

A Psychology Student Examines the Impact of Stigmatizing Experiences

My courses at

Jonathan Vides studies race, gender, and ethnicity

nathan Vides has long been fascinated by e human brain, and by issues of race

So the School of Arts and Sciences senior lesigned an ideal undergraduate program. He's majoring in psychology and minoring in both Latino and Caribbean studies and women's and gender tudies. He plans an academic career that will fuse nese topics into an integrated field of study.

"I want to pursue psychology and find a way to incorporate social concepts such as race," Vides says. "What's oing on in the brain when we look at race and gender? Why do we see ourselves as so different from one Rutgers have changed another, and what are the neural processes that push

me completely. Vides said his academic nterests were shaped by his own life. The son of a Dominican mother and a Salvadoran father, Vides grew up in New Brunswick very aware of his Latino immigrant background and insatiably curious about the asting impact that the experience might have on nim and others.

"I am trying to understand my own reality through a scientifically grounded perspective," he says. "How do experiences of stereotyping, social exclusion, or alienation affect us psychologically?

What are the things that are holding us back that

Vides, working with Diana Sanchez, a professor in the Department of Psychology, is conducting research that directs those questions to other communities His current project examines how women of color respond to stigmatizing experiences.

"Ultimately, we want to understand how we can help ameliorate the effects of a stereotype in historically threatening environments,'

> While psychology remains his primary focus, Vides says he'll leave Rutgers empowered and inspired by the courses he took in his two minors. Latino and Caribbean studies helped him become more fully vested in his own history, while

women's and gender studies provided what he describes as the intellectual "glue" he needed to develop his theories.

He feels especially grateful to professors Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel and Carlos Decena, who have faculty appointments in both departments, and who inspired him to examine the role of race, ethnicity, and gender in his experience

"Honestly, the courses I have taken here at Rutgers have changed me completely," he says. ROUNDUP

Things You May Not Know about the School of Arts and Sciences

Liliana Sánchez, Strong Supporter of Heritage Language Rights, **Receives Human Dignity Award**

I think of language as a human right," says Liliana Sánchez,

a professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

in the **School of Arts and Sciences**. "We all have a

our heritage, our knowledge, and who we are."

that right by creating programs that support heritage

language speakers and empower their teachers.

In Peru, she helped develop assessment tools for schools in rural communities so

including those who speak indigenous languages like Quechua.

access within Rutgers or in partnership with community organizations.

languages as critical to social cohesion and human rights.

(IECME), which he established in 1996 at Rutgers-Newark.

SAS.RUTGERS.EDU

"Spanish for Business."

teachers can more effectively serve students from a wide range of language backgrounds,

At Rutgers, she has worked with colleagues to develop new programs for the growing

Spanish, and an array of online classes such as "Spanish for the Health Professions" and

Last spring, Sánchez received one of Rutgers University's most cherished honors, the

Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award for commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity, and

The award recognized her work advancing the study of Spanish-English and Quechua

bilingualism, and for championing heritage language rights and advocating for world

"I am a linguist by training, and my initial interest was in the description of the

languages," she says. "You continue with your interests, but you realize that cannot be

The Human Dignity award was named in honor of the late beloved and eminent Rutgers

founding director of The Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience

Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor Clement A. Price, historian and

protections for the loss of minority languages. There is no language rights bill."

all. You're a human being. You see a community with needs, and you respond. There are no

number of heritage Spanish speakers, including a certificate program in academic

right to preserve our language as an inviolable part of

Working in communities and classrooms from

New Brunswick to Peru, Sánchez has sought to protect

to Rutgers for New Student Orientation as Arts and Sciences prepares to welcome about 3,700 new first-year students. The group above took a time-out from their crash course on Rutgers to discuss their hopes and plans for the next four years. From budding doctors and nurses to that great way to head out into the Arts and Sciences—undecided!—these students are all on the same page when they discuss the reasons they chose Rutgers. It's unanimous. They wanted: a wide range of academic choices, a diverse campus, and multiple opportunities to get involved with the university community. Learn more at sas.rutgers.edu/2021.

