

Rutgers newark connections

A newsletter for the Rutgers-Newark community and neighbors

WINTER 2003

South America, New Jersey – Former Next-Door Neighbors?

By Mike Olohan

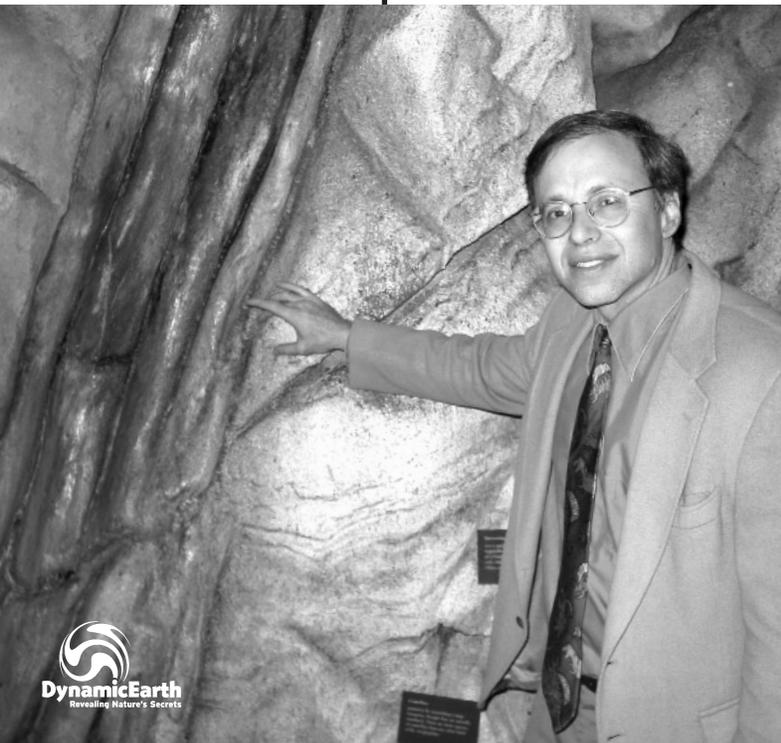


Photo: John Driscoll

With an interactive Web site and a new animated video featured at the Newark Museum's recently opened "Dynamic Earth" exhibit, Rutgers-Newark Geology Professor Alexander Gates is making the fascinating "rock history" of the NY/NJ highlands come alive for students of all ages.

Gates quickly dispels any notion that rock science is boring by engaging the video audience with a stunning revelation: he has found remnants of South America in the rock outcrops of New York's Harriman State Park, just a stone's throw away from New Jersey.

That discovery, to be published this year in a Geological Society of America Special Paper, will present evidence that the supercontinent of Rodinia – formed almost a billion years ago and composed of all seven modern continents – actually existed because rocks found in Harriman appear to be remnants of another continent that crashed into the metropolitan area.

"When this collision occurred, a lot of these rocks folded like a rug on the floor," Gates tells viewers at the exhibit, pointing to large, layered, multi-hued outcroppings. A geological match

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At the Newark Museum exhibit, Gates points to folds of rock created by the collision of present-day Brazil and New York a billion years ago.

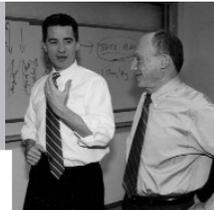
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Provost's Research Day to Showcase New Faculty

By Mike Sutton

About a dozen new faculty at Rutgers-Newark – as well as guest speakers from NJIT, UMDNJ and the Public Health Research Institute – will gather to present their research on Provost's Research Day. The program will take place 2:30–5:30 p.m. on April 29 in the University Club in the Paul Robeson Campus Center.

Spearheaded by Provost Steven Diner and coordinated by Associate Provost Harvey Feder and Professor Glenn Shafer, the colloquium is expected to draw faculty, graduate students and undergraduates to a forum designed "to foster a greater appreciation of the

range of scholarship across campus and familiarize people with areas beyond their own research emphases," said Feder.

"This year's theme basically will be new faces to the Rutgers-Newark campus – faculty recruited in the last year or two," Feder said. "They'll present their research in a way that's accessible to a general audience. This event lets a broad range of faculty and staff know about the high level of scholarship and research that is being conducted here in a variety of fields." Areas of expertise will range from science to humanities to social science.

South America, New Jersey...

from page 1

for the type of rock he identified in Harriman can be found in Brazil, and was left behind when the continents split apart again about 600 million years ago.

While Gates was working on the video, the Newark Museum was also developing its new natural science exhibit, "Dynamic Earth." Gates worked extensively with the exhibit designers and writers, and was the featured speaker for the exhibit's November 2002 grand opening.

