabriela Y. Lorelli ◇	
Sarah Magee ☼	

- ☼ August 2025 Graduate
- ☼ January 2026 Graduate
- * cum laude (3.5-3.699 GPA)
- ✦ magna cum laude (3.7-3.849 GPA)
- ◇ summa cum laude (3.850-4.0 GPA)
- 📖 Honors College Graduate
- 🏠 Honors Living-Learning Community Program Graduate
- 🇺🇸 Military Connected
- 🎓 BA/MD Scholar

Honors College Graduate applies to students who have completed the Honors College program.

Awards & Honors

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

CARR SCHOLARS

The Carr Scholarship is named for James Dickson Carr, the first African-American graduate of Rutgers University. He was a Phi Beta Kappa inductee in 1891. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 1896 and became a member of the New York Bar. He later was appointed assistant district attorney of New York County. The scholarship has been in existence within the university since 1985. It is awarded to deserving incoming first-year and transfer students who demonstrate academic promise and who score well on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT).

Abdelrahman Ellaboudy
Gianna Gomez
Tariq Ashour

GOLDEN KEY HONOR SOCIETY

Golden Key is an international honor society founded in 1977 at Georgia State University to recognize academic achievement among undergraduate and graduate students at the collegiate level. The mission of the Golden Key Honor Society is to enable students to realize their potential through the advancement of academic, leadership, and services. On April 26, 1999, the Rutgers University-Newark chapter of Golden Key was chartered and honored students who achieved a GPA of a 3.5 or higher and within the top 15% of their academic class.

Christopher Amador	Moshood Abimbola Olorunnisola
Tabitha Vaisha Destinoble	Joseph John Orlandi
Amirah Ismail	Yamen Shaban
Linda M. Mattar Carmona	Mihir Shukla
Sameer Mittal	Lissette Kylene Villalta
Daniela Murillo-Cifuentes	

KAPPA DELTA PI, THE EDUCATION HONOR SOCIETY

Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) is an International Honor Society in Education focused on empowering educators with the tools they need to succeed. Through professional development and community engagement, KDP fosters lifelong connections and supports growth, while promoting equitable inclusion for all members.

Nathaniel C. Atwan	Savayra Kanwal Rao
Tarmatine Benoit	Denisse Stephanie Silva Rosero
Kaley Ann Klapisch	Olivia Rose Szentirmay

OMICRON DELTA EPSILON, THE INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR ECONOMICS

Omicron Delta Epsilon is the International Honor Society for Economics, founded at Harvard and the University of Wisconsin in 1915. The Rutgers University-Newark chapter was chartered in 1966. It is the sixth oldest chapter in the state of New Jersey and the oldest of the three chapters at Rutgers University.

Zaid Albarim
Damanjit Kaur
Firnas Asmi Tajudeen

Awards & Honors

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

PHI ALPHA THETA, THE HISTORY HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) is a national honorary society for history, and has long had a chapter at Rutgers University-Newark. PAT is a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians.

Ahmed Adel Ali Abdelrahman	Raquel Gonçalves	Paige Alexandra Rodríguez-Haines
Nathaniel C. Atwan	Jonathan M. Hansell	Corey Steven Saunders
Rahaf Atyieh	Jeovanni Horvath	Javiera Ignacio Soto Gonzalez
Amelia Blanco	Donald Mason	Cengiz Demir Tetik
Ciera Calderin Vargas	Yazmine Mohamady	Leo Turnberg
Jay Daniel D'Alessandro	Christopher Joshua Pares	Saifa Aaliyah Valencia
James Macon Evans III	Payton Peterson	Ciera Calderin Vargas
Philomena Erica Cuadra Fernan	Alba Rodriguez	Cristina Veras
Pierfrancesco Giannini	Julia Rodriguez	

PHI ALPHA, THE SOCIAL WORK HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Alpha is a national Social Work Honor Society that was founded in 1960 at Michigan State University to honor the academic excellence of undergraduate students pursuing the social work major. The purpose of Phi Alpha Honor Society is to provide a closer bond among students of social work and promote humanitarian goals and ideas. Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work. The Nu Mu Xi chapter was founded at Rutgers University-Newark in 2019 and its members represent students in the top 35% of the Social Work major.

