

EDI FRIDAYS

LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER — ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME



EQUITY / DIVERSITY / INCLUSION

Friday, Nov 17, 2023

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

NOVEMBER NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

DEFINITIONS

ALLY

A person of privilege who actively works in solidarity and partnership with a marginalized group of people to dismantle oppressive systems while advancing the culture of inclusion through intentional, positive and conscious efforts.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



“Ally has become a buzzword but it’s instrumental in today’s activism. To quote Dr. King: ‘What are you doing for others?’ So it is not about paving the way for new investigators with common goals but rather to walk the walk with them.”

– Dr. Samantha-Rae Dickenson, EDD

Biography



Faculty/Staff Spotlight



Christine Whalen

Academic Advisor and Student Success Counselor -
Dance, Theater

Biography

Hobbies | reading, cooking with my daughter, binge-watching shows, and conquering escape rooms. Also, finishing my degree in Strategic & Organizational Communications via Rutgers MCM program

“I center EDI principles in my work because our wonderful students deserve nothing less. It's important that everyone is heard, seen, and gets a fair shot at achieving their goals.”

“Equity work helps me better understand and honor those who have come before, specifically and personally -- my Puerto-Rican mom/relatives.”

Student Spotlight



BRIAN YUMIGUANO

(She/They)

Major | Music Education

Minor | Music Technology

3rd year - the Mason Gross School of the Arts

Rutgers Rainbow Symphony, Co-founder

Hometown | North Plainfield, NJ

Hobbies | gardening, hiking, writing poetry

“Fighting for equity is important to me because Mason Gross has always been home to multifaceted identities, students come from all walks of life. It felt like there weren't enough spaces to present all these cultures and identities.”

“Starting the Rainbow Symphony is my first step to change that.”

“We’re open to all disciplines of MGSA, so if any students want to join the Rainbow Symphony email me at brianyumi11@gmail.com”

Artist Spotlight



DR. JULIA L. BAUMANIS

(She/her)

Assistant Professor of Professional Practice
Associate Director of University Bands

[Biography](#)

[Video – Rutgers Today](#)



Tell us a little about your background.

“Both my parents are immigrants who eventually gained citizenship and served in the US Army. My home was always

full of groups of people, soldiers, extended family, etc. from all different parts of the world. Soldiers come from all over!”

“But it was music that was always the uniting factor. No matter the culture/language differences or barriers, there was always music playing in our home and it brought together everyone who came through our door.”

So, your beginnings started with large groups of people and music.

“Yes, being able to work in a profession like conducting that exists to unite a large group of individuals through music was something I **ran** towards.



What inspired you to conduct?

“Two things: #1- I love getting to use multiple colors of different sounds and timbres as my “main instrument” which is what a conductor gets to do! As opposed to playing a singular musical instrument where you have only one sound to create

art with.”

“And #2- I have always been interested in the idea of SOCIAL music making. It’s just more fun with more people! And when I saw that I could have a positive impact on someone’s life through music making and leading as a conductor, I was sold.”



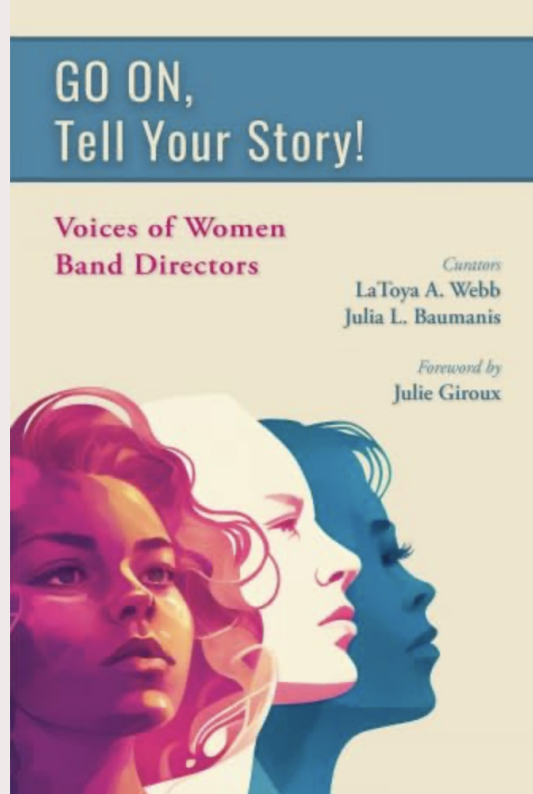
How does your artistry focus on EDI principles?

“I do my job on a literal podium. In everything I do, I try to use my position to create a place for **all** to be seen and **all** to feel a sense of belonging. I do this through my programming, through my research, and through working to make the conductor’s podium a place for everyone should they wish to be there.”

Is there any work that you're particularly proud of?

“Oh, yes. I am particularly proud of my current book that I co-authored.

GO ON! Tell Your Story! Voice of Women Band Directors.”



“This book features the shared experience of 100 women conductors internationally. Our field is dominated by male conductors 9:1. These stories shed light on the paths that each woman must take through this career field.”

From your perspective what’s so special about your book?

“The stories. They are full of pride, sadness, perseverance, and hope. Often not regarded in the field, this book offers a platform for each women conductor to share their experience, as well as offer advice for the next generation of girls who wish to become women conductors professionally.”



You also do mentorship with young women conductors, right?

“I am so proud of this collaboration. The W.A.M. Concert – Women and Music Research Collective. I was approached by 3 female-identifying students who wished to receive further studies in conducting in the spring of 2022. I took them as "independent study" students, so their capstone project was the formation of a small chamber group. They also led their chamber groups in rehearsal and performance with music written by female composers in the WAM 2022 ‘Celebration of Women and Music’ concert.”

“All 3 students successfully led rehearsals and performances and all students accomplished a musical achievement that not many undergraduate students in music education have. I am particularly proud of the beautiful connections between women-identifying composers, performers, and conductors, all of which are considered minorities in the classical music world.”

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

“Sure. I am the recipient of the **2023 Torchbearer Award** for the Rutgers University Committee to Advance our Common Purposes.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MFA Visual Arts – first-year exhibition

November 27 to December 14, 2023 – Mason Gross Galleries

[More info](#)

Writers at Rutgers – novelist Angie Cruz

Wednesday November 29, 2023

[More info](#)



EVENTS

FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

Rutgers Symphony Orchestra & Choirs Concert

Nicholas Music Center

Sunday November 19, 2023 | 7:30pm

[More info](#)

NOVEMBER

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