"Dr. Gates has been the key to our presentation," Dr. Ismael Calderon, museum science director, told *The New York Times* in a recent article. The Gates video, "The supercontinent Rodinia," runs continuously in one area of the museum's 5,000-square-foot exhibit. In addition, Gates will be sending out 3,000 videos to middle and high school students. The new video and Web site (<http://harrimanrock.rutgers.edu>) were supported by a \$75,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The Web site provides information on field trips that illustrate many geological principles, Gates noted. The site also links to area history, hiking tours and geological maps, and a geologic glossary.

The video was written by Gates and R-N graduate student Mercedes Walker, who also directed. The film was produced by Aaron DuBrow, in association with Skywalker Media Productions, with production assistance from R-N's Department of Visual and Performing Arts. R-N psychology professor Colin Beer is the voice of "Rocky Tectonic," the film's animated narrator/interviewer.

Gates was recently honored with the Palisades Interstate Park Commissions' 2002 Palisades Award.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Photo: Mark Cap

Michael Maxfield (c) professor in the School of Criminal Justice and academic director of the NJSP scholars program, congratulates new recipients at a special ceremony.

Ten R-N Students Named NJ Police Scholars

By Mike Sutton

Ten Rutgers-Newark students were recently named New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Scholars in a special ceremony, kicking off the second year of the groundbreaking pilot program.

It is the only program in the country that unites a state police organization with a state university by providing expanded educational opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career with the

state police after graduation. Recipients of the scholarship are each awarded a stipend of \$5,000 per academic year, as well as an annual paid state police internship. Each scholar is matched with an active state trooper as a mentor and an academic advisor from the R-N faculty. Once students graduate, they will be expected to fulfill all the regular requirements involved in becoming New Jersey State troopers.

R-N Hosts Terrorism Conference

Terrorism experts – including those on the front lines in the American battle against terrorist attacks – gathered at Rutgers-Newark Feb. 13-14 for a conference titled “Technology and Terrorism: Preparation and Response.” Speakers addressed topics ranging from preparing for and responding to bio- and cyber-terrorism to border-threat detection and the challenges of international tracking.

Organized by the Center for the Study of Terrorism – which is sponsored by the Rutgers-Newark School of Criminal Justice, the Center for Global Change and Governance, and Rutgers School of Law-Newark – the sessions featured both speakers and break-out sessions on medical preparedness, container security in shipping, corporate preparedness, and state and local coordination. Among the featured participants were Sidney Caspersen, director of the New Jersey Office of Counter-Terrorism; S.W. Hall Jr., chief customs officer, United States Customs Office, and assistant commissioner, Office of Information and Technology, Washington, D.C.; and David Perlin, director of the Public Health Research Institute in Newark.

Photo: Courtesy of Deborah Walker-McCall



Walker-McCall was honored for her lifetime of service.

Walker-McCall Named Nurse of Year by NJ Black Nurses Association

Deborah Walker-McCall, director of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program for the College of Nursing, hardly knew what to say when informed that she had received the Nurse of the Year Award from the Northern New Jersey Black Nurses Association.

“I think speechless is too mild a phrase,” she said, laughing. “I think it’s the highest honor and accolade that you can receive when you’re recognized by your peers.”

Walker-McCall is a double-alumna of Rutgers-Newark, receiving a B.S. in nursing in 1983 and an M.B.A. in the Graduate School of Management in 1989. Her education at R-N was made possible by the EOF, which was created in the late 1960s to give New Jersey residents who were economically and educationally disadvantaged the opportunity to attend universities such as R-N.

As a former participant in the EOF program, Walker-McCall joined the EOF advisory board as a charter member after graduation. She has represented the organization as a delegate at numerous conferences, and has worked with it on various community outreach programs in Newark such as blood-pressure screenings and diabetes awareness and education events. She also joined the Northern NJ Black Nurses Association.

She was given the award for her lifetime of service to the organizations and the community. The committee also lauded her work with Rutgers-Newark in recruiting, retaining and graduating minority nursing students. Having been one of those EOF students herself, she is uniquely qualified to understand the issues confronting them.

Dubnick Awarded Fulbright

Melvin Dubnick, professor of political science and public administration, has received one of the inaugural Fulbright Senior Specialists grants in Public Administration to lecture at universities in Belgium and the Netherlands.

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CALENDAR  EVENTS

For more events at Rutgers-Newark, use the R-N Shortcut  Events at www.newark.rutgers.edu.

