



RVCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As a new semester begins, we would like to congratulate you all on the accomplishments you have made thus far, and the achievements that are unquestionably in your future. It's been a pleasure to know you and all of the graduates who have passed through these halls.

Since 2011, the Honors College has had the pleasure of supporting more than 250 students in achieving their educational and professional goals. The community that we have built during these past ten years has fostered a number of social and professional connections, and that's something to celebrate! And so, to commemorate the decennial anniversary of the establishment of the RVCC Honors College, we are excited to introduce the Honors College Alumni Association (HCAA).



The HCAA is intended to enable graduates to stay connected, build ties with current students, and support the continued growth and development of students in their professional, educational, and personal lives. The Honors College has always sought to bring together students with a diverse range of experiences and interests, and we hope that the HCAA will be a way to expand those connections.

As the association grows we will be hosting workshops, Q+A panels, and other events for both current and former students to cover topics such as career development, internship opportunities, and more. We will also be coordinating programs for peer counseling and mentoring, among other initiatives.

We welcome your suggestions for, and participation in, the HCAA as we work towards building something greater. Please join us in helping shape its development so that we can create a community where opportunities and connections can thrive. For more information on our plans and how you can help, [please fill out this form](#) to indicate your interest in joining us in our efforts.

“To those who stay put, the world is but an imaginary place. But to the Movers, the Makers, and the Shakers, the world is all around them, an endless invitation.”
 -Unknown

SEPTEMBER

- W** 9/15
▷ Begin 12wk Session
- W** 9/29
▷ Begin 10wk Session

OCTOBER

- T** 10/19
▷ End First 7wk Session
- W** 10/20
▷ Begin Second 7wk Session

NOVEMBER

- M** 11/1
▷ First day of Spring registration
- W** 11/24
▷ Thanksgiving [Closed 24th-27th]

DECEMBER

- S** 12/11
▷ End second 7wk, 12wk, and 10wk Sessions
- M** 12/13
▷ Last Day of Classes
- W** 12/15
▷ Final Exams [15th-21st]

Appreciate what you do and feel valid in what you are doing. Your success is measured by what makes you happy and how you impact the world.

Jan Origenes

Words of Advice

Make the most of your time at RVCC by planting yourself in clubs, building relationships with professors and friends, and capitalizing on all that RV has to offer. The grass is always greener where you water it!

Jenna Douglas

It's okay if you don't end up with a job that aligns with your degree. Welcome new experiences and see where they will take you!

Alycia Hinrichsen

Don't stress out by comparing yourself to others. Instead, reflect on what you are doing and what you are in control of. Do what you can to build your personal story— that's what makes you the best fit for whatever it is you're trying to accomplish— and that comes in MANY forms.

Joey Toth

Never stop challenging yourself, as you are able to achieve anything you set your mind to. Never be afraid to ask for help throughout your educational career, as there's nothing to be ashamed of and you're never alone.

Bryan Picado

When writing a "why do you want to attend this college" essay on an application, write about why that school specifically is a good fit for you. Sell the college to yourself, not yourself to the college. Research their facilities and reference them, and how you plan to make use of them.

Paige Hann

- ▶ [Phi Theta Kappa](#)
- ▶ [Scholarships.com](#)
- ▶ [Unigo](#)
- ▶ [Petersons](#)
- ▶ [Scholly](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ [US DoED](#)
- ▶ [College Board](#)

COLLEGE VALUE

- ▶ [Jersey Cares](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer + National Service](#)

VOLUNTEER

- ▶ [College Central](#)
- ▶ [Handshake](#)

JOB SEARCH



**RESOURCE
LINKS**

RVHCAA Founders

Focused on advancing the reach and missions of HCAA. Facilitate group meetings, promote team collaboration, and ensure goals are met for each committee.



Greg DeSanctis I have worked with the Honors College since its inception in 2011. During that time, I have witnessed the program's evolution from an initial "curiosity" among both high school students and other constituents, into the robust, highly respected program that it is today. The strong foundation laid by our graduates over past decade allows us to now turn our sights towards sustainability, giving back to the program & school that has given us all so much. I am honored to be a part the HCAA and am so excited to

work with my former students on ways to help grow the program, leaving an indelible mark on for generations to come!

