

Dear alumni and friends of SC&I,

September brings with it new beginnings—a new academic year with its promise of educational accomplishments, scholarly innovations, and community building. Students are on campus, moving into the dormitories, seeking advisors in [Student Services](#), and exploring eateries on College Ave. Our faculty members are back, full of renewed energy and excited for the intense work that is ahead. Traffic around campus is busy again as the semester begins, and while recent news of COVID-19 keeps everyone on our toes, we are all dedicated to our students and their success!

We ended the last academic year on a very high note. We had four new promotions to Full Professor in the [Department of Journalism and Media Studies](#)—Professors [Melissa Aronczyk](#), [Lauren Feldman](#), [Susan Keith](#), and [Regina Marchi](#)—and Professor [John Pavlik](#) was selected as a new International Communication Fellow. These demonstrate the high level of scholarship produced in our school and recognized nationally and internationally. In addition, [Susan Keith](#) was recently named Associate Dean for Programs.

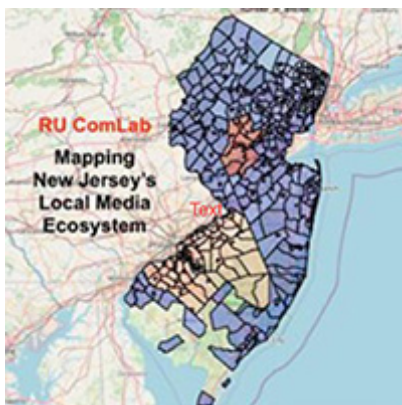
Over the summer, we were joined by our new Assistant Dean for Development [Blain Bradley](#) and our new Assistant Dean for IT [Chandu Dondeti](#) as well as several additional staff members. Each brings unique experiences and talents to SC&I and will continue to infuse the school with innovations and fresh energy.

And there is so much ahead—we are currently running searches for seven new positions in the school. This demanding but crucial process supports our growth and relevancy for cutting-edge research and teaching. Our faculty, staff, and leadership have been busy running strategic planning meetings, curriculum reviews, and community-building retreats. Accommodating for financial strains, implementing the accomplishments of the new contracts, and collaborating with the Chancellor's initiatives for our campus are now high priorities for us. The Academic Master Plan (AMP) that focuses on four pillars (Scholarly Leadership, Innovative Research, Student Success, and Community Engagement) constitutes the framework that guides our efforts. Read the stories below to learn about some of them!

We hope to see many of you during the [Rutgers Homecoming](#). Check this website regularly for more news about that weekend!



Welcome to the 2023 Ph.D. Cohort!



SC&I's Impact in the State

Scroll through the new website [Bettering New Jersey Together](#)—it showcases current and past research by SC&I faculty that directly supports New Jersey's residents, whether they live in urban, suburban, or rural communities. [Read More](#)



The poster features a portrait of Roxane Gay on the left. The title 'Opinions' is written in a cursive font at the top. Below it, the subtitle reads 'A CONVERSATION WITH ROXANE GAY'. The event details are: 'OCTOBER 9, 2023 | 7PM' at 'Rutgers Academic Building Room 2400 15 Seminary Pl, New Brunswick, NJ'. A small image of the book cover is shown on the right. Text at the bottom left states: 'Join Dr. Roxane Gay and Shawnika Hull in conversation as they kick off the tour for Gay's upcoming book, Opinions, an anthology of her non-fiction pieces from the past decade. Copies of Opinions will be sold at the event for a book signing following the conversation.' The Rutgers logo and the Institute for Women's Leadership are at the bottom.

Roxane Gay to Kick Off Book Tour

Join [Roxane Gay](#), the [Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media, Culture and Feminist Studies](#), as she kicks off the tour for her new book, "Opinions," an anthology of her non-fiction pieces from the past decade, on October 9 at 7 p.m. at the Rutgers Academic Building. Gay will be in conversation with [Shawnika Hull](#). [Register Here](#)



SC&I and AI

[Sharon Stoerger](#) co-drafted "TEACHING CRITICAL AI LITERACY: Advice for the New Semester," a resource document that addresses critical AI literacy, implications of generative AI for academic integrity, suggested updates for syllabi, and a list of potential resources. The document will be posted to the Office of Teaching Evaluation and Assessment Research (OTEAR) website before the virtual symposium on October 6, 2023. [Read More](#)

[Mark Aakhus](#) is a member of the steering committee for Critical AI at Rutgers, a new interdisciplinary initiative at Rutgers, New Brunswick. [Read More](#)

[Charles Senteio](#) explores the impact of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning on equity in healthcare; he is a consultant on a new NSF-funded project aiming to promote STEM education among a diverse group of Rhode Island high school students. [Read More](#)

Faculty Updates



[Susan Keith](#) was named Associate Dean for Programs, a position formerly held by Interim Dean Dafna Lemish.



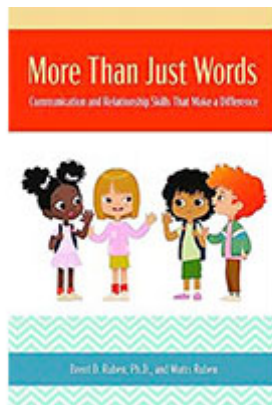
[Galina Bolden](#) was elected President of the International Society for Conversational Analysis. [Read More](#)



[Michael Lesk](#) has transitioned to Professor Emeritus after enjoying a long and storied career. [Read More](#)



[Rebecca Reynolds](#) was named Chair of the Library and Information Science Department. [Read More](#)



[Brent Ruben](#) and his granddaughter co-authored a new communication primer for children and adults. [Read More](#)

I wish you an enjoyable fall. 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 and I will respond!

Be well, be safe, and have a great semester.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dafna Lemish'.

Dafna Lemish, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
Distinguished Professor of Journalism and Media Studies



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