ARTS AND SCIENCES WELCOMES 10TH CLASS!



ARTS & SCIENCES

Zain Khan, Sarah Garcia, Leah Graham, Emily Fung, Ananya Girish.

NARRATING EDISON'S LIFE AND WORK THROUGH HIS DOCUMENTS



The Thomas A. Edison Papers Project at Rutgers is one of the most ambitious editing projects ever undertaken by an American university. For decades, the 5 million pages of documents that chronicle the extraordinary achievements of Thomas Alva Edison remained inaccessible to the general public. Since 1978, a team of editors/scholars has been turning this incomparable trove into a premier educational resource. The project is producing digital and book editions of Edison documents that provide a deep understanding of Edison's life and career. Based

on this intensive research, the project has developed curriculum that examines the themes and processes of invention and innovation through the development of Edisonian technologies. Sponsors include the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Historical Publication and Records Commission, National Park Service, and New Jersey Historical Commission. Visit edison.rutgers.edu to explore the available resources online.

SCARLET SPEAKERS: IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN

The Rutgers **School of Arts and Sciences** launched a new speaker series for alumni that brings Rutgers leaders to them. The first two speakers were former Rutgers Law School Dean and current Rutgers Special Counsel John Farmer presenting "The Past and Future of the American Intelligence Community" and Lenny Kaye RC'67 presenting "Fifty Years of Rock and Roll and Rutgers

Join Executive Dean Peter March in New York City when Colonel Jack Jacobs RC'66 GSNB'72 and Melcher Chair of Humanities and Public Affairs at the US Military Academy and NBC News analyst presents "The Mess in Washington

The National Arts Club, New York City RSVP by October 3: sas.rutgers.edu/RUNYO



Her Rutgers Years Paved the Way to NYC and Career in Finance

Betsy McNeilly helps Rutgers provide access and opportunity

lizabeth "Betsy" Armstrong McNeilly was crushing it in her first year at Rutgers. Armed with a 4.0 GPA, this hard-working daughter of Irish immigrants was mulling a bold move: transferring to an Ivy League school.

She applied to Cornell University, seeking to follow in the of the big picture influences on wealth creation, including footsteps of two older sisters, and was accepted.

Then she had a realization. Her goal had always been to get to a school where she'd be surrounded by lots of smart, talented, and highly-motivated students.

She realized she was already attending one. "In my first year at Rutgers, I met all these impressive students who were the valedictorians at their high schools," says McNeilly RC'85. "It dawned on me that I was already around all these super smart, incredibly hard-working people.

At Rutgers, anywhere else." Indeed, the year she graduated, I learned skills I rely McNeilly (formerly Armstrong) landed nearly 80 job interviews and on to this day. numerous job offers in the New York

area through Rutgers career services. But the keeper was an invitation by JP Morgan Chase, formerly Chemical Bank, to join its prestigious credit training program—the equivalent of today's intensely

competitive investment bank training programs on Wall Street. By her late 20s, McNeilly was managing a credit team at Chemical Bank, and by her 30s she was a CFO at a large, privately-civic affairs, including at Rutgers, where she serves on

Mellon, one of the nation's largest wealth management firms. Looking back on it all, McNeilly credits her family, in

"My mother was the original tiger mom," she says. "She knew instinctively that education was the basis for

At Rutgers, McNeilly built on that foundation in two principal ways. As an economics major, she gained broad knowledge government policy, politics, and global finance trends, and how human behavior shapes outcomes. She also learned how to think critically and extrapolate that knowledge

She put those skills to good use. At BNY Mellon, she is a national leader in new business development. "You have to understand factors influencing the global

economy, whether interest rates or market bubbles, to anticipate business cycle booms and busts," she says. "My clients appreciate my extensive investment knowledge, but they also

commitment to their financial goals and personal legacy."

