

# EDI FRIDAYS

LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER — ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME



**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

*Learning about each other...one Friday at a time*

# KNOWLEDGE

## DEFINITIONS

### GENDER

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Gender refers to the socially constructed attributes typically associated (particularly in the US) with being male and female, based on what is assigned at birth. However, throughout history and outside of western societies, gender is not confined to a binary (girl/woman, boy/man) nor is it static as it exists along a continuum.

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Attributes and characteristics of gender are learned through socialization, but gender is actually a concept comprised of culture, identity, social norms, and expression/sense of self.

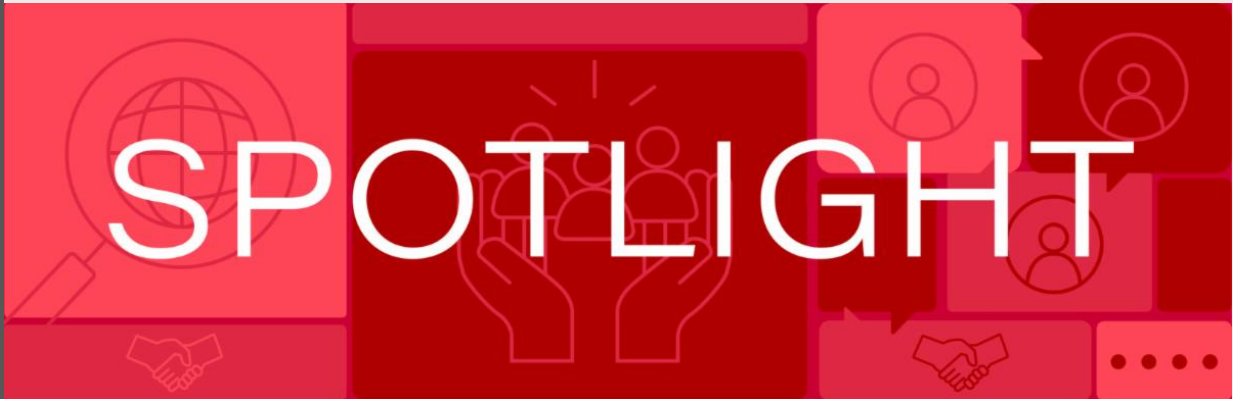
## QUOTES OF THE WEEK



**"We are born as who we are.  
The gender thing is something  
that is imposed upon you."**

**Laverne Cox**

*Emmy-nominated artist & LGBTQ+ Advocate*



## **Faculty/Staff Spotlight**

**MARC HANDELMAN**  
(He/His)

***Department Chair, Art & Design***  
Rutgers University

### **Biography**

**Spring Festival** - starting on March 20, the Art & Design Department presented a 5-day event where all classes were asynchronous, and students were encouraged to take a series of different "skillshares".

Read more in [Rutgers Today](#)

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### **What was the inspiration for the Spring Festival?**

*"We envisioned it as a way to bring people together and to provide the space and time to share all of these things we know, and love, and find value in. It was as much about community building and joy as it was about learning."*

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### **What are a few highlights?**

*"It was meaningful to welcome back former students for many activities. And the Student EDI Committee and BIPOC@mgsa student organization jointly hosted a student-led town hall."*

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### **What is in store for the future?**

*"This was a pilot year, but we plan on doing it each year moving forward, building a culture around it. Maybe it expands so Art & Design students can exchange skills with students across Mason Gross."*



*"Eat, Drink, and Dance: Let Your Body Make You Happier" led by Barbara Angeline*



*"Meditation for the non-Meditator" led by Michael Caudo*



*Collaborative drawing mural in hallway of Civic Square Building*



*Friday night dance party!*

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## **Student Spotlight**

**Abdon Andahur**  
(They/Them)

*First-Year, Mason Gross School of  
the Arts*

*Major | **Music Education / Voice**  
Hometown | **North Plainfield, NJ**  
Hobbies | **Reading, baking, playing  
bass***