Jenna Douglas I graduated from the Honors College in 2017, and received an Associate of Social Science. My time in the HC was one of my most transformative educational opportunities to date. I was also an active member of Rotaract and Phi Theta Kappa, participated in Student Government, and worked for the college as a Student Ambassador. I transferred to Georgetown University and currently work in education consulting in DC. I am motivated to help start the HCAA because I am passionate about bringing resources and opportunities to community college students!



Chad Kwiwon Covin I was a member of the RVCC Honors College Class of 2017, and an alumni of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While at Raritan Valley, I double majored in Mathematics and Computer Science, and graduated from UNC with a degree in Applied Mathematics. I am currently a graduate student at North Carolina State University, earning my Master's in Analytics and Data Science. I am extremely excited to help grow the Honors College, create a network for the alumni

community, as well as give back to the current students.

Communication

Focused on promoting internal alumni awareness for HCAA and its activities. Coordinate content, compose emails, develop newsletters, and serve as the points of contact for alumni inquiries.

Bryan Picado I graduated from Raritan Valley Community College and the Honors College in 2013 with a degree in Business-Liberal Arts. I then transferred to Rutgers Business School - New Brunswick/Piscataway and graduated in 2015 with a degree in Accounting. I have worked at RVCC in the Advising and Counseling Office as well as a tutor at the Academic Support Center. And finally, since 2017, I have been working as an Accounts Payable Specialist at American Linehaul. I look forward to helping as many of my fellow Honors College students in their endeavors as well as my fellow alumni via the HCAA.



Alycia Hinrichsen I graduated from the Interior Architecture + Design program at RVCC in 2015. I've since pursued interests in data visualization, intersectional design, research writing, and gender studies as part of my Interior Design B.F.A at Pratt Institute, 2018. I currently work with a child psychology practice as an Intake Coordinator and content creator, developing written and graphic content for blog articles and other media use. I'm enjoying a fluid career path focused on skill building and self-education,

and excited to help current students and alumni discover new areas of interest and opportunity. In my spare time, I enjoy embroidery, thrifting antiques, and spending time with my three cats.



@rvcc.honorsalum



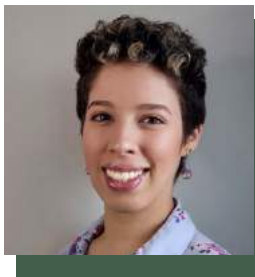
RVCC Honors College Alumni Association



rvcc.honorsalum@gmail.com

Social Media

Focused on managing content for social media platforms. Building public awareness of HCAA and developing content for posts.



Nicole Mondragon I started my college journey at RVCC and was a part of the Honors College graduating with my AS in Biology in 2016. I continued my education at Green Mountain College in Vermont and transferred once more to Rutgers University majoring in Exercise Science. My next step is to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy. When I am not studying, I teach yoga and run an online business selling jewelry. As a social media coordinator, I cannot wait to share what the HCAA has in store for y'all! I am excited to connect with other Alumni and help current HC students on their journey!

Paige Hann I was a member of the RVCC Honors College Graduating Class of 2018. I then transferred to Yale University, where I completed my BA in Theater Studies. For my senior thesis at Yale, I created a virtual reality adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Upon graduation I began working as a Project Manager at Sunrise International, where I managed digital marketing, event planning, and US outreach for clients in the virtual and augmented reality space. I currently live in New York City, working as an actor.



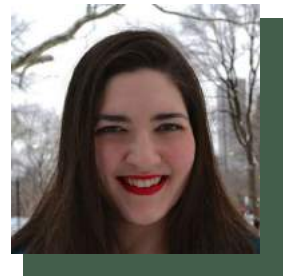
Leadership

Focused on planning HCAA meetings, events, and panels. Spearheading coordination efforts through agenda development and role delegation.



Joey Toth I graduated from the RVCC Honors College in 2018 and transferred to UNC Chapel Hill as a chemistry major. Currently I volunteer as a youth lacrosse coach and work at Roche Molecular Diagnostics. I'm excited to work with the honors college students and strengthen their connection with the alumni organization!

Jill Carman After graduating from the RVCC Honors College in 2013, I transferred to Fordham University-Lincoln Center and graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in History. Before starting my current role at Prudential, I worked as a Legal Analyst at BNP Paribas and as a Legislative Aide for the New Jersey State Assembly (where I also interned while at RVCC). I wasn't sure where my career would take me, and it's still an adventure today, but all of my experiences prepared me for any career challenges. In my spare time I enjoy yoga, running, museums, and reality TV. Any given day, you can find me trying a new coffee shop or restaurant when I'm not home being a dedicated cat & dog parent.