She also said the Rutgers experience encouraged self-reliance and a kind of true grit. "Here I was at this university with enormous resources," she says. "But it was up to me to find them and make them work for me. It was very valuable to be your own change agent, to learn how to be

Betsy McNeilly RC'85

"And those are skills I rely on to this day." McNeilly is extensively involved in community and

in the history of Rutgers University. Carrying on the tradition set by Rutgers, Livingston, Douglass, and University colleges, the School of Arts and Sciences emerged as an institution dedicated to a broad-based liberal arts education. In the interview below, Executive Dean Peter March reflects on the school's development over the last decade and its plans for the next 10 years.

A: In 2006, Rutgers adopted the Transformation of Undergraduate Education, the formal act creating the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) from the union of the four undergraduate colleges, Rutgers, Douglass, Livingston, and University. So, the following fall of 2007 the first students were admitted into this new school.

Q: How big a change was the Transformation of Undergraduate Education

education at Rutgers was traditionally handled through a confederation of quasiautonomous colleges. Now it's strongly organized around the academic disciplines, like most of our peer schools in the Big Ten and the majority of public research universities. It leaves us in very good company, and well-equipped to achieve excellence in the school's departments, programs, and core curriculum.

University College. We've integrated these legacies into a single vision for the new school.

Meanwhile, we've harmonized our core strengths: teaching, research, and service. A strong connection and overlap among all three is now embedded in the school's structure, providing opportunities for all students from undergraduates to post-docs.

One of the hallmarks of the historic colleges—student access to top scholars, including our most renowned research professors—remains a central value of the School of Arts and Sciences. This constant interaction is a testament to the dedication our faculty have to their students.

What do you see as its role in the greater Rutgers community and beyond? A: I see it as leadership. The School of Arts and Sciences now speaks as the central core of liberal arts at Rutgers, and is building relationships with law, business, and engineering as well as other schools that are beneficial to students in both settings

and will lead to innovation in teaching and research. We are also expanding our impact in the world by developing partnerships with Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and organizations in the public and private sectors.



Q: What's next for the School of Arts and Sciences? **A:** We continue on our path of tradition, innovation, and access, but now we're turning outward and telling the world who we are. We developed our strategic plan Excellence, *Opportunity, Leadership* which set forth our mission, values, and priorities.

We are also using the scale and complexity of our school to our advantage. There's a lot of exciting developments from new facilities like the chemistry and College Avenue academic buildings to new programs in big data, genetic counseling, and public history. Our new career explorations initiative connects students to alumni who help them reflect and think through key life questions to determine their future.

So essentially we are embracing our history and looking forward. I think we are in a very good place right now. The goal of the school has always been to be the best liberal arts institution in the nation. I would express that goal in terms of our alumni: There are 200,000 Rutgers liberal arts alumni, the vast majority of whom attended the historic colleges. We at Arts and Sciences want to be the focal point of their pride in Rutgers so that when they The School of Arts and Sciences is a public trust that can contribute to the world in look at SAS, they see the strengths, values, and commitment of their own alma maters.

"Most people, understandably, don't spend a lot of time thinking about the interactions between infinitesimal protein molecules in the body," Baum says. (continued inside) SAS.RUTGERS.EDU

Inside a Rutgers Lab,

a Student Learns About Her

Illness and Finds Her Calling

llysa Kemraj was in high school when doctors

diagnosed her with a rare genetic disorder.

"I was looking for research opportunities that would be a good fit,"

says the senior from Roselle, New Jersey. "Then I found this lab, and I was

Kemraj is an undergraduate research assistant in a lab run by Jean Baum, a

professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in the School

of Arts and Sciences. Baum studies the interactions of proteins in the body

and their role in Parkinson's disease and other types of illnesses, including

EDS, and a disease that affects patients receiving long-term dialysis treatment.

Investigating how abnormal proteins

lead to disease

the body's connective tissue.

completely floored."

She soon began working in the lab.

