

THE SAM DRAPER HONORS
PROGRAM

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NEWSLETTER

THE HONORS BULLETIN





BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ARTS?

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF

The Outsiders

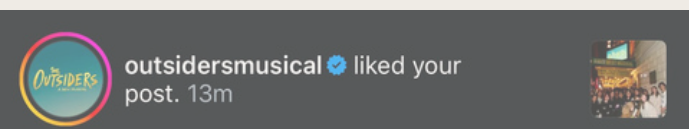


BY: NATALIA BENITEZ LEVINA

This past November, the honors students took a trip to New York City. After two rounds of voting in September, they chose to see the newly produced, Tony Award Winner for best musical *The Outsiders*. For many, this was their first time seeing a Broadway show, and the hour-and-a-half bus ride was filled with excitement and anticipation. After arriving, the students stopped at Junior's restaurant, a New York staple known for its renowned cheesecake and, as some noted, "big portions of food." This added a flavor to their Broadway outing. Some Asian food lovers did not find Junior's appealing, so they headed to grab some food on their own.

With appetites satisfied, they all proceeded to the Barnard B. Jacobs Theater to see *The Outsiders*. The almost two-and-a-half-hour performance kept the students particularly captivated by the dynamic youthful energy of the entire cast. This experience sparked an interest in many in seeing more Broadway shows on their own in the future.

Immediately after posting about the experience on the Honors Instagram, the post was reposted to the official musical account's story, along with the message, "We love seeing young people in the audience!"



MEET THE MENTORS

In the honors program we have amazing mentors that are meant to help you on your academic journey to success.



PETER ARVANITES

PETER ARVANITES HAS BEEN TEACHING MATHEMATICS AT RCC FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY SENATE SINCE 1989, SERVING AS VICE PRESIDENT/ SECRETARY FROM 1995 TO 1997, ACTING VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY FROM 2004 TO 2005, AND THEN PRESIDENT FROM 2005 TO 2009. IN 1994, HE BECAME THE HONORS MENTOR FOR STUDENTS PURSUING MATH, COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND ENGINEERING MAJORS. SINCE THEN, HE CONTINUES TO ENJOY WORKING WITH THE HONORS STUDENTS AND HELPING THEM TRANSFER TO PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS SUCH AS MIT, STANFORD, CORNELL, AND NYU. SINCE 1996, PETER HAS BEEN A CO-ADVISOR OF THE CHESS CLUB, BECOMING ADVISOR IN 2020. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, HE HAS SERVED ON MANY COMMITTEES SUCH AS THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE, COLLEGE RTP COMMITTEE, SABBATICAL LEAVE COMMITTEE, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE. PETER IS A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE PROFESSOR EMERITUS NOMINATING COMMITTEE. IN ADDITION, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CURRICULUM AND TRANSFER PATHWAYS WORKING GROUP OF THE SUNY TRANSFER TASK FORCE.

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CAMBRIDGE

Interview with Ariel Murtagh

By Valery Dutan



"I wouldn't change a thing; everything exceeded my expectations," said Ariel Murtagh, an English major and sophomore at Rockland Community College who spent last summer studying abroad at Cambridge University. From taking acting and literature courses to meeting passionate people of all different ages, Ariel's experience is one of a kind—and she wouldn't change a single moment.

The University of Cambridge's International Summer Program is a prestigious international learning experience that has existed for over a century and welcomes students worldwide. Held every summer, this 1-4 week program offers courses in literature, history, business, philosophy, and more. Students learn in small, seminar-type settings taught by current professors of Cambridge, and students enjoy cultural events, daily plenary lectures, and a chance to live and study on the university's historical campus.

Through a partnership, Rockland Community College offers its honors students the opportunity to study abroad at Cambridge. Participants can earn RCC credit and immerse themselves in an academic and cultural experience unlike any other offered by local community colleges.