Mirana Almeida-Sousa	Vicky A. Owusu
Lauren Casselberry	Rainn R. Parsons
Maria Coates	Irina Ragulina
Arielle A. Estes	Jerrell A. Sablan
Angalina Ferrer	Jessica Sanchez
Brilliza Jimenez	Martha Santana
Lauren T. Lueddeke	Julie Sevenny

PHI BETA KAPPA

Phi Beta Kappa, founded by William & Mary College students in Williamsburg, Va., in 1776, is the oldest and most prestigious honorary society in America. The Rutgers College Chapter is the Alpha Chapter in the state of New Jersey. In 1958, the National Council authorized the establishment of the Rutgers University-Newark college section of the Alpha Chapter. Its members are elected on the basis of a distinguished scholastic record in a curriculum that displays breadth and depth in the liberal arts at the College of Arts and Sciences and University College.

Anne Auguste	Elaria Ghabras	Prachi Rana
Erin Bremner	Eren Kahyaoglu	Savayra Rao
Ciera Calderin Vargas	Jocelyn Loarte	Christa Santiago
Janae Chavez Oyola	Joshua Matthew Martinez	Christina Sarkes
Ashley Cook	Donald Mason	Briza Ulloa
Jay D'Alessandro	Sameer Mittal	Vivian Xie
Omar Daraghmeh	Moshood Olorunnisola	
Skyla Geng	Brandon Ramirez	

Awards & Honors

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

PSI CHI

Psi Chi is the international honor society of psychology, designed to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology. Psi Chi was founded in 1929 with a mission to encourage excellence in scholarship and advance the science of psychology. The Rutgers University-Newark Chapter of Psi Chi requires that students achieve a 3.0 GPA within psychology and be within the top 35% of their academic class. Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science.

Melvin Alcantara
Maikel Ashmalla
Ela Aydin
Ashley Bloodgood
Maya Cadeau
Elaria Ghabras

Sofia Hurtado
Sanaa Atiyan Jennings
Maro Mikhaeil
Sameer Mittal
Melis Okumus
Alejandro J. Perez

Love Philippe
Jacelyn Quezada
Stephani Rodriguez
Kylie Silvani
Amira Siyam
Allyson M. Volpe

SIGMA DELTA PI (CHI EPSILON 532) NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HISPANIC HONOR SOCIETY

Sigma Delta Pi, The National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (La Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica), was established on Nov. 14, 1919, at the University of California Berkeley. A student majoring or minoring in Spanish with at least a minimum average of 3.5 and a 3.2 cumulative average may be eligible for election to Chi Epsilon #532, the Newark Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi. Chi Epsilon #532 was established at Rutgers in 2005-06.

Maria Del Carmen Casais Brion Yafreisy Mesa Santana
Jennifer Chavez Denisse Silva Rosero

TAU SIGMA NATIONAL TRANSFER HONOR SOCIETY

Tau Sigma is an academic honor society designed specifically to recognize and promote the academic excellence and involvement of transfer students. The Rutgers University-Newark chapter was chartered and founded in 2011 to honor transfer students who transferred into the Newark College of Arts and Sciences, University College-Newark, the Rutgers School of Business-Newark, the School of Criminal Justice, and the School of Public Affairs and Administration and achieved a GPA of 3.5 or higher after the completion of their first semester at Rutgers University-Newark.