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

RUTGERS At Rutgers, she was surprised—and thrilled—to find a research lab that explores the science associated with her illness, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a disease that affects

77 Hamilton Street

School of Arts and Sciences School of Arts and Sciences Rutgers University-New Brunswick New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Excellence in the Arts and Sciences

FALL/WINTER 2017

US POSTAGE PAID New Brunswick, NJ Permit 157

held company. She also found time to earn her MBA in finance the Rutgers University Foundation Board of Overseers. from New York University's Leonard N. Stern School of Business. She is also a strong supporter of the Rutgers Future Today she's a Senior Director of Wealth Management at BNY Scholars program. "Future Scholars is a great program because it brings compassion together with the strong belief that which she was the youngest of five children, with shaping her everyone can succeed if they're given the opportunity, ALUMNI PROFILE



SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

en years ago, the School of Arts and Sciences welcomed its first group of incoming students in what was one of the biggest changes

Q: The School of Arts and Sciences is often described as the oldest and the newest school at Rutgers. What does this anniversary commemorate?

in the scope of Rutgers history, which goes back 251 years?

A: It was a major, historic change, and we're still feeling the impact. Undergraduate

1: How does that structure help support and strengthen the liberal arts: A: Each college had its own institutional culture, values, and unique strengths. I'm speaking, for example, of the sense of innovation at Livingston; the historic and pioneering role of Douglass; the colonial heritage of Rutgers, and the expansion of access by

Q: The School of Arts and Sciences is now the largest school at Rutgers.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, religion, ancestry, pregnancy, genetic information, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, civil union status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, or any other category protected by law, in its admission programs, activities, or employment matters. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Judy Ryan, Universitywide Title IX Coordinator, Office of Enterprise Risk Management, Ethics, and Compliance (732-235-5304, judy.ryan@rutgers.edu); and Lisa Grosskreutz, Director, Office of Employment Equity, University Human Resources (848-932-3980, lisa.grosskreutz@rutgers.edu). For further information on the notice of nondiscrimination, you may contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, at 646-428-3900 or OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.

Photo credits: Nick Romanenko, Kara Donaldson, Roy Groething, courtesy of The Thomas Edison Papers Project and Jack Jacobs

Inside a Rutgers Lab, a Student Learns About Her Illness and Finds Her Calling

"But when the interactions are disrupted of altered, serious illness can result."

Baum's lab uses sophisticated instrument to study proteins at the atomic level. And that helps break new ground on illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, in which researchers have discovered proteins tha fold abnormally and form long chains called fibrils.

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, meanwhile, refers to a group of disorders that include loose joints, stretchy skin, and excessive scar formation. These illnesses are linked to flawed collagen molecules, the most abundant protein in the body.

In high school, Kemraj noticed she wa sustaining an inordinate number of inju such as dislocations and torn ligaments. "I played soccer and ran track," she says. "I thought maybe it was growing pains."

But then she began suffering from fainting spells and nausea. She and her family eventually went to the Mayo Clinic where doctors said she had EDS. Although she has a moderate form of the disease, Kemraj battles symptoms that include gastro-intestinal dysmotility, fatigue, and heart palpitations and arrhythmia. She makes frequent hospital visits. During her sophomore year at Rutgers, she sustained two ruptured discs in her back and required extensive medical attention and rehabilitation.

"I am lucky because when I go for medical care, I am able to leave the hospital and resume my life," she says. "But that is not true for a lot of patients with EDS and other genetic disorders."

Kemraj spends up to 20 hours a week in the Baum lab, working under Cody Hoop, a scientist who studies collagen illnesses like brittle bone disease. Hoop's EDS research is supported by the American Heart Association because the disease in its most serious form can affect blood vessels and cause aortic aneurisms and ruptures.

For Kemraj, working so closely with her own illness is both an educational and "I'll be reading the medical literature and I'm, like, 'Yup, that's what's going on in

my body," she says. "It's a little scary, but most of the time, it's fascinating." Scientists studying proteins, a field known as structural biology, say their work offers hope for patients, particularly through drug discovery.