Although Ariel was nervous when arriving in Cambridge, those feelings quickly went away as she settled into her daily schedule. One of the program's highlights was the required plenary lectures, given by individuals in specialized fields. These lectures were eye-opening and inspiring to Ariel, contributing even more to her wonderful experience. The courses she took for her time there were *The King's Family's Revenge* and *King Lear*, which were Shakespearean themed, as well as a course called *From Dramatic Text to Performance*. From reading stories like *As You Like It* by Shakespeare, this was a class that combined literature and theatre, with the opportunity to act in front of a live audience. "It was one of the most inspiring classes I've ever taken", she describes her Shakespeare class. She was fortunate enough to also meet people who were just as passionate and intelligent, coming from different walks of their life and educational journey. She described the campus as extraordinarily beautiful. "It's like Hogwarts" she joked, describing the historical yet stunning Cambridge campus. Ariel was able to embrace every aspect that Cambridge had to offer, from hearing live music and eating scones at garden tea parties and visiting excursions outside of the university, Ariel would not change a single thing about her time studying at the University of Cambridge.



"Cambridge really solidified my love for Shakespeare", she explained. She always had a passion for theatre and literature, but Cambridge gave her the chance to take classes and explore her passion from a deeper academic perspective, really solidifying her goals of becoming an actress and a writer. Perhaps most importantly, the experience gave her a new mindset. "Learning isn't limited to college—you can constantly be learning, like teaching yourself new things," she said. Ariel returned home with not just memories, but a drive to be a lifelong learner—always ready to challenge herself both creatively and intellectually.

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RONALD DE RAMON

RONALD DE RAMON IS A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES. HE HAS TAUGHT AT RCC SINCE 2008 AND BECAME A FULL-TIME PROFESSOR IN 2015. HE TEACHES ALL ACCOUNTING CLASSES OFFERED AS WELL AS MANY OTHER BUSINESS CLASSES. FOR MANY YEARS HE WAS THE MENTOR OF THE BUSINESS HONOR SOCIETY ALPHA BETA GAMMA ORGANIZING MANY INDUCTION DINNERS. HE HAS SERVED IN MANY COMMITTEES AT THE COLLEGE INCLUDING CURRICULUM, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES, LEARNING ASSESSMENT. HE SERVED ON THE FACULTY SENATE FOR EIGHT YEARS.

RONALD HAS A LOCAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM PROVIDING HUNDREDS OF CLIENTS WITH ACCOUNTING AND TAX PREPARATION SERVICES. HE HAS HELPED MANY LOCAL CHURCHES, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER CHARITIES WITH PRO BONO ACCOUNTING, PAYROLL AND TAX RETURN PREPARATION SERVICES.

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This section will discuss the many important events the honors program threw this year.

BEAR MOUNTAIN: LIFE AT THE FARM

During the fall, the honors students took a memorable trip to Bear Mountain to explore the zoo. It was a wonderful experience having everyone come together to enjoy the fresh air, connect with nature and admire the beauty of the animals. Laughter and smiles were shared throughout the day as the students strolled through the exhibits, bonding over fun facts and surprising animal encounters. From playful bears to majestic birds of prey each stop sparked curiosity and conversations. This trip wasn't just educational; it was also a chance for the students to relax and step away from their usual academic routine and appreciate the outdoors. Surrounded by friends and the beauty of wildlife allowed everyone to recharge and simply enjoy the moment. It was a day filled with learning, smiles and laughter. Since it was more than just a school outing, it became a cherished memory. A shared experience that brought everyone together. It was also a day that surely students will look back on with joy.

BY RUBY LEMA



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ELYSE FULLER

ELYSE FULLER HAS WORKED AT RCC SINCE 2004, TEACHING AND WORKING WITH STUDENTS. OVER THE YEARS, SHE HAS TAUGHT VARIOUS COURSES, MAINLY FOCUSING ON GENERAL BIOLOGY I & II. ELYSE HAS ALSO BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF SEVERAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS AT RCC. SOME OF HER MOST CHERISHED EXPERIENCES HAVE BEEN SERVING AS THE ADVISOR FOR THE ALPHA PHI SIGMA CHAPTER OF THE PHI THETA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR MANY YEARS, AS WELL AS CO-ADVISOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB AND CO-ADVISOR FOR BIOLOGY CLUB. SINCE 2018, SHE HAS BEEN AN HONORS MENTOR FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN BIOLOGY, HEALTH SCIENCES, PRE-MED, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, AND RELATED FIELDS. FURTHERMORE, SHE STARTED TEACHING GENERAL BIOLOGY I & II HONORS. APART FROM HER WORK AT RCC, ELYSE HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS FOR OVER 30 YEARS. SHE STARTED AS A CANDY STRIPER AT THE HOSPITAL IN HER HOMETOWN AND IS NOW VOLUNTEERING AS HER DAUGHTER'S GIRL SCOUT TROOP LEADER. ELYSE'S DAUGHTER, HUSBAND, HER LOVEABLE BUT WACKY BLACK LAB, AND HER PARENTS KEEP HER BUSY, AND SHE ENJOYS READING, LISTENING TO AUDIOBOOKS, COOKING, BAKING, AND BEING OUTDOORS.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: SUNDARI RUTH

