TABLE OF CONTENTS

pg. 3 - Honors Office
pg. 4 - Honors Mentors
pg. 5 - College President and Student Trustee
pg. 6-7 - Applied Learning
pg. 8-9 - Cambridge Study Abroad
pg. 10 - Community Service
pg. 11 - Campus Events
pg. 12 - Sports
pg. 13 - Arts
pg. 14 - International and Early Admit Students
pg. 15 - Alumni
Dr. Sam Draper started his career at Rockland Community College as an English professor. In addition to teaching at RCC, Dr. Draper had a passion for Chow dogs. As a co-owner of a top-winning American Kennel Club Chow and later as an American Kennel Club judge, Dr. Draper traveled the country. Dr. Draper’s extensive travels allowed him to visit colleges across the U.S. to see what competitive institutions looked for in prospective transfer students. Dr. Draper gathered information from numerous institutions and created the Rockland Community College Honors Program to educate and mentor students.

-Richie Museau '19
Congratulations to Dr. Tom Butler on his retirement! He started working at RCC in 1990 and became an Honors Mentor in 2004. He has been an amazing mentor to all students who have needed his help. We wish him good luck and hope he enjoys his last adventure in Cambridge this summer!
Dr. Baston looks forward to doing his job each and every day. His favorite thing about Rockland Community College are the students. Despite his busy schedule as President, Dr. Baston also fulfills the role of professor. On Mondays Dr. Baston teaches his class on paralegal studies and loves that his students who, like him, work all day and still show up to class. His students are always ready to learn from each other and work hard no matter the task he throws at them. Dr. Baston hopes that all of his students at Rockland Community College experience the campus as the real world, so when they step off campus they are ready to move on with their goals, big and small. He wants all students to “have a passion for something bigger than themselves” and to “have the courage to be uncomfortable [because] if you live in comfort zones you will be limited." This is extremely important to Dr. Baston, as he believes each and every student should have something they truly care about and are willing to strive for, while branching out and gaining experience that is out of their personal "bubble".

-Lizz Braun ’19 and Thomas Leonard ’20

When Hunter was elected for the 2018-2019 school year his goal was to make the campus safer, but it evolved into making sure each person on campus is represented by voicing his/her opinion to campus administration. It will take more student trustees to accomplish this, but he was the one to get the ball rolling. He has founded the Historical Society, Paranormal Society, and the Yu-Gi-Oh Club. Hunter is also a part of the Political Science and Pre-law Club, and the Organic Gardening Club. These activities at RCC have helped him to learn conversational and leadership skills, which will help in the the future when he gets more involved in business and finance.

-Lizz Braun ’19
This summer I fulfilled a compelling Art Education Internship at the Children’s Museum of the Arts in Manhattan. I worked in the school group visits department and fine arts studio alongside professionally trained Teaching Artists. The most valuable skills I earned encompassed teaching and engaging students through an inquiry-based approach, as well as hands-on art-making. I also learned how to tie artwork themes from gallery exhibits to relevant core subjects students were studying in school. Towards the end of my internship I was granted the opportunity to design my own art workshop and run it with a group of students. I also assisted the museum in a week-long professional development program for NYC Pre-K - 12 school teachers at the New York Botanical Gardens, during the Georgia O’keefe: Visions of Hawaii exhibit.

-Solange Hybel ’19
NIOLA ETIENNE

I did an internship at Purchase College last summer for 6 weeks studying with a Molecular Biologist. I prepared slides and colonies of Tetrahymena for the lab where I studied Tetrahymena; a single-celled organism. My colleagues and I were testing to see if by removing a protein/gene from the Tetrahymena, this single-celled organism’s ability to reproduce would remain or not. Although preparing the lab was tedious and time consuming and I spent more hours than I would like to admit reading and studying, I was sad to go because I would have loved to be there for the end result after all the hard work I put in. I am majoring in biology with a minor in public health at my next school, so this research gave me a unique opportunity to learn more about the field.

-Niola Etienne '19

NASA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AEROSPACE SCHOLARS

LEAH ROSENBERG

I represented RCC at NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS). It was comprised of an online course as well as an onsite experience. The online course focused on the Mars exploration and included quizzes and a final project related to Mars exploration. Based on my grade in the online course, I was invited to participate in the onsite experience, which was a four-day program at a NASA center. My onsite experience was at NASA Langley Research Center. In the onsite course forty students participated in a rover competition, worked with NASA scientists and engineers, toured the center, and heard from current NASA interns about internship opportunities. It was a great way to further my knowledge in STEM and prepare for future internship and job opportunities.