"If you know the shape of a protein and know the shape of a drug molecule



Post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduates work together with faculty on research that uses nuclear magnetic

hat's acting on that protein, you've got a good foundation from which to vork to improve that drug," says Andy Nieuwkoop, a professor in the chemistry and chemical biology department.

Both Baum and Nieuwkoop oversee research teams that use nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers nstruments that allow them to examine roteins at the atomic level. Protein amples are placed in a powerful nagnetic field and bombarded with adio waves so that they send out distinct requencies. Researchers use those signals o build models that show the location of each atom.

"They're like MRIs, except for proteins rather than people," says Nieuwkoop, whose team studies proteins and cell membranes, an emerging area that has

implications for cancer and other diseases. "The equipment we have at Rutgers is as good as anywhere in the world," he

says. "The technological advancements have gotten to the point where we can do experiments we could only dream about 10 years ago."

The field attracts talented researchers, both graduate and undergraduate, who are drawn to the human health mission and eager to work with the NMR technology.

"I was drawn to the Baum lab because of its theme of protein-to-protein interaction," says Hoop, a post-doctoral fellow who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine. "It's important to understand how these interactions happen so that we can design drugs that can encourage or discourage interactions that may be connected to disease.'

Tamr Atieh, a chemistry major as a Rutgers undergraduate and now a graduate student, says the study of proteins is an increasingly influential field.

"A lot of the new drugs coming out are proteins," he says.

Kemraj, meanwhile, said the Baum lab has had a major influence on her plans. She wants to go for an M.D./Ph.D. and devote her life to studying collagen and

"I want be a doctor and a specialist who can look my patients in the eye and say, 'I, too, know what it's like to have a chronic illness. And I'm going to do everything



NEUROSCIENTISTS SEEK ANSWERS TO ANTIDEPRESSANT PARADOX

Why do commonly prescribed drugs help some patients but not others?

commonly prescribed drugs in America. More than one in 10 people—age 12 and over take medications such as Prozac, Zoloft, Wellbutrin, and Effexor. The prevalence of antidepressants is felt across the culture, inspiring books such as Listening to Prozac and Coming of Age on Zoloft and fueling debates across medical and patient communities about how best to treat depression

One issue facing those who decide to take an antidepressant is simply finding the right one—a potentially challenging and confounding experience. "Each of these drugs only works on a subset of patients says Benjamin Samuels, a professor in the Department of Psychology in the **School of Arts and Sciences**. "And there is no way to predict who is going to respond to which drug. Most psychiatrists simply try one drug first, and if that doesn't work, they prescribe drug number two and then drug number three

"It's guesswork."

Samuels, a neuroscientist, would like to reduce or remove the element of guesswork for both patients and providers. His research explores the circuitry of the brain and how different mechanisms may trigger a response or not—to widely-used antidepressants such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). By shedding light on the complex reactions in the brain, Samuels aims to build a body of knowledge to spur improved treatments as well as more accurate ways of predicting which drugs will work Samuels and his team study the neural differences—such as for which patients.

"We could eventually come up with totally new approaches to treating depression," he says. "We could develop personalized treatment strategies that directly



Alex Garino, an undergraduate member of Professor Samuels' research team, examines the circuitry of the brain to better understand the impact of antidepressants.

target circuits in each person's brain that are responsible

for their antidepressant response." Samuels recently received a five-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for a study entitled "Molecular and Neural Circuitry Mechanisms Underlying Antidepressant Treatment Resistance." He notes that approximately 32 to 35 million adults in the United States

memory, and emotion. In experiments with laboratory mice.