February 18

Chamber Music with members of NJ Symphony and Elizabeth Miller (R-N Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts). LOCATION: Atrium of Center for Law and Justice, 123 Washington St., 12:30 p.m.

February 28

Men’s Volleyball vs. Penn State. A rematch of last year’s Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Championship. LOCATION: Golden Dome Athletic Center, Warren Street, 7 p.m. INFO: <http://scarletraiders.rutgers.edu>.



Photo: S.R. Smith

March 15

RU Alumni Nights at the NJPAC. The Chieftans, innovative interpreters of Irish music, present their annual St. Patrick’s Day weekend concert, 8 p.m. TICKETS: \$38.40 each (tier 2). LOCATION: New Jersey Performing Arts Center. INFO: Evie Task, 973/353-1617, task@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

April 2

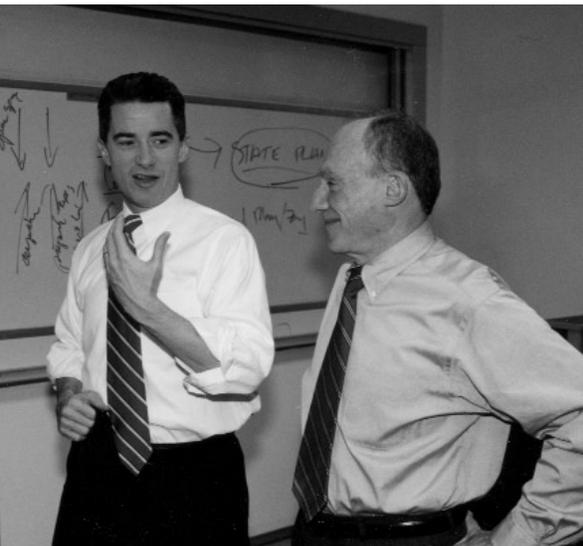
Faculty Jazz Series. Kenny Wessel Group. LOCATION: Norman Samuels Plaza in front of Paul Robeson Campus Center, 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Time to be announced. Free admission. INFO: Roman Mitchell, 973/353-5675, mitchellr@dominican.edu.

On The Plaza...from page 3

Dubnick said he used the unique opportunity to speak at Universiteit Leiden and Universiteit Leuven about the issue of greatest concern to him: accountability – both to the public and to higher moral standards.

He addressed what he terms the “four major promises” of accountability: justice, democracy, performance and ethics. While the term “accountability” is given much lip service today – especially in the wake of 2002’s numerous corporate scandals and political shenanigans – he argues that “it is simply a very symbolic gesture. ...We use the word ‘accountability’ all the time – but we don’t really understand it.”

The Senior Specialists program – now in its first year – was created as a two-week-long alternative to the traditional Fulbright Scholarship Program. Drawing on the top people in their fields, its shorter duration is less disruptive to academics’ busy schedules.



Photos: Shelley Kusnetz



Rutgers Academic Challenge Draws Best and Brightest



“Jeopardy!”, move over. Teams of talented students from almost 40 New Jersey high schools will gather on the Rutgers-Newark campus

March 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to face off in a collective show of brainpower at the fifth annual Northern Tournament of the Rutgers Academic Challenge. The students – drawn from Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties – will vie for the opportunity to square off with the winning teams from the Central and

Southern tournaments in the semi-finals.

The Rutgers Academic Challenge is a statewide interscholastic competition designed to promote academic excellence among high school students, and involves complex problem-solving activities in social studies, language arts, mathematics and science.

The tournament welcomes volunteers to serve as judges, hosts and proctors. Rutgers faculty, staff, graduates and friends of the Newark campus are encouraged to participate through the quick and simple online registration process (www.challenge.rutgers.edu).



Photo: Jason Fredericks

Brain Food

Rutgers-Newark treated about 400 students to a pre-exam pancake breakfast in the Paul Robeson Campus Center in December. The twice-yearly affair, now in its fourth year, is “designed as a stress reliever,” said Tom Korp, assistant director of the Robeson Center. It seems to be a hit with students. Attendance was up 25 percent from May’s breakfast. Marcia Wilson Brown, associate provost for student and community affairs, observed: “We eat, share, listen, laugh, learn and enjoy the moment. It’s these kinds of moments that help to build a true sense of community in higher education.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Lessons in Leadership

Gov. James E. McGreevey confers last fall with a classroom veteran, Rutgers Acting President Norman Samuels, after leading R-N students through a spirited lecture and question-and-answer session.

Gov. McGreevey takes on a new role as guest lecturer at Rutgers-Newark as he animatedly explains the finer points of navigating New Jersey’s political and legislative waters to R-N students recently in Dr. Norman Samuels’ course, American National Government.

