

Ongoing and Signature Events

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The Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) organizes a variety of programs, where Livingston alumni can socialize and network, and celebrate the history and legacy of Livingston College. These programs include:

- Livingston Distinguished Alumni Awards and Livingston Legacy Awards
- Student-Alumni Speed Networking
- All-Alumni Theater Events
- Reunion (Alumni Weekend)
- Homecoming
- Community Service
- Livingston Legacy Lectures (2009-2010)
- Livi at 50 and Livingston College History Events (Since 2019)
- Alumni Talks: Careers, Life, and More
- Social Events

Would you like to help plan a program? Contact us.

Pictured, from left: LAA board members Yash Dalal, Jason Goldstein, and Tiffany (Torpey) Berg at Rutgers-New Brunswick's Homecoming game on September 29, 2007.

2019-20 Executive Board and Council

2019-2020 term (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020)

Officers

- President: Jeffrey Armus
- Vice Presidents: Rosemary Agrista, Stephen Yanick, Derek Young*
- Secretary: Iris Martinez-Campbell

LAA Executive Council: Rosemary Agrista, Carla Alexander-Reilly, Jeffrey Armus, Joseph Capo, Jason Goldstein, Iris Martinez-Campbell, Eric Schwarz, Stephen Yanick, Derek Young*.

(*Derek Young passed away on March 22, 2020.)

2018-19 Executive Board and Council

2018-2019 term (July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019)

Officers

- Eric Schwarz, President
- Jeffrey Armus, Treasurer
- Iris Martinez-Campbell, Secretary

LAA Executive Council

- Rosemary Agrista
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- Jason Goldstein
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- Eric Schwarz
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- Derek Young

Timeline of Livingston College and Livingston Campus

Livingston College history (overview)

- 1964 Rutgers acquires 540 acres of the former Camp Kilmer base from the federal government. The base was named for Joyce Kilmer, a New Brunswick poet who was killed in action while serving in the New York National Guard during World War I.
- 1965 The Rutgers Board of Governors (BOG) names the first of three colleges planned on the Kilmer property, for William Livingston, who served as New Jersey's first governor from 1766 to 1790.
- 1965-1973 Ernest A. Lynton is the first Dean of Livingston College. Lynton led a number of curriculum innovations, including the establishment of majors in computer science, African-American studies, urban studies and

comparative literature. He also started programs in city and regional planning, and anthropology at Livingston.

- 1969 Livingston College opens in September, with about 700 students. Nearly one in three students was a minority, and students were included as voting members of the college assembly. Students in the new Organization for Black Unity (OBU), with the college's permission, designated House 25 in the Quad II dormitory as the "Malcolm X house." Quads I and III were built but not yet open.
- 1970-1971 The college establishes intercollegiate men's baseball and football teams, as well as a cheerleading squad and a co-ed intramural baseball program.
- 1970 Tillett Hall opens in the spring as the college's main academic building, including a campus center and a dining hall. A student newspaper, The Medium, debuts in October. Previous campus newspapers were titled Mudslide, Fango, and General Motors.
- 1971 Livingston College students begin AM radio station. Kilmer Area Library opens.
- 1972 North and South Towers dorms open. New Academic Building (later named Lucy Stone Hall) opens.
- 1973 Livingston College graduates its first full four-year class of 500 students. The graduates are approximately 80% white, 15% black, 3% Puerto Rican, and 2% Asian.
- 1973-1974 George Warren Carey serves as Acting Dean of Livingston College. On Nov. 5, 1973, a group of black students takes over Carey's office. The students demanded the resignation of the dean of student affairs and a reconstitution of student services on campus. Four days later, 350 black, white and Puerto Rican Rutgers University students pack the BOG meeting to support the demands of Livingston's black students.
- 1974-1977 Emmanuel George Mesthene serves as Dean of Livingston College.
- 1975-1976 Livingston College Association of Graduates (LCAG) is formed. Renamed as Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) in 1988.
- 1977 Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) opens with a men's basketball victory over rival Seton Hall. Today it is home to the Rutgers men's and women's basketball, wrestling, and gymnastics programs, as well as hosting other events. Renamed as Louis Brown Athletic Center in 1986, renamed back to RAC in 2019, and renamed Jersey Mike's Arena in 2021.
- 1977-1990 W. Robert Jenkins serves as Dean of Livingston College.
- 1980 The BOG merges the faculties of the liberal arts schools in New Brunswick into two main groups – the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty of Professional Studies. The reorganization largely mutes Livingston's academic autonomy.
- 1986 Livingston Student Center (LSC) opens.
- 1990-1993 Walton R. Johnson serves as Dean of Livingston College.
- 1990 BOG renames Towers dorms for Lynton. The LAA honors its first Livingston Pride Award winner. The award continues to honor graduating seniors from Rutgers-New Brunswick colleges each year.
- 1991 BOG votes to rename campus from "Kilmer" to "Livingston," ending a

yearlong struggle by Livingston College students to strengthen their school's identity.









