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Senior Jonathan Maddison, of Voorhees, to Address Record Graduating Class at Rutgers' 244th Commencement

Hillsborough's Julie Bianchini also will speak to the Class of 2010

May 07, 2010

EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION COMMUNITY NEWS, EDUCATION EDITORS, to interview Jonathan Maddison, call Steve Manas, Office of Media Relations, at 732-932-7084, ext. 612, or 732-991-7397. [Download a high-resolution image](#) of Maddison.

Review the [commencement media guide](#) for additional information.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Rutgers University will hold its 244th commencement Sunday, May 16, but this ceremony will differ from the others. For the first time, two undergraduates will address what is likely to be the largest graduating class in Rutgers' history. And for the first time, one of the seniors will represent the Camden Campus of The State University of New Jersey.

Jonathan E. Maddison of Voorhees will be joined by fellow senior Julie M. Bianchini of Hillsborough; keynote speaker Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation; and Gov. Chris Christie on the Voorhees Mall stage before members of the Class of 2010, an estimated record 12,651 graduates, and guests, faculty and staff. Rutgers President Richard L. McCormick will confer all academic degrees and award honorary degrees to Smeal; Christie, who will make brief remarks; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president of Liberia; Rutgers Board of Governors Chair The Rev. M. William Howard Jr.; author and New Jersey Hall of Fame inductee Judy Blume; and Dr. Carl Djerassi, emeritus professor of chemistry at Stanford University.



Maddison, who will graduate *summa cum laude* with a major in political science and double minor in American studies and national security, intelligence and counter-terrorism studies from the Camden College of Arts and Sciences (CCAS), said the opportunity will be especially memorable because he will speak to representatives of all degree-granting units. Besides speaking at the universitywide ceremony, he will also address graduates at the joint CCAS-University College-Graduate School convocation on May 24.

In New Brunswick, rather than dwell upon his experiences on his home campus, Maddison plans to reference cultural phenomena, like President Barack Obama's inauguration and MTV's *Jersey Shore*. He will be addressing a mixed group of students in the Class of 2010 – graduates who have jobs waiting for them, those intending to go to graduate school, and others still unsure about their next steps. Whatever choices the students make, he will advise them to "go beyond their degree and change the world."

Since high school, Maddison has had a keen interest in politics. During his junior year at Rutgers he was invited by the Eagleton Institute of Politics to become an undergraduate associate, which he did the following spring. Maddison is the first Rutgers-Camden student to join the prestigious program. He considers the one-hour commute from Camden to New Brunswick a small price to pay for membership. "Seminars at Eagleton allowed me to learn from professors and students, which challenged me to re-evaluate my thoughts and beliefs," Maddison said.

Maddison served as president of the Camden Student Governing Association for two terms, in which he represented students to the administration, faculty and staff. When there were disputes, he found a way to satisfy the parties. In her letter of recommendation, Dean Margaret Marsh wrote, "In my experience, most students who are campus leaders generally have put so much energy into serving the students that they tend not to be among the most talented students. But not Jon. He is a spectacular student."

In the fall, Maddison will attend the University of Pennsylvania Law School and is interested in pursuing a joint J.D./Ph.D. in American legal history. After earning his advanced degrees, Maddison plans to clerk for a judge or become a professor at a law school.

Media Contact: Steve Manas
732-932-7084, ext. 612
E-mail: smanas@ur.rutgers.edu