Hello Honors Students! For this article I met with one of the Honors Alumni from the class of 2024. Sundari Ruth is one of my best friends and an incredible role model for honors and non-honors students alike. She's currently working on her undergraduate degree at Barnard College. Here's what she had to say about the RCC honors program, how it contributed to her immense success, and the journey she went through transitioning from community college to a prestigious university like Barnard.

Question:

"What motivated you to join the honors program at RCC?"

Answer:

"When I first started RCC I didn't know the honors program even existed, but after hearing about honors from one of my early admit friends, and all the guidance and support they offer students, I knew it was right for me."

Question:

"How did the Honors Program shape your academic journey?"

Answer:

"Being able to thrive in high rigor courses while getting a ton of excellent support from my professors and my mentors has helped me realize how capable I really am, and it's given me great confidence in my future goals."

Question:

"Were there any specific courses or professors that had a lasting impact on you?"

Answer:

"Dr. Nolan will always have a special place in my heart, she's helped me both academically and professionally and has pushed me to achieve my passions of helping others."

BY JULIAN GOLDSTEIN

Question:

"What was your experience like, transferring from the RCC honors program to Barnard?"

Answer:

"Like any sort of transition, it was a bit challenging. But I definitely feel like the Honors Program prepared me for certain trials by showing me how to reach out for support when needed and instilling a sense of confidence in me that I wouldn't have known without being in honors."

Question:

"What are some similarities between the RCC Honors coursework and the course work at Barnard?"

Answer:

"Taking Writing in the Discipline with Dr. Nolan was tremendously helpful in preparing me for the higher level writing courses at Barnard. The teaching methods Dr. Nolan used has not only guided me through writing assignments at Barnard but provided me with a deeper understanding of how to formulate academic papers."

Question:

"What was your biggest challenge transferring to Barnard?"

Answer:

"Assimilating into the social aspect of things was difficult, finding my friend group took a while but once I did it was incredibly uplifting."

Question:

"What advice would you give to an RCC honors student who is looking to transfer to a top school like the one you go to?"

Answer:

"My first piece of advice would be to take as many opportunities as you can at RCC, being a leader at RCC can provide you with so many skills that you can use in your professional career."

My second piece of advice is that wherever you may end up after RCC, this is the place that's lined up for you. So if you don't get into your dream school or if you don't end up doing what you think you should be doing, everything is going to work out."

It was incredible hearing all about Sundari and her inspiring experiences at RCC and Barnard. I want to thank her for coming up to do an interview and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

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ANDREW T. JACOBS

ANDREW T. JACOBS IS A COMMUNICATION STUDIES PROFESSOR WHO ALSO TEACHES GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES COURSES (GST PREFIX). HE IS THE DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS – THE COACH OF THE RCC SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM. WE COMPETE IN THE IMPROMPTU DEBATE LEAGUE (IDL) HE FOUNDED.

RECENT HONORS CLASSES HAVE INCLUDED: GST 20200 GENDER, SEX, & POWER GST 24000 SEX, POWER, & SOCIAL CHANGE SPE 22310 DIVERSITY IN AMERICAN SPEECH & LANGUAGE

ANDREW HAS CO-AUTHORED INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, CURRENTLY IN ITS 3RD EDITION) AND HAS WRITTEN ACADEMIC AND POPULAR PRESS PIECES ON THE RHETORIC OF IDENTITY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, DEBATE, POLITICS, AND OTHER TOPICS.