-Leah Rosenberg '19
WHAT WERE THE PROFESSORS LIKE?
The professors were all so unique and passionate about their course material. My professor, James Grimes, who I had for Codes, Ciphers, and Encryption, was one of the most fun and enthusiastic professors I have ever met. The opportunity to learn from him was an experience like no other. - Danny Lockyer '19

WHAT WERE THE TOWNS IN ENGLAND LIKE?
I took a day trip to London, which was awesome. Traveling to places outside Cambridge was extremely fun, but I also greatly enjoyed the town of Cambridge itself. I loved the shops and the scenery was especially beautiful. There were also some awesome places to eat around town. - David Kyvik '19

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE TRIP?
My favorite part of the trip were the field trips I went on during my classes. I went to the Stem Cell Institute for my Stem Cell Class, the Botanical Gardens for Forests in a Rapidly Changing Environment, the chemistry building for Introduction to the Periodic Table, and the archaeology building for Paleopathology. In addition, I went to the Zoology Museum, the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the Fitzwilliam Museum. - Lizz Braun '19
DID YOU DISCOVER ANY NEW INTERESTS WHILE IN CAMBRIDGE?

I developed a stronger interest in comparative literature and Virginia Woolf. I also realized that I love traveling and I would consider doing another study abroad program for a semester at my next school.

-Kyla Walden ’19

WHAT ARE TIPS A STUDENT GOING TO CAMBRIDGE SHOULD KNOW?

1. Research the classes beforehand and read the recommended texts. They’re each only a week long, but you need to understand what is happening in class.
2. Your RCC friends are amazing, but it is important to branch out and talk to new people. You will be amazed by all the stories you hear about growing up in other countries.
3. No matter what anyone says, the waffles are amazing! -Noah Mildwurf ’19
COMMUNITY SERVICE

AUTISM SPEAKS WALK

Honors students are involved in many clubs outside of Honors Newsletter. Two of our honors students are a part of Speech Pathways Club, which is for aspiring speech pathologists, audiologists and teachers. We attended the Autism Speaks Walk on September 30th at Boulders Stadium. Speech Pathways was the biggest team there with 20 people and raised over $150 for autism research. In addition Speech Pathways raises money for Operation Smile which helps fund cleft lip and cleft palate surgery for children in less fortunate countries and/or communities. During the spring semester we increased the awareness of Better Speech and Hearing Month, which is in May. -Lizz Braun '19

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to work with this organization. I was able to make friends with amazing people, cultivate leadership and communication skills, and most importantly I was able to help people that are less fortunate than I am. I look forward to working with this organization in the future because giving back to my community is so rewarding.

- Julia Butterworth '20

I signed up for this trip not completely sure what I was getting myself into. After the week in New Orleans, I was able to call 25 complete strangers my family, and the experience of being able to make some progress on an unfinished house for Habitat for Humanity was extremely rewarding and life changing. I will definitely remember this experience for the rest of my life and I extremely thankful that I had the opportunity to take part in this has, yet beautiful type of community service.

-Malli Kugelsky '20
Every Fall semester the Honors Program takes a trip to Broadway to see a play or musical. This past fall semester we had the amazing opportunity to experience the Best Musical in North America: Come From Away. Each Spring semester we also go to see an Opera at the Lincoln Center. This semester we saw the opera La Traviata. The opera and play are always at night so you have time to explore the city. I am always blown away by the shows that the Honors Program allows us to see. I encourage all students to look out for their next Broadway and Opera picks.

-Solange Hybel '19

CLUB FEST

Rockland Community College is known for its student life. Upon graduating you can receive a co-curricular transcript. This reflects the extra-curricular activities you were involved in during your time at RCC, including clubs on campus and volunteering on and off campus. In addition there is the Volunteer Services Program which is when you complete 42 volunteer hours on and off campus. Club fest is a two-day event where every club, honor society, and organization sets up a poster and gives out flyers to recruit new members. There are over 30 clubs and organizations on campus, so you are bound to find one you like.

-Lizz Braun '19

FALL MUSICAL & SPRING OPERA
EMILY SCHMIDT
VOLLEYBALL #4
My favorite part about being an honors student athlete is all of the people I have met in my classes, as well as on my volleyball and basketball teams. It's like a big family and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

LEAH KUSUMALAYAM
VOLLEYBALL #16
I handle being an honors student athlete by making sure to use every pocket of free time I have in between my classes and volleyball practice to get my most important tasks done first, so that I am not left with a huge pile of daunting honors coursework to tackle after a game.

PROFESSOR/COACH
MATCOVICH
Professor Matcovich grew up playing Little League baseball in Suffern and continued during college, first at Rockland Community College then at St. Thomas Aquinas College. As an alumnus of the school and the honors program, it was a great professional accomplishment to be asked to become an honors mentor. Then, in 2011, he was asked to be on the baseball coaching staff and it was something he could not resist. Baseball taught him dedication, hard work, and how to be part of a team - all of which he has applied to his personal and professional life.
-Lizz Braun '19 and Niola Etienne '19

Sports
Winter
Basketball
Bowling
Spring
Baseball
Men's Golf
Men's Tennis
Fall
Men's Soccer
Volleyball
Cross Country
ARTS

Several Honors students are also involved in the Visual and Performing Arts Departments at RCC. From classes like Painting, Stage Combat and Voice and Diction to clubs such as Impulse Magazine and Campus Players. These students exude creativity and originality and produce exceptional artwork and performances each semester.