One intriguing finding is the presence of activin, a

experience an episode of major depression in their lifetime and only one-third experience a remission of symptoms following the first attempt at treatment. Working in a lab on Busch Campus at Rutgers University— New Brunswick, his research team examines the area of the brain known as the dentate gyrus, which is part of the hippocampus and is thought to play a critical role in learning,

the presence or absence of specific serotonin receptors and cellular signaling—between those that respond positively to antidepressants and those that do not.

peptide in the brain that gets released from one cell to another. "Generally, what we've seen is that there are nore receptors for activin in the dentate gyrus of those responding to Prozac," he said. "So in our experiment, we inject activin into the non-responders. And they start to look more like the responders.'

The team is also engaged in experiments that seek to identify biomarkers, or substances in the body, that would predict responses to antidepressants.

"By using biomarkers such as proteins, it may be possible to tell—before treatment is even started—how a patient may respond to a specific drug," says Christine Yohn, a graduate student in Samuels' lab.

Yohn and other students say they are drawn to the research because it reflects the ideal intersection of psychology and life sciences. "I've always wanted to pursue psychology, but my interest really was not in the clinical," says senior Emma Diethorn, a cognitive neuroscience major. "This lab's focus on the process and mechanisms of the antidepressant response is exactly what I'm interested in.

Sophie Shifman, also a senior, agrees. She's a cell biology and neuroscience major interested in medical or graduate school. "This lab is very hands-on," she says. "We're working everyday with the brain, learning how cells develop and proliferate, and I hope to apply what I have learned and possibly become a neurologist or psychiatrist.'

Samuels, who came to Rutgers in 2015, became interested in this research as a graduate student at Harvard University where he earned a Ph.D. in neurobiology.

"I've always been interested in how the brain controls behavior," Samuels says. "When it comes to depression and anxiety, there are still so many unanswered questions, with so many potential benefits."

SAS.RUTGERS.EDU

A POWERFUL MESSAGE FOR STUDENTS HEADING INTO HEALTHCARE

Eric LeGrand: "Do it for the patients, not the paychecks"

eniors in the Department of Kinesiology and Health are headed off in many want to become physical therapists. Many are also aspiring nurses, educators, athletic trainers, research scientists, and sports executives.

But the class of 2017 found a common source of inspiration in Eric LeGrand, the former Rutgers football player who suffered a devastating injury in a 2010 game and has become a widely admired figure for his resilience and faith.

LeGrand delivered a poignant message at the Student Center at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

"Look at me: I thought I would be in the NFL," said LeGrand, sitting in his motorized wheelchair facing a room packed with graduates, their families, and faculty and staff. "My life did not go as smoothly as I thought it would, but I am living it to the fullest. I'm not holding back, and neither

should you." LeGrand suffered a spinal cord injury and was paralyzed from the neck down, but he refuses to give up the hope that he will walk again. There is cause for optimism: he has regained movement in his shoulders and sensation in his body.

Meanwhile, LeGrand earned his degree, works as a sports broadcaster with Rutgers, and serves as a directions. Some plan to be doctors. Others motivational speaker as well as an advocate for

"Don't do the job for the paycheck; do it for

the patient," LeGrand said, offering advice to the students entering the healthcare profession. "Put department's senior celebration last May at the Cook yourself in their shoes. Accept their walk of life. If you can just be there for them, you will find it so rewarding. You will be

that person out."' Seeing Eric LeGrand

speak is a gift. t puts your whole lif therapy program at the University of Delaware. into perspective. "This is such a great message," she said. "At the end of the day, it's all about the

> patients and putting their lives first." Pablo Ortiz, of North Plainfield, New Jersey, agreed. Ortiz recently took his MCATS and will do a gap year before pursuing his goal of becoming a doctor specializing in sport-related knee and joint injuries. "Seeing Eric LeGrand speak is a gift," he said.

His appearance served as a fitting finale for students who pursued one of two undergraduate options: sports management, which emphasizes business; and applied kinesiology, which addresses the health sciences and the impact of exercise on both body and mind.

like: 'Wow, I really helped His words hit home for graduates like Andrea Banu who is planning to attend a physical

"It puts your whole life into perspective." Formerly known as exercise science and sport studies, the Department of Kinesiology and Health has been one of the fastest growing areas in the School of Arts and Sciences. "When I started nearly 30 years ago, there were

200 majors," said veteran faculty member Susan Kaplowitz. "Now there are almost 1,200 majors." Kaplowitz and department chair Labros Sidossis said the growth parallels the expansion

of the healthcare field, including specialties for the

elderly and the disabled, as well as the growth of

the sports industry.

