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## Dean's Note

Dear alums, donors, and friends,

Our “Spring” semester opened with a flurry of a few unexpected snow days that required the university to pivot to remote work and teaching mode. But our experienced faculty, with the support of our instructional design team, proficiently moved their classes online, so the enthusiastic momentum of new beginnings was well preserved!

A lot is happening right now in the school. We recently completed highly successful searches and will be welcoming six new excellent tenure-track faculty across all three departments who will strengthen our leading-edge research and teaching. We’re excited to share more detailed information about them in due course!

Like the rest of the institutions of higher education in the country, we are following the developments of political and cultural scrutiny of academia. Rutgers continues to be strongly committed to our educational and scholarly mission of contributing to

the public good of the state of N.J. and beyond. These are turbulent times globally and we are focused on helping develop our students' ability to believe, commit, and be prepared for a better future for all!

I wish you a healthy, happy winter. Please keep in touch by visiting our news and events pages and follow us on social media. Know that I am always very happy to hear from you—please write to me at [dafna.lemish@rutgers.edu](mailto:dafna.lemish@rutgers.edu) and I will respond!

Be well,  
Dafna Lemish, Ph.D.

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## Research Highlights

Shagun Jhaver and his team received National Science Foundation funding for a new project to build more equitable and trustworthy social media content moderation systems. [Read more.](#)

Shawnika Hull and her team had their research included in the CDC's "Compendium of Evidence-Informed Interventions and Best Practices for HIV Prevention." [Read more.](#)

The SC&I Scholarly Futures Program, organized in 2022 by Matthew Matsaganis, Like Mikesell, and Vivek Singh, supports the development of Rutgers partnerships and research to gain a better understanding of how healthcare and health communication at the individual, organizational/clinical, community, and populations levels are being transformed by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) and how this process of change can magnify and reduce health inequalities. [Read more about the program and their recent findings.](#)

Leo Sacks, who has taught Documentary Filmmaking & Storytelling at SC&I since 2021, has high hopes for Rutgers University's storytellers. [Read his conversation with us.](#)

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## Alumni Highlights

Mike Emanuel RC'90, who graduated with a degree in communication, will be inducted into the university's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in a ceremony on April 25. Mike currently serves as Fox News Channel's chief Washington correspondent and co-anchor of Fox News Live. [Read more.](#)

Lisa Varga MLS'98 is [Library Journal's 2024 Librarian of the Year](#). The Virginia Library Association Executive Director is recognized for "battling censorship attempts with a combination of hard facts and heart." [Read more.](#)

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# School Events

[Rutgers Giving Day](#) will occur over 48 hours, Wednesday, March 20–Thursday, March 21.

[CoMMchella Music Festival](#) is Wednesday, April 3, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CoMMchella, one of our biggest events of the year, celebrates the Communication major and informs undeclared majors, transfer students, and future Rutgers–New Brunswick students accepted into the School of Arts and Sciences.

**SC&I Scholarship Luncheon**, scheduled for Sunday, April 14, honors our generous scholarship donors and student recipients.

[Rutgers Day](#) is Saturday, April 27; SC&I will have a booth on the College Avenue campus.

[Graduation Convocation 2024](#) is Thursday, May 9, at Jersey Mike’s Arena.



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