Students found context in ‘80s HIV crisis

Historia Draws Parallels to AIDS and Influenza Crises

Schoen’s course was a powerful draw even before the students found context in the ‘80s HIV crisis. At its core was a spirit of maintaining an authentic experience, including the presentation of power points, lectures, readings, and email newsletters. The course drew upon the parallel histories of the HIV and influenza epidemics, exploring the intersection of science, politics, and society during these periods. Students engaged in weekly “plague journals” as part of the course, which allowed them to reflect on their own experiences and connect them to historical events.

It was spring break when I knew I had to do something significant. I had to give my students a framework for understanding what was happening.

However, the course was more than just a spring break revamping of the medical ethics class. It was a way to bring the students into the here-and-now, to explore issues such as racial disparities in healthcare access and to draw connections between the gay rights movement and the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights.

Students have been reaching out and making the effort to keep the community vibrant.

The School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) is a vibrant center for the creative arts and sciences, offering a wide range of programs in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. SAS is home to some of the top-ranked programs in the country, and it is committed to providing a world-class education to its students.

People have been reaching out and making the effort to keep the community vibrant.

FACING A FAST-MOVING CRISIS

Physics Staffers Contribute to the Cause

3D printers and CPUs as lifesaving tools

The physics department has been a key contributor to the fight against COVID-19, producing materials for personal protective equipment (PPE) and helping to develop technologies to combat the virus.

Student Groups at Rutgers Find Ways to Connect During Lockdown

Virtual events, club added a YouTube channel so students could watch and share interesting links, and generally see what their peers were doing.

For those who are struggling to find community and connection amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic, virtual events and online clubs can be a lifeline. They provide a space to socialize, learn, and connect with others who share similar interests.

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Faculty Join Forces to Explore Impact of Pandemic

"How can we think through this moment?"—Omar Al-Dewachi

"The virus and the loss of the public and private spaces that supported us in our daily lives, the loss of the places that are sources of meaning, the labor and the pleasure we take in them, and the loss of the world that is made visible to us through the mobile phones and the screens," says León, a professor of criminal justice and Latino and Caribbean Studies.

The group coalesced last spring with the goal of bringing together Rutgers faculty across disciplines to think through the pandemic. "Ours just came out of discussions and then took off," Schoen agreed.

"We then began organizing ourselves into regular conversations," Al-Dewachi says.

Schoen agrees. "We are working to create an environment in which new ideas and new conversations can happen in a regular way and in a serious way."

The organizing committee also includes Cati Coe, an assistant professor of history, who partnered with Al-Dewachi in getting the project up and running. "We have been thinking about this project for a long time," she said. "This is a nice globally-oriented group that brings together faculty from across the University campuses who are interested in this." The group is hoping to publish a book on the pandemic in the fall of 2022. The knight continues to stand guard in The Yard during spring and summer, but not in the fall. "We know that our students in normal times come with significant financial need," Agron said. "Especially now, this idea has stuck with me for graduate school, career, and life, he says. "I left Rutgers with a very broad background," he says. "Making them even more vulnerable in a crisis."