Eric LeGrand was the featured speaker at the Department of Kinesiology and Health's senior event last May

"There is much greater awareness across society that physical activity promotes health," Sidossis said. "And as more people understand and value this, the need for our graduates will continue to rise." Sarah Chaudhry SAS' 17 said she entered Rutgers

thinking about going into biological sciences but quickly decided on kinesiology and health. "In this major, everything we learn is connected," she said. "You take what you learn in biology or in chemistry and you apply it to the body as

Challenging the Aesthetics of an Authoritarian Regime

An exhibition by an art history graduate student focuses on the Soviet Nonconformists

nna Rogulina was born in Russia, moved to the United States at age 10, and developed a ssion for art history and Russian studies as undergraduate at Vassar College.

"I pretty much had one foot in each department," she says. After earning her bachelor's degree, and working as an assistant curator, Rogulina felt ready to move more deeply world as it was undergoing tremendous change." into her field. She wanted to immerse herself in the Russian art that fascinated her, and build the advanced skills to thrive in the art world.

The path led to a doctoral program at Rutgers, where she studies under Jane Sharp, a noted scholar of Russian art in the Department of Art History in the School of Arts the Soviet tradition of setting aside one day a week for and Sciences. She also has access to the renowned Norton volunteerism, such as community cleanups—an idealistic the public. and Nancy Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union at the Zimmerli Art Museum

"It's amazing to be able to pursue my studies with Professor Sharp and have access to this collection," says Rogulina. "There is nothing else like it, not in Russia, not in any other country.

Rogulina recently curated an acclaimed exhibition that practice meant to promote socialism through labor. But drew from the Zimmerli's Dodge collection and shed new the devastating painting by Olga Grechina shows two light on the work of artists who risked their livelihoods and, in some cases, their lives in challenging the limits set on artistic expression by the Soviet Union.

The exhibition A Vibrant Field: Nature and Landscape in Soviet Nonconformist Art, 1970s-1980s continues through

The Dodge collection consists of some 20,000 pieces of nonconformist art created between 1956 and 1986 by nearly a thousand artists living in the Soviet Union. The collection is the largest of its kind in the world; the first donations to the Zimmerli began in 1991.

Rogulina selected about 60 pieces for her show, and break from the Socialist Realism style approved a number of interested spectators from across the region,

SAS.RUTGERS.EDU

by the Soviet government, which portrayed life under communism with heroic, optimistic grandeur.

"These are not the idyllic views of nature that the Soviet government would produce in their official imagery," she says. "My goal was to assemble a breadth of material that explores how artists related to the natural

Erik Bulatov's oil painting, Danger, for example, depicts a peaceful setting in the countryside disrupted by the Russian word for "danger" screaming out in red on

The title of another painting, Subbotnik, refers to

• There is nothing else like the Dodge Collection, not in Russia, not in any other country.

women overwhelmed by mountains of garbage. Two prints by Vello Vinn, meanwhile, offer a more coded commentary. Rogulina connects the prints to a protest movement in the late 1980s over Moscow's plan to expand mining for phosphates in northern Estonia.