Buzsaki Receives Board of Governors Professorship

By Mike Sutton

György Buzsaki, a professor of neuroscience at the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience since 1990, was awarded a Board of Governors Professorship on Feb. 14.

“It’s always the greatest compliment and the greatest reward when such a wonderful honor comes from within your

own ‘family,’ from the colleagues you respect the most,” Buzsaki said. “I consider Rutgers-Newark as my family, and I think of the Rutgers community as my extended family.”

The appointment is the latest honor in a lifetime of scholarship marked by awards and scientific breakthroughs.



Photo: Courtesy of György Buzsaki

In April 2001, Buzsaki won one of the most prestigious awards in his field, the Krieg Cortical Discoverer Award, for “outstanding contributions to scientific understanding of the cerebral cortex,” according to the citation presented by the American Association of Anatomists.

Buzsaki has published approximately 150 refereed journals and articles during his more than 25 years as a neuroscience researcher. His research at Rutgers-Newark has focused on the hippocampus and the role of neurons located there in maintaining long-term memory, as well as related research into epilepsy, depression, schizophrenia and Parkinson’s disease.

His other awards and honors include being named Fogarty International Senior Fellow, National Institutes of Health in 2000; College de France Distinguished Professor, College de France, Paris, in 1998; and receiving the Pierre Gloor Award from the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society in 1997.

Newly named Board of Governors Professor Buzsaki works in his lab.

Rutgers-Newark Joins with State, Fed Groups to Protect NJ Water

By Carla Capizzi

Rutgers-Newark representatives teamed with a group of state and federal agencies and major water suppliers to sign an agreement in December designed to protect New Jersey’s water supply from natural, deliberate or accidental contamination.

Photo: Mark Capp



Front: Richard Kropp, NJ District Chief, USGS; Gary Sondermeyer, chief of staff, NJDEP; William Muszynski, EPA deputy administrator. Back: R-N Provost Steven Diner; Nabil Adam, director of CIMIC.

The agreement called for the establishment of the Regional Drinking Water Safety and Security Consortium, a group composed of Rutgers-Newark, the state Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the federal Environmental Protection Agency

(USEPA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and organizations that supply water to state residents.

Rutgers-Newark, in collaboration with the new consortium, plans to create a Laboratory of Water Security within the campus’s Center for Information Management, Integration and Connectivity (CIMIC).



Since its debut last fall, *The Newark Metro*, Rutgers-Newark's online student journal, has been winning praise for intriguing articles, photographs and poems capturing life in the city and the metro area. *Connections* is pleased to start a new series featuring excerpts from the *Metro* beginning with this issue. For the complete *Newark Metro*, go to www.newarkmetro.rutgers.edu.

Restaurant Review

Je's: A Slice of Southern Comfort in Newark

Open 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.,
Tuesday through Sunday

By Bernice Wise, FAS-N '03

Je's Restaurant provides a small oasis of Southern gentility, nestled incongruously in the heart of downtown Newark. The inviting aromas of traditional Southern cooking greet patrons as they enter Je's at 34 Williams St., on the corner of Halsey Street.

Je's appearance is deceptively humble, boasting a simple Afro-centric motif. The African oil paintings and carvings



distributed throughout the room, the silk plants, the replica Tiffany lamps hanging from the ceiling, and even the autographed 8- by 10-inch photographs of celebrities displayed in the unpretentious vestibule reveal nothing about the sumptuous food awaiting patrons.

While looking over the menu, I watched waitresses serve food in old-fashioned, thick, white ceramic dishes. The heaping portions of side orders overlapped the edges of the saucers – and looked so

delicious that I decided to order the same: fried chicken with candied yams and macaroni and cheese.

Je's offers an extensive menu of traditional Southern cuisine consisting of barbecued ribs, oxtails, smothered or fried chicken, fried or baked whiting or catfish, short ribs of beef and more. Each day Je's menu also includes three or four specials. Entrées range from \$7.50 to \$9.00. All entrées include two sides, a hefty slice of cornbread and a small bed of stuffing topped with gravy. Diners are also treated to the sounds of smooth jazz.

My macaroni and cheese was thick, rich and velvety. The candied yams were flavorful and buttery sweet with a noticeable trace of cinnamon. Though stuffed from the meal, I couldn't help but notice a desert tray heaped with offerings such as peach cobbler with ice cream and coconut pineapple pie. Every Sunday Je's serves its legendary blueberry cobbler.

Planted firmly in the heart of downtown Newark for 23 years, Je's motto aptly sums up its role in Newark: "Soul of the City, Heart of the South."

KEEP CONNECTED

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