Victor Chima Agbara
Yoav Aharon
Melvin J. Alcantara
Fuzail Ali
Daniel A. Alvarez
Miles B. Anglin
Rodaba Babar
Carly Basich
Lydia Nathalie Berrocal
Elizabeth K. Brown
Claire A. Busing
Edith Mishelle Caguana Toala
Ryan Carlucci
Cynthia Ann Castillo
Ruth Michelle Ciprian
Maria Coates
Karla Gyssel Contreras
Tabitha Vaisha Destinoble
Angalina Ferrer
Diana Carolina Fuentes
Greis Gonzalez
Brilliza Jimenez
Isaiah Jordan

John S. Maddela
Tania Manzanares
Marilu Angelica Marquez Fernandez
Linda M. Mattar Carmona
Katherine Andrea Mayorga
Samantha R. McSwain
Lounis Mekerri
Gillian Marguerite Morris
Kenneth Lamont Morrisette
Precious Tolulope Olukayode
Joseph John Orlandi
Laura Orrego
Nalleli M. Peguero
Alejandro Jose Perez
Luis G. Quezada
Irina Ragulina
Robert Edward Rios
Jerrell Sablan
Rosio Beatris Sayes
Jessica Taretto
James Michael Taylor
Annie Carolina Ulloa-Ulloa

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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Danixa D. Almonte	Zackary T. Boyaci	Joseph De Paola
Nilsa M. Almonte ☼	Elizabeth S. Boyle ✧	Ricardo A. Del Aguila Vizcarra ☒
Alisbel Almonte Saldivar	Alexa L. Briggs	Andrea Delgado
Adam Alqatamin	Jhano Briones	Robert Delvecchio
Chanah S. Alummoatil	Elizabeth K. Brown ☒	Anna Gabriella M. Dentone ☒
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Christopher A. Andrade	Joseph R. Calderon ☒	Liyuan Ding ☒, ✧
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Siona I. Anto ☼	Wilson J. Campoverde	Yang Du ☒
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Alejandro Arango	Joshua Castro ☼	Jack W. Durso ☒
Yoan Arango	Alma H. Castro Nieto	Mariam S. Egerongbe ☼
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 Edward Zuniga ☼

- ☼ August 2025 Graduate
- ☼ January 2026 Graduate
- ✦ Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Invitee
- ☼ Honors College Graduate
- ☼ Honors Living-Learning Community Program Graduate
- ☼ Military Connected

Honors College Graduate applies to students who have completed the Honors College program.

Awards & Honors

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS AWARD

This award is given each year by the faculty of the Department of Accounting to the student demonstrating outstanding achievement in the study of accounting, as well as major contributions to the department.

Jethro Rajendram

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS AWARD

This award is given each year by the faculty of the Department of Finance to the student demonstrating outstanding achievement in the study of finance, as well as major contributions to the department.

Jack France

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND GLOBAL BUSINESS AWARD

This award is given by the faculty of the Department of Global Management to the student demonstrating outstanding achievement in the study of management.

Cecelia Jelvani

DEPARTMENT MARKETING LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is given by the faculty of the Department of Marketing to the undergraduate student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and achievement in the study of marketing and made major contributions to the department.

Juan Lopez
Stephen Sullivan
Stephanie Turcios

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY CHAIN AWARD

This award is given by the faculty of the Department of Supply Chain to the students demonstrating outstanding achievement in the study of supply chain.

Elizabeth Boyle

DR. ROSA OPPENHEIM LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award honors Executive Vice Dean Dr. Rosa Oppenheim's extraordinary commitment to Rutgers Business School and the leadership she has exhibited throughout her career, including two stints as interim dean. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to positive leadership.

Eron Holder
Nicholas Khan

JOHN R.H. GILMOUR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING AWARD

This award, named for a long-time faculty member and first director of the undergraduate accounting program, is given to the most promising graduating student who has chosen a career in professional accounting.

Jasmine Gandhok

LEE PAPAYANOPOULOS MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given in memory of the late Professor Lee Papayanopoulos, whose service to Rutgers and the academic community was distinguished by an unwavering commitment to excellence. The Lee Papayanopoulos Memorial Award recognizes an undergraduate student with a major or concentration in management information systems who exemplifies excellence in academic and extracurricular activities.