- 1993-2007 Arnold G. Hyndman serves as the final Dean of Livingston College.
- 1999 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, the first production of the Livingston Theatre Company, opens.
- 2000 Livingston's radio station, RLC-WVPH (The Core), in partnership with Piscataway High School, begins broadcasting at 90.3 FM. The LAA honors its first four Livingston College Distinguished Alumni.
- 2007 Rutgers merges Livingston, Rutgers, Douglass, and University colleges in New Brunswick into the School of Arts and Sciences, and Livingston College officially ends. Currently enrolled students are permitted to complete their degrees as Livingston graduates until 2010.
- 2009 The LAA gives its first Livingston Legacy Awards to three faculty members.
- 2010 A renovated and expanded LSC has a grand reopening. Livingston College holds its final commencement.
- 2011 Livingston Dining Commons opens.
- 2012 The Livingston Apartments open.
- 2013 The Plaza, a retail center that includes a movie theater and several eateries, opens. The Rutgers Business School-New Brunswick building opens.
- 2017 Kilmer Area Library renamed for James Dickson Carr, the first African-American graduate of Rutgers College.
- 2019 RWJBarnabas Health Athletic Performance Center opens.

Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance (RAAA), Inc. Hall of Fame


The following Livingston College alumni have been inducted into the Rutgers African-American Alumni Alliance (RAAA), Inc. Hall of Fame:

- 2007: Aliya S. King, LC'94
- 2019: Vaughn L. McKoy, LC'90, NLAW'93
- 2019: Victoria Pratt, LC'94, NLAW'98 (*Rutgers* magazine profile)
- 2020: Vesta Godwin Clark, LC'81
- 2020: Dr. Beverly Lynn, LC'75
- 2020: Julius W. Robinson Jr., LC'95
- 2020: Dr. Claudia V. Schrader, LC'90
- 2021: Dr. Yetunde A. Odugbesan-Omede, LC'09

Aliya S. King, Vaughn L. McKoy, Victoria Pratt, Vesta Godwin Clark,
LC'94 LC'90, NLAW'93 LC'94, NLAW'98 LC'81

			
Beverly Lynn, LC'75	Julius W. Robinson Jr., LC'95	Claudia V. Schrader, LC'90	Yetunde A. Odugbesan-Omede, LC'09
			

Eshan Kaul, Aspiring Medical Doctor, Co-Founded Tutoring Program for Elementary School Students; Honored with 2019 Livingston Pride Award

Eshan Kaul (SEBS'19), an aspiring medical doctor from Green Brook, New Jersey, has been named as the 2019 recipient of the **Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award**, given by the Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) of Rutgers University-New Brunswick. 

Kaul earned a Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers' School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) in May 2019, as an Honors College scholar, with a major in Biological Sciences and a minor in Psychology. At the same time, he completed his first year of study at Rutgers' Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), under a seven-year Rutgers-RWJMS BA/MD program. He plans to earn a master's degree in Public Health at Rutgers, before graduating as a medical doctor in 2022.

While Kaul has excelled in academics at Rutgers, he has also served as a role model for his fellow students and for elementary school students in New Brunswick. In 2016 he was one of the co-founders of Access to Education (A2E), a Rutgers-led tutoring program for pupils in first, second, and third grades at New Brunswick's Roosevelt Elementary School.

In his award essay, Kaul writes that the odds were stacked against him and his colleagues founding A2E, with officials from Rutgers, the city, and the school district saying that he was too idealistic.

"To our surprise and joy A2E was a smooth success, and we received lots of positive feedback from the kids, teachers, and volunteers alike," Kaul wrote.


“Personally though, I took the most pride in connecting with one of the “troublemaker” students Joshua. He was quite the rascal, but I never did stop laughing when I was around him. By the end of the semester, Joshua would start his homework without being told, could read the descriptions on all his Pokémon cards, and even picked up other people’s trash. That is my pride: by not giving up, Joshua and I were able to become friends, and both of us are better people because of the other.”

The A2E tutoring program is a program of Rutgers’ Youth Empowerment Club (YEC), which partners with the New Brunswick-based nonprofit organization Youth Empowerment Services (YES). YES was founded in 2003 and provides after-school activities, summer camps, and mentoring programs for at-risk youth in New Brunswick. Kaul previously served as YEC’s President, and currently serves on the board of YES.

During his undergraduate career, Kaul traveled to several locations to gain a better understanding of important global issues: food insecurity and educational inequality in Tulsa, Oklahoma; health, well-being, culture and social inclusion in Thailand; and the impact of immigration on education and American society in Boston.

At home, he co-founded a Rutgers group called Knights Table, as a means to improve civil discourse, and helped draft legislation to remove health-risking philosophical and religious exemptions for vaccines in New Jersey.

His medical research includes studying the effects of medical student volunteering on nonprofit organizations, and cancer immunotherapy physiology in T cell receptor cross reactivity using antigenic peptides under Dr. Andy Zloza.

 Kaul writes that he has “a lot of Rutgers pride – perhaps a little too much – and I’m not afraid to wear it on my sleeve. For example, I can tell you important dates in Rutgers history and my email signature is ‘In Rutgers Spirit.’ ”

With this Rutgers pride comes a commitment: “When you walk down George Street, you’ll hit the beautifully designed Honors College, the immensely green quad and flower beds of Voorhees Mall, until suddenly you hit the train station, with its ever-present wet walls and crumbly staircases.