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

This Fall, the RCC Campus Players put on a production of Les Liaisons Dangereuses. The leading lady, La Marquise de Mertuil, (played by Aubrey Lefkowitz) is a wealthy widow who spends her time exploring sexuality and morals played as the ultimate game. Her biggest rival, eternal confidant, and former lover is Le Vicomte de Valmont (played by Tommy Loughran)--a charismatic bachelor who makes it his mission to conquer about as many women as he can. The two of them make a bet on what could be Valmont’s greatest victory--winning over Madame de Tourvel, (played by Alanna Wamsley) a married woman, famous for her devotion to her husband and faith. -Alanna Wamsley ’19

Solange Hybel ’19

RCC MUSIC

RCC’s music program offers a Double Major through which students can split their time between music and another course of study. The degree takes a variety of approaches to music, ranging from theoretical offerings (Multiculturalism: Music in America, Counter Culture Movement in Music), to technological offerings (classes in music production), to practical offerings like an ensemble session in which students practice making music in groups. -Zuzu Tadeushuk ’19
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Rockland Community College has great cultural diversity and the Honors Program is no different. There are several international students currently engaged in the program, which enriches even more the apprenticeship, diversity and cultural exchange on campus.

Matheus Melo '20 from Brazil said, "studying with people from different parts of the world gives me different perspectives of the problems we face and the subjects we study in class. By learning about different cultures and backgrounds, I have new ways of solving problems and I get more motivated to go class. I also feel more grateful by knowing the challenges other people face every day. In my opinion, that enriches the class environment and creates an atmosphere of knowledge and respect. The support I get is amazing. I know I can count on my excellent professors, the staff in the honors office, and all my honors classmates whenever I need something."

-Nati Catalano '20

EARLY ADMITS

The Rockland Community College Early Admit Program (RCCEAP) is open to high school seniors who wish to complete their senior year of high school by matriculating and registering as full-time students at Rockland Community College and taking courses only on the campus of Rockland Community College.

Being an early admit student has made me more punctual, prepared and responsible. Asking for help when you need it is essential to your success and you should not feel discouraged in needing to do so. Taking accountability for my studies as well as joining clubs both at RCC and my high school has prepared me for college life. I am able to handle the workload while still being on the cross country, fencing and spring track teams at my high school all because of time management skills I have learned while at RCC. The workload is centered around your core classes, so I feel that I can prepare adequately for exams as opposed to high school where you can have four tests in a day. Some students stay at RCC for an additional year, while others move on to four year schools. This experience is the reason I got accepted into the school of my dreams.

-Kayla Nueva '19
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Every semester, students transfer to new schools to continue their education. Students transfer to Ivy League schools, other SUNYs, CUNYs, as well as other schools around the country.

Asud Shirazi ‘18 - John Hopkins

My advice to current honor students is to explore RCC and the unique opportunities the Honors Program grants its students. Take part in community events and organizations, learn to ask for help, and utilize the Honors curriculum to discover the things you enjoy and what you excel in. Use it to also find which things you struggle to understand and then work with your professors, advisors, and peers to hone your ability to adapt to difficult concepts and situations.

Rania Abdelqader ‘18 - Cornell

The best thing that the honors program has helped me with is learning how to make connections with my peers, professors, and staff from four-year institutions. Creating and maintaining relationships with the people in my network have offered me a range of opportunities. The one quote that I live by is: "you have to knock on doors to get people's attention, no one will know you need help unless you make the first move." This was said by Paul Fisher, who is the senior associate director of admissions who admitted me to Cornell University. I was first introduced to Mr. Fisher by my mentor, Dr. Lynch. She helped me gain the confidence to knock on doors and I can't thank her enough for all the help she has given me.

Other transfer schools include: New Paltz, Stony Brook, Binghamton, George Mason, NYU, Hunter, Columbia, Yale, Baruch, Mercy, University of Sciences and more!
Top Row: Treasurer - Thomas Leonard, Advisor - Carol Coiro, Secretary - Leah Rosenberg
Bottom Row: President - Lizz Braun, Vice President - Solange Hybel

Back Row: Niola Etienne, Zuzu Tadeushuk, Solange Hybel
Middle Row: Julia Butterworth, Carol Coiro, Lizz Braun
Kneeling: Richie Museau and Kayla Nueva
Not Pictured: Thomas Leonard, Leah Rosenberg, Natasha Gonzalez

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at RCCHonors and check out our apparel selection