Cyprian Ucinski

Awards & Honors

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

LOUIS GLUCK MEMORIAL AWARD IN MANAGEMENT

This award, named in memory of and endowed by the late Louis Gluck, is given each year to the graduating student demonstrating outstanding scholarship and service to the school.

Mariangel Menendez Macias

NEWARK UNDERGRADUATE DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Newark Undergraduate Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes one student leader each year who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, service to RBS and leadership potential. Following tradition, the name of the recipient is engraved onto the Rutgers Business School Brass Bell. This bell is rung six times at University Commencement, symbolizing the number of degree programs in the Rutgers Business School.

Yenifer Cruz Hernandez

RONALD ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given in memory of the late Professor Ronald Armstrong, whose service to Rutgers and the academic community was distinguished by an unwavering commitment to excellence. The Ronald Armstrong Memorial Award recognizes an undergraduate student with a major or concentration in management information systems who exemplifies excellence in academic and extracurricular activities.

Kejdi Lleshi

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRIZE

NEWARK UNDERGRADUATE

This prize is given each year to a member of the full-time day program who has shown the greatest achievement in both scholastic and extracurricular activities.

Kevin Soza

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL, UNDERGRADUATE-NEWARK DEAN'S AWARD

This award is given by the dean of the Rutgers Business School to the graduating student who is judged by the faculty to demonstrate the most outstanding overall excellence.

Aryan Patel

ZACHARY STOUMBOS MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is given in memory of the late Professor Zachary Stoumbos, chair of the Management Science and Information Systems Department, whose service to Rutgers and the academic community was distinguished by an unwavering commitment to excellence. The Zachary Stoumbos Memorial Award recognizes an undergraduate student with a major or concentration in management information systems who exemplifies excellence in academic and extracurricular activities.

Cecelia Jelvani

RUTGERS BUSINESS SCHOOL, PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE AWARD

To recognize a student or students who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and service to the Rutgers Business School and the Rutgers-Newark communities, and embody and facilitate in others the RBS virtues of resilience, resourcefulness, and responsibility.

Kendra Benoit
Sneha Saravanan

The Academic Costume

The wearing of academic dress dates back to the early days of the oldest universities in the world. In the American Council on Education's book entitled *American Universities and Colleges*, it is suggested that "Gowns may have been counted necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings frequented by medieval scholars. Hoods seem to have served to cover the tonsured head..."

American universities established a code of regulations which today is followed by almost all American institutions. The establishment of this code has made it possible to distinguish the bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree recipients, and at the same time, to recognize the university awarding the degree.

The colors of the lining of the hoods for the nine original colonial colleges are: scarlet, Rutgers; crimson, Harvard; green-gold-silver, William and Mary; blue, Yale; red and blue, Pennsylvania; orange and black, Princeton; light blue and white, Columbia; brown, Brown; and green and white, Dartmouth. The bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The master's gown has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist. The rear part of its oblong shape is square-cut, and the front part has an arc cut away. It is worn open or closed.

The hoods vary in size: 48 inches for the doctoral degree, 42 inches for the master's, and 36 inches for the bachelor's. All hoods are lined in the academic color or colors of the institution conferring the degree. If the institution has more than one color, the colors are shown in divisions using chevrons. The binding or edge of the hood is usually made of velvet in the color designating the subject in which the degree was granted. Black mortarboards are worn for all degrees.

Some of the colors in the bindings of the hoods are: white, Arts and Letters; drab, Business Administration; violet, Criminal Justice; light blue, Education; purple, Law; apricot, Nursing; peacock blue, Public Administration; blue, Philosophy; gold, Science; and citron, Social Work.