“With this in mind, it’s important to remind ourselves of the fact that Rutgers is a land grant institution, and how it is part of our mission to perform public service in support of the needs of the citizens of the state. But I would argue it’s more than that: we are members of the Rutgers community, nay the greater New Brunswick community, and it is our duty to be active citizens who want to support our neighbors as best we can.”

The Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award has been given annually since 1990 by the Livingston Alumni Association (LAA) to the Rutgers-New Brunswick graduating senior who most embodies the spirit of Livingston College and its attributes of

leadership and social action. Livingston College is a former undergraduate college of Rutgers which was merged into the School of Arts and Sciences in 2007.

Riki E. Jacobs (1957-2009) was the director of the Hyacinth Foundation, an AIDS support organization, among many roles she fulfilled to assist vulnerable populations, and also was one of LAA's first Livingston College Distinguished Alumni, honored in 2000.

Bottom photo: Eshan Kaul (right) talks with NJTV correspondent Michael Hill in 2017, about Kaul's work with Youth Empowerment Services.

Felice C. Ronca, Assistant Dean for Curriculum at Livingston College, Remembered

Felice C. Ronca, who was assistant dean for curriculum at Rutgers University's Livingston College, died March 23, 1996, after a long illness. Ronca lived in Highland Park, New Jersey, at the time of her death. She had previously served as coordinator of the Livingston College Honors Program and the Paul Robeson Scholars Project. She also taught comparative literature at Douglass and Livingston colleges. A memorial service for Ronca was held at Rutgers' Kirkpatrick Chapel.

The following text appeared in the 1996 Livingston College Commencement program:

*This Twenty-Seventh Commencement Convocation is dedicated to the memory of
Dean Felice C. Ronca*

Dr. Felice C. Ronca served as Assistant Dean for Curriculum at Livingston College from 1994 to 1996, and from 1987 to 1994 she was the Coordinator of the Livingston College Honors Program and the Paul Robeson Scholars Project. During her tenure at Rutgers University, she also taught in the English and Comparative Literature departments, and was well known as a dynamic teacher who instilled in her students a passion for learning and intellectual exploration. She guided countless students through the College Honors Program, and assisted many more with her compassionate nature, keen wit, and brilliant ability to advocate for them. Dr. Ronca earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Rutgers University, and was the author of numerous articles on literary

subjects, including the works of Virginia Woolf, Baudelaire, Ezra Pound, and Jacob Tonson. She is also the co-editor of a forthcoming book, entitled The Scholar's Art: A Festschrift for John O. McCormick. A memorial scholarship has been established in Dr. Ronca's name.

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Parents Association Award

The Livingston College Parents Association honored 36 of the college's students from 1976 to 2007. In most years, one student was honored, though in some years the association honored multiple students. No awards are listed for 1985 and 1986.

A plaque which formerly was showcased at the Livingston Student Center included the following text:

The Parents Association of Livingston College do [sic] hereby acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the following students whose efforts resulted in national recognition to Livingston College, Rutgers University.

Cy Rubin, President

Donated by Livingston College Parents Association

May 6, 1976

The honorees were:

1976: Paul Sellers, Basketball
1977: Martha N. Smith-Higginbotham, English
1977: John Alexander, Football
1977: Nate Toran, Football
1978: Deborah O'Donnell, Psychology
1979: James Bailey, Basketball
1979: Scott A. Pearce, Chinese Studies
1980: Elizabeth Thompson, Psychology
1980: Angel Melendez, Sociology
1981: Mark M. Karelson, Political Science
1981: Susan J. Kozel, Labor Studies
1982: Gita Sargrad, Psychology
1983: Barbara M. Hagin, Journalism

1984: Robert A. Stewart, Political Science
1987: Liza Kirschenbaum, English/Political Science
1988: Christopher B. Wilkinson, English
1989: Maritza D. Berdote, Political Science/English
1989: Mark B. Wilson, Journalism & Mass Media/History
1990: Paul F. Nyfenger, Marketing
1991: Julie Ann Traxler, English/Journalism
1992: Daniel Matthew Perez, Political Science/English
1993: Robert Louis Callahan, English
1994: Jonathan F. Weiss, Political Science/Journalism & Mass Media
1995: Jennifer Georgette McNulty, Psychology
1996: Alexis A. Higgins, Psychology
1997: Grisel Senande, Political Science
1998: Kayon Williams, Psychology
1999: Megan Chance, Psychology
2000: Bethany Strong, Social Work
2001: Nicole Lieb, Communication
2002: Julie Lynn Ciemnomolonski, Biology
2003: Mighty Fine, Urban Studies
2004: Alissa Strong, Communications
2005: Vicky Chen, Finance
2006: Brian Matthew Offin, Psychology
2007: Lauren Dudzak, History/Labor Studies

2017-18 Executive Board and Council

2017-2018 term (July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018)

Officers

- Eric Schwarz, President
- Jeffrey Armus, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer
- Debra O'Neal, Vice President

LAA Executive Council