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Halloween's a Good Time to Eat

BY ADRIANA MENDOZA

On a beautiful, warm Halloween day, honor students and faculty gathered to celebrate the season with a fun and festive potluck event. The day was filled with excitement as students arrived in creative and spooky costumes, bringing energy and spirit to the celebration. The event was held in the Honors Room, where all honor students were invited to enjoy the afternoon in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Honor students were encouraged to break from their busy academic schedules to spend quality time with friends, classmates, and faculty members. The room buzzed with conversation, laughter, and the shared joy of coming together as a community. Faculty joined in on the fun, participating in the light-hearted festivities and engaging with students in a more informal setting. Everyone who attended was welcome to enjoy the refreshments that were freely available, and the atmosphere remained friendly, inclusive, and full of Halloween cheer. The event was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen connections, build friendships, and celebrate the season in a meaningful and memorable way. Overall, the Halloween potluck was a great success, leaving everyone with smiles, good memories, and a stronger sense of belonging within the honors program.



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KRISTEN KOLKA

KRISTEN KOLKA HAS BEEN TEACHING MATHEMATICS AT RCC SINCE 2010 AND PREVIOUSLY WORKED AS A HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHER FOR THREE YEARS. SHE TEACHES A VARIETY OF MATH COURSES BOTH IN-PERSON AND ASYNCHRONOUSLY. IN ADDITION TO BEING AN HONORS MENTOR, SHE IS INVOLVED IN MANY COMMITTEES ON CAMPUS AND CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT AND RCCFT TREASURER.

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MATT MATCOVICH

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THE JACK KENT COOKE AWARDS

The RCC Honors Program is proud to celebrate the achievements of two exceptional students who have been named semi-finalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship: Morenikeji “Reni” Fashipe and Natalia Benitez. Both students shared their journeys, challenges, and what this recognition means to them.

Morenikeji “Reni” Fashipe
Interview by Julian Goldstein

Q: Tell me a little about yourself and your experiences at RCC.

A: “My name is Reni and I’m a 20-year-old natural and physical science major. I was born and raised in Nigeria and moved to the U.S. in July of 2022 to finish high school. Joining the Honors Program at RCC was one of the best decisions I’ve made. The faculty, the opportunities, and the coursework have all been incredibly supportive.”

Q: What would winning this award mean to you and your family?

A: “It would be one of the most life-changing events ever for me. It would not only make my family incredibly happy but also ease the financial burden of med school and the rest of my academic journey.”

Q: Can you share a specific project or experience at RCC that may have contributed to this recognition?

A: “Wonder Girls has been an incredible opportunity. I worked really hard to bring it to RCC, and I’m so proud of how far it’s come over the past two years.”

Q: If you win, how would you use this achievement to inspire other international students?

A: “A good friend encouraged me to apply for this scholarship, and that’s what I want to do for others. I want students like me to know they should never give up and always follow their dreams.”

Natalia Benitez
Interview by Matthew Hill

Q: Tell us a little about your background.

A: “I’m originally from Cuba and moved to the U.S. in 2021 to pursue higher education. As a first-generation student, it’s been a journey navigating everything on my own, but education and staying connected with my family have always been priorities.”

Q: What was the application process like for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship?

A: “It was really simple. It’s free, done through the Common App, and just involves a few essay prompts and some extra information. I definitely recommend it.”

Q: Why did you decide to apply?

A: “It’s not just about the money. It’s about the community and the support the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation offers. That’s what really drew me in.”

Q: What challenges did you face while preparing your application?

A: “The hardest part was sacrificing time with my family. I only see them twice a year, and I had to spend my whole winter break working on my application and maintaining my GPA. But their support helped me keep going.”

Q: What do you think set your application apart?

A: “I made it very personal. I talked about the barriers I’ve faced and the resilience it took to overcome them.”

Q: How has the RCC Honors Program helped you?

A: “It means everything to me. Without it, I wouldn’t have known about this scholarship. The support system, especially my mentor in the program, gave me the structure and motivation I needed.”

Both Reni and Natalia embody the spirit of perseverance and purpose. Their stories are a testament to the power of determination, support, and the opportunities offered by the RCC Honors Program. We’re proud to have them represent RCC on a national stage.

MEET THE MENTORS



MEGHAN NOLAN

NOLAN IS A MULTIGENRE WRITER, WHO FOCUSES ON (NEO-)VICTORIAN AND MODERN LITERATURE/ CRIME WRITING AND FRAGMENTED PERCEPTIONS OF SELF-HOOD THROUGH PUBLISHED ACADEMIC WORKS, FICTION, NON- FICTION, AND POETRY. HER MOST RECENT BOOK, THE CROSSROADS OF CRIME WRITING: UNSEEN STRUCTURES AND UNCERTAIN SPACES WAS PUBLISHED BY ANTHEM PRESS IN 2024. HER OTHER ACADEMIC/ NON-FICTION WORKS HAVE APPEARED IN APPROACHES TO TEACHING THE WORKS OF FERNANDO PESSOA (MLA 2024), TRANSNATIONAL CRIME FICTION: MOBILITY, BORDERS, AND DETECTION (2020), EXQUISITE CORPSE: STUDIO ART- BASED WRITING IN THE ACADEMY (2019), PERSONA STUDIES (2021 AND 2015), THREAD (2017), AND THE 100 GREATEST DETECTIVES (2018). SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF THE POETRY COLLECTION, STRATIFICATION (2008) AND HER POEMS HAVE BEEN IN MANY LITERARY JOURNALS OVER THE YEARS.

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Making a Difference: How Julian's Internship is Shaping His Future

By Brenda Carrion

Does your internship align with the future career you aspire to pursue?

For Julian, a student intern at The Connection Center, the answer is both yes and no. While his long-term goal is to pursue a career in journalism, his current internship doesn't directly tie into writing or media. However, it does align perfectly with his deeper mission—to help others. Through his work at The Connection, Julian has found a meaningful outlet to support fellow students who are struggling. "That's all I really care about," he shared. "Being there for people who need someone in their corner."

What are the tasks you have to complete?

Julian's role at The Connection Center includes a variety of responsibilities that directly support students' well-being. From scheduling appointments for those in need of campus resources to handling important office paperwork, his work is foundational to the center's day-to-day operations. One of his most impactful duties is helping to ensure that the campus is inclusive and supportive—particularly for minority students, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

How has this experience impacted you personally?

Personally, this internship has been incredibly fulfilling for Julian. He describes his time at The Connection Center as one of the most rewarding parts of his college experience. Knowing that he's making a real difference in the lives of others has strengthened his sense of purpose and community. "I love helping others," he said. "This internship has given me so many opportunities to contribute to a campus culture that truly supports its students."

What skills have you obtained from this experience?

In addition to personal growth, Julian has developed key professional skills during his internship. He's become a stronger leader and more confident communicator—skills he credits to the professionalism the position requires. He's learned how important it is to step up, take initiative, and communicate clearly, especially when others are relying on him. These are skills that will not only benefit him in his future journalism career but in any path he chooses. Though his journey may one day lead him to newsrooms and interviews, Julian now knows that whatever he does, it will be guided by a passion for helping others and building stronger communities.



SUNY CASE AWARD

Interview with Ronny Sanchez

By Valery Dutan



As mentioned, Ronny is super involved in the RCC community. He is the current Vice President of SGA, and last year, he served as treasurer. He's a peer mentor for *Somos el Futuro*, a club that focuses on empowering Hispanic and Latino students by providing resources and support to help them excel academically. Through that program, Ronny is also a tutor at the Tutoring and Testing Center. On top of that, he did some front desk work at the Student Involvement Office and was also the treasurer for The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) for a year. He's even the team captain for the RCC Esports team for *Super Smash Bros*, getting the team through some playoff rounds. Outside of academics, Ronny holds a deep passion for music—writing music and playing instruments such as the piano and just recently picked up the guitar.

When asked about being nominated, Ronny said he was full of gratitude and shock. He did not know he was nominated by Elizabeth Troutner—someone who has played a significant role in his college journey. But when he opened the email saying he won, the excitement set in. "You're telling me I won this?!" he recalled, as he realized he had earned the most prestigious award a SUNY student can receive.

This award means a lot to Ronny—not just academically, but personally. His lifelong dream of "being known" came true. In fact, he wrote a song called *Known* back when he was in high school, with the first lines of the song being "in this world, I will be known no matter if things are prohibited." This award, to him, is proof that he is fulfilling his dream. Ronny credits his mom for being the biggest role model in his journey to success. She was his biggest motivator—being with him every step of the way with constant support and encouragement. He jokes that she is literally always with him since she works on campus. Though he struggled during his first semester, he said he made the decision to "lock in" and has not looked back since.

One of this year's recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (CASE) is Ronny Sanchez, an honors student at Rockland Community College (RCC). Ronny, currently majoring in math and computer science, plans to transfer to SUNY New Paltz to study adolescent education, with hopes of becoming a math teacher—as well as minor in music. From tutoring to being in the Student Government Association (SGA), Ronny is incredibly involved in campus life, and receiving this award is a testament to the work he has put in since day one.

The SUNY CASE Award is the highest honor awarded to SUNY students, which recognizes students who have demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, campus involvement, and community service. Only a select number of students are chosen across all SUNY campuses each year. Last year, two students were selected for this award—also being in the honors program here at RCC—and Ronny proudly continued that legacy.

"Another mentor that majorly influenced his journey is Elizabeth Troutner, his SGA advisor. She was a key figure in his growth, especially since he has been in SGA for the 2 years here at RCC. She has seen him grow and become the person he is today. SGA also became a huge support system for Ronny—like a second family whenever he was on campus. Especially this semester, he feels like this is the closest everyone has been to each other in SGA, constantly being together. Susanna Santiago, his advisor in *Somos el Futuro*, also played a huge part in Ronny's journey, always being patient and understanding towards him. Whenever he experienced some personal hardships, she never complained and always accommodated and supported him. His advice for students who hope to win the award? "Be known," he says. "Being known is being heard—it is not about fame, but more so about presence—being involved and making connections." He also notes that from doing so, more people will know him more than he knows them. This helps him open new opportunities, benefiting him in the future and leaving a legacy behind at RCC.

The SUNY CASE Award helped him realize others see his efforts, even during moments of self-doubt. He uses this reflection to stay motivated and keep growing. He wants to continue reaching new goals—both professionally and personally. Although he does have some struggles in his life, he knows that perseverance is key.

Ronny's journey at RCC is a reflection of what it means to be dedicated, involved, and true to your passions. From overcoming early challenges to becoming a leader, mentor, and role model, he's proven that being "known" isn't about recognition—it's about impact. As he moves forward to SUNY New Paltz and beyond, Ronny carries with him not only the SUNY CASE Award but also the support and pride of the RCC community that helped shape his path.

DECEMBER 2024

SPONSOR A FAMILY

CHRISTMAS IS A GOOD TIME TO SPREAD CHEER!



WINTER GIFTS

Nothing beats a present!

By Julian Goldstein

Last winter we participated in an honors program tradition of donating holiday gifts to families in need. We had some amazing honors students order some Amazon goodies and toys for children who may not have been able to receive anything otherwise. It was an incredible opportunity to help others and one that we will continue to do throughout the Holidays at the RCC Honors Program.

C h i l d h o o d
by Moshe Kin

There are monsters in your closet
And on the other side of the wall
Their screams and shouts have made
you a composite
In the darkness of your dreams you
just fall

You wait for sunrise
It never comes buried under the safety
of a thick quilt
Oh what a surprise
You live within a home that has never
been built

Now the monsters are beneath your
bed
In the faint glimpse of moonlight you
peek
What's real and what's in your head?
What is it that you truly seek

*This poem picks up the
scattered pieces that makeup
adolescence. It contains
symbolism of the
transformative process that
so many call coming of age.
Meaning extends beyond the
literal into traumatic
experiences we all share.*

SUMMERTIME



"Summertime approaching friends are able to spend time with each other during the beautiful summer days."

-Adriana Mendoza

MEET THE WRITERS



Julian Goldstein: President, Writer, Interviewer, Photographer, Assistant editor

Natalia Bentiez Levina: Vice-president, Writer, Photographer, Assistant editor

Nika Obiamalu: Treasurer, Editor in Chief, Designer, Collaborator, Co-head of the Newsletter Committee

Ruby Lema: Writer, Photographer, Head of the Event Planning and Programming Committee

Valery Dutan: Writer, Photographer, Head of the Volunteering and Community Service Committee

Brenda Carrion: Writer, Interviewer, Co-head of the Newsletter Committee

Savannah Viering: Writer, Collaborator

Adriana Mendoza: Writer, Artist

Matthew Hill- Writer

Yaritza Santana- Honors Newsletter

Advisor, Program Administrator