The University



photo: Theo Anderson

Rutgers University – Newark (RU-N) is a leading urban, public research university that is an anchor institution in New Jersey’s cultural capital. More than 10,500 students are currently enrolled at its 38-acre campus in a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, University College, the Graduate School, Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick, the Rutgers Law School – Newark, the School of Criminal Justice, and the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Long distinguished as one of the most diverse universities in the U.S., RU-N is an engine of high-impact scholarship, innovation, and social mobility. It is in and of a city and region where partners from many sectors collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to work on today’s and tomorrow’s pressing questions and challenges—work that resonates powerfully throughout our urbanizing world. Most importantly, RU-N brings an incredible diversity of people to this work, making it more innovative, more creative, more engaging, and more relevant for our time and the times ahead. For more information please visit www.newark.rutgers.edu.

The Schools and Colleges of Rutgers University–Newark

The School of Arts and Sciences-Newark, the largest school on the campus, is made up of two degree-granting colleges, the College of Arts and Sciences and University College.

The College of Arts and Sciences offers a curriculum that combines the advantages of a liberal arts foundation with the specialized training necessary for a specific career. The school offers B.A., B.S., and B.F.A. degrees in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, and social work. Students learn in small classes taught by leading scholars, scientists, and creative artists, with intensive interaction between students and faculty, and extensive opportunities for internships, experiential learning, and research in faculty laboratories. The Honors College provides unique learning opportunities through special seminars, cultural programs, and social activities.

University College has a long tradition of making undergraduate education available to working adults who cannot attend college during the workday. However, when schedules permit, University College students can take day classes as well. University College students, like those in the College of Arts and Sciences, are taught by faculty who are leaders in their fields of expertise. University College also offers an Honors College program with special seminars and an emphasis on original research. Degrees awarded include the B.A. and the B.S.

The Graduate School is dedicated to the advancement of scientific and human knowledge in an environment that encourages scholarly inquiry and intellectual growth. Students are expected to develop the analytical and creative skills required for original scholarship, research, and problem-solving, as well as a thorough understanding of an academic discipline. The school offers masters and Ph.D. programs in subjects from the arts and humanities to the sciences and the social sciences. It also offers joint degrees with the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University-New Brunswick. The school's programs in criminal justice, public administration, management, psychology, chemistry, mathematics, and biology are all ranked nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*.

The University

Rutgers Business School-Newark and New Brunswick stands on the principles of academic excellence, cutting-edge research, and public service that have defined Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey for more than 250 years. Today, Rutgers Business School is educating more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students at two main campuses in New Jersey as well as satellite locations in Jersey City and Singapore. Steeped in academic excellence, with a distinguished faculty and a corps of more than 60,000 successful alumni, Rutgers Business School is highly ranked by *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *Poets&Quants*.

The School of Criminal Justice, founded in 1974 by an act of the New Jersey Legislature, is committed to advancing education and scholarship on crime and justice at the highest level. Our mission is to prepare graduates to become thoughtful, effective, and respected professionals in the field. Our faculty are leaders in shaping criminal justice policy and advancing criminological theory, while our alumni rank among the most productive and influential scholars and professionals nationwide. Driven by a deep concern for public safety and social justice, we employ rigorous methodologies and diverse theoretical perspectives to address complex issues that impact people's lives. This commitment fosters meaningful engagement with communities, professionals, and policymakers, all in service of shaping both the understanding and the practice of justice.

Rutgers Law School, New Jersey's flagship public law school, is dedicated to providing educational experiences of exceptional quality and value to a diverse student population. With campuses in Newark and Camden, Rutgers Law is the largest law school in the Northeast. Internationally recognized faculty, dedicated staff, and its diverse student body shape a more equitable legal system in surrounding communities, across New Jersey, and beyond. The Rutgers Law community shares a vision: A compassionate justice served by professionals who understand how the law affects people and society. Rutgers Law is known for social impact, but its 20,000+ alumni practice in every branch of the law.

The School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) educates and motivates students to choose careers in public service and administration through its innovative and comprehensive undergraduate and graduate degrees and professional and graduate certificate programs. The school's faculty generates knowledge and best practices in public and nonprofit sector management and policy implementation, and collaborates with public and nonprofit organizations and professionals throughout Newark, the nation, and the world. *U.S. News and World Report* consistently ranks SPAA as a top school for public management and leadership, among more than 300 public affairs and administration programs.