The two prints—one showing Estonia trapped inside a candle and another in an hourglass—suggest that the country is merely a pawn of Moscow, Rogulina says. "Yet because Vinn embeds Estonia in vessels that

represent time passing, he suggests the possibility of change," she added. Rogulina recently presented the exhibit to the public in emphasizing works that present a dark depiction of nature an evening event that drew dozens of students as well as

"We focus on creating exhibitions that can be shared with the university and the wider public," Sharp says. "These exhibitions enable students to refine their research interests for their dissertations, while contributing invaluable material and insights into Dodge collection artworks."

including Irene Etkin Goldman DC'65, who was

"She put together a phenomenal show," Goldman

says. "I've seen a lot of these works from the Dodge

collection in different exhibits. And I think it's very

hopeful that young people can see something new

in them, develop their own ideas, and present fresh

Rogulina worked on the exhibition as a Dodge-

Lawrence Fellow, a program that supports graduate

students working with the Zimmerli's Russian and

Sharp says the program benefits both students and

a Russian studies major.

perspectives to the public.

Soviet art collections

"It was definitely an opportunity for me to carry out original research on the subject while working directly with the artwork," she says. The project also served as an indelible lesson in the empowering and redemptive role that art plays in repressive societies.

"These artists and their communities relied on this work for their survival—and their sanity," Rogulina says. "It really made me reflect on the social experience created through the arts and how it sustains these networks and communities.



Anna Rogulina, a graduate student in the Department of Art History, curated an acclaimed exhibition at the Zimmerli Art Museum that features the work of the Soviet Nonconformists In the oil painting shown to the left, even seemingly peaceful settings were not safe from

the "danger" of the Soviet state. Erik Bulatov

Danger, 1972-73

Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers Norton and Nancy Dodge Collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union © 2016 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris Photo Peter Jacobs

A Higher Purpose for Higher Education: **A Message from** the New Chancellor



Dear Members of the Rutgers Jniversity—New Brunswick It is my great pleasure to

oin this university as your ew Chancellor. There are few titutions that are as steeped istory and excellence as one, and I am honored Rutgers-New Brunswick and energized at the opportunit

Chancellor Debasish Dutta to lead the Rutgers flagship at a time of such achievement and growth. I am committed to advancing our university's collective mission of excellence in teaching, research, and service and so, I offer some of my perspective, experience, and excitement in joining the

I have a deep connection to American public and land-grant institutions, having served most recently at Purdue University and, prior to that, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and on the faculty at the University of Michigan where I served for twenty years. My path through these universities is purposeful-I fervently believe in the promise of public higher education and in the land-grant mandate of opportunit and accessibility. Today I am humbled to have the opportunity to lead Rutgers University-New Brunswic

A hallmark of our identity as a flagship public esearch university is our commitment to meeting the needs of citizens of the state, nation, and beyond. The expertise developed at Rutgers expands our understanding of the world, illuminating knowledge around the globe. Throughout its history, Rutgers has brought the leading edge discoveries of its distinguished faculty and vital contributions of its talented students to bear in addressing global issues and in impacting people's lives in meaningful ways—from underscoring the effects of climate change to leading transformational initiatives at the intersection of food, nutrition, and health; from engineering advances in biotic limbs to being at the forefront of a wide range of academic disciplines, from African-American history to women's and gender studies.

Applying the university's outstanding strengths in service of the public good—its innovative research, its vibran intellectual capital, its remarkable diversity, and moreand ensuring robust access to a full range of educationa opportunities for our citizens is the higher purpose of higher education, and I am proud to lead an institution

that continues to have this profound impact today. I am excited to be on the banks of the Raritan. I look forward to embracing with you the future opportunities for the university, and achieving even greater heights for Rutgers.

With gratitude, Deba Dutta

Chancellor, Rutgers University–New Brunswick

The School of Arts and Sciences is the largest academic unit at Rutgers University-New Brunswick providing a comprehensive liberal arts education to more than 20,000 undergraduates. The School upholds the tradition of excellence, first founded 251 years ago by Rutgers College, and continues the expansion of access to outstanding higher education created by Douglass, Livingston, and University Colleges. With 750 full-time faculty and 54 majors in the humanities, biological, mathematical, and physical sciences, and social and behavioral

sciences, Arts and Sciences offers programs of

unparalleled breadth and depth combining excellence

SAS.RUTGERS.EDU

in teaching with world-class research.

LIFE SCIENCES

SAS.RUTGERS.EDU