Ian Origenes I graduated from RVCC in 2020 with my AS in both Pre-Medical Professions & Biomedical Engineering. I am currently a rising senior at Rutgers University studying Biomedical Engineering. As of now I am a Residential Teaching Assistant for the Governor's School of Engineering and Technology at the Rutgers School of Engineering, and I am currently involved with research highlighting Public Health disparities during the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as nanoparticle fabrication for my Senior Design Project.

My hobbies include playing the piano, guitar, watching anime and keeping up with basketball & soccer.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

I came to the US when I was four from El Salvador. I was born shortly after the Civil War ended and traveled to the US with my mother. We took buses, trains, and even walked through Central America to get to the US. Shortly after leaving El Salvador, an earthquake hit my home country and caused mass destruction.

When I started school in the US my parents told me how we came to the US so that I could get a better education. I took

this very personally, as I didn't want to let my parents down and I wanted to excel. Navigating being a first generation college student, having two jobs to pay my tuition, and taking care of my younger siblings was a challenge, to say in the least.

I'm thankful to RVCC and the Honors College for allowing me to connect with many amazing people. I was able to graduate with my Associate's Degree in chemistry. I was able to receive scholarships not based

on my immigration status so that I would not be burdened terribly by loans. I was awarded the Pathways Scholarship and continued my education at Rutgers in New Brunswick.

I graduated May 2019 with my Bachelor's Degree in chemistry. I'm very proud to be a first generation college graduate and to have done so without any student loan debt. I've always wanted to pursue a career in fragrance and it makes me so happy to work at International

Flavors & Fragrances (IFF). I feel like this is my personal Wonka factory and it's always exciting to come into work and learn more everyday.

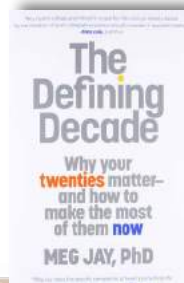


Emerson Villaran Calles



MEDIA HUB

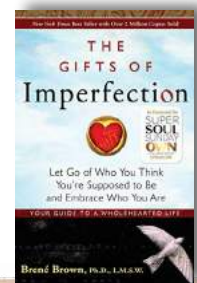
Looking to learn something new? Check out some of these media and entertainment recommendations.



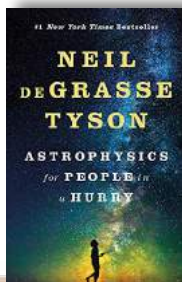
The Defining Decade
[Book]
from Jenna



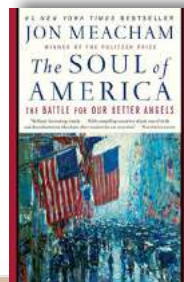
Unlocking Us
[Podcast]
from Jenna



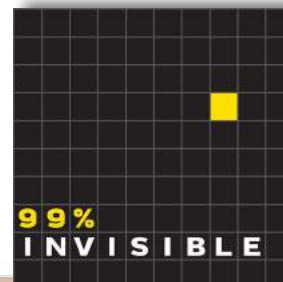
Gifts of Imperfection
[Book]
from Jenna



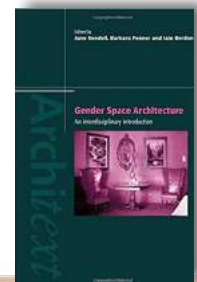
Astrophysics for People in A Hurry [Book]
from Bryan



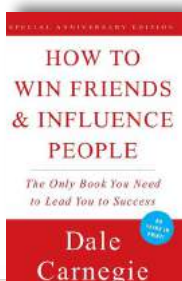
The Soul of America [Book]
from Bryan



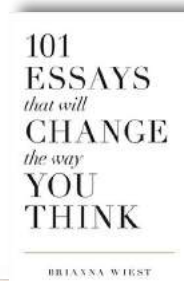
99% Invisible
[Podcast]
from Alycia



Gender Space Architecture [Book]
from Alycia



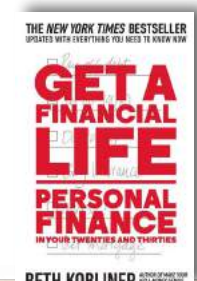
How to Win Friends and Influence People [Book]
from Ian



101 Essays
[Book]
from Ian



Gmorning, Gnight!
[Book]
from Paige



Get a Financial Life
[Book]
from Joey