

Meet Some Members of Rutgers-Newark's Class of 2004 (Excerpt)

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AUDRITA CRAWFORD, BA, BIOLOGY, NEWARK COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

(Hometown: Newark, NJ)

Some decisions just came naturally for Audrita Crawford. The same love of science that sent her to Newark's Science High School made her college major – biology – an easy choice. And after participating in both Rutgers-Newark's Saturday Academy and its Pre-College program, Rutgers-Newark was also a natural choice for her college education.

Her love of science has been nurtured by her work with the Minorities in Biomedical Research Support Program, where she worked extensively with Psychology Professor Barry Komisaruk, a leading researcher in the sensory pathways of pain. When she's not in class or the lab, Audrita is working in the R-N Campus Information and Conference Services office, playing on the Rutgers Women's Tennis Team, or helping the West Indian Student Association organize cultural and educational programs on the campus.

She is graduating as a member of both the Honors College and the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program.

Even though Newark is her hometown, Audrita opted to live on campus and enjoy the advantages and personal growth of residential life during her college years, a decision she says enriched her entire academic experience. This academic year, she's shared her experiences in residence life as a Resident Assistant in Talbott Apartments.

Even more importantly, Audrita is sharing the sum total of her college activities with Newark high school students as one of the first members of the pioneering new Campus Ambassadors program. She and fellow Ambassadors visit classes in the Newark Public School system and talk to the students about the value of a college education, what college is really like, and especially, why she chose Rutgers-Newark and what it has to offer. The program aims not only to encourage Newark school children to continue their education past high school, but to come to Rutgers-Newark for their degrees.

In addition to mentoring young people she has never met, she plays the role of mentor closer to home, for her younger brother. "He calls me for help with school work, and shows me his report card," she notes. "And when I think he needs a pep-talk, I talk to him."

Audrita has already applied to the Graduate School at Rutgers-Newark, where she will study psychology. She hopes to enter the MD/Ph.D. program. She hopes to eventually combine a career in research with hands-on work with patients.

CONTACT:

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