



## Research Aligned Mentorship Program

The RAM Program works closely with students to help them aim higher and discover opportunities, recognitions, and rewards that will assist them in reaching their academic and career goals. The results of these efforts are coming to light among RAM scholars in the program's first cohort (234 students) and second cohort (221 students).

### Welcoming the RAM Program's Second Cohort



The RAM Program held two separate events over the summer to welcome the second cohort of RAM scholars into the program and to Farmingdale State College. With the assistance of Students First Grant funding, the RAM Program held a two-day summer program in July and August. Peer leaders from the first cohort of RAM scholars led information sessions that provided tons of advice to the incoming freshman scholars. On August 25, 2017, the second cohort was officially inducted into the program at the RAM Program's Second Annual Welcome Event. RAM scholars from Cohort 1 volunteered their time to help set up the event and speak to their Cohort 2 peers. Tahj Amonds, Kamryn Hernandez, Sydney Matias, Katerin Melgar, Josh Roozrokh, and Marissa Shiwbalak spoke about their experiences in the RAM program and participating in hands-on research experiences on- and off-campus.

Peer Leaders at the Summer Kick Off (back left to front right): **Keon Thomas, Tahj Amonds, Heamilly Singh, Skye Bergen, Hira Imtiaz, Hannah Ventaloro, Kashaf Duja, Sydney Matias, Kayla McCue, Kelly Enriquez, Deanna Esposito**



### Upcoming RAM Event: Student Research Day! Friday, February 16, 2018 - Roosevelt Hall

This will be a celebration of our RAM scholars' work so far. They will present research posters about their on- and off-campus research experiences or their research proposals developed in their RAM 201 Introduction to Research course. More information will be announced in 2018!

### RAM Scholars and Staff Present at SUNY Applied Learning Conference



With support from the Provost's Office, two Cohort 1 RAM scholars, **Kamryn Hernandez** and **Patricia Rouzeau**, traveled with Dr. Erwin Cabrera to Niagara Falls to present at the SUNY Applied Learning Conference in October. Dr. Cabrera presented about the RAM program's applied learning opportunities for students. Then he turned it over to the students: Patricia presented her experiences conducting research with Dr. Meron Lindenfeld on an Air Traffic Control Simulator at JFK airport. Kamryn Hernandez presented on her summer research in Antigua conducting field work with Dr. Matthew Brown. Read more about student research on Page 2.

### RAM Sponsors "Urban Health Disparities" Talk



Over 60 FSC students, staff, and faculty attended the RAM Program's "Urban Health Disparities" program in September with speaker, Dr. Dayle Hodge. His engaging talk was a data-driven, historical examination of environmental, legislative and social policies, and their impact on the quality of life and life expectancy of communities of color. Dr. Hodge is a PhD graduate from Albert Einstein College of Medicine's MD/PhD Medical Scientist Training Program. He is currently completing his final clinical rotations to earn his MD.



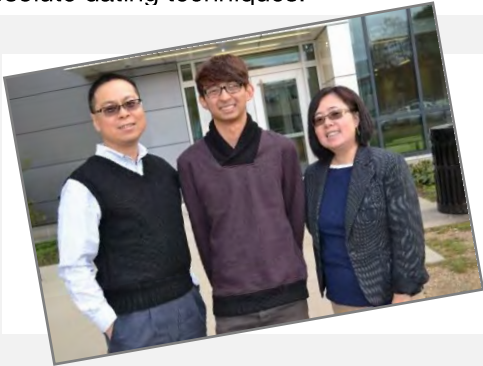
# RAM Scholars Conducting Research!

The following students are mentored by FSC Faculty.

**Kamryn Hernandez** (Nursing) received SUNY investment grant funding to travel to Antigua to conduct conservation work, engage in excavations, and learn about the Saladoid and Arawak peoples with Dr. Matthew Brown in Anthropology over the summer. Together, they discovered 2 pre-birth infants from the 620-670 CE period. Kamryn presented in Antigua on the methodologies they used in the field which included stratification, context recording, and relative and absolute dating techniques.



**Anthony Jao** (Global Business Management) has been assisting Dr. Jing Betty Feng & Dr. Andy Chiou in Business on research about Asian Americans in the work place. Anthony worked with a team of students to code qualitative interview data. He also investigated the market success of Chinese companies investing in the United States. In August, Anthony received funding from the Provost's Office to attend workshops and presentations at the Academy of Management Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.



**Josh Roozrokh** (Computer Programming and Information Systems) and **Bryan Ulrich** (Security Systems) have been working together on an independent research project with mentorship from Dr. Jun Yuan in Computer Programming and Information Systems. The project is on a Python program that crawls the dark web. It utilizes machine learning libraries to analyze data in the hopes of finding black markets and removing malicious code and system bugs from networks.



**Patricia Rouzeau** (Aviation Administration) has been working with Dr. Meron Lindenfeld in Aviation on research examining the impact of an air traffic control simulator on students' interest in pursuing a career in air traffic control. Through her work with Dr. Lindenfeld, she has had hands-on learning experiences at the New York Terminal Radar Approach Control (New York TRACON) facility and simulation room as well as the John F. Kennedy Airport (JFK) Control Tower and simulation room. She practiced communicating and vectoring simulated air traffic in a radar environment and she observed controllers directing live traffic within the Newark sectors and ground control and local control operations at JFK.



**Jessica Rubio** (Professional Communications) worked on a summer project with her faculty mentor Noel Braithwaite in English and Humanities. Drawing on her experience attending a New York Times workshop for college student newspaper editors in Spring 2017, Jessica conducted research with Dr. Braithwaite on how to successfully start up and implement an on-campus student newspaper. The data they collected has been applied to the establishment of a student newspaper club and the founding of *The Dale News* on campus. Jessica is now Editor-in-Chief of *The Dale News* and Dr. Noel Braithwaite is faculty advisor for the club.



# RAM Scholars Learning Off-Campus!

The following students are engaged off-campus in supervised research and/or project-based learning experiences.



**Tahj Amonds** (Applied Psychology) has been working with the Long Island Progressive Coalition alongside supervisor Blanca Villanueva and the Alliance for Quality Education. Tahj assisted with translation from Spanish into English. He translated for Spanish speaking families at an education forum with assembly persons Ramos and Jean-Pierre on issues affecting the Brentwood school district. The photo to the left was taken at a protest in front of US Congressman Peter King's office where Tahj advocated for access to Medicare and Medicaid and to continue programs for youth.

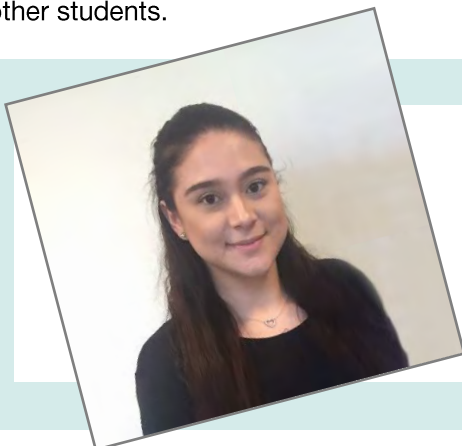
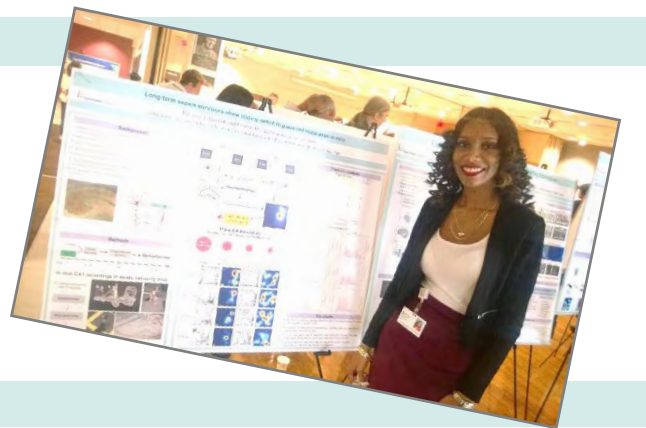


**Daniel Macgregor** (Bioscience) began working with supervisor Cheryl Brancato at the Breast Health Program at NYU Winthrop in August 2017. He has been analyzing pathology reports on breast cancer patients through the tumor registry to ensure measurement accuracy and quality of care for the hospital's designation as a certified quality breast center.



**Katerin Melgar** (Dental Hygiene) participated in the University of Florida's Summer Health Professions Education Program for 6 weeks this past summer. She shadowed dental students in their clinical rotations, heard lectures from students in the various health professions, and she learned from professionals about their research. She also participated in bioengineering courses; worked on dentures, waxing, and impressions in dental clinics; and presented on a case study patient.

**Marissa Shiwbalak** (Science, Technology, & Society) completed her summer research at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in the lab of Dr. Patricio Huerta. Her research focused on the neurological effects of sepsis in mouse models of the disease in comparison to controls. At the end of the internship, Marissa presented a research poster at Feinstein summarizing her findings to faculty and other students.



**Manuela Villada** (Science Technology, & Society) has been working with a team of researchers on studies surrounding COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) at five hospitals within Northwell Health (LIJ, NSUH, Forest Hills, Glen Cove and Southside) and at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Under the direction of Eugenia Boye-Codjoe, Manuela is an active research assistant supporting recruitment, randomization, and administration of questionnaires to enrolled subjects. She also supervises patients during pulmonary rehabilitation sessions.



## RAM Scholars Win Scholarships and Honors



RAM Scholar, **David Ramirez** (pictured left), won the following two scholarships this semester: Farmingdale Foundation Scholarship & Student Government Scholarship.

Additionally, the following RAM scholars have accepted membership into the Golden Key International Honour Society: **Ryan Collins, Kamryn Hernandez, Dan MacGregor, and Frankie Maldonado.**

Congrats to all!

## Personal Statement Workshop Success

Twenty students took part in the first of two workshops this fall semester on "How to Write a Winning Personal Statement."

With Students First Grant funding, Dr. Erwin Cabrera and Dr. Erica Jayne Friedman brought in Dr. Lydia Grmai from NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Christine Antonetti from the FSC Writing Center, and Dolores Ciaccio from the FSC Career Center to administer the workshop. RAM scholars and other FSC students learned how to write their essays for applications to participate in funded summer research opportunities nation-wide. The program was a success with pre- and post-assessment data determining statistically significant learning gains in students' understanding of how to find, select, and apply to research programs, write their resumes and personal statements, and ask for letters of recommendation. Qualitative data also revealed that students found the workshop was very helpful and valuable and that they now have greater confidence in applying for research opportunities.



Participating students are eligible to win a \$200 book stipend! Don't miss the upcoming Spring 2018 workshop described in the ad below:

**Friday**  
**March 9, 2018**  
**10AM - 4PM**  
**Greenley 105**

**How to Write A Winning Personal Statement**

Limited seats! Please RSVP:  
[bit.ly/psworkshop2018](http://bit.ly/psworkshop2018)

## RAM Staff Present at Professional Conferences

### Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) Conference.

Dr. Erica Jayne Friedman traveled to Flagstaff, Arizona in June 2017 and presented at the Undergraduate Research Program Directors Conference with CUR. Dr. Friedman presented about the ways in which the RAM program builds a student-driven community and prepares students for mentored research experiences.

### Faculty Resource Network (FRN) Conference.

Dr. Beverly Kahn and Dr. Erica Jayne Friedman traveled to New Orleans in November 2017 to present to FRN about increasing student success in diverse populations through the RAM Program's interventions.

### New York University's "What Can You Be With A PhD" Conference.

Dr. Erwin Cabrera presented on a panel about "academic careers beyond the tenure track" in November 2017 at NYU's Langone Medical Center. He spoke about being Associate Director of RAM.

## Learn more about RAM

Check out our FSC website for news, events, and more.

[farmingdale.edu/ramprogram](http://farmingdale.edu/ramprogram)

### Join the #RAMily

Find us on social media:

@RAMprogramFSC



Email Dr. Friedman to be invited to our RAM Facebook group:

[friedmej@farmingdale.edu](mailto:friedmej@farmingdale.edu)

Have something to brag about for the next Spotlight? Contact RAM:

[friedmej@farmingdale.edu](mailto:friedmej@farmingdale.edu)

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