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Division of Student Affairs

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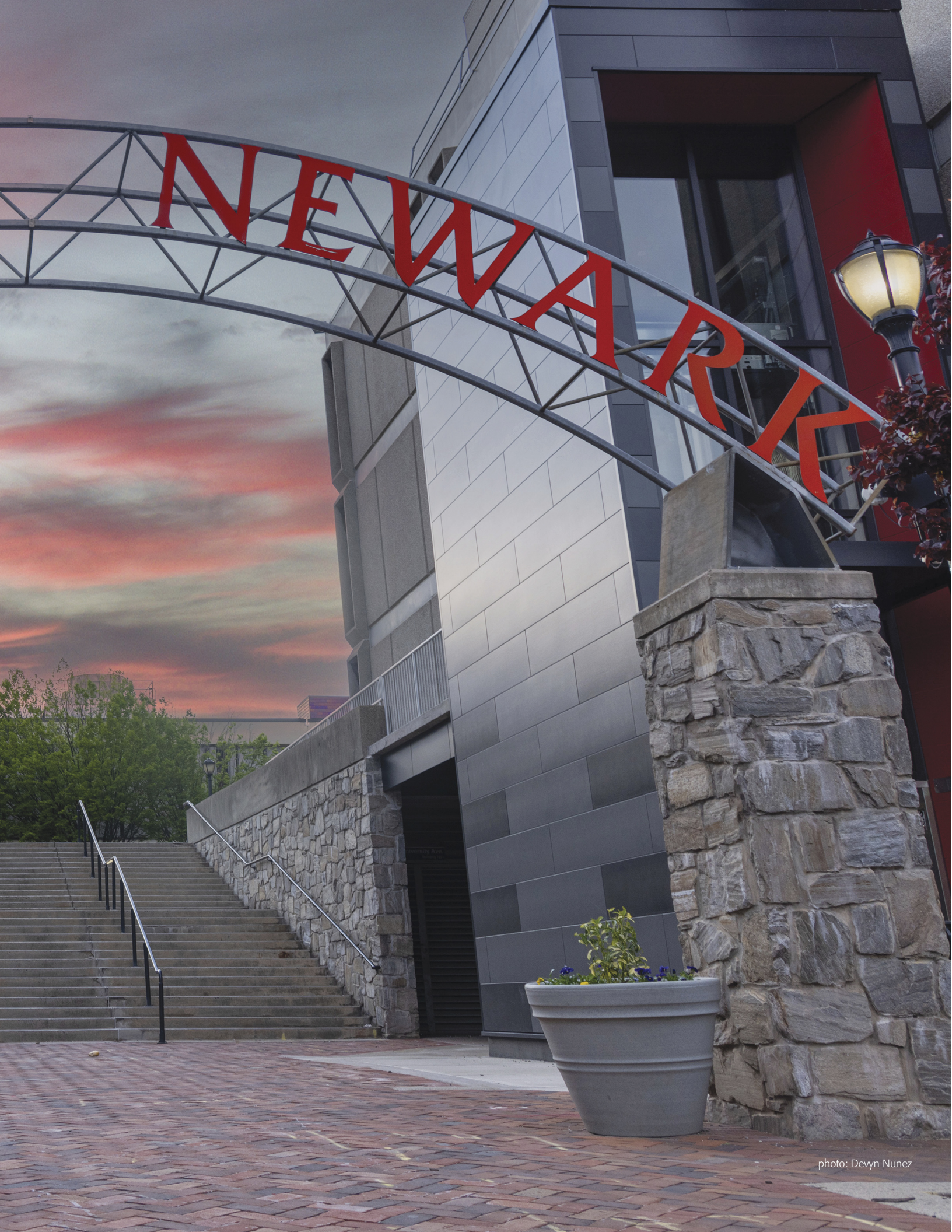


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