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*"Fighting for equity is important to me because I grew up in a loving,  
supportive environment teeming with queer creatives of color."*

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*"I enjoy the idea of keeping the ball rolling, uplifting every voice, and  
telling every story."*

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## Artist Spotlight

### Steffani Jemison

Associate Professor, Art & Design  
Rutgers University

### Biography

Guggenheim Fellowship (2020)  
Radcliffe Fellowship at Harvard University (2017)  
NY Foundation for the Arts Fellow (2017)  
Art Matters Awardee (2014)  
Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Awardee (2013)

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Originally initiated by Associate Professor Steffani Jemison, the Art & Design Department's **Spring Festival**, starting on March 20, consisted of 5 days of events where all classes were asynchronous, and students were encouraged to take a series of different "skillshares".

Read more in [Rutgers Today](#)

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*"In recent years, the department has been brainstorming ways to reframe the evaluative parts of our curriculum to better reflect our goal of celebrating and supporting students."*

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*"One of the challenges as faculty we were thinking through is how we could connect students to artistic and intellectual resources that might best live outside of our traditional curriculum."*

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*"As faculty, we sought to empower students to find connections between the creative work they do and love and the work that is supported at school."*

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*"It reflects the many different strengths, community spirit, and the diversity of practice that are present in our department."*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **2023 Rutgers Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Climate Survey**

[Link to survey](#)

Direct questions about the survey to [support@srsrv.com](mailto:support@srsrv.com) or 734-527-2199

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## **Public Art Opportunity for Camden County Artists**

Deadline: April 10, 2023

Lamp posts exhibitions: [more info](#)

Vinyl prints: [more info](#)

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## **MGSA Inclusive Community Award**

Now accepting nominations - Deadline: April 15, 2023

*Given annually to a Mason Gross faculty or staff member who has had an extraordinary impact in fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment for our school.*

[See here for instructions.](#)

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## **Mandel Institute - Cultural Leadership Program**

Deadline: April 17, 2023

Grants for artists and producers aiming to reimagine the Jewish experience.

[More info.](#)

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## **MGSA Inclusive Teaching Grants**

Now accepting applications - Deadline: June 1, 2023

*Mason Gross faculty are invited to apply for up to \$2,500 to revise their courses to reflect the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.*

[See here for instructions.](#)



# EVENTS

## FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

### **Campus Connect Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training**

*Monday, April 3, 2023, from 10:00am-12:00pm*

*Location: virtual*

[More info](#)

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### **Health and Wellbeing Data Round Table Discussions**

*Monday, April 3, 2023, from 2:00-4:00pm*

*Location: Livingston Student Center*

[More info](#)

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### **Mental Health First Aid**

*Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 9:00am-5:00pm*

*Location: College Avenue Student Center*

[More info](#)

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### **Chancellor-Provost's Health and Wellness Lecture**

*Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 2:00-3:15pm*

*Location: virtual*

[More info](#)

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### **Teaching Artist Community of Practice**

*Wednesday, April 5, 2023, from 4:00-5:00pm*

*Location: virtual*

Hosted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to provide a platform for teaching artists to share their experiences, discuss new opportunities, and connect.

[More info](#)

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### **Chair Massages for Faculty and Staff**

*Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 12:00-2:00pm  
Location: College Avenue Gym*

[More info](#)

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**Mental Health First Aid**

*Thursday, April 13, 2023, from 9:00am-5:00pm  
Location: Livingston Student Center*

[More info](#)

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**Chair Massages for Faculty and Staff**

*Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 4:00-6:00pm  
Location: Werblin Recreation Center*

[More info](#)

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**Equity Fundamentals**

*Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 12:00-2:00pm  
Location: virtual*

[More info](#)

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**Campus Connect Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training**

*Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 10:00am-12:00pm  
Location: College Avenue Student